

DENISA CATE RECEIVES “LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT” AWARD

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AHF Honors Henry County Medical Center Director of Food and Nutrition Services

Louisville, KY (June 10, 2013) – The Association for Healthcare Foodservice (AHF) is proud to announce that Denisa Cate, director of food and nutrition services at Henry County Medical Center, is the recipient of the **2013 AHF Lifetime Achievement Award**. This award was presented at the AHF Annual Conference in New Orleans on June 8, 2013.

The AHF Lifetime Achievement Award is AHF's highest award. It recognizes members who best exemplify the leadership and spirit of Jacques Bloch and Angelo Gagliano, the founders of its legacy organizations. This award is selected by past recipients.

Cate has served on the AHF Board of Directors from 2009 to present, including a term as president. Cate has received the NAFEM Doctorate of Foodservice Award, is involved with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the West Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and has served as the internship and undergraduate student preceptor for the University of Tennessee and Murray State University since 1993. Additionally, Cate serves on the General Mills Advisory Board, the *FoodService Director* Advisory Board, the Henry County Coordinated School Health Advisory Board and the Henry County Healthcare Board.

Cate has served as director of food and nutrition services at Henry County Medical Center since 2001. During her tenure, café sales have tripled; patient satisfaction scores have improved from the 45th percentile to the 96th percentile; she has overseen a major café, dishroom and storeroom remodel and new build. She has also revamped the catering program and developed an employee wellness program that later expanded into a benefits program.

Cate is also involved with the Tennessee Master Gardener Board of Directors, Northwest Tennessee Master Gardeners, Northwest Tennessee Photography Club, Discover Park of America, Henry County Healthcare Foundation and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She is also a nutrition contributor to *Paris Post-Intelligencer's* Food Page.

“Denisa is one of the most dedicated and able spokespersons for the self-operated foodservice program in our hospitals,” said Thomas H. Gee, CEO, Henry County Medical Center. “She backs this up by operating one of the most outstanding and efficient self-operated services in our region which out performs any contracted service. When not directing her department she is

a mentor to students from several university programs within our region and as a dietitian she is a role model for healthy lifestyles and exercise.”

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