



Dismuke Honored with 2025 Humanitarian Award

MOULTRIE, GA — Regina Dismuke, a longtime advocate for vulnerable children and families in Colquitt County, has been named the 2025 recipient of the Dr. Walter E. Harrison, Jr., Humanitarian Award. The honor was presented during the annual Colquitt Regional Medical Foundation Love Light ceremony, held in the Kate Jeter Serenity Garden.

This award, established in memory of the late Dr. Walter E. Harrison, Jr., recognizes a healthcare professional who exemplifies compassion, service, and a commitment to improving the lives of others—principles that defined Dr. Harrison’s life and work. Since its creation in 2012, the Humanitarian Award has honored individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication both within the hospital and throughout the community.

Dismuke’s career has been devoted to protecting and uplifting the most vulnerable. She spent 20 years with Colquitt County Department of Family & Children Services, serving in roles ranging from investigator and child protective services specialist to supervisor. In 2018, she became Executive Director of Hero House, where she has continued her mission by providing vital services to abused children and women. Her work includes conducting forensic interviews, coordinating therapy, supporting families, and establishing the SANE Center to ensure victims can receive timely, compassionate care close to home.

Her reach extends beyond her leadership role. Dismuke collaborates regularly with Serenity House, Hope House, United Way, law enforcement, and the District Attorney’s Office to ensure children in Colquitt County receive protection and support. She is known for her willingness to remain on call around the clock, offer educational outreach, and serve wherever she is needed.

She was recognized as Colquitt County's 2021 Woman of the Year, and under her leadership, Hero House received the Heart of Colquitt County award in 2023.

In addition to her professional work, Dismuke has volunteered more than 300 hours at Colquitt Regional Health System in both pharmacy services and human experience services, further demonstrating her commitment to serving others.

"Regina's heart for children and families is truly unmatched," said Colquitt Regional President and CEO Jim Matney. "Her dedication to advocacy, safety, and compassion reflects the same spirit that guided Dr. Harrison throughout his career. She has made an extraordinary impact on this community, and we are proud to honor her with this year's Humanitarian Award."

Colquitt Regional Medical Foundation Chairman Lisa Perry echoed the sentiment. "The Humanitarian Award represents the very best in service and compassion," she said. "Regina embodies those qualities in every aspect of her work and her life. Her tireless efforts to protect the vulnerable continue to strengthen the fabric of our community."

Dismuke is the wife of Marty; mother to Tyler and daughter-in-law Heather Grace; and grandmother to Preston, Anderson, Stetson, and Vivian Claire.

The Love Light ceremony, held annually in the Kate Jeter Serenity Garden, marks the start of the Christmas season at Colquitt Regional. Each year, a special guest lights the Love Light tree, symbolizing gifts made in honor or memory of loved ones. Proceeds benefit the Children's Fund, which provides essential pediatric and obstetric equipment—such as bili blankets, newborn hearing machines, and medical cribs—and will also support future expansions to improve access to care.



This year's Love Light tree lighter was nine-year-old Carson Hayden, whose remarkable recovery from a brain tumor earlier this year inspired many in attendance. Carson and his family joined Santa to illuminate more than 40 Christmas trees throughout the garden.

Love Lights may be purchased through December 15, with names displayed in the garden throughout the holiday season.

Previous recipients of the Dr. Walter E. Harrison, Jr., Humanitarian Award include Hugh B. Ward, D.Min.; Debra Hayes, RN; Alex Shivers, LMSW; Dr. Tamara Johnson; Dr. Billy Ray Price; David Spence, RT (R, ARRT); Karen G. Hart, RN, CMSRN; Barbara James, RN; Dr. D.W. Adcock; Dr. Patricia Lee June; Denise Linnenkohl, RN; Dr. Seth Berl; and Dr. Kirby Smith.