

Saint Alphonsus Celebrates its School at Work Graduates **“We are Continuous Learners”**

At 5:00pm on Thursday evenings, in training room eleven at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, a dynamic group of people from many different departments, met to learn, have fun, and eat delicious treats baked by a ten year-old boy and a professional baker. On May 3rd, 2012, those Thursday night meetings came to a close when fourteen SAMG and SARMC Associates graduated from the first School at Work program.

Babette Britton, a Support Associate in the ICU, commented regarding these nights, *“At first I was skeptical about the SAW program, after all, what could it teach me about pursuing further educational opportunities? Well, I learned not only numerous things about going back to school, brushing up on things like math, grammar, and medical terminology, I learned so much about myself. I realized no matter your age or background, there are many opportunities right here in our facility! Thank you Saint Al's for making SAW possible!”*

What is School at Work? The program offers instruction and skill building in various topics including: math, writing, grammar, basic medical terminology, and communication. Associates participated in the class for many different reasons: skill building, a desire to find out about career opportunities in health care, and to brush up on certain subjects before entering college.

A Charge Auditor in surgery, Shari Wessleman, offered, *“Thanks to Trinity for giving me an opportunity to attend the SAW class this last year. I was able to refresh my math and English/communications skills. I was also given the opportunity to make SMART goals for my career path; and I was connected with others to help me with those goals. ‘Life is an opportunity, benefit from it,’ Mother Teresa. I enjoyed making new friends from other parts of the hospital. I have a better perspective of how we all are on the same team working for the same cause, the patients.”*

Angie Wolthuis, SAW Coach (SAHS Organizational Learning and Development) said that, *“The treats were great, the topics were interesting, and the people were amazing. The SAW students were insightful, funny, and were the reason the class was a success. As the Coach, I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to interact with the Associates in the class. 2 hours a week for 7 months were dedicated to this learning adventure and I admire and respect the effort everyone put forth. They exemplified the Guiding Behavior of ‘We are continuous learners.’ There are extraordinary people in this organization and I feel blessed to have spent 7 months with fourteen of them!”*

Congratulations, to all the participants, on all your hard work and dedication:

Ron Shaffer	Tirza Cunningham	Shari Wesselman
Larry Pagnini	Janet Caron	Mary Sukianto
Tony Fletcher	April Stevenson	Jaymie Rhodes
Gary Cornelius	Julie Fuhriman	Laurel Duncan
Babette Britton	Tom Muncy	



Top row from L to R: Larry Pagnini, Gary Cornelius, Tony Fletcher, Janet Caron, Shari Wesselman, Jaymie Rhodes, Angie Wolthuis (SAW Coach), Julie Fuhriman

Bottom row from L to R: Ron Shaffer, Tirza Cunningham, Babette Britton, Tom Muncy, Laurel Duncan, Mary Sukianto

Not pictured: Sandy Hight (Adhoc SAW Coach)