

[Print Page](#)

## PRMC given award by rural association

By *KERRI SMITH*  
Staff Writer

Pampa Regional Medical Center was recently presented with a 2007 Communities That Care Award by the Texas Rural Health Association for having community projects that make a significant difference in improving the health of residents in Texas communities.

This award recognizes up to one rural community in each of the 11 health regions of the Texas Department of State Health Services that has gone the extra mile for area residents.

This is done by implementing a health care project that has made a positive difference in their community and that has relied mostly on monetary donations rather than on governmental support. The project must also benefit an underserved population of the community.

Tommy Sweat from the Panhandle Area Health Education Center said this award was given to PRMC after receiving a nomination form and several support letters from members of the community.

"Pampa Regional Medical Center is doing a wonderful job as a training site for many people who are working to get into health care and that is the reason they won this award," Sweat said.

An article written about PRMC in a publication by Panhandle Area Health Education Center, said that PRMC is a student friendly facility. They serve as a training site for the physician assistant program for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; the physical therapy program for Allied Health; the physician assistant program for Baylor College of Medicine; the LVN programs for Clarendon College and Frank Phillips College; the laboratory, radiology and scrub tech programs for Amarillo College; and the speech pathology program for West Texas A&M University.

Many students do their clinical rotation at PRMC and are allowed to stay in housing in Pampa so they do not have to deal with the long commute every day.

PRMC also partners with the Panhandle Area Health Education Center to host continuing education training for their staff and the staffs of other health facilities in Pampa and the surround area.

They offer job shadowing experiences for high school students affiliated with Panhandle Area Health Education Center's programs. Since 2005, 74 students have job shadowed in surgery, radiology, OB/GYN and physical therapy. Many of these students have gone on to enroll in a health profession program with the hope to return to PRMC for their college clinical rotations.

One last thing that helped the hospital win this award was the availability of the volunteer opportunities for Pampa ISD high school students to explore health professions as a career option.