

Honoring a Bright Star: Alan Drake, MD, White County Community Hospital Recipient of Tennessee Hospital Association's Meritorious Service Award

Serving his patients, his community and his local hospital since August of 1985, Dr. Alan Drake has been honored with a "Meritorious Service Award" by the Tennessee Hospital Association. Nominated by White County Community Hospital, Dr. Drake has maintained one of the busiest primary care practices in White County for the past 25+ years.

Since moving to Sparta, Tennessee, following completion of his medical training, Dr. Drake has raised two boys who are now pursuing their own dreams, grown his independent practice, and given generously to the community, his church and his hospital.

A gifted leader, Dr. Drake has served in numerous leadership roles, including as the hospital's Chief of Staff and on the Board of Trustees. As Physician Advisor for the hospital for over five years, he has taken on a number of other responsibilities, including reviewing the charts of his peers for proper documentation and championing utilization management efforts. He is also responsible for conducting peer review activities and addressing appropriate medical care with other physicians. In all of these activities, he accomplishes this work with diplomacy, discretion and fairness, all with the goal of helping the hospital maintain the highest standards for quality care.

Dr. Drake's leadership style has also proven valuable in the Physician Leadership Group (PLG) that helps to guide the hospital strategically. His concern for the medical staff as well as his desire to see the hospital succeed made him the natural choice as the group's leader, which also places him on Capella's National Physician Leadership Group.

Another clear example of Dr. Drake's leadership ability came about in 2009 when the hospital was struggling to survive. He helped to organize the physicians to form a group that would eventually purchase a small portion of the facility. This led to the formation of a Joint Venture Board that helps lead the facility operationally as well as strategically. To no one's surprise, Dr. Drake was elected by his peers to be one of three physicians on the Joint Venture steering committee. He has been extremely involved in this group and has contributed significantly to the hospital's recent success.

His caring attitude, commitment to his patients and leadership ability also carry over into what he does for the community. For many years, he has been the volunteer physician for the White County School District, performing athletic physicals free of charge for all of the students desiring to play sports. While the hospital provides athletic trainers at many of the sporting events, Dr. Drake is frequently seen on the sidelines and on the field. He truly cares about the students and is willing to assist wherever necessary to be sure they are safe in their sport.

Also extremely involved in his church - serving in the music and drama ministries as well as in teaching - Dr. Drake has also participated in a number of medical mission trips. Along with his wife, he has served people in Peru, Bahamas, Swaziland, Sumbawa, and Brazil.

Dr. Drake has a positive influence on everyone he meets whether it is children, teens, or adults, demonstrating his belief that each individual is important and uniquely gifted. Through his daily interactions, leadership roles, and personal commitment, he encourages people to use their talents, their positions and their service opportunities to the very best of their abilities.