

# Oklahoma's NURSING TIMES

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## Community Hospital expands locations, reputation



Design of metro's newest hospital to allow patients to become center of care with bedside nursing.



photos provided

by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

Christine Weigel, RN, arguably has one of the best nursing jobs in Oklahoma City.

Not only is she vice president of clinical services and system chief nurse officer for Community Hospital, but she recently opened the metro's newest hospital.

Community Hospital North

opened in early June and it's already poised to be a high-volume facility patients are eager to utilize.

"I think we wanted patients to understand they are the center here and that they've got a nurse that is right there at the bedside," Weigel said, taking a break from her busy schedule to offer a tour of the new facility. "We have an all-RN staff and truly all that

was for the patient to be in the center of it all. That has made a huge difference in how it was designed. Everything was a touch that was easy for nursing which makes it that much easier for the patient."

The look and the feel of the two-story facility is not only elegant but efficient. Rich wood flooring is complimented by large amounts of natural light.

"We really went for that high-tech but soft touch," Weigel said. "We really wanted it to look more like a five-star hotel so it's nice and comfortable. There's a lot of high-technology and everything is integrated."

Technology accents along the

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## Mission of care

*Enhance the health and quality of life for Oklahoma seniors by increasing access to geriatric healthcare, providing excellence in health education, an optimizing health and policy*



From left Kari Kennedy-Gregory, RN educator and coordinator at the Central Center of Healthy Aging; Nancy Brittain RN, nurse liaison at the Northeast Center of Healthy Aging, OHAI region Tulsa; and Joyce Small, RN educator/liaison at Southwest Center of Healthy Aging, OHAI in Lawton; are proactive in providing beneficial information to primary caregivers.

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

The Family Caregiver Workshop reaches out to the community by means of senior centers, hospitals, clinics, home health, hospices and nursing homes said Nancy Brittain, RN/Nurse Liaison at the Northeast Center of Healthy Aging, OHAI region in Tulsa. "There are many

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## COMMUNITY

Continued from Page 1

way all the way from the information screens in the front lobby to the advanced robots in the OR.

But it all blends seamlessly to give an atmosphere of a smaller, boutique hospital.

"Patients get to the point where they are already so anxious just when they come in the building so what we were trying to do is every piece of their experience was something that should be calming for them," Weigel said. "Nothing should be frustrating. Nothing should be more tension to a patient. We want that quality of care that makes them get comfortable and feel comfortable in the environment."

The hospital's concierge service takes family and visitors directly to a patient's room when it's time. Patients are also tracked during every step of the way to allow both physicians and families to know at what stage and location they are in their procedure and recovery.

Family consultation rooms allow physicians and families to meet and discuss how a procedure went and what the next step in a patient's recovery will be.

The patient rooms themselves are large and feature separate nooks for family members to pull out and sleep or check emails at the built-in desk. A curtain allows easy separation so family members can get sleep at night and not be woken by staff rounding.

"The patients are thrilled with the amount of room they've got," Weigel said, noting each room has bedside computers for nursing.

Community Hospital's north campus is located on the east side of the Broadway Extension, just north of Britton Rd in north Oklahoma City.

The Community Hospital north campus features 14 inpatient beds and eight operating suites, each equipped with the latest technology for orthopedic, plastic, pain management, ENT, endoscopic and general surgical procedures.

The expectation is that orthopedic and spine surgeries will account for much of the facility's volume as well as pain management but Weigel says there is plenty of room for more general surgery.

"It's more of a generalist type of facility even though in the past we've been more ortho-spine but I think it's growing," Weigel said. "We're almost out of OR space already so the growth is just incredible."

The hospital shares a license with



the original 49-bed location in south Oklahoma City and Weigel said it compliments the existing facility in every way.

"The patient experience is the same. We're very blessed with very high patient satisfaction," Weigel said. "We're beating Oklahoma City and we're beating the nation. It's not really an offshoot (location) but a world unto itself."

Located right off of Broadway Extension, the new hospital offers easy access from north of Edmond to down south into Norman.

Weigel said some surgeons are drawing patients from as far away as Kansas. The addition of more younger surgeons specializing in shorter hospital times (one doing a total hip with a next day discharge) is already increasing word of mouth.

"The outcomes are incredible," Weigel said. "Low to no infection rates which is huge and low complications they're doing a really good job."

The hospital has recently earned several honors including a center of leadership distinction in pain control.

Weigel notes that some of the hospital's post-operative successes can be attributed to mandatory education courses required before the patient even comes to the hospital.

"It's all in advance," Weigel said. "Ninety-nine percent of the time we get someone to come with them that's going to be their caregiver so they understand the exercises and they know what the expectations are."

The new facility is impressive but Weigel knows buildings don't heal people.

"I don't have to go looking for nurses or any staff," Weigel said. "They come looking for us. We've got the knowledge that if we take really good care of our employees they take great care of our patients."

# OHAI

Continued from Page 1

caregivers in the community trying to care for loved ones, but they do not know about OHAI," Brittain said. "Therefore word of mouth goes along way."

The Family Caregiver Workshop consists of skills training to include how to transfer your loved from a bed to a wheelchair, medication management, nutrition, home safety, as well as disease process affecting Oklahoma Seniors. Some of these diseases include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Alzheimer Disease/Dementia and Diabetes.

This workshop is designed for the primary caregiver to enhance their caregiving skills and fuel them with knowledge needed to provide appropriate and safe care to their loved ones.

"We want to encourage caregivers to reach out and understand what their role is," Brittain said. "The caregiver is a vital part of the health care team"

Kari Kennedy-Gregory, RN Educator/Coordinator at the Central Center for Health Aging offers

workshops from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday and Fridays for the caregiver.

"Caregivers arrive and I assess their needs and discuss their struggles which are faced with caregiving," Gregory said. There is a simulated senior apartment utilized in conjunction with a skills laboratory for training. "We talk about the importance of understanding DNR's (Do Not Resituate) Advance Directives and Living Wills.

"The caregivers naturally create their own caregiver support group within the workshop", Gregory said.

Another center is in the process of implementation said Joyce Small, RN Educator/Liaison at the Southwest Center of Healthy Aging, OHAI in Lawton. "We are the third region on board with starting the Family Caregiver Workshops; I have enjoyed the opportunity to observe the classes, Small said. They really do get involved and it is a platform for them to really start voicing caregiver needs."

"People in the classes feel comfortable and freely discuss the challenges they face. Their interaction is therapeutic to one another," Small said.



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# CAREERS IN NURSING

## CHINA TAPS OHH: OK HEART HOSPITAL MODELS BEST PRACTICES FOR CHINESE

by Bobby Anderson - Writer/Photographer

Linda Higgins, RN, has been playing a special role at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital where she serves as a translator for a Chinese hospital that is learning the best practices of OHH.

The Chinese are trying to modernize their health care system to bring it up to the modern standards of the 21st Century. Health care in China is 20-30 years behind the U.S., Higgins said

The hospital in China is privately owned and is part of a company with three hospitals there and have broken ground for a fourth hospital in which they want to emulate the OHH management model, she explained.

Higgins is originally from China. There was a huge language barrier before Higgins was asked to help with communications. She also traveled to China with Dr. Harvey of OHH for the breaking ground ceremony of the new hospital there in April of this year.

"China is developed in all the other areas but in general, China's health care is still kind of behind the international level. Of course the Chinese government a few years ago started making some changes because in China probably 95 percent of the hospitals are state owned."

The privately owned Chinese hospital working with OHH actually discovered the Oklahoma hospital. The Chinese CEO realized they could not do it on their own and sought international help. They visited several hospitals 18 months ago.

"They had been looking for partners, especially for management," she said. "They noticed our employees just looked really happy. Everyone was smiling and relaxed. They didn't have a chance to really talk to anybody. They just walked around and they could tell."

They also noticed the families of patients throughout the hallways and could sense a high degree of

patient satisfaction.

"They wanted to know the secret of how we do the management and provide care and technology," she added. "They wanted to instill our management style into their care."

Each time the Chinese would visit OHH they would send about 14 people, Higgins said. The Chinese CEO came with the second group. And in May, they sent their COO to follow OHH COO Peggy Tipton, RN, for about two weeks along with other top management, Higgins continued.

Higgins has also been part of the OHH management team, so she understands the needs of the Chinese as well as speaks their language.

The Chinese took into consideration the hospital's design. OHH was designed for quick and easy access to patients by physicians and family members.

"It's going to be designed by a French architect," Higgins said,

"They will include the basic structure and a lot of our settings."

Knowing that she is helping to facilitate an international process between two nations for the betterment of mankind, at the end of each day, Higgins is grateful.

"Of course China is always home for me even though I have been living here for 20 years," she said. "That's where my root is, so I want to make a difference in this process."

She said the experience has also challenged her to learn more about the broader scope of OHH. She had never been a translator before, so she had to focus on making sure that both the speaker and listener could understand correctly.

"The most important thing they want to learn from us is our culture," Higgins said.

The Chinese know that OHH is a top leader in the United States for patient satisfaction. They are impressed that OHH has remained

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My name is Agnes, but my family calls me "Ike". I was born, raised and graduated from high school in Boley, Oklahoma. I met my husband, Otis, while I was attending business college in Omaha, Nebraska. During our 42 years of marriage we have been blessed with two daughters and two grandchildren. In 2006, I thought I was feeling okay, but noticed I was getting tired more and more. That's when I found out my kidneys were failing. I received a new kidney in May 2012. After writing to my donor family, I learned that a young woman name Holly saved my life. When I see the brightest star in the night sky, I think of my Angel, Holly.

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*Agnes*





Linda Higgins, RN, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in northwest Oklahoma City, serves as a translator between OHH management and the Chinese who are learning best practices there.

in the top level during its 14 years of operations.

"They want to know how we make our patients happy and how we focus on patient care," she said.

Higgins has been a registered nurse since 1999 when she graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Before she graduated Higgins earned a scholarship at then-Presbyterian Hospital (OU Medical

Center) in Oklahoma City and began her career there. She worked at Deaconess Hospital (Alliance Health Deaconess) for a couple of years before the Oklahoma Heart Hospital opened in 2002.

"I always like cardiac service and this hospital is dynamic and really cares about its employees," Higgins said. "We really focus on patient care. Everything we do here is putting the patients first with patient centered care."



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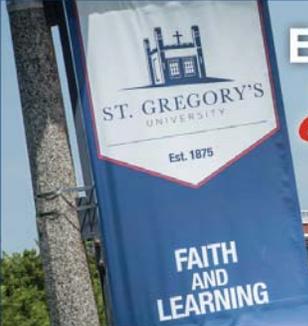
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**We Are Currently Taking Applications For Registered Nurse Case Manager -**  
 Full-time RN Case Manager needed at the Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma, Tishomingo, OK. Job duties include Case Management, Performance Improvement, and hands on patient care in an integrated health care setting. Computer experience required, electronic health record experience preferred. Competitive salary and benefits package. Mon-Friday work schedule. Applications can be obtained on our website www.fhcs.org or picked up at our nearest office and returned via mail or fax. Fax: 580-371-2451. Mailing address: 610 E. 24th Street, Tishomingo, OK 73460

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# Griffin Names Health Nurse as Employee of the Year



Judy Farris, Medical Support and Debbie Dahl (right), Employee Health Nurse encourage staff to get healthy with "water drinking challenge".



Griffin Memorial Hospital in Norman Oklahoma has named Debbie Dahl, MSN, RN "Facility Employee of the Year".

Debbie has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services since January 2014. Debbie is the Employee Health and Infection Prevention Nurse which oversees approximately 500 employees. She is also the manager of medical support and laboratory services.

Debbie was a high school science teacher for 10 years. She taught Biology and Environmental science at Moore High School before becoming a nurse.

"I was looking for something different to do with my biology degree, so I decided on nursing"

My best friend, Vickie Keeton, and my sister, Nancy Solomon, are both nurses.

I went to Kramer School of Nursing in the accelerated program. This program is for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree and seeking a second bachelor's degree in Nursing. All of the professors were excellent in working with adult learners.

I worked 3 years in Orthopedic Nursing/ post op of knees, necks, hips

and back surgeries.

While looking through the Nursing times paper, I saw an ad for "Master's Degree Scholarships" from OBU. I applied and received the full tuition waiver for my master's degree in Nursing Education. OBU has a great program for nurses returning for higher education degrees.

People are always asking me: "Do you miss teaching?" I reply: "I do not miss the high school classroom, but I am still a teacher. As a nurse we teach our patients and families every day".

I love the culture at Griffin Hospital. All of the staff has such a great desire to help those with mental health disparities.

Griffin is a 120 bed acute care in-patient psychiatric hospital within the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Debbie teaches Smoking Cessation and Healthy Living classes twice a week to the patients in Griffin Hospital.

It is an honor to be named employee of the year, as each person at Griffin deserves this award.

Not only was Debbie named Employee of the year, the department she supervises was also named Griffins Department of the Year.

See DAHL page 9

# A NEW BREED IN MEDICINE: EDUCATING PHYSICIANS AS SCIENTISTS TOO

*New multi-million grant provides critical funding for OU and OMRF program*



Christa Devette has set her sights on caring for patients, but also has a strong affinity for research. Now, she is in the midst of an educational marathon at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center that will award her two prestigious degrees at the finish line.

Educating the newest generation of physician-scientists in Oklahoma just got a multi-million dollar boost courtesy of a grant from the Presbyterian Health Foundation.

The new 10-year, \$5 million grant provides important funding for the M.D./Ph.D. program, jointly administered by the OU Health Sciences Center and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

"We are very grateful to the Presbyterian Health Foundation for its continued support of this valuable program. The physician-scientist bridges the worlds of biomedical laboratory research and clinical medicine. By doing so, we believe one can better utilize information and observations from patient practice to define hypotheses for future laboratory investigation that ultimately leads to new and improved treatments. It's bench to bedside and back again - a cycle that elevates health care overall," said Jason Sanders, M.D., M.B.A. Sanders is Senior Vice President and Provost at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Fifteen years ago, PHF awarded

the first grant that allowed the M.D./Ph.D. program to begin in its current framework. Students admitted to the program complete their first two years of medical school, taking all preclinical courses required. Next, the students leave the medical school track and begin their doctoral studies in a basic science field, working under a research mentor at either the OU College of Medicine or OMRF.

After completing their doctorate, the students return to medical school to complete their third and fourth years, focused on clinical rotations with patients. They then begin residency as all new physicians do and after the completion of residency, they embark on a research-intensive specialty fellowship.

Because of the lengthy commitment of the M.D./Ph.D. program, students are provided a yearly stipend and tuition assistance. The PHF grant renewal strengthens that commitment to students.

"This program attracts the best and brightest students. Presbyterian Health Foundation believes that our funding of this important medical research program is an investment not only in the student's future, but in the future health of all Oklahomans," said Tom R. Gray, III, president of Presbyterian Health Foundation.

See EDUCATING page 9

## Oklahoma's Nursing Times Hospice Directory

- another free service provided by Oklahoma's Nursing Times -

**Alpha Hospice:** 7512 N Broadway Ext., suite 312 Okc, 405-463-5695 Keith Ruminer/volunteer coordinator/chaplain

**Autumn Bridge Hospice:** 405-440-2440

**Autumn Light Hospice:** 580-252-1266

**Carter Healthcare & Hospice:** OKC - OKC Pat McGowen, Vol Coordinator, 405-947-7705, ext. 134; Tulsa - Samantha Estes, Vol. Coordinator, 918-425-4000

**Centennial Hospice:** Becky Johnson, Bereavement Coordinator 405-562-1211

**Choice Home Health & Hospice:** 405-879-3470

**Comforting Hands Hospice:** Bartlesville: 918-331-0003

**Companion Hospice:** Steve Hickey, Vol. Coordinator, Guthrie: 405-282-3980; Edmond: 405-341-9751

**Compassionate Care Hospice:** Amy Legare, Bereavement/Vol. Coordinator, 405-948-4357

**Cornerstone Hospice:** Vicky Herrington, Vol. Coordinator, 918-641-5192

**Crossroads Hospice:** Elizabeth Horn, Vol. Coordinator, 405-632-9631

**Cross Timbers Hospice:** Ardmore-800-498-0655 Davis-580-369-5335 Volunteer Coordinator-Shelly Murray

**Excell Hospice:** Toni K. Cameron, Vol. Coordinator 405-631-0521

**Faith Hospice of OKC:** Charlene Kilgore, Vol. Coordinator, 405-840-8915

**Frontier Hospice:** Kelly Morris, Vol. Coordinator, 405-789-2913

**Golden Age Hospice:** 405-735-5121

**Good Shepherd Hospice:** 4350 Will Rogers Parkway Suite 400 OKC OK 73108 405-943-0903

**Grace Hospice Foundation:** Sharon Doty, Dir of Spec. Projects - Tulsa 918-744-7223

**Harbor Light Hospice:** Randy Pratt, Vol. Coordinator, 1009 N Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 405-949-1200

**Horizon Hospice:** LaDonna Rhodes, Vol. Coordinator, 918-473-0505

**Heartland Hospice:** Shawnee: Vol. Coord. Karen Cleveland, 405-214-6442; Norman: Vol. Coord. Lisa Veauchamp, 405-579-8565

**Heavenly Hospice:** Julie Myers, Coordinator 405-701-2536

**Hope Hospice:** Bartlesville: 918-333-7700, Claremore: 918-343-0777 Owasso: 918-272-3060

**Hospice by Loving Care:** Connie McDivitt, Vol. Coordinator, 405-872-1515

**Hospice of Green Country:** Tulsa: 918-747-2273, Claremore: 918-342-1222, Sapulpa: 918-224-7403

**INTEGRIS Hospice, Inc. & the INTEGRIS Hospice House:** Ruth Ann Frick, Vol. Coordinator, 405-848-8884

**Hospice of Owasso, Inc.:** Todd A. Robertson, Dir. of Marketing, 877-274-0333

**Humanity Hospice:** Kay Cole, Vol. Coordinator 405-418-2530

**InFinity Care of Tulsa:** Spencer Brazeal, Vol. Director, 918-392-0800

**Indian Territory Home Health & Hospice:** 1-866-279-3975

**Interim Healthcare Hospice:** 405-848-3555

**Image HealthCare :** 6116 S. Memorial Tulsa, Ok. 74133 (918) 622-4799

**LifeChoice Hospice:** Christy Coppenbarger, RN, Executive Director. 405-842-0171

**LifeSpring In-Home Care Network:** Terry Boston, Volunteer and Bereavement Coordinator 405-801-3768

**LifeLine Hospice:** April Moon, RN Clinical Coordinator 405-222-2051

**Mercy Hospice:** Sandy Schuler, Vol. Coordinator, 405-486-8600

**Mission Hospice L.L.C.:** 2525 NW Expressway, Ste. 312 OKC, OK 73112 405-848-3779

**Oklahoma Hospice Care:** 405-418-2659 Jennifer Forrester, Community Relations Director

**One Health Home Health in Tulsa:** 918-412-7200

**Palliative Hospice:** Janet Lowder, Seminole, & Sabrina Johnson, Durant, 800-648-1655

**Physician's Choice Hospice:** Tim Clausing, Vol. Coordinator 405-936-9433

**Professional Home Hospice:** Sallisaw: 877-418-1815; Muskogee: 866-683-9400; Poteau: 888-647-1378

**PromiseCare Hospice:** Angela Shelton, LPN - Hospice Coordinator, Lawton: (580) 248-1405

**Quality Life Hospice:** 405 486-1357

**RoseRock Healthcare:** Audrey McCraw, Admin. 918-236-4866

**Ross Health Care:** Glenn LeBlanc, Norman, Chickasha; April Burrows, Enid; Vol. Coordinators, 580-213-3333

**Russell Murray Hospice:** Tambi Urias, Vol. Coordinator, 405-262-3088; Kingfisher 405-375-5015; Weatherford-580-774-2661

**Seasons Hospice:** Carolyn Miller, Vol. / Bereavement Coordinator, 918-745-0222

**Sequoyah Memorial Hospice:** Vernon Stone, D. Min. Chaplin, Vol. Coordinator, 918-774-1171

**Sooner Hospice, LLC:** Matt Ottis, Vol. Coordinator, 405-608-0555

## EDUCATING

Continued from Page 8

Through the partnership between the OU College of Medicine and OMRF, M.D./Ph.D. students benefit from the faculty expertise and facilities of both institutions.

"For decades, OMRF has partnered with the OUHSC to build outstanding science education programs," said OMRF President Stephen Prescott, M.D. "The M.D./Ph.D. program maximizes the strengths of our respective institutions and provides a rich, real-world educational experience for these exceptional students. This generous gift from Presbyterian Health Foundation will help us continue training the physician-scientists who will impact the research world for generations to come."

Students accepted into the M.D./Ph.D. program are unique individuals dedicated to understanding both the clinical world of a physician treating patients and the research world of a scientist seeking new answers to human disease.

"The PHF grant is critical for maintaining excellence in the M.D./Ph.D. program," said Ann Louise Olson, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the OU College of Medicine and co-director of the program. "This grant guarantees support for two students per year, allowing us to attract top candidates to our program."

DeVette is one such student. She is entering her sixth year of the program and well on her way toward making a difference for patients struggling with diseases such as cancer. DeVette gravitated toward the M.D./Ph.D. program because she loves

interacting with people, but also because she was drawn to a deeper understanding of human physiology and molecular biology. At the OU College of Medicine, she works in the laboratory of William Hildebrand, Ph.D., a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. She also collaborates with researchers at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Utah.

DeVette's research identifies targets for therapeutic breast cancer vaccines. In addition, she works with patient-derived xenografts, which are breast carcinomas taken directly from a patient and then utilized in laboratory models, allowing researchers to study a human tumor in its natural environment without harming the patient. It's work that might someday contribute to the development of a vaccine that could prevent cancer development in high-risk patients, DeVette said.

The M.D./Ph.D. program is a long journey - approximately 15 years of total education -- but she feels it is well worth it.

"Patients are complex, unique and rarely fit the exact diagnosis that we spend hours memorizing in medical school," she said. "I think having the background of a scientist will be extremely helpful in how I approach my clinical work. In the same way, medicine can be particularly useful to my work as a scientist. Having an active clinical practice will inform me of overarching problems in my field and highlight particular knowledge gaps in the diagnosis, treatment or pathology of a disease. With a patient's best interests in mind, I anticipate that my clinical work will ensure that I ask the right questions and conduct the most translational work in my lab."

## DAHL

Continued from Page 8

I love to be active in my job. Since coming to Griffin, I started a wellness program for employees. This includes a workout station to use during break time, the Biggest Loser contest and a Wednesday exercise class. I was recently able to secure a lactation room for employees. We now offer a blood drive twice a year for employees and families. Debbie has served for 2 years as the Treasure in the Epidemiologists and Professionals in Infection Control organization and was the past Treasure for Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing- Beta Delta Chapter.

My staff and I like to have fun at work. We dress up for holidays, OU football games, and Thunder games.

My daily motto is; "Do what you love and love what you do".

Debbie is a member of the "City with a Little Country Cloggers". We perform at nursing homes, festivals, and have clogged for the past 2 years for the Griffin Hospital Christmas party. The patients love to see their nurse in clogging shoes.

Dancing for others bring me such joy. When people hear I am a nurse, they are amazed that I can work all day and still dance after work. They ask: where do you get all of that energy?

Besides dancing, I also walk 3 miles a day and love to read books. My husband, Mike and I have been married 29 years. We have 2 children and 2 grandchildren who also keep me busy.

The Hospice Directory above does not represent a list of all Hospice facilities statewide. For a complete list visit [www.ok.gov/health](http://www.ok.gov/health)



**Vicki L Mayfield, M.Ed., R.N.,  
LMFT Marriage and Family  
Therapy Oklahoma City**  
*If you would like to send a  
question to Vicki, email us at  
news@okcnursingtimes.com*

*Does Evil exist? For some this question is philosophical, But for those who've been victimized, there is no question at all.*

Many people when they hear of crimes so grotesquely abnormal that the most obvious explanation is that the perpetrator must be mentally ill--helpless in the grip of a force beyond his or her control. But that very natural reaction has, inadvertently, created a special category of "blameless predators."

The are specific criteria for sick and evil:

\*Sickness is a condition. A psychotic/paranoid father who walks the streets with a gun hearing voices that tell him people are trying to kill his family is sick.

\*Evil is a behavior. A father who hires someone to set the house on fire with his family in it, is evil.

Evil is always a matter of choice. Evil is not thought, it is conduct. And that conduct is always volitional.

And just as evil is always a choice, sickness is always the absence of choice. Sickness happens. Evil is inflicted.

Until we perceive the difference clearly, we will continue to give aid and comfort to our most pernicious enemies. We as a society, decide whether something is sick or evil. Either decision confers an obligation upon us. Sickness should be treated. Evil must be fought.

Our society distrusts the term "evil." It has an almost biblical ring to it, something we believe in (or not) but never actually understand. We prefer scientific sounding terms, such as "sociopath." But sociopath is not a mental condition, it is a specific cluster of behaviors.

Not every "evil" or "sociopathic" person is Charles Manson. There are degrees of evil. Have you ever found yourself describing someone as mean, mean spirited, a bully?

In the book, "The Sociopath Next Door" the author states, One in 25 people meet the criteria for the diagnosis of a sociopath, AKA: an evil person.

So what do we do if we believe we are in the presence of an evil person? I will share the rules for survival in next weeks column.

(Some of the above information from Andrew Vachss, a lawyer whose only clients are children).

## Two INTEGRIS Hospitals Receive the 2016 Women's Choice Award®

*INTEGRIS Health Edmond and INTEGRIS  
Southwest Medical Center Named as Two of  
America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care*

INTEGRIS Health Edmond and INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center have received the 2016 Women's Choice Award® as two of America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care . This evidence-based designation is the only Emergency Care award that identifies the country's best health care institutions based on robust criteria that considers female patient satisfaction, clinical excellence, and what women state that they want from a hospital.

The list of 360 award winners represents hospitals that provide exceptional patient care and treatment, signifying their commitment to meeting the highest standards in emergency care for women, their families and their community.

America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care consistently rank among the best of the 3,800 hospitals reporting on the performance of their respective Emergency Departments. They are judged on the following Emergency Department performance measures reported by the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services).

1. Average number of minutes before outpatients with chest pain or possible heart attack got an ECG (electrocardiogram).
2. Average time patients spent in the Emergency Department, before they were admitted to the hospital as an inpatient.
3. Average time patients spent in the Emergency Department before they were seen by a health care professional.
4. Average time patients spent waiting in the Emergency Department, after the doctor decided to admit them as an inpatient, but before leaving the Emergency Department for their inpatient room.
5. Average time patients spent in the Emergency Department before being sent home.
6. Average time patients who came to the Emergency Department with broken bones had to wait before receiving pain medication.
7. Percentage of patients who came to the Emergency Department with stroke symptoms who received brain scan results within 45 minutes of arrival.
8. Percentage of patients who left the Emergency Department before being seen.

Each measure was weighted according to a survey of more than 1,000 women on their relative priority, and listed above in order of importance. In addition, hospitals that fell within the bottom 25th percentile for patient recommendation scores were eliminated from award consideration.

For each Emergency Department measure, the top 25th percentile and the top 50th percentile are determined for all hospitals reporting the measure. Hospitals that ranked in the top 25 percent nationwide for a measure received points according to the measure's relative importance. Hospitals that ranked between 25 and 50 percent received half points. Points were then totaled for all measures, per hospital. Hospitals with total scores that placed them in the top 10 percent nationally, earned the Women's Choice Award.

"We have found that recommendations are an important consideration used by women in selecting a hospital for themselves and their family. By helping women know which hospitals in their area provide the best critical care, we are able to help them make better decisions, especially when it comes to emergency situations," says Delia Passi, CEO and Founder of the Women's Choice Award.



# NURSE + TALK

Read what other health care professionals have to say...

What are your favorite hobbies? Oklahoma Heart Hospital

"I like to travel. That is my favorite hobby all over the United States and international, too."



Ginny Mennis, RN

"I like to be outdoors, do camping and hiking, traveling to new parks exploring."



Cassidi Martin, RN

Each week we visit with health care professionals throughout the Metro



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"I love to garden, love to read. Anything outdoors, camping and going to the lake."



Natalie Bleakley, RN

"I have a 4-year-old so it all revolves around her. I like to swim, dance; I just got back from a cruise."



Jennifer Smith, RN

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Founder of Elders Share the Arts in New York City

**Laura A. Robbins, MS, MBA**

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