

She Knows Where She's Going Award

Nicci Kobritz



In March 1972, Nicci began working as a registered nurse for the Maine *Healthy Start* program serving rural low-income children and adolescents.

In 1974, she received her degree as Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She was hired by the Academy of Pediatrics to set up clinics for low-income children & adolescents. In her Jeep Wagoneer she and her assistant traveled rural areas to

set up and operate four clinics.

As first PNP to be given privileges at the Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, she took care of children who had never been to a doctor and others who only had crisis care in an emergency room. She worked with the Chief of Pediatrics to pursue and secure grant funding so this service continues to this day. During this time, she designed, implemented and supervised Maine's first hospital based/medical model child abuse & neglect service.

Maine's Governor John McKernan invited her to serve in his Cabinet as Commissioner of Community Services. Her accomplishments included helping to establish the first State Department for Head Start in New England.

In 1993, Nicci moved to Sarasota and started her home health care agency. Seven years later *Youthful Aging Home Health* is generating annual revenues of over five million.

Making the transition from pediatrics to geriatrics was a challenge. She says, *The biggest awakening was to discover how many of our clients were depressed and lonely. This became difficult for me to accept. So, I decided to add services to our care that could make a difference.*

Her services continue to expand. She has integrated healthy life-styles into client care with exercise, nutrition and numerous activities providing a better quality of life. Hosting the *Youthful Aging* television show enables her to continue to educate our community about healthy lifestyles.

She has chaired the Health Unit for the United Way since 1997. In 1998, she was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award.