

Pittsburgh Magazine®

Excellence in Nursing: Meet Our 2018 Honorees

Pittsburgh Magazine highlights the unsung heroes of the health care field: our Excellence in Nursing honorees, chosen by our panel of distinguished judges in the field.

BY RACHEL WEAVER LABAR | PHOTOS BY RENEE ROSENSTEEL



Kathleen Garove

Emergency Room Clinical Educator
St. Clair Hospital

Two years ago, Kathleen Garove attended a talk on human trafficking at a nursing conference in the Poconos. She wondered why the topic was being discussed at an event in Pennsylvania. Surely, they'd be looking at how it affects other countries, she assumed. "I walked out of there in shock," says Garove, of Hickory, Pa. "It's right here in our backyard. That's why they call it 'hidden in plain sight.' If you're not looking for it, you don't realize that's what it is."

Garove, emergency room clinical educator at St. Clair, began researching the issue and developing ways she and her staff could work to help victims who come to the hospital. She trained her team as well as EMS and case management staff on signs to look for, questions to ask and how to offer help.

Garove says the training has helped even outside the ER. Some of the nurses told her they recognized behavior among their own children that could have put them in a dangerous situation. “If we can help anybody, anywhere, any way — even if we can prevent someone from getting caught up in it versus rescuing, it’s clearly worth it,” Garove says.

Garove’s position also includes helping staff with orientation, new equipment and process updates. Her job is to guide the department through change, which is a constant in the ER.

“When I teach them something and they get out there, try it and see that it works and it’s really impacting our patient care, that’s just a wonderful feeling,” she says. “To me, that’s very exciting.”