



Untiring fighter

Outstanding personages of the 2010

“I decided to accept this prize on behalf of the patients. For them it means that there is hope and that there are people who are not going to let them die”.

Photo: Miguel Martínez /MH

By [Linda Carolina Perez](#), Mundo Hispanico

Modified: 7:31 p.m. Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Entered: 6:50 p.m. Tuesday, December 21, 2010

With a small knowledge of Spanish, but with an unshakeable will, Dorothy Leone-Glasser has been dedicated to represent a group of dialysis patients, most of them Hispanic, so that they are not without the treatment that maintains their life.

Dorothy Leone-Glasser has spent 30 years working in favor of patients with different sufferings. To them she offers care, counseling and alternative methods with the hope to surpass their adversities.

For that reason it was not difficult for her to accept the call from a group of doctors more than a year ago. They asked her to become the representative of the patients of the Outpatient Dialysis Clinic of Grady Hospital that then faced the possibility of being medically abandoned without treatment.

This “adventure” began in October of 2009, when Grady announced they would close their Dialysis Clinic which offered services to almost one hundred patients; the majority undocumented.

Dorothy had much in common with these patients. She herself had received dialysis treatment in the past and knew reason why the patients needed help. She has overcome several diseases and suffers from Systemic Lupus.

“I know what is to be a patient of dialysis and what it felt to me well knowing that these people could not have the same opportunities that I had”, asserted Leone-Glasser, who has overcome several sentences of death.

The woman, who has a nurse title, created her strategy and she was dedicated to the fight so that the patients’ treatment would not stop. She looked to gain the confidence of the patients. “I did not know them and they did not know me. But when you are making the correct decisions, all truth flows with ease”, she said.

Dorothy opened the doors of her home to the patients and she helped them to have meetings and activities to gain support.

“At that point, they began to realize I was fighting for them until the end”, she indicated.

Leone-Glasser created the non- profit organization, Advocates for Responsible Care, to centralize its operations. Also she motivated the patients so that they organized to collect donations and plan activities, whereas she negotiated in their name and planned a solution to this “dialysis crisis”.

Although most of the patients speak little English, for Leone-Glasser the language never has been a barrier.

“I learned to communicate with them. When it is not the words that speak, but the heart, the language is not a barrier”, expressed Leone-Glasser. Nowadays Dorothy considers the patients her family. She relates to them with affection and every day does something to help them.

Thanks to this intervention, Grady reached an agreement with several private suppliers of dialysis that guarantees treatment to 33 patients until the 31 of August of 2011. In the process, ARxC gained support of a clinic to be the supplier of basic health services for the patients. ARxC worked closely with several professionals who donated their time to cover different fronts of the crisis.

Although Dorothy is satisfied with their success, she admits that there is much work to do.

“We cannot stop. In August the contract is over and it is necessary to have a new strategy. The only thing that I want is that these patients live peacefully. I do not want them to live in fear”, she affirmed.