

Staffer Featured at International Humor Conference

Leslie Gibson, RN and community liaison of The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast (The Hospice) may be seen around campus or out in the community dressed in businesswear or in bright make-up, a wig and oversized clothing in her other line of work as The Hospice's Smile Team clown Happe. No matter when you see her, she always has a smile on her face and a laugh to share.

Leslie has been a pioneer in the field of therapeutic humor with patients and families of The Hospice and area hospitals. In June, she shared her expertise as a featured presenter at the 52nd international conference, *The Positive Power of*

Humor & Creativity, sponsored by The HUMOR Project, Inc in Silver Bay, New York.

Leslie got her start in therapeutic humor in 1988, when she received a grant from The HUMOR Project to pilot humor in hospitals. She created one of the world's most successful, ongoing therapeutic hospital programs, which includes 32 comedy carts and teams of volunteers and caring clowns. She is also the creator of The Hospice's Smile Team and Laughing Legacy program, which are part of The Hospice's

expansive palliative arts program.

In addition to presenting at the conference, Leslie had the honor and delight of hosting Lucie Arnaz, who accepted the Laughtime Achievement Award on behalf of her late parents, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. Lucie was so interested in therapeutic humor that she's studying more about it.



(Left to right) Dave Weiland, medical director of The Hospice, Leslie Gibson and Lucie Arnaz show off The Hospice's Smile Team bag.



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