

# Our nurses make us proud

*We have the best, most dedicated nurses in the region.*

In May, when *The Virginian-Pilot* announced the winners of its month-long campaign to find the most excellent nurses in Hampton Roads, we were overjoyed to learn that two of our own were in the top three who received the 2004 Nursing Excellence Award. They are Beth Bonifas, nurse practitioner with physician practice management, and Teresa Black of the hematology/oncology outpatient clinic. We were also proud to learn that of the 50 nurses from all over Hampton Roads to be nominated, 12 are associated with CHKD and its Medical Group practices.

We know we have the best, most dedicated nurses in the region. So we were equally proud when 23-year nursing veteran Kathy Eisenhower was named CHKD 2004 Employee of the Year (see page 6). And coincidentally, just a week before, Maureen Fountain from 8B and Ken Terry from 7C were recognized by the Hampton University School of Nursing for Excellence in the Care of Families. So indeed it was a month not only to celebrate our nurses but also to congratulate some of these outstanding people.



Beth Bonifas



Teresa Black

Nursing award nomination letters for eight of our nurses were featured in *The Pilot's* full-page ads every day during Nurses Week, leading up to the Sunday newspaper spread that announced the winners. The letter from one parent said, "If we hadn't had Teresa (Black) in our lives to assist in Nicholas' treatment, we wouldn't have the many fun memories we do now that Nicholas is an angel in heaven." And of Beth Bonifas a parent wrote, "She continues to be a wonderful liaison, coordinator and play pal for Carter; and, amazingly, Beth's light gleams just as brightly for all her patients."

Kim Moody of hematology/oncology was nominated by a patient's family who wrote, "without a doubt, we could not have gotten through the past year and a half without the support, friendship and caring our son received from the entire staff of CHKD and especially Kim." Of Kathy Oettell of the NICU,



Among those honored by *The Virginian-Pilot* and at a special reception here at CHKD are, from left, Beth Bonifas, Teresa Black, Kathy Oettel, Edna Matthews, Jackie Goode, Kim Moody, Brenda Rountree, Peggy Reed and JeWanda Simmons. Not present for the photo were Cindy Price, Deborah Everton, Sadearie Ricks-Gladden and Virginia Kaylor.

a parent wrote, "Now I know the definition of great 'bedside manner.' Kathy Oettel taught me." And Edna Matthews of Pediatric Diagnostic Center was praised by Dr. Hugh McPhee of PDC who wrote: "Edna commands a respect and trust that helps her calm even the most recalcitrant patients...she has the calm reassuring demeanor that makes the delivery of vaccines almost painless." Of Jackie Goode from our NICU, her sister wrote, "She personifies the word nurse in every way." And Sadearie Ricks-Gladden's mom wrote, "Her

love for her work shines through her just like a light bulb." Deborah Everton (NICU), Ginny Kaylor (8C), Cindy Price (NICU), Peggy Reed (NICU), Brenda Rountree (Pediatric Associates), and JeWanda Simmons (Pediatric Specialists) were also nominated.

This public recognition is another reminder for us all of the compassionate, dedicated individuals we are so fortunate to have caring for our patients while serving on the frontlines at CHKD and in our primary care offices. My congratulations to one and all.

**– Robin Doyle, Vice President for Nursing**



Robin Doyle congratulates Maureen Fountain and Ken Terry for awards given them by Hampton University.