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# Forming a Bond Between Mother and Baby



photo by Vickie Jenkins

Charli Hull, RN, BSN, IBCLC works at the Women's Center at St. Anthony Shawnee Hospital in Shawnee, OK. Charli's caring disposition shines through as a Lactation Consultant.

#### by Vickie Jenkins

meeting Charli Hull, RN, here and can't imagine BSN, IBCLC. Charli has working anywhere else. I

at St. Anthony Shawnee What a pure delight in Hospital. "I love my job

been a nurse for 22 years have worked in different hospital but areas in the moving to Labor and Delivery was my calling. Now, I am a Lactation

Consultant and I like caring for the new mothers and their babies," she comments.

"What made become you а nurse?" Ι ask "It was Charli. when I was in

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MUSTANG, OK 73064 P.O. BOX 239 **OKLAHOMA'S NURSING TIMES** 

hen you wish upon a star LPN's wish comes true for son



photos provided

Tiffany Hartfield, LPN, (left) and friend Justin Hanshaw were able to take Hartfield's son Cainaan to Walt Disney World thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

### by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

Tiffany Hartfield, LPN, made a wish upon a star for her special needs son at the end of 2015 - and it came true like she never imagined.

Hartfield and her son are just a couple weeks removed from the trip of a lifetime to Orlando and a host of theme parks courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"I cried for like a week," said Hartfield, who also serves as the director of nursing at Timberwood. "That's expensive. It was like a \$10,000 trip. There's no way I would have ever been able to afford that."

See BOND Page 3



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## **DISNEY** Continued from Page 1

Ten years ago, the director at Timberwood Assisted Living in Del City was blessed with her son, Cainaan.

With that birth came multiple developmental issues that will all but insure he will live with Hartfield for the rest of her life.

At four months old, Hartfield was told her son would be deaf, blind and never able to walk.

Two months later, the two embarked on a journey of intense therapy that continues today.

Fourteen surgeries later, Cainaan's major diagnosis is epilepsy.

Cainaan now has 20/20 vision, does not require hearing aids and started walking before he was six.

His diagnosis did make him eligible for the trip of a lifetime, which Hartfield applied for in October. She quickly learned that her application had been accepted.

And since she had no immediate family available, she was told she could take life-long friend Justin Hanshaw.

Cainaan didn't quite grasp the news until they set foot inside of Disney World.

"It was one of those things when

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he got there he realized," Harfield said. "He understands a lot more than what people give him credit for."

"He was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed."

One night, Hartfield was able to drive Cainaan to Cocoa Beach so he could feel the ocean on his feet for the first time.

Hartfield credited partner organization Give Kids the World for helping make Cainaan's dream come true.

The story of Give Kids The World began with a little girl with a wish and the desire of one man to make that wish come true.

The little girl's name was Amy. Amy had leukemia and one wish to visit the theme parks in Orlando. To facilitate Amy's wish, the request of a complimentary stay was made to a respected hotelier. As he had done many times before, the hotelier gladly obliged and Amy's wish was that much closer to being realized.

Sadly, the remainder of Amy's travel plans took too long to arrange and her wish was never granted; Amy had passed away. Time simply ran out.

This unfulfilled wish inspired a man, the hotelier, to make a vow that no child in need would ever be failed again. That man was Henri Landwirth and his desire to ensure that Amy's story would never repeat itself is where the story of Give Kids The World began.

Landwirth enlisted the support of colleagues in the hospitality industry, including our world-famous theme parks, to assist him in bringing these special families to Central Florida within 24 hours if need be. He called the project "Give Kids The World," because that is just what he intended to do - provide memorable, magical, cost-free experiences to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

As the program expanded and the number of families continued to grow, it was apparent that Give Kids The World would need to create a place that could better serve the special needs of families. The gates of Give Kids The World Village opened in 1989.

Today, the Village is a 79-acre resort complete with 144 Villa accommodations, entertainment attractions, whimsical venues, and fun specifically designed for children with special needs.

With the help of many generous individuals, corporations and partnering wish-granting organizations, Give Kids The World has welcomed more than 143,000 families from all 50 states and 75 countries.

One of the best parts was Cainaan was able to celebrate his 10th birthday January 3 at the happiest place on earth. Hartfield said the staff at Give Kids The World showed up that night with a cake and a memorable celebration.

"It was the best thing ever," said the nurse of 11 years. "When he got to see Mickey Mouse he didn't want to let him go."

Hartfield understands her son will never go to prom or drive a car or likely have a girlfriend.

But for seven days Hartfield and her son were on top of the world.

"Just that smile on your little boy's face," Hartfield said of what she'll remember most. "There's different things you go through when you have a special needs child that unless you have a special needs child you'll never understand."

Unless you wish upon a star and others know exactly what you're going through.

## BOND **Continued from Page 1**

fourth grade when I thought about it. I grew up in a neighborhood full of kids. One of the moms was a nurse; wearing the starch white uniform and the starch white hat. She was always talking about her experiences as a nurse and telling us kids the 'coolest' stories. Each story was so interesting! I remember that I wanted to do the same thing when I grew up. Thank you Jackie Owen for having such an influence on my life. She is the reason I became a nurse," she answered with a laugh.

Charli went to Shawnee High School and then went on to OBU, where she graduated nursing school. "Most of my mentors in nursing school were my classmates and study buddies. It was one of the ways we could encourage each other. When I started at Shawnee Hospital, there were a lot of LPN's that I looked up to. One particular nurse that I have known over the years was Christy Bernard and I knew that I could always count on her. Today, Christy Bernard is the director of

the Women's Center, here at St. Anthony. The two of us still work together," Charli replied. "It is all of those people that helped me become the nurse that I am today. They helped define who I am, as a person and as a nurse," she adds.

"Living in Shawnee, it's like everyone knows everyone. As a nurse, I have to be willing to give a piece of myself so I can form a relationship with my new moms. Being a Lactation Consultant is a very personal thing. It needs to be personal so I can connect with the mom and they can connect with their newborn, which isn't always easy. The mom and I share moments together. Sometimes, the mom and I just talk about the situations they are having, whether it be good or bad. I have laughed with my patients and I have cried with my patients and sometimes, both," Charli says.

"What is your favorite thing about your job?" I ask. "I love helping mothers be successful, when they are able to complete their job. They deserve a lot of recognition for that. Even if the mothers don't succeed at breast feeding, they have tried. Sometimes, it just doesn't work out but when that happens, I assure she replied. "Oh wait, there is the mother that it is not their fault and they have succeeded just by trying."

Describing herself in 3 words, Charli said, "Well, I guess that would be feisty, confident and compassionate, " she said with a smile. Charli stays busy at work and at home. Her husband, Larry, is a cattle rancher. Her son Gus is active in sports and her 2 daughters, Franki and Jessi stay busy with sports also. "I am always trying to make it to one of their games," Charli replies. "My 17-year-old daughter is taking some classes in nursing right now and plans to be a nurse. That makes me feel good that she is following in my footsteps. I am so proud of all of my kids," she added.

Charli's accomplishments include: Top nurse for Patient Satisfaction Team, Excellence in Team Work and Super Trainer Exceptional Experienced for Representatives, and top honor for Customer Satisfaction. "Is there anything you would change about your job here at St. Anthony?" I ask. "No, not anything. I love my patients and I love my co-workers so I wouldn't change anything,"

one thing that I would like to change," she adds. "I would like to have a window in my office," she laughed.

I agree with Charli when she described herself as feisty, confident and compassionate. Those three words shine through as she stays positive for herself, her patients and their sweet little babies. The words of wisdom that Charli lives by are: ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING. Apparently, it's working. Kudos to Charli!

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**OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE RECRUITERS** 

# **CAREERS IN NURSING** SAFETY AND TRUST - DIRECTOR OF NURSING FINDS CALLING

### by James Coburn - Writer/Photographer

Gina Hyde says she has an awesome team at Tuscany Village Nursing Center where she serves as director of nursing at the Oklahoma City facility.

"I think for me what I look for is great communication and teamwork," she said. "I've worked for agencies and other facilities part time. What draws me to stay here is I've never seen an administrator at other places that comes out of their office to do floor work. Sometimes people don't even know who the administrator is. This does not happen at Tuscany Village and that for me speaks volumes."

Tuscany Village is a spacious facility that opened six years ago. Hyde said Tuscany focuses on being a family oriented nursing center with a loving environment that puts its residents at the top of its priorities.

"We are a family of employees here," she continued. "We treat our residents as family. They are family

and are all like grandparents. We definitely work together as a team. It's not 'I'. It's team playing. We give constructive criticism. We believe in growth. We believe in moving forward and we're not stagnant. As things go forward, we go forward with it. We're all about providing safe care."

Tuscany Village is a long-term and a skilled facility that is comprised of four long-term halls and skilled a unit. Skilled unit patients may choose to have their rehab done at Tuscany before they transition back to their communities.

"If they decide the community is not an option for them, then they transition over to long-term care," Hyde said.

The residents live in a home where nurses each have their individual strengths to combine for the greater good to make the facility strong. What one lacks, another nurse has strength in, Hyde said.

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something, they can go to the other and say, 'Can you help me with it?' They help each other out, so that's what I like about it. They're very good," she said. "They communicate with each other."

Hyde tells new nurses coming to Tuscany Village that one thing they can count on is a safe environment at work.

"I let them know that money is not everything. You may go to a place that offers you more money, but then you're not in a safe environment. That's what it is about. If you can practice safely and know your license is not in jeopardy. You want to come in and say, 'Hey, I love working.' You don't want to come in and say, 'Oh, it's a job and I can't wait to clock out.' You know your eight hours is going to be eight hours where it's meaningful.

"You can have residents with a smile on their face and you're happy

"When one is lacking in to be here. You know at the end of the day, you did something great. You can go home and rest peacefully, and then you can't wait to come back the next day and know your license is good. You practiced safely. The residents are safe."

Hyde said that long-term care was not her initial aspiration as a nurse. But when she moved to Oklahoma from New York, Hyde worked as a housekeeper at St. Anthony Hospital in midtown Oklahoma City. She worked as a housekeeper in a surgical unit and also in labor and delivery.

"I wanted to do labor and delivery," Hyde said. "When I went to LPN school, we did our clinicals. My last rotation was working in a nursing home and I was like, 'I really do like this.""

Hyde earned her associate's degree in nursing at Platt College before receiving her bachelor's degree at

Continued on next page

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Gina Hyde, RN, DON, says she likes to travel when she is not working at Tuscany Village Nursing Center in Oklahoma City.

Kaplan University. Her nursing career has always focused on the geriatric population during her nine years in the profession.

The first job she had was working in a nursing home and she realized long-term care is where she needed to be. It is her calling, she said. Five years of her nursing career have been at Tuscany Village.

At first she was a floor nurse, but after six months Hyde was offered the MDS position. At first she was hesitant to become the MDS coordinator, she was offered the position of director of nursing.

"When I made a trip back home a few years ago and I had to take care of my grandmother and help my dad and his family go through the dying process with her, it kind of clicked in me," she said. "This is where I was meant to be because I helped them through that process of her passing."







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# New Physician Assistant Joins Mercy Edmond I-35

Patient care is personal for Erin Ashley.

"As a medical provider, you really have to love people and love helping people," Ashley said. "I want to get to know my patients and have them feel comfortable sharing their concerns with me."

Ashley recently moved from Tulsa with her husband, Ross, to join Mercy Edmond I-35 as a physician assistant. Ashley says her goal is to change patient perspective on healthcare.

"I want patients to know that I truly care about them and want them to be healthy," Ashley said.

Ashley graduated with a master's Erin Ashley, physician degree from the University of Oklahoma assistant College of Community Medicine. Before

completing her master's program, Ashley received a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in athletic training. She has worked as a certified athletic trainer with the OU tennis program.

"I believe in the power of healthy eating and exercise," Ashley said. "I want my patients to believe in it, too."

**One night, she found the courage to leave.** With backpacks, she and her kids took off on foot. From a friend's home, she called a **partner agency's** domestic violence shelter and their lives began to turn around. Then another

partner agency's school for homeless kids added to their recovery story.



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# The Art of... Letting Go

#### by Licia McCurdy, B.S. LPN

When a great disappointment happens in life, we often feel it's the end of something. The thought of something ending carries with it a negative connotation. I believe this to be true because in life there's no such thing as a beginning without an end. Endings can be hard and they can be sad. They can come unexpectedly like a sharp turn in the road or linger on and on. Nevertheless; they happen, and if a beginning must always have an end than an ending must always have a beginning. Such is life and this is its wondrous yet grueling process.

Adapting to change is one of life's greatest challenges. It's human nature to be creatures of habit. Our lack of faith in ourselves prevents us from easing into the changes



Licia McCurdy, B.S. LPN

that are inevitable. It's only when we learn to "let go" that we become open and adaptive to change. When something ends there has to be a resolution. Without a satisfactory mind, body and spirit resolution, an ending will not yield its proper beginning. The path to resolution is as unique for us as our own DNA.

In every way that matters, we ask ourselves what would happen if we lost a part of who we are. What we don't realize is that we've become bits and pieces of "things" that we've made more important than we are to ourselves. In other words, we are more "active" in participating in our endings than focusing on our beginnings. It's easier to surrender to disappointment than to live by faith but it's not courageous. We lose our power when we allow this to happen. We become master manipulators of our own minds by creating illusions that enable a justification for toxicity.

Aristotle once said that "contemplation is the highest form of activity." I perceive this as our own inner voice or self-dialogue. If you could imagine a life where there were no excuses, where the foundation of all negative, self-destructive thoughts didn't exist. What would be left? I imagine there would be a great shift in energy. An alignment would create a platform for a NEW and INSPIRED life. The "original nature" of who we were meant to be would re-emerge and be free once again. The "ending" would no longer be dwelled upon in a negative way. Its beginning would be anticipated with passion and excitement, being open to everything while having faith and fearing nothing.

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Tranquility Hospice: Kelly Taylor, Volunteer Coordinator Tulsa : 918-592-2273

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Woodard Regional Hospice 580-254-9275 Cathy Poe, RN Director



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

I really didn't see it coming. My wife and I went to our first counseling session and when the therapist asked if we both wanted to remain in our marriage, I said, "Yes of course I do." My wife said, "I was afraid to say this at home but I want a divorce." WHAT???

Susan and I had been married for 13 years. We had the usual conflicts, just like all married couples. Susan would bring up things that annoyed her about me but I always thought it was just her mood and it would pass. I never had the insight (I have learned that word in therapy) to realize the damage that was being done by my aloof attitude.

### So what went wrong?

Here is what Susan shared with the therapist:

I have asked Jim (that's me) countless times to use the laundry hamper for his dirty clothes. I wouldn't even call it a near miss; the clothes end up wherever they land. Each time I would see his clothes on the floor I would go from annoyed, to irritated, to angry, to apathetic. It was exhausting to tell Jim to pick up his clothes on a daily basis. He also never offered to help with other household chores, even though I work a full time job too.

I wanted Jim to be my partner and not put me in the role of "his mother." He is a grown man who is able to see the clothes hamper, lift the lid and put the clothes in it. I can do it, no one has to remind me.

I was being disrespected!!! How can something so simple and easy become such a deal breaker. The more I brought it up the more he seemed determined to continue doing it. It made no sense to me. He doesn't understand that I am not divorcing him because he did not use the laundry hamper or put his dirty dishes in the dishwasher.

Here is what Jim learned:

All of a sudden, I realized it's not about something as benign and meaningless as dirty laundry on the floor or dishes in the sink. I don't have to understand WHY she cares so much about having to pick up my dirty laundry, I just have to understand and respect that she DOES.

The words "I Love You" cannot carry a marriage. Actions will always speak louder that words. The man capable of behavior changes even when he does not understand or agree with her thought processes .can have a great relationship.

# **Foundation receives** \$25,100 Grant from OKC **Community Foundation** Partnership to support healthy lifestyle adoption in the OKC African American community

The INTEGRIS Foundation is pleased to announce it has received a \$25,100 grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Wellness Initiative program. The grant will be used to expand the footprint of INTEGRIS' Challenge Yourself: Health & Fitness program by collaborating with the already successful INTEGRIS African American Fit Club.

"We are so pleased to have received this grant," said Anne Clouse, vice president and executive director of the INTEGRIS Foundation. "This will allow us to reach twice as many families in need. We appreciate this meaningful gift from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation."

The Challenge Yourself: Health & Fitness program is offered within the Oklahoma City metro area to African American men and women over a six-month period. These weekly sessions cover a variety of health topics, combined with an introduction to diverse exercise modalities such as walking, chair exercise and cardio calisthenics. The program has seen tremendous growth since its inception growing from eight to 80 participants, and this grant will continue to strengthen and expand the program's reach in the community.

For more information contact: Sara Parcell, 405.951.5028, sara.parcell@integrisok.com.

# **Communities Build a Blue Ribbon** Tree for Kids to Help Prevent Child Abuse

of Health (OSDH) along with various community organizations are working together to build a "Blue Ribbon Tree" state. Blue Ribbon Trees will be blossoming throughout Oklahoma communities in April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action Committee invites every community to take action for children by participating in their eighth annual "Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids" campaign.

The blue ribbon is the international sign for child abuse prevention and serves as a constant

The Oklahoma State Department reminder that all of us have a responsibility in helping to protect children. Communities are invited to participate by displaying blue ribbon trees during April. Oklahoma State Department of Human Services Child Care Licensing Supervisor Melissa Dennis said, "My goal is to get 2,016 childcare programs and licensed childcare homes to build blue ribbon trees in Oklahoma for April 2016."

> April 12, 2016 will be the official CAP Day at the Capitol. To have a tree showcased in the blue

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

# What are your hobbies? Mercy Hospital Family BirthPlace

professionals throughout the Metro

"I spend my time at the dirt track with my son who is 8 years old. He races motor cross. We spend a lot of time outside fishing."



Beth Young, RN

**Continued from Page 10** 

ribbon tree slideshow, the trees

must be completed and registered

in the Child Abuse Prevention

Month "official" scrapbook, on

the OSDH Family Support and

Prevention Service web page, and

organizations to register their trees

with the OSDH Office of Child

Abuse Prevention. The registration

form and submission instructions

are available to print from the

OSDH website at: http://go.usa.gov/

select any materials you choose. If

using a living tree, choose a highly visible location and secure needed

permission. Decorate the tree with

To "Build a Blue Ribbon Tree,"

A "Tree Registry" form is

people

and

Check Out www.okcnursingtimes.com

on various social media sites.

for

Tree photos will be highlighted

TREE

by April 6.

provided

c5Jad

"I'm usually with my kids. My son plays baseball, so it's like every weekend he has games. We like being outside, too."



April Wooden, RN

blue ribbons to represent any of the following: • The number of new babies born in your

community; • The number of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in your county;

· Something significant to your agency, program or community

Or use the ribbons to show your community support for children in general

For more information contact Sherie Trice, OSDH Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Coordinator, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Family Support and Prevention Service, 1000 NE 10th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117-1299, at 405-271-7611, or e-mail sheriet@health.ok.gov.

Please Let us know Your Thoughts Email: news@okcnursingtimes.com or mail to Oklahoma's Nursing Times P.O. Box 239 Mustang, Ok. 73064



Denise Crawford, RN

"I'm a huge OU fanatic.

So anything that has to

do with OU. I love to

hike. I'm really active

to stay active."

that way. I run and like

"I like to run and I go to the gym. That's about it. And I like to hang out with my kids and my spouse."



Inga Allen, RN

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# Smile orts

Research shows that your smile is the number one thing people notice when they meet you

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