

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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PEROTS HONOR CYNDI BASSEL, CREATE AWARD FOR UT SOUTHWESTERN EMPLOYEES

DALLAS – December 5, 1997 – Margot and Ross Perot, honored often for their efforts to make the world better, have established the Cyndi Bassel Guardian Angel Award for UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas employees who make a difference.

The award honors Cyndi Bassel of University Park, a 17-year UT Southwestern employee who in 1994 became vice president for university relations. She is the first recipient of the award, a crystal angel the Perots commissioned.

"This award will be given to medical center employees, other than doctors, who do outstanding things to improve the medical center and to help make the world a better place through medicine," Ross Perot said. "That is what Cyndi Bassel does, and Margot and I know there are also many others at UT Southwestern who deserve recognition. But always remember that the things you'll do in the future will dwarf all the tremendous things you've done in the past."

The Perots chose to announce they had established the award on a night they were being honored as this year's recipients of Southwestern Medical Foundation's Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award for their efforts to improve health care, medical education and research. The announcement surprised Bassel and the 500 people gathered for the dinner at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

"It is a wonderful honor to be acknowledged in this way, especially by Mr. and Mrs. Perot, who do so much to help others," she said. "The things we try to do for patients at UT Southwestern require the efforts and cooperation of literally hundreds of staff members, so it is really the entire UT Southwestern family that deserves this recognition."

Bassel, a native of Shreveport, La., is a graduate of Louisiana State University. In Dallas she is a member of Pi Beta Phi Dallas Alumnae Club, Junior League, Dallas Assembly, North Dallas Bible Church and Executive Women's Roundtable of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. She has served on the Board of Directors of Girls, Inc. and the Child Care Group, Inc. She is married to Mark Bassel, a commercial artist who owns and manages Mark Bassel Digital Imaging. They have a daughter, Laura, age three.