

Schwartz Community Awards for Saint Francis Hospice

A Schwartz Shining Star - 'An unexpected star of the show'

Each month, when we hold our Schwartz rounds, we ask our chef at the hospice to prepare something lovely for our staff to enjoy before it starts.

Vince, our chef, has never failed to provide the most delicious and heart-warming fayre. He even takes account of any recent faith or cultural holidays and has included beautifully decorated bunny cupcakes at Easter, tasty honey and apple cake for Jewish New Year, delicious tasting sweets for Diwali, and the best Christmas cake ever in December.

On one occasion we asked Vince, a shy unassuming man, if he would like to be a Schwartz panellist for a round we called 'Why I do the job I do', and he agreed. Vince spoke passionately about how he tries to prepare tasty menus, with healthy options, for our inpatients and families, as lovingly as he would for his own family. Vince has been known to pop out down to the local supermarket when a particular patient has really fancied something particular to eat. At a time when people are so unwell with little appetite, Vince will go to great lengths to provide something lovely to tempt even the smallest of appetites, pureeing food where necessary and ensuring that an attempt is made to meet all requests where possible, however different these may be. Vince also takes great pride in making a birthday cake for our inpatients whenever possible.

Vince truly is 'our unexpected star of the show' because so many did not realise the extent of his work nor indeed the lengths he will go to try and meet all unique needs. His story made a great impact on those present and all came away with a better understanding of his role.

