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Life-saving feat earns WMC paramedic Employee of the Quarter award

FRANKLIN, TENN. – While Williamson Medical Center paramedic Julie Holmes and other Emergency Medical Services personnel save lives on a daily basis, one day this summer particularly stands out. She and partner Desi Boyle, E.M.T., were not sent out on a call. Rather, through her fast-acting approach, Holmes was able to pull a man from a bridge as he was about to jump in an attempt to commit suicide.

“We were sitting at the Highway 96 red light over Interstate 65 when we saw him standing on the bridge, and my partner jokingly said she hoped he didn’t jump,” Holmes says. “At that moment, he put his leg over the side.”

As the light changed, Boyle pulled the ambulance to the side of the road. Holmes jumped out and the man dove, but not before Holmes could grab his belt loop and the top of his pants, pulling him to safety. The man was taken to Williamson Medical Center for evaluation.

“It all happened in a matter of seconds,” Holmes says. “But that’s what we do. In our line of work, my co-workers and I make a habit of thinking fast and sometimes sacrificing our own safety in the hopes of helping someone and making a difference.”

For her life-saving feat, Holmes recently was honored as WMC’s Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2010. She is a four-year employee of the Medical Center.

“By her willingness to act without hesitation, Julie was able to prevent the man from causing serious or fatal harm to himself or others,” says Dennis Miller, Williamson Medical Center chief executive officer. “Through her heroic efforts, a tragedy was averted. She is not only an asset to Williamson Medical Center but also to the community.”

Medical Center employees are nominated for the quarterly award by co-workers. A committee of former award recipients selects the nominee who best demonstrates the Medical Center’s Standards of Performance. The recipient is honored at a reception and presented with a \$500 check.

Other employees nominated for the award were Emma Collins (Materials Management), Anne Drumwright, R.N. (Case Management), Sue McConnell, R.N. (Critical Care Unit) and Christy Patient, Pharmacy technician.

Williamson Medical Center is a 185-bed hospital fully accredited by The Joint Commission that provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care including emergency services, with credentialed physicians in 53 specialties and sub-specialties. The community-focused hospital offers a wide range of wellness services, screenings and classes. For more information about Williamson Medical Center, visit www.williamsonmedicalcenter.org.

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