

2010 NIGHTINGALE RECIPIENT
SHARON SCUSSELL, RN
SHELTON



The Shelton office of New England Home Care proudly announces **Sharon Scussell, RN** as the recipient of this year's Florence Nightingale Award. One night this fall, a course of events transpired that reflected not only the absolute dedication of Sharon, but also the intelligence, teamwork and passion that should make any nurse proud to consider Sharon a colleague. A client called Sharon looking for the evening nurse, a typical event in the life of behavioral health homecare nurses. However, two things quickly made this anything but ordinary. The covering nurse was never late for visits and clients had never called looking for her. Secondly when she answered her cell, she sounded "different" and somewhat disoriented. Before Sharon could make a better assessment of the situation, the nurse's cell went dead. Knowing this nurse was diabetic, Sharon began rallying resources for assistance. She began tracking the "usual route" the nurse utilized. She asked for the assistance of the police but was told they could not help. If you know Sharon, you know she would not "wait to hear" from the nurse or merely assume all would be OK. She began calling clients and asking if they had seen their nurse and as "luck" would have it (or for some of us), divine intervention, her second phone call was to a client who looked out her window and spotted the nurses car. Sharon calmly (although that is not how she was feeling at the moment), guided the client through the following. She remained on the line with the client while the client went out to check the car. The nurse was inside the car, the car was running, but the nurse was not responsive. Sharon instructed the client to call 911 but to remain with the nurse until help arrived. In the meantime Sharon also notified her colleague, who was out driving the route looking for the car, and informed her of the location. Sharon then maintained phone contact with the client until the ambulance arrived. When the ambulance arrived the nurse's blood sugar had dropped to 23. When she came to, the first face she described seeing was that of the client's, who quickly told her, "Sharon told me to stay with you!"

If not for the quick thinking and absolute determination of Sharon, this could have had a very different ending. This was a day that made me incredibly proud to be a nurse!! Having known Sharon for almost 10 years, this is reflective of who she is with her clients, her peers and all that have the privilege to know and work with her. She is nursing at its best!!

Congratulations!