



**By Carolyn Lee**

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Her bubbly personality and obvious love of her patients and fellow employees has led Heather Schoenholz to be named the Caring Kind employee at Chase County Community Hospital (CCCH) for 2012.

Schoenholz will receive her award at the 2012 Nebraska Hospital Association annual banquet Oct. 19 in Lincoln. She was nominated by Hospital Administrator Lola Jones.

Schoenholz has been a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the Chase County Clinic and a scrub nurse in the hospital's surgery for 12 years.

Prior to that, before her marriage to Justin Schoenholz, she was a floor nurse at the Thayer County Health Services hospital in Hebron for half a year.

When she was in high school in York, Schoenholz was in a car accident. "I received some awesome care and decided that I wanted to help people, too," she said.

Also, her aunt was a nurse in the days when they wore white hats, and Schoenholz thought her aunt looked "awesome," she laughed.

It's her laughter and ability to do "her job thoroughly, day in and day out with a smile on her face," that was part of the reason she was nominated for the Caring Kind Award, according to Jones.

"You will always find Heather to be cheerful, helpful, and caring with her patients, coworkers and all who she encounters," Jones commented.

"She is viewed as a leader and willingly steps up when things need done. She makes coming to work fun."

Schoenholz recently became a Car Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) for CCCH. That means that she inspects car seats before parents take a newborn from the hospital.

She enjoys that connection with newborns, who she also sometimes sees being born in the surgery.

Schoenholz graduated from York High School in 1998. She then received her LPN degree from Southeast Community College in Beatrice.

She and Justin have four daughters: Jolee, 8; Ella, 7; Shelby, 5; and Andee, 3.

Of her award, Schoenholz said "It's quite an honor from my coworkers, who are like family."