GCP Tourism and Local Lodging Celebrate  
6th Annual International Housekeepers Week

The Tourism Department of the Greene County Partnership along with area lodging facilities celebrated International Housekeepers Week, September 9-16 by having a friendly competition in eight different categories pertaining to housekeeping.

The original idea for National Housekeepers Week came about in 1981 when Doug Slingerland came up with the idea to recognize the “doers” in the housekeeping field. In July of 1996, the celebration became international and was changed to International Housekeepers Week.

The participants competed in eight different categories. These included: Pillow Amenity, Amenity Display, Towel Display, Best Bed Display, Visitor Information Display, Best Dressed Housekeeper, Sheet Folding and Meeting Space Presentation. General Managers of all of the Greeneville/Greene County Properties were urged to nominate one of their housekeeping staff for Housekeeper of the Year as well.

The group designated Wednesday, September 12, as the day of judging and selected Rhonda Humbert and Nicole Rader as judges for this event. Judges, along with Kinser, visited each participating property on that day and ranked each properties entry. The group then tallied the scores and named the winners.
Rader stated “Judging this year was full of fun and was a great experience. I enjoyed meeting the staff at both Jameson Inn and Comfort Inn. We enjoyed Jameson Inn’s creativity in the room decorations and Comfort Inn’s warm and welcoming board room.”

Humber added, “What an awesome opportunity to be a part of such a great event. Hats off to Jameson Inn for such great creativity on their theme and one could tell that much thought went into the project.” She added, “Comfort Inn has an excellent meeting center with a very professional setting. Great for anyone’s business needs.”

“Housekeepers are the essence of our industry in keeping every hotel running smoothly and maintaining a high level of quality for all guests,” stated Greg Adkins, CEO of the Tennessee Hospitality Association. “Their hard work and dedication is a key component to making all hotels successful and our industry a success as a whole.”

"IEHA would like to congratulate the Tennessee Hotel and Lodging Association, along with Tourism in Greene County and its Lodging Association for joining in the spirit by recognizing and supporting International Housekeepers Week! IHW provides recognition to the unsung heroes in the cleaning industry that maintain a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for us all each and every day, and we thank you for your efforts." Marvin Ellsworth, President of the International Executive Housekeepers Association (IEHA).

Winners of the 6th Annual International Housekeepers Week awards are as follows:
Jameson Inn – Pillow Display, Best Bed Display, Visitor Information Display, Amenity Display, Towel Display, Sheet Folding Presentation, Best Dressed Housekeeper better known as the Grime Busters. Comfort Inn was the winner of the Meeting Space Presentation category.

For the fourth year, the Tourism Department has awarded the “Housekeeper of the Year” award. This award is designed to give recognition to a deserving housekeeper and raise the
profile of this vocation in the hospitality industry. It creates role models and a goal for staff to work towards. The Professional Housekeeper award goes to an executive housekeeper who excels in managing, directing, planning and organizing his or her department. The winner of this year’s award went to Penny Lane of the Jameson Inn of Greeneville.

Plans are already underway to create more exciting categories in which the lodging properties will compete for 2013.

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Winners of the 8th Annual International Housekeepers Awards are as follows from left to right: Tammy Kinser, Director of Tourism for the Partnership, Nicole Rader, Coordinator of Community Relations and Special Events with Holston United Methodist Home for Children and a judge for the project, Amberly Johnson, Angela Carter, Ashli Jones and Chelsey Horner with the Jameson Inn, Raelynn Price with the Comfort Inn, Brandi Flint and Penny Lane of the Jameson Inn and Rhonda Humbert also a judge for the project.