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It is with much enthusiasm that I provide a nomination for Christine Placidi for the inaugural Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society Critical Care Nursing Service Award. Christine began her career as a Staff nurse I in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) in 2000, and quickly advanced up the clinical ladder to Staff Nurse II. She established herself as a leader in the CICU participating in precepting nurses and teaching orientation classes. She has developed her cardiac critical care skills and practices at an expert level. Christine is often educating and sharing her knowledge with her peers and less experience nurses in her role as a resource nurse. She is respected by her peers as well as her patients. She often participates as a primary nurse for long-term patient teams. With the chronic nature of many congenital heart disease diagnoses, she maintains therapeutic relationships with families throughout multiple hospitalizations. A few of her accolades include a publication in the Journal of Clinical Ethics and has co-authored on two posters for Nurses week in separate years.

One of the most impressive parts of Christine's nursing practice is her passion for global health that impacts outcomes for children with congenital heart disease in low and middle-income countries. *Heart and Minds of Ghana* was co-founded by Cardiac surgeon Francis Fynn-Thompson, MD, Surgical Director of the Ventricular Device and Heart and Lung Transplant Programs at Boston Children's and a native of Ghana, Beverly Small, RN, and Christine Placidi. Christine has been an integral member of the partnership, which delivers training, education and mentorship to Ghanaian healthcare providers with the goal of creating a sustainable pediatric heart surgery center at Komfo Anyoke Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana. Surgery for CHD was not available in Ghana prior to this partnership. During these annual visits, over 150 cardiac surgical repairs have been performed on children from all over Africa. Additionally, the team has seen more than 800 children in an outpatient cardiac clinic setting. Christine is the coordinator for the post-op phase of patient care that includes setting up the Intensive Care Unit, organizing and storing supplies, ensuring equipment functioning, education with the nursing staff, schedules for nursing staff and recruitment of staff to participate and learn. She continues their education in between visits sharing educational material, answering questions, and maintaining the momentum achieved during visits via WhatsApp communication with the nursing staff.

Christine is a skilled communicator, excels at talking to providers and families in challenging or difficult situations. Her passion and love CHD patients and families is evident in all her interactions. She has helped Ghanaian families and patients feels comfortable, educated, and supported. I have seen her blowing bubbles with an 8 yo, helping a toddler take a first walk down the hall after surgery, or drawing a heart diagram to teach a mother about her child's surgery. My favorite photo of Christine is the day a mom showed her how to wrap a baby (doll) onto her back in the traditional manner. Another is a smiling, young girl hugging Christine as she was leaving the hospital after recovering from surgery. Another of favorite

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parts of the annual trip is when the previous year's patients return for a postoperative visit. One such patient was shy, quiet teenager who came and happily told Christine how she was now able to attend school like her friends.

To further this work, she applied and was accepted to the BCH Global Health Fellowship whose goal is to train future leaders in global child health as well as support the development of essential child health services in regions of the world with the greatest need and limited access to health providers. In addition to her continuing work in Ghana, Christine is now leading a new project in Kenya. Her project will have the ability to reach further that a one-on-one relationship with patients and families. She will be collaborating on site with the local team, developing and teaching a pediatric CHD curriculum as well as developing a bedside reference manual for nurses in that area.

We are very proud of Christine as she shares one of her most valuable commodities, her nursing expertise, with the world. Christine would be an ideal recipient of the inaugural PCICS Critical Care Nursing Service Award.

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