

THE CHARLOTTE BRODY AWARD

***For brilliantly lighting the way to a healthier environment
and inspiring other nurses to do the same***

The Charlotte Brody Award was created in honor of a lifelong advocate for social change. Charlotte Brody is a registered nurse and activist who has spent her life making the world a safer place for people around the globe. She is one of the founders of Health Care Without Harm, an international coalition of more than 400 member organizations in 52 countries that are working to make health care more environmentally responsible and sustainable. Brody and Health Care Without Harm have launched campaigns to rid hospitals of mercury thermometers and toxic-leaching IV bags and encouraged hospitals to buy ecologically sound medical supplies, cleaners, building materials and organic food. She has engaged many nursing organizations, physician groups, major pharmacy chains, and other health and environmental organizations in addressing these issues and encouraging safer alternatives.

Charlotte Brody currently serves as the executive director of Commonweal, a nonprofit health and environmental research institute in Bolinas, California that conducts programs that contribute to human and ecosystem health — to a safer world for people and for all life. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Health Care Without Harm campaign, and over the years has served as Chair of the Environmental Working Group, Organizing Director for the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice, executive director of North Carolina's Planned Parenthood. Throughout her life Charlotte has lent her energy to many causes, including the civil rights movement, the women's movement, an underground newspaper in Boston; soldiers returning from Viet Nam in Clarksville, Tennessee; a free clinic in Nashville, Tennessee; striking coal mining families in Harlan County, Kentucky; and two groups of cotton textile workers. In addition to her work at Commonweal and Health Care Without Harm, Charlotte currently serves on the boards of Smith Farm and the Environmental Working Group, the Advisory Boards of the Environmental Health Strategy Center and the Environmental Stewardship Council of Kaiser Permanente, and the Steering Committee of the Safe Cosmetics Campaign.

Her years of organizing experience and public health background converged in her groundbreaking work within health care to reduce the sector's reliance on hazardous materials and practices, and there's little doubt that she is making a difference as she works to lighten our collective body burden of toxic chemicals. For Brody, it's about reaching ever further to make a difference, visioning the possible and strategically leveraging opportunities to create lasting change. As she puts it, "I just want to be part of a global community that keeps learning how to keep making bigger, smarter transformational change."

The Luminary Project was launched in 2005 to shine the light on nurses who are working to improve our health and the environment. This web-based initiative was born of Charlotte's desire to tell the stories of nurses who are creatively, strategically, and courageously addressing environmental problems and illuminating the way toward safe hospitals, communities with clean air, land and water, and children born without toxic chemicals in their bodies. Created in 2006, **the Charlotte Brody Award** honors the leadership, commitment, and vision of nurses who are creating a healthier world and inspiring others to do the same.

Award Presentation

The Luminary Project seeks to honor, increase awareness about, and stimulate activity around nurses' efforts to light the way to a healthier environment. The Charlotte Brody Award recognizes the outstanding commitment and achievements of a nurse Luminary who has shared her story with The Luminary Project so that other nurses might be inspired to further accomplishments.

The beautiful award made of recycled glass will be presented to its first recipient, Charlotte Brody, at CleanMed 2006, the premier national conference for environmental leaders in health care, in Seattle, Washington on April 20. Subsequently, the award will be presented biennially at each CleanMed conference. The 2008 Charlotte Brody Award will be presented at CleanMed 2008 to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Criteria

This award will be given to an RN or LPN/LVN who has shared her/his story of environmental activism and accomplishment on The Luminary Project website and made a significant contribution to environmental health. Nominees will exemplify the characteristics and principles for which Charlotte Brody stands. These include:

- Demonstration of a longstanding commitment to change on behalf of people, their health, and the environment.
- Active incorporation of environmental health principles in professional practice, education, research, and advocacy.
- Demonstration of leadership in improving environmental health practices and policies in the workplace, communities, professional associations, government agencies, academic institutions, or other domains where people's health is affected by environmental conditions.
- Engagement in research endeavors that build knowledge, bridge the gap between health and the environment, and/or facilitate the application of findings in nursing and health care.
- Conduction of public education that raises awareness, informs and engages people in efforts to reduce environmental hazards and exposures, and promotes healthy environmental decision-making.
- Development of nursing education programs that actively integrate environmental health knowledge and skills into undergraduate and graduate level nursing curricula and courses.
- Work toward effective environmental health change in nursing practice through direct care with patients and/or through population-focused care.
- Contribution to the development of public policy that protects environmental health.
- Facilitation of changes in organizational policies that protect and promote environmental health.
- Raising of the visibility of nurses and their important and effective role in environmental health improvement.
- Authoring of articles or publications that communicate environmental health matters to the public, nurses and other health care professionals, as well as disciplines and sectors related to environmental health.

Nominations

This award seeks to recognize those who go beyond everyday nursing endeavors to proactively promote and protect environmental health, and who generate significant outcomes from their efforts. Potential awardees may be nominated by a colleague or member of the public, or may be self-nominated.

A call for nominations for the 2008 Charlotte Brody Award will be issued on October 1st of odd numbered years on The Luminary Project website, with a November 15th deadline. Advance announcements of this opportunity will be made in nursing and environmental health publications. The next call for nominations will be issued on October 1, 2007 with the award to be presented at CleanMed in Pittsburgh, PA in May 2008.

Nomination procedures include the following:

1. Completion of the official on-line nomination form posted on www.theluminaryproject.org,
2. A half-page bio-sketch of the nominee, and
3. At least two letters of recommendation, with at least one of these letters written by a nurse.

Selection of Award Recipient

The steering committee of The Luminary Project, known as Guiding Lights, will review applications and select the award recipient based on the stated criteria. This decision will be based on the information included in the completed nomination form and supporting documents. Therefore, it is helpful to include as much information about the candidate and her/his achievements as possible.

Notification of Award

The award recipient will be notified in January of even numbered years and presented with the Charlotte Brody Award at the biennial CleanMed conference of Health Care Without Harm.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO BE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 1, 2007

For further information, please refer to www.theluminaryproject.org.