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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EMPLOYEE OF THE SECOND QUARTER NAMED AT COTTAGE**  
**HOSPITAL**

Nicole Houston has been chosen as Cottage Hospital's Employee of the Second Quarter for 2009. Nicole joined the Cottage Hospital Team in December of 2006 as the Director of Education, and in September of 2008, assumed the role of Director of Critical Care.

A co-worker nominated Nicole for this honor expressing, "...Nicole is a great role model for leadership and hard work. She always gives her staff her very best and always strives for excellence. She provides great department management and can also give quality patient care to high acuity ER patients. She amazes me daily with her dedication and self motivation. I am very thankful to be working for such an amazing woman."

Nicole expressed that, "I was surprised and honored to be voted as Employee of the Quarter. The teamwork and dedication of the staff at Cottage Hospital is impressive to me. I find energy in the staff each day that feeds my passion for what I do. I'm surrounded by people who want to make a difference and do a great job. I'm fortunate to work with such remarkable individuals."

Nicole has always lived in the North Country. She moved to Bath with her husband six years ago to restart his family farming business. They are breeders of Red Devon Beef Cattle, a grass-fed only breed. Nicole feels that, "it is a great lifestyle for our five young children, three of which attend the Bath Village School." Nicole volunteers as the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl's basketball coach and as a ski chaperone for the school ski program at Cannon Mountain. She has also assisted with the Bath Little League as an Area Representative for the past few years. Nicole expressed that, "My children keep me busy as they are involved in sports year round. I try to keep a healthy balance between motherhood and nursing."

A party was held in Nicole's honor in the hospital dining room. In addition to a cake, Nicole received a check from the hospital and a special parking space reserved for the Employee of the Quarter.