IHCNO 2023 DAISY Nurse Leader Honoree

Dorcas Wanjohi, RN, BSN, PHN, MHA

The International Home Care Nurses Organization (IHCNO) is a Supportive Association of the DAISY Foundation whose mission is to express gratitude to nurses for extraordinary, compassionate, skilled care provided to patients and their families. The goal of this partnership is to recognize home care nurse and midwives throughout the world for the important care and compassion they provide. Nominations are ongoing and can be made on the IHCNO website. The selection process is a blinded review by experienced international home care nurses. Nominations are scored according to the IHCNO Nurse Leader criteria that are found on the [www.ihcno.org](http://www.ihcno.org) website.

I am pleased to introduce the first IHCNO DAISY Nurse Leader Honoree, Dorcas Wanjohi, RN, BSN, PHN, MHA. Dorcas is a home health/hospice/palliative care nursing supervisor at Southern California Kaiser Permanente. Dorcas was nominated with pride by Melissa Kimble, BSN, RN, PHN, her supervisor, who shared the following:

“Dorcas has been a strong influencer for Kaiser Permanente since 2021. She came to the US after a career in Kenya and the UK. She was a huge influence to the international nurses she had supervised through her very diverse clinical background. She speaks other languages that helped with clinicians and patients who struggle with English as a second language. Due to her intense desire for patients to get exactly what they need; she staffed cases with nurses with similar background as patients that brought the greatest positive outcomes for the patients/staff but was the highest amount of stress on her personally.

Prior to coming to Kaiser, Dorcas helped to established the first Hospital in Home service in the San Bernardino, CA area. They successfully kept patients from being admitted to the local hospital and allowed clinicians including physicians to visit the patient at home. In addition, Dorcas worked to implement and deploy the first Telehealth program from the KP-Fontana as the first round of COVID hit. She was able to decrease the potential spread of the disease through both the patients and staff alike. Dorcas had taken on the role for two to three additional supervisors when they have been out for leave. She was always very supportive of all staff being able to maintain great work/life balance. Her focus was to ensure that international staff were able to maintain a long leave time to return to their home country. This had created a significant challenge in making sure patients were adequately staffed. It has been a huge key in recruiting and retaining staff and in meeting the diverse needs of a county and state with over 150 languages in their service area.

Currently, Dorcas is very active outside her career by doing projects in international service work that supports building houses for widows in her home country as well as supporting the local caregivers of medically fragile children. Dorcas stands as a sterling example of what the life as an international Home Care Nurse does in this world. It is with pride I submit this nomination.”

In response to her recognition Dorcas said: “Thank you for this meaningful award. I have had a very fulfilling career and am fortunate to have a tremendous faith that has helped me weather the difficulties we face in healthcare. I believe that faith has helped me minister to colleagues and patients. The DAISY Award from the IHCNO is certainly an extraordinary privilege that will continue to inspire me to lead with grace and gratitude. Thank you deeply and truly.”

Congratulations Dorcas as the 2023 inaugural IHCNO DAISY Leader honoree! Visit [www.ihcno.org](http://www.ihcno.org) for photograph.

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