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Debbie Boyes, RN, Hospital Liasison does an excellent job at LifeShare. Debbie is full of passion when it comes to saving lives.

by Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

LifeShare: Saving lives through organ, eye and tissue donations. 2018-Another record breaking year in saving and enhancing lives through donation. For the fifth consecutive year, LifeShare set organization records in organ transplanted, tissue donors recovered and lives saved.

Are you an organ or tissue donor? Did you know that there were 487 lives saved in 2018 by LifeShare donors in Oklahoma? Did you know that there were 188 organ donors and 1,036 tissue donors? Did you know that one person is added to the waiting list every

there are twenty-two people on the waiting list that die due to not receiving an organ? These are the statistic nationwide.

Liaison at LifeShare, Transplant Donor Services of Oklahoma. Debbie is the Team Lead for the Hospital Development unit. She has been a nurse for eleven years and has been with LifeShare for three and half vears.

Debbie has many responsibilities that come along with her job. The Lead Team supports the families and is also considered the keeper of relationships. The Lead Team

ten minutes? Did you know that every day, is all is responsible for all of the education that goes to LifeShare, information to physician, nurses and the Chaplain.

"I stay busy when I visit the hospitals; Meet Debbie Boyes, RN and Hospital making relationships regarding donors plus getting to know the nurses, physicians and respiratory therapists. The Hospital Development team makes and strengthens relationships with the staff in the hospitals. They are our hospital partners and I make it my mission to make sure every single person assigned to the case is aware of everything that is going on. I go to different hospitals in Oklahoma and

Treasurer McDaniel Awards Tax Day Baby with College Savings Plan

A baby born at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center on April 15 is awarded \$1,529 toward an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan account

An Oklahoma City family has two great reasons to celebrate on Tax Day, a day that many Americans don't look forward to. Sonny and Cecilia welcomed the birth of their son, Michael, on Monday morning. Hours after the birth, Michael already has a plan to begin saving for college.

As part of the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan's fifth annual Tax Day Baby event, a baby born at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center on April 15, the deadline to file federal income taxes, was declared the Tax Day Baby. The family welcomed Baby Michael to the world at 10 a.m., making him the beneficiary of \$1,529 toward an Oklahoma

An Oklahoma City family has 529 College Savings Plan (OCSP) most families in the United States.

In 2017, only 20 percent of parents

Oklahoma State Treasurer Randy McDaniel congratulates the family on the birth of their new baby, and for now having a college savings plan.

"The birth of a child is a very special day," said McDaniel, board chair for OCSP. "Starting to save for college when children are young is ideal because accounts have many years to grow. Contributions made to an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan account qualify for deduction on your state income taxes. It's a great way to save for college and receive tax savings."

The family is already ahead of

most families in the United States. In 2017, only 20 percent of parents between the ages of 30-59 reported they were saving for their children's college education.

"We are so excited," said Cecilia, the baby's mother. "He certainly is a lucky baby to have a jump start on saving for his college education. Now we just need to do the same for our other three children."

For more information about the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan or to open an account, go to www.ok4saving.org or call (877) 654-7284. Funding for OCSP prizes comes from the marketing budget of the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan; no state funds are used.



Reunite with other NICU graduates and the NICU medical team as we celebrate life.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 10:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Conference Rooms F, G, H and foyer INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center 3300 NW Expressway Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Games, food and fun for all will be provided.

Please call 877-871-5072 or register online at integrisok.com/nicureunion so we are able to plan for the event.

Mercy Named Top Five Large Health Care System in the U.S.

Mercy in the lead for fourth year for quality of care and patient safety

Shorter hospital stays, fewer complications and better patient results are just a few metrics used to rank Mercy as one of the top five large health systems in the nation, alongside Mayo. The 2019 IBM Watson Health 15 Top Health Systems study recognizes five large, five medium and five small systems from 337 health systems and 2,961 hospitals across the U.S. Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City was also named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals for the fourth time by IBM Watson Health.

"For the fourth year in a row, we have been named one of the top five large health systems in the nation for the medical care we provide to our communities," said Dr. Keith Starke, senior vice president and top quality officer for Mercy. "Mercy is very focused on the quality of care we provide our patients, and we've made significant strides in reducing both health-care associated infections and surgical complications. For patients, it means we prevent unnecessary suffering, and they go home healthier and sooner."

Watson Health, an IBM company, produces the only study of its kind to combine rigorous analysis of individual hospital performance metrics into system-level data, identifying the best health systems in the nation. This annual, quantitative scorecard uses objective, independent research and public data sources. Health systems do not apply for consideration, and winners do not pay to market their award.

The study shows that Mercy outperformed peers in the following ways:

- Saved more lives and caused fewer patient complications
- Lower cost of care
- Readmitted patients less frequently
- Shorter wait times in emergency departments

- Shorter hospital stays
- Better patient safety
- Higher patient satisfaction

Some of the keys to improving the quality of patient care have included efforts made possible because of Mercy's dedicated team, leading technology and best practices:

- Mercy was among the first health care organizations in the U.S. to have an integrated electronic health record (EHR) connecting all points of care. With a finely-tuned EHR, clinical best practices can be hard-wired into the system, resulting in triggers that warn of possible complications at very early stages, as well as data that can help reduce variation and improve compliance.
- With more than 2,000 integrated physicians one of the largest medical groups in the nation Mercy brings primary care and specialty doctors together to implement proven, clinical-based best practices to improve patient care.
- Specialty councils, made up of physicians, nurses and clinicians, represent more than 40 areas of medicine, providing science-based care for everything from heart surgery to the delivery of babies.

"We are honored once again to be ranked among the top hospital systems in the nation, and we applaud the efforts of our 45,000 co-workers who together provide quality care and ensure patient safety across Mercy," said Lynn Britton, president and CEO of Mercy.

LIFESHARE **Continued from Page 1**

teach nurses about LifeShare," Debbie commented. "I enjoy talking to the nurses, looking for opportunities to share the information and educating them on processes that LifeShare goes through," she added. Everyone at LifeShare does a fantastic job and I am proud to be working for such a loving, caring place."

What is your biggest asset at work? "My biggest asset at work is the support that my colleagues give to each other. Each one is a team player. Working at LifeShare is dealing with a lot of emotions. There is an incredible joy when a donor is found. On the other side of the coin, there is dealing with grief for the one that lost their life," Debbie replied.

Asking Debbie to describe herself, she said, "I am a very positive person. I am passionate about the things I care for the most. I always try to focus on what is hand, nothing else. I have

and challenges and continue to learn all the time. We save lives and each one is a precious gift; working on a timeline, we have to stay focused. Also, I teach classes to nurses all over and it is true joy. I love my job here and nothing grabs my heart like saving a life. I know that God allowed me to have this job."

Married to her wonderful husband, Mark, they have two children, Elizabeth and Matt. They also have four grandchildren; Jake - eleven, Rylee - nine, Dylan - six and Max is four months old. What a blessing!

Spare time is a little rare but when Debbie does have some extra time, she enjoys her hobbies, including hiking, nature photography, traveling, and golf. "I find every one of these hobbies to be very relaxing," she said with a smile.

What motivates you to come to work every day? "As most of you probably know, when LifeShare has a donor, it leaves that family with a big void in their life. That

learned the benefits of problems is the sad part. That is when I have to think of something happy. I always think of a phone call. Somewhere, someone is getting a really good phone call today. I concentrate on the really good phone call from the transplant office. It is kind of like a bitter/sweet moment. find myself living by those daily words."

> Debbie's first job as a nurse was working at Midwest City Regional. From there, she was an RN at the Laser Spine Institute.



Now, she says "My job here at LifeShare is the best job that I have ever had!"

Summing up Debbie's life in one sentence, she said, "IT'S A GREAT RIDE!"

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Passion in Nursing A REAL COUPLE: INTEGRIS BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

It's not often that a husband and wife work at the same hospital, yet, at Baptist Integris Medical Center, this is where you will find Van Truong and Le Tran doing their job with the title of Nurse Practitioners. Van specializes in preoperative anesthesia risk assessments while Le Tran specialized in Nephrology.

Van Truong, MSN, APRN-CNP, optimizes the patient preoperatively, addressing comorbidities abnormal findings, reducing surgical cancellations, which results in cost and time saving for the patient and hospital, along with seeing that the patient tolerate anesthesia without complications ins the goal.

Now, to make the article a little sweeter, introducing Van's wife, Le Tran, who is a DNP, APRN-CNP whose specialty is Nephrology. "I work mostly in the inpatient

setting consulting and managing patients with end stage renal disease, acute renal failure and chronic kidney disease. I also do dialysis rounds seeing patients who are getting hemodialysis treatments," Le commented.

Asking Van what he wanted to be when he was a little boy, he replied, "I wanted to be a fireman or a racecar driver," he said with "That didn't work out for either of those professions; somewhere along the line, I became interested in nursing," he said. Le wanted to be a teacher when she was little but then changed her mind, wanting to help others, working in healthcare.

Born in Oklahoma City, OK, Van had a strong urge to work in the medical field. Starting out as a certified nursing assistant at Norman Regional in a rehab unit, Van began working as an

extern at Integris in 2009. In 2010, he became an RN. "I attended the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center for nursing school, and then received my Bachelors of Science in Nursing and Masters of Science in Nursing. Now, I am a Nurse Practitioner," he said. "I like what I do and I can't image doing anything else. It's a lot of hard work but it is also very rewarding," he added.

anesthesia when his clinical instructor, Stacey Decker, at OUHSC took her clinical nursing student group to the preoperative unit, OR, and PACU unit which she supervised at the time. "I really liked the fast paced work environment and bedside interaction with numerous patients per day. After I attained my MSN and CNP, there was a job opening in Pre Admissions Testing. I interviewed

for the job and got it."

On the other hand, Le's life was a little different. in Binh Dinh, Vietnam, her family immigrated to Oklahoma in May 1996. "We came to Oklahoma because there was a large Vietnamese community that was made up of other immigrants. This was also where my sponsor lived," she said.

Attending Oklahoma Van became interested in University Kramer School of Nursing, Le received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Doctrine of Nursing Practice. Le has been a nurse since 2012 and a nurse practitioner since 2016. Le's first job as a nurse was working at The Children's Center in Bethany, OK. From there, she moved on to work with the Kidney Specialist of Central Oklahoma. credentialed and privileged at all

See COUPLE Page 5



In December 2014, Brandi had a case of strep throat which resulted in the diagnosis of dilated cardiomyopathy. Unable to tolerate any of the medications to treat it, she was told that ultimately a heart transplant would be needed to save her life. Her health began to decline daily, and she spent nearly a month in the Intensive Care Unit before she received a new heart. Brandi's life was saved by a selfless donor, and is now able to exercise, travel and enjoy time with her friends and family.

Organ, eye and tissue donation saves lives. Please make your decision to donate life and tell your family. Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor on your Oklahoma driver's license or state ID card or register online at www.LifeShareRegistry.org. You may also call 800-826-LIFE (5433) and request a donor registration





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COUPLE

Continued from Page 4

the Integris Health Hospitals in the metro area and at Select Medical Hospital," Le said.

Van's typical day starts out with reviewing the patient's charts from the day before; making sure the laboratory results, EKG and radiology results are reviewed and finalized. Interventions made of abnormal findings, notifying patients' appropriate provider with findings, obtaining cardiac notes and pulmonary notes for review. Obtaining anesthesia focused history from the day's patients, along with answering questions regarding surgery and anesthesia aspect of the procedures.

Asking Van what his favorite part of his job was, he said, "When I see the patient doing well during the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative period, it is always the most satisfying part of my My coworkers go above and beyond for the patient," Van replied. "On the other hand, the biggest challenge is the significant amount of time needed to get all the patient's providers informed of status changes and modification of care that is safe for the patient as agreed upon by all the providers," he replied. "That's when we learn how to be patient," he added.

What qualities make a good nurse and a good nurse practitioner? "A good nurse has to be willing to listen, provide individualized and personalized care; and certainly, promoting patient safety is at the utmost importance. They need to be a straight shooter, no beating around the bush. They also need to keep the patient aware of the best for their patient.

plan and intervention in layman's terms," Van replied.

Not to be outdone by Van, I asked Le to describe herself. "I would describe myself as outgoing, enthusiastic and easy to get along with. I am a hard worker and dedicated to my job and my patients. I am a fantastic wife and take very good care of my husband," she said with a laugh. Both, Van and Le have one thing in common; caring for their patients and making sure their patients are taken care of. It is obvious their love for others is sincere and genuine.

What is Le's biggest asset? "The physicians I work for are a great group of doctors. I attain new knowledge daily through each one of them and I am very fortunate that they love teaching and sharing healthcare experiences. Also, the nursing staff that I work with is fantastic! Through them, I am reminded that I am a nurse first," she replied.

On a personal note, Van's hobbies are CARS CARS and CARS, which includes detailing, modifying and fixing them. Le's hobbies include traveling, trying out new restaurants, watching T.V. shows, going to Thunder Basketball games, shopping and finding great deals. Hmm, a little different view on their hobbies.

Asking Van what his biggest reward is with his job. "I know that we are increasing the patient's safety for surgery. That is what is important," he replied.

Yes, a COUPLE of Nurse Practitioners can be found at Baptist Integris Medical Center. Van Truong and Le Tran; An excellent couple who will do their



Van Truong, MSN, APRN-CNP and Le Tran, DNP, APRN-CNP work at Baptist Integris Medical Center. Van Truong specialized in anesthesia and his wife, Le Tran's specialty is Nephrology. Their main concern is focusing on the patients' needs with the utmost care.







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HIGHLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERING

National Volunteer Week was celebrated April 7-13

South Oklahoma City Man Volunteers to Give Back for

In his retirement, Fred Selensky enjoys his membership in the Oklahoma City Fiat Car Club and has built many friendships with other car enthusiasts over the years. But his weekly volunteer role has also brought new friendships into his life.

"When I retired, I was looking for a way to give back for the blessings I've received," Selensky

So, he signed up to be a volunteer driver for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Central Oklahoma (RSVP) ProvideA-Ride program, which provides low-income seniors transportation to doctor's appointments. Last year, 66 RSVP Provide-A-Ride volunteers drove more than 400 clients to 6,065 medical appointments.

"It's fulfilling a need in the clients I take because they don't drive and don't have to pay for a taxi to medical appointments," he said. "It's really fulfilling for me, too, and I enjoy doing something people appreciate. It's not a chore"

April is National Volunteer Month, a month dedicated to honoring volunteers



Fred Selensky - Provide-A-Ride Volunteer with Passenger Joann Davis.

is one of more than 900,000 Oklahomans who gave of their shows that adults who volunteer are more likely to experience

encouraging volunteerism. Selensky health benefits-longer life span and better mental health.

If you are interested in time last year, according to volunteering with RSVP as a the Corporation for National Provide-A-Ride driver or with one and Community Service. Research of the many RSVP nonprofit partners, call 405.605-3110 or visit www.rsvpokc.org.

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2019 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Northwestern Powerhouse

University fueling rural health care

There's something special going on with the future of rural healthcare in Oklahoma and it's taking place at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Shelly Wells, PhD, MBA, APRN-CNS, ANEF is the Division Chair and a Professor at the school. A big smile covers her face when she describes how the Alva university is educating nurses to provide healthcare to rural Oklahomans for generations to come.

"We want to keep them out in the high-need areas so our curriculum includes education on rural nursing and that sets us apart from other programs in the state," Wells said. "At this time, we are the only public university in Oklahoma that offers a BSN to DNP."

Northwestern features three different options to advance your nursing education.

The traditional BSN program is offered at four different sites. Students who have earned their LPN may be

admitted with advanced standing into the traditional program.

"We have provided access throughout four different sites throughout rural northwestern Oklahoma so that the students don't have to travel to a main campus to receive their education. They can receive much of it near their home areas."

An online RN-to-BSN program is available with no traditional clinical hour requirements that may be completed in 12 months. This program is designed for working RNs to complete their BSN.

A hybrid BSN-to-DNP program allows students to pursue their family nurse practitioner licensure without needing to obtain a Master's degree first. Coursework is offered online with practicums close to the student's home setting.

"We anticipated admitting six students the first cohort and 10 the second and we have admitted 25 so

far in each cohort and it's become a competitive entry process," Wells said of the growing program.

A Nightingale Award of Nursing Excellence recipient from the Oklahoma Nurses Association, Wells takes pride in the program's low faculty-to-student ratio and the relationships the faculty have forged at healthcare facilities across northwestern Oklahoma.

Allowing students to learn in their communities creates a natural draw for students.

"That's the plan," Wells said. "We have students completing clinical rotations in those four sites with the thought and hope they will stay in those sites to serve their home communities."

The NWOSU Nursing program is nationally recognized for its accessibility, affordability, and program outcomes.

The BSN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) and is approved by the Oklahoma Board

of Nursing (OBN).

The BSN-to-DNP program for Family Nurse Practitioners has received provisional approval from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and has applied for national accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Education (CCNE) with a site visit scheduled in November 2019

The yearly application process for the traditional BSN program begins each October. The Online RN-to-BSN program enrolls students year-round and the annual application cycle for the BSN-to-DNP program opens every January.

With more than 30 years of teaching experience in nursing, Wells has closely followed the national trend calling for more BSN-prepared nurses.

"All the hospitals we have talked to in Oklahoma prefer to hire BSN-prepared nurses and they are encouraging their staff to go back and complete their BSN," Wells said. "We're seeing those numbers increase."

A BSN provides the foundation of study that can serve as a basis for pursuing advanced education in nursing.

And Northwestern provides options to do that close to home.



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Northwestern Nursing is recognized by NurseJournalORG as one of the best all-around nursing schools in the central United States for quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value.

Traditional BSN, Online RN-to-BSN and BSN-to-DNP

- · The traditional BSN is offered at 4 sites: Alva, Enid, Woodward and Ponca City. Students learn close to where they live instead of traveling to a main campus. All sites have low student to faculty ratios.
- The Online RN-to-BSN program is a 12-month online program with no traditional clinical hours requirement. Students enter in the Fall, Spring, or Summer and no campus visits are required.
- · Both the Traditional and Online RN-to-BSN programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).
- The BSN-to-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner Program is a hybrid model offering online courses and local clinical practicums. Students are admitted every Fall semester. This program is scheduled to be reviewed for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in November 2019.



www.nwosu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing

For BSN Program (Traditional and Online) Information: 580-327-8493

For DNP Program Information: 580-327-8442

Stephenson Cancer Center Awarded \$10.8 Million Grant to Expand Clinical Trials

The Stephenson Cancer Center at Lead Academic Participating Site in OU Medicine announced that it has been awarded a \$10.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to expand its nationally recognized clinical trials program.

The co-principal investigators for the grant are Kathleen Moore, M.D., Virginia Kerley Cade Endowed Chair in Cancer Developmental Therapeutics and Associate Director for Clinical Research at the Stephenson Cancer Center, and Joan Walker, M.D., Louise and Clay Bennett Endowed Chair in Cancer and Professor and Chief, Section of Gynecologic Oncology, at the OU College of Medicine.

For the past two years, the Stephenson Cancer Center has ranked No. 1 among all cancer centers in the nation for the number of patients participating in clinical trials sponsored through the NCI's National Clinical Trials Network. That distinction stands not only for the past two years, but for the last five years cumulatively. In addition, the Stephenson Cancer Center has been a top three site nationally for the number of patients participating in NCI-sponsored precision medicine trials.

Robert Mannel, M.D., director of the Stephenson Cancer Center, attributed the center's success in clinical research to physician and staff commitment to each patient who receives care at the cancer

"The mission of the Stephenson Cancer Center is to improve patient outcomes and reduce the burden of cancer for all Oklahomans," he said. "One of the most important ways we do that is by offering a large portfolio of early- and latephase clinical trials for all types and stages of cancer. This provides our patients access to the newest and most promising treatment, screening and diagnosis options."

With this multimillion-dollar NCI grant, the Stephenson Cancer

the National Clinical Trials Network, which was established by the NCI in 2014. Comprised of 30 of the top cancer centers in the nation, the National Clinical Trials Network is the largest clinical trials infrastructure in the nation for establishing new standards of cancer care and setting the stage for the approval of new therapies by the Food and Drug Administration.

The new six-year NCI grant will allow the Stephenson Cancer Center to continue to expand its robust clinical trials portfolio and infrastructure. Specifically, it will support the addition of new clinical research staff with expertise in research nursing, study coordination, regulatory affairs management.

"This new grant also supports NCI clinical trial staff and other infrastructure at Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute (OCSRI) in Tulsa," Mannel explained. "Through its affiliate relationship with OCSRI, the Stephenson Cancer Center is able to provide Oklahomans in Tulsa and eastern Oklahoma with access to NCI-sponsored clinical

Since it was initially designated a Lead Academic Participating Site in 2014, the Stephenson Cancer Center has made several groundbreaking clinical trials available to Oklahoma patients. Among them was NCI-MATCH, a precision medicine treatment trial in which eligible patients were "matched" with stateof-the-art therapies based on the genetic changes found in their specific tumors. NCI-MATCH, which is ongoing, is one of the largest precision medicine trials conducted in the world.

This innovative trial offers personalized therapy to patients," Moore said. "Each patient on the trial had their tumor biopsied and sequenced to see if they had a gene mutation that was known to respond Center continues its status as a to a specific drug. It didn't matter



Dr. Kathleen Moore presents information about clinical trials at the Stephenson Cancer Center announcement Wednesday.

what type of cancer they had they received the drug treatments for which their molecular alteration matched."

Stephenson Cancer Center's participation in an NCI-sponsored clinical trial that evaluated immunotherapy combinations for women whose ovarian cancer had been previously treated recurred.

"That study showed that we doubled response rates with two immunotherapies instead of one, and it has opened the door to further drug development of combination immunotherapies in ovarian cancer," Moore said. "We had several patients who participated in that trial and responded well to therapy."

In May 2018, the Stephenson Cancer Center was awarded the prestigious "NCI Designation" status from the National Cancer Institute. This highly competitive distinction places the Stephenson Cancer Center among the top 70 cancer centers in the nation, and it culminates

more than 15 years of effort to develop a world-class cancer center in Oklahoma.

During his visit to Oklahoma Another achievement was the last spring for the NCI Designation announcement, former NCI Director Ned Sharpless, M.D., praised Stephenson Cancer Center's commitment to clinical research: "Clinical trials are the way we change the standard of care, and they are absolutely important for progress against cancer. The Stephenson Cancer Center does that about as well as anybody in the country."

Cancer research, with emphasis in clinical trials and tobacco-related research, at the Stephenson Cancer Center receive funding from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET). An endowment created by the voters in 2000 to improve the health of Oklahomans, TSET is dedicated to reducing the state's leading causes of preventable death - cancer and cardiovascular disease - caused by tobacco use and obesity.

The Cosby Show



Joyce Curry, CNA, CMA

Everybody Loves Raymond



Olivia Umanzor, CNA

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