

PTC Alum Earns Doctor of Mirth Degree from HaHa

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Stamford (CT) Hospital's HAHA (health and humor associates) awarded a Clown Doctorate and "Doctor of Mirth" to Sandi Dolitz Vasquez, PTC 96 and aka "Nurse NiceAlot." As a semi-professional clown for more than 15 years, Sandi performs as "Violet" at such volunteer functions as nursing home visitations.

Research reveals that depression and sadness can slow people's recovery; Stamford Hospital's HAHA (Health and Humor Associates) program provides specially trained, caring clown visits to patients routinely or to fulfill special requests. These clown "Doctors of Mirth" bring gentle cheer and smiles to patients of all ages, their families and visitors. Giving patients and visitors permission to laugh out loud and be silly is often seen as a positive contribution to the patients hospital stay. HAHA's membership is comprised entirely of volunteer's who have been trained in the art of clowning and in hospital visitation protocols and safety procedures. The group was founded more than 15 years ago and is one of the most active all volunteer hospital clown organizations in the United States today.