

Department of Pediatrics' Weekly Acknowledgment – December 5, 2014

"Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded"

Yogi Berra

Being in hospital is never good. Being in hospital when you are a child is even worse. Being in hospital when you are a child at a time of festive holidays must be the worst.

That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Ginette Manseau**. Probably unknown to most members of the Department and hospital community, Ginette, year in and year out, plays a key role in those seasonal decorations at the entrance and in common spaces that seem to magically pop-up by themselves at around Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween and Christmas. Of course they do not just pop up, but Ginette and a team from housekeeping and other staff members ensure that they do and these seasonal decorations make their regular appearance that most of us take for granted. But the kids we care for do not take them for granted. They get excited and they smile, and for a few fleeting moments, forget that they are sick and in need of healthcare. Indeed, on my way in today I saw a couple of pre-schoolers giggling and eagerly pointing out to their parents the ten-foot inflatable Santa on the roof of our front entrance canopy. That one was Hasidic and the other Muslim made me giggle. We must be one of the few places in this incredibly fractured world where folks of different faiths simply mingle and perhaps for a few minutes forget their differences.

Ginette is the Administrative Assistant for the Associate Executive Director of the MCH. A long-time inhabitant of the F-wing, she has weathered a revolving door of AEDs until Harvey and Martine provided some continuity. She does absolutely yeoman work and is tireless in her dedication to this institution. She is an exemplar of efficiency and multi-tasking that makes the rest of us look like slackers. Together with several other AA's in key support positions, she provides the marrow for this institution as well as its long-term institutional memory. She also does her work with an ever present grace and discretion. That she takes the time to make sure the decorations are put up despite her significant workload and the lack of this detail in her 'job description' is to me the best mark of her character.

Please join me in thanking Ginette for making this place a little more kid-friendly. Think of her when you next see that jolly big Santa in front of our hospital moving this way and that in a cold Montreal wind.

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