

Thursday 9th August 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Nurse gets national award after nomination from grateful teenager

A Black Country nurse who helped a teenage girl through years of treatment for a skin disease has won a national award.

Liz Jones, a dermatology staff nurse with The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, was named Psoriasis Nurse of the Year 2018 after being nominated by her patient, Alizah Pervez.

Alizah, who is now 19 and lives in Amblecote, Stourbridge, said Liz had helped her to understand her condition and had always found time for her when she visited Corbett Hospital in Stourbridge for treatment.

At one point the teenager was having to attend three times a week – but said that Liz was always a friendly face.

Alizah said: “Liz has worked with me, and also my mum, for about six years. I’m 19 now but I was barely a teenager when I began going to the hospital and at that age you don’t want to be having treatment. Liz always made sure she spoke to me about what was going on and explained everything in a way I would understand. She would always remember who I was.

“I spent two years having light treatment which meant coming in two or three times a week, and she was always a friendly face.”

Alizah, who is now studying at Worcester University, had psoriasis over almost all of her body, including her face, scalp, arms and legs. She said that Liz’s explanations helped her to understand psoriasis and also to deal with the treatment.

“I didn’t know what psoriasis was at first, it’s like a foreign language! It was difficult to deal with at first, but once I understood it – thanks to Liz – it became something I just had to deal with.”

While at Corbett Hospital for a blood test, Alizah saw a poster from the British Dermatology Nursing Group asking for nominations for awards which looked to

'recognise nurses delivering exceptional support and care'. She immediately thought of Liz.

Liz said: "It was a complete shock – I got an email from them one day saying I had won and I couldn't believe it. They told me I had won because Alizah wrote such a wonderful submission.

"Alizah came to us as a young teenager and over the years came back many times, and when that happens you get to know them as a person."

Liz and Alizah both enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to Harrogate for the awards, and Liz said it was an honour to represent a small department compared to those in major cities.

She moved into dermatology around 15 years ago, having enjoyed the clinics while working in general outpatients.

Michelle Taylor, nurse specialist / lead nurse dermatology at the Trust, said it was worthy recognition of the hard work Liz had put in over the years to provide patients with good nursing care and psychological support whilst treating their skin disease.

"She is well liked by the doctors and nurses and spoken of very highly by the patients," she added.

*** ENDS ***

For more information, please call Alison Ashmore, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 1431 or email Jackie.dietrich@nhs.net