

Nominations are requested for:

RHONDA SKELTON ABOVE AND BEYOND IN MATERNITY CARE AWARD

This annual award is presented by the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition and Healthy Northland to honor the memory and work of Rhonda Skelton, a dedicated nurse and manager who worked hard to make hospital maternity practices Baby-Friendly. Rhonda directed the obstetrics department at Moose Lake's Mercy Hospital where she had worked for 25 years. She was passionate about breastfeeding and early contact between a mother and her baby. For 10 years until her death in November 2016, Rhonda worked doggedly, going "above and beyond," in her efforts for the hospital to achieve Baby-Friendly designation.

At the time of Rhonda's death one year remained for the hospital to meet the requirements to obtain the Baby-Friendly designation. As a testament to her dedication and commitment to nursing, mothers and babies, the nurses at Mercy Hospital who all were inspired by Rhonda's vision, followed her example and continued tenaciously to finish the hard work Rhonda started. The first Rhonda Skelton award was presented in 2017, the same year that Moose Lake's Mercy Hospital was designated Baby-Friendly. The award recognizes a maternity center administrator or staff member who has shown dedication "above and beyond" implementing maternity care breastfeeding best practices.

"Rhonda Skelton was a loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, and friend as well as a caring, hardworking nurse who went above and beyond for her staff and patients. Between the stressors of being a manager, mother, and wife to an ill husband, she always remained strong and would do anything for anyone. The sacrifices she made will be remembered forever, which includes the sacrifice she made for my dad. I hope this award honors who she was as a nursing professional but also who she was as an incredible person."

- Laura Skelton

Award nomination requests are sent to Minnesota hospitals. All nominations will be reviewed by representatives of the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition and Healthy Northland.

Awardee will be recognized with presentation of a certificate during the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition Perinatal Hospital Leadership Summit, November 2020.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Nominee must be employed as an administrator or staff at a Maternity Center.
- Dedication to maternity care breastfeeding best practices as demonstrated by work to adopt the "Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding" and the "International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes"
- Demonstrated willingness and commitment to support other staff and patients in providing breastfeeding services

Nomination form is on page 2. Please download this form to complete fields.

2020 Rhonda Skelton Award Nomination Form

Nomination Form deadline for submission **October 19, 2020**

Submit to: mnbreastfeedingcoalition@gmail.com

Subject line: Rhonda Skelton Award Nomination

Nomination questions:

1. Name of nominee:
2. Nominee's facility name & address for correspondence:
3. Name of person submitting application, address, and email address:
4. Will staff from this facility be attending the MBC Perinatal Hospital Leadership Summit? If so, please provide name(s) below.
5. How does nominee meet the above criteria? Or, describe the nominee's work or success in her maternity center adopting the 10 steps to Successful Breastfeeding, the *International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes* or Baby-Friendly designation.
6. Provide examples of nominee going "above and beyond" of what is expected in the person's position?
7. Why are you nominating this person for this award?
8. Other comments?