



Provider communication
General information and system updates

May 22, 2023

2023 Mercy Care Honors Event - Local Community advocates and health care leaders recognized

Applicable to: Mercy Care Complete Care, Mercy Care DD, and Mercy Care ACC-RBHA, Mercy Care Long Term Care, Mercy Care DCS CHP and Mercy Care Advantage

On May 11, 2023, Mercy Care recognized 235 community advocates and health care leaders as nominees for the 2023 RISE (Resilience, Innovation, Service and Empowerment) Awards. The RISE Awards celebrate those in our community who are working to improve the lives of others. The awards honor individuals and organizations in the three areas of **Compassion, Innovation, and Advocacy and Collaboration**.

2023 RISE Award honorees

Compassion

Individual

Valerie Hunt

Provider

The Villages Program,
Copa Health

Innovation

Individual

Christine Ehrich, CEO
Axis for Autism

Provider

Tara Sundem,
Hushabye Nursery

Advocacy and Collaboration

Individual

Desiree Lynn Cook

Provider

Tanner Community
Development Corporation

You can learn more about the RISE Award nominees and honorees at www.MercyCareAZ.org/involved/honors.



2023 RISE Awards Lifetime Achievement Award

Suzanne Pfister is the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Suzanne is the president and CEO of Vitalyst Health Foundation, which focuses on Arizona health policy, technical assistance for non-profits and strength-based community engagement and systems change.

Click here to watch what [Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego says about Suzanne's recognition.](#)

Click here for a tribute video featuring [several of Suzanne's colleagues talk about her impact on health care in Arizona.](#)



ReMEMBER Kate Aurelius Award

Long term care supervisor Anna Lambert was recognized as the 12th annual recipient of the ReMEMBER Kate Aurelius Award.

The ReMEMBER Kate Aurelius Award is named after Kate Aurelius, a former deputy director of AHCCCS and former Mercy Care employee. This award honors a Mercy Care employee who cares deeply about AHCCCS members, encourages others to extend that same compassion to the members and consistently demonstrates it in their everyday work.

"She'll be most remembered by the help and guidance she provides to compassionately, caringly and lovingly, work with our members to keep them in their best light and in their best situation," said Anne Levy, Mercy Care case manager. "Kate always asked, 'What have you done for our members lately?' Anna doesn't ask us that, she shows us that."

If you have any questions, please reach out to your [Provider Representative](#). You may find this [Notice](#) and all other notices on our Provider Notices web page.

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Mercy Care | 4500 E. Cotton Center Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85040

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