



Love of life: Nursing Home enriches



Danelle Edgar, RN, is a busy nurse with a heart of gold when it come to time spent with each of her residents at Perry Green Valley Nursing Home.

by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Danelle Edgar loves seeing the smiles on the faces of the elderly while serving as a registered nurse at Perry Green Valley Nursing Home. Someone has got to make their sunset years special for them, she said.

"It's not something I initially thought I would do. But once I got in here, you just really bond, they kind of become your family,"

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*As featured in
Oklahoma's
Education Guide for
Nursing 2021 edition*



National Black Nurses Association Announces Annual 2021 Scholarship Applications



The National Black Nurses Association provides scholarships to students at all levels (LPN to doctorate).

The National Black Nurses Association, Inc. offers various scholarships each year including:

- Dr. Lauranne Sams Scholarship
- NBNA Board of Directors Scholarship
- Lynne Edwards Research Scholarship
- Margaret Pemberton Scholarship
- VITAS Healthcare/Esther Colliflower Scholarship
- George E. McGuire Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. Martha A. Dawson Genesis Scholarship
- Martha R. Dudley LPN Scholarship
- Dr. Lola Denise Jefferson Scholarship
- Arizona College Scholarship
- Gerontology Scholarship
- NURSETHINK.com Scholarship
- Mrs. Ola Lofton Scholarship
- FIGS Nursing Grant
- BAND AID® BRAND Black Healthcare Heroes in Nursing Scholarship

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EDGAR

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Edgar said at the long-term care and skilled nursing center.

The nursing home is not necessarily a place where the elderly spend their years being inactive. Each moment at Perry Green Valley is dedicated toward the enrichment of lives reaching their personal best.

"COVID has kind of thrown a wrench in everything, but we work around it, evolve and change. That's kind of how nursing is anyway," she said. "We have to do smaller group activities or even individual activities to fit in with the guidelines."

Edgar has been a registered nurse since 2017 when she earned her degree at Oklahoma City Community College. She began her career as a licensed practical nurse at Perry Green Valley.

Edgar works with both long-term care and rehab patients. Compassion, patience, empathy, and teamwork combine to make the

patient-centered home function well, she said. And there is not a high turnover rate among the nursing staff. Leadership and the staff pull together for the common.

"We've all been here together for a long time, and so we kind of know how each other works," Edgar said.

Working in a nursing home is not a job for everyone, she said. It takes a special type of person.

"Especially the CNAs, They're in there doing the hands-on work. They're our eyes and ears. They help our nurses tremendously. We could not do our job without them. So, I really admire that they have the heart to be in this line of work and continue to do what they are doing with the long hours and stress. They are very adaptable and compassionate."

Her life is often touched by the gains she witnesses in her patients' lives. She recalls when one of a gentleman was first admitted to Perry Green Valley on hospice about four years ago.

"We didn't think we had very long with him," she said. "He has gotten better over the years. When he first came, he was bedridden, didn't talk and was very contractured. And now he's walking — he's participating in activities — he's very happy and gets along well with all the staff. We all love him. It was just really inspiring to see someone go from not being able to do anything, and now he's doing activities. He doesn't even use a walker. He is our miracle story."

It's important to understand that how a patient behaves with dementia is not the way they lived in decades past. Dementia changes them, she said.

"You just have to have a good relationship with the family, communicating with them to see how they were — what things did they like," Edgar continued.

Research points to redirecting people with dementia when they act as if they are living in the distant past. Perhaps a loved one had died, and they don't realize it. Nurses are

trained to meet the resident where they are in life.

"If they are in 1970 at home and we're their kid, then you go with that, because there's more behaviors if you try to tell them 'No, you're wrong. You're not there. Your mother is dead,' or things like that. It's traumatic for them and they're having to relive that every five minutes, if that's how long it takes their brain to process. You just have to be in their world. That's what we are learning."

Many of the nursing home residents were farmers or farming wives. Many of them know and grew up with each other in rural surroundings.

"There's kind of that sense of friendship in here as well," Edgar said. For more info visit:

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from Page 1

- Ophelia Long Scholarship
- CAREISMATIC Scholarship
- Dr. Daisy Harmon-Allen Scholarship
- Dr. Patricia McManus Scholarship
- Dr. Millicent Gorham Scholarship
- Dr. Eric J. Williams Scholarship
- JAYHAL Foundation Scholarship
- NBNA Social Justice Scholarship

These scholarships will range from \$1,000 - \$90,000 and applicants must be an NBNA member to apply.

NBNA's scholarships are presented each year to the Awardees at the Annual Institute & Conference.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a member of NBNA and a member of a local chapter (if one exists in your area). If a chapter does not exist within a 50-radius of your location you can join NBNA as a Direct Member.

2. Candidate must be currently enrolled in a nursing program (BSN, AD, Diploma or LPN / LVN, Masters, and Doctoral) and in good scholastic standing at the time of

application.

3. Applicant must have at least one full year of school remaining.

Must Provide:

1. Official Transcript(s) from an accredited School of Nursing.

2. Two (2) page Written Essay

3. Two (2) letters of recommendation (one from applicant's school of nursing and one from the local chapter, or a nurse in the area if a local chapter does not exist). Letters of recommendation and essay must be attached to the application.

4. A clean/clear professional headshot.

Additional items to accompany the application in support of the candidate's eligibility and desirability may include documented evidence of: participation in student nurse activities, and involvement in the African American Community, i.e., letters, news clippings, awards, certificates

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Before downloading the Scholarship Application please click here to download & install the FREE Adobe Reader if computer device does not have a PDF reader.

1. Documents related to completing the scholarship application

2. 2021 Scholarship Application

3. 2021 Membership Application (before completing the application, please review the Chapter Directory located under the Membership tab to locate your State and a chapter in your area).

4. 2021 NBNA Membership Honor Pledge

5. Scholarship Essay Requirements

Send completed application and all supporting documentations by Wednesday, April 15, 2021 to admin@nbna.org.

Mailing address ONLY for OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT: NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 910, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

NOTE: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY MAIL

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CAREERS IN NURSING

TAKING PRIDE IN BEING A NURSE: VALIR HOSPICE

Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

Established in 2004, Valir Hospice Care provides special care for people who are terminally ill. This involves a team-oriented approach that addresses the medical, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patient. Hospice also provides support to the patient's family or caregiver. Valir Hospice currently has offices in Oklahoma City and Kingfisher, OK.

Amy Walkup, RN is the administrator for Valir Hospice. She has been with the company for six years. "It's actually a family thing," Amy said. "My granny was an active director in the same nursing home for thirty-six years, my mom was a dietary manager and my sister is also a nurse. Working with the older population has been bred into me," Amy commented. "I can't image doing anything else," she added.

Amy grew up in Paden, OK. Even though Amy was sure she would be a coach or an FBI agent when she got older, she knew that the medical field was the career that was suited for her. Amy attended Gordon Cooper for her LPN and Seminole State College for her RN. She has been a nurse for twenty years.

"My first job as a nurse was the three to eleven shift when I was a charge nurse at Meeker Nursing Center in Meeker, OK. I knew that after everything was said and done, this was definitely the right career for me."

"Becoming a nurse was actually an accident," Amy said with a smile. "I was working in the dietary department in the nursing home where my granny worked and I hated it. I always loved interacting with the residents instead

of washing dishes. At the time, the administrator saw right through me and knew I wasn't happy with that position. She approached me and asked if I wanted to train as a CNA. I immediately began training, and loved it. That is when I worked my way up to an RN."

"Being a nurse can be one of the most rewarding jobs that you will ever have. Personally, I feel rewarded every day as I help others get better. It tells me that I am serving a purpose in life. I feel like I have a positive attitude and try to promote confidence and hard working ethics, along with plenty of compassion. On the other hand, being a nurse can be very challenging. In Hospice, I encounter very odd situations at times and must be able to think on the fly, which is not always easy to do," Amy commented.

When asking Amy to describe herself, she told me that she has always been a hard worker. "I was taught from a very young age that if I do something, I should always do it to my best ability. Being a good nurse is the thing about myself that I take the most pride in. I strive every day to learn and be better so that I can continue to be an example to my staff, my patients and their families."

"As administrator, I consider myself a leader. I don't carry a caseload but I get to help with admissions and I fill in when other nurses need me to. I want to give credit to one of my mentors; Darlene Griffith, one of my instructors in LPN school. She taught me how to be professional and just how impactful we nurses can be. Between administrative

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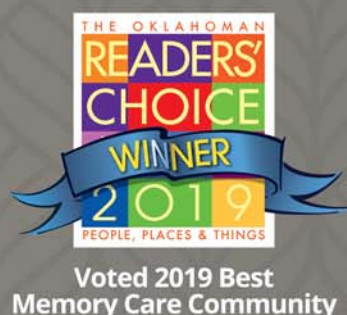


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WALKUP

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duties, I do audits, help the staff with issues and sometimes, do visits,” Amy commented.

What advice would you give to someone interested in going into the medical field? “I would tell them if you are willing to work hard, do it! If not, it’s too important of a job not to do your best. Until a person actually becomes a nurse, they will not know how rewarding it is.”

How has the Coronavirus changed your life? Amy replied, “The Coronavirus has made it really difficult for the Hospice residents. A lot of the staff aren’t able to see a lot of the patients in nursing homes due to visiting restrictions. Hopefully, this pandemic will all end soon. I know it changed a lot of vacation plans for everyone; my sister and I had planned a trip to England last year and had to cancel. All of that seems trivial though compared to the thousands of lost lives.”

Asking Amy to sum up her life in three words, she said, “Keep on truckin’.”



Amy Walkup, RN is the Administrator for Valir Hospice. She has been a nurse for twenty years and takes pride in knowing that she has made a difference in others’ lives.

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2021 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

4 Ways to Join a Winning Program

Oklahoma Christian University boasts the fastest growing nursing program in Oklahoma, and there are lots of reasons why. The highly experienced Nursing faculty use advanced technology to offer online degrees, the new, spacious on-campus labs are cutting edge, and professors in the mission-focused BSN Nursing degree often remind students why they are pursuing a career that is all about caring for others.

"Dr. Gray and all of my instructors pray for us before each exam, and I have no doubt they pray for me outside of class too," said student Kyler Wilson-Walker.

There are 4 ways to join this winning program.

1. Online RN to BSN

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2. INTEGRIS Partnership

Individuals with no experience can apply for a job as a nursing assistant with INTEGRIS Healthcare and enroll as an online student with Oklahoma Christian University. INTEGRIS even offers a \$1,000 signing bonus and tuition repayment!

It's a great way to earn a paycheck and a degree with a job that prepares you for class and classes that prepare you for your future.

3. Transfer From Another University

Students who begin college somewhere else and transfer to Oklahoma Christian University step into a community of instructors and students who are all about supporting one another. The tightly knit community is known for supporting others, honoring the creator through nursing, providing an environment designed for each student's success and having fun.

4. On-Campus

High school graduates who want to become a nurse find their home at Oklahoma Christian University. Students looking for the full college experience are mentored for spiritual, mental and physical growth alongside

the rigorous academic program. Living on campus allows students to become a part of the university's traditions, make friendships that last a lifetime and flourish under the guidance of excellent faculty.

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Leading Nursing Organizations Partner to Launch COVID-19 Vaccine Information Campaign for Nurses

Today, the American Nurses Association (ANA) along with 19 leading nursing and healthcare organizations are joining together to announce a new vaccine education campaign: COVID Vaccine Facts for Nurses. The initiative will bring critical, current, and culturally sensitive COVID-19 vaccine information to the nation's nurses on the frontlines of the pandemic and those caring for patients in every community across the country.

Since the first American – a critical care nurse in New York – received the vaccine, new survey data from the American Nurses Foundation of more than 22,000 nurses nationwide shows that while a majority (70%) of nurses have received the vaccine, barriers still exist. Among the 30% of nurses who reported that they have not received the vaccine, those who identify as Black or African

American make up the largest percentage, 46%, of nurses who are not vaccinated. Of the 30% of nurses surveyed who have not been vaccinated, a quarter are undecided. Respondents' reasons for not wanting to get the vaccine included being fearful of short- or long-term side effects (66%) and not having enough information about the vaccines (50%).

"Vaccination plays a large role in combating this pandemic, which is why we have come together to provide nurses with the information they need to educate themselves and counsel both patients and the communities they serve," said ANA President Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN. "For nurses to be instrumental in administering COVID-19 vaccines, dispelling myths and getting vaccinated themselves, we must ensure that – no matter where they work – they have scientifically



sound and accessible answers to both their own and patients' questions."

The COVID Vaccine Facts for Nurses website provides nurses – the most trusted profession for 19 years in a row according to Gallup – and other healthcare professionals access to relevant, accurate and up-to-date information as well as expert perspectives about the safety, efficacy, and importance of COVID-19 vaccines. This includes:

- A Comprehensive List of Common Questions – Answers to questions about vaccine safety, development, distribution, side effects and more, from nursing experts and the medical and scientific communities, offered in a format that makes it easy to share on social media.
- Resources – Original and curated content from respected sources offers quick access to the information nurses need to increase their confidence in the vaccines and to address questions from their patients and communities.

As the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues, the COVID Vaccine Facts for Nurses website will be updated with additional resources to ensure nurses have a central and credible hub for vaccine-related information.

In addition, and as part of the campaign, collaborating organizations will host COVID in Color virtual events featuring a wide range of nursing leaders in honest and clear conversation about vaccines and questions from communities of color. The collaborating organizations will also conduct surveys to listen to nurses about what they need.

Collaborating with ANA on the campaign are:

- American Nurses Foundation
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN-Critical Care)
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
- American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL)
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
- Asian American / Pacific Islander Nurses Association (AAPINA)
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
- Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
- Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.
- National Association of Indian Nurses of America (NAINA)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
- National Black Nurses Association (NBNA)
- National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations (NCEMNA)
- Nurses Who Vaccinate
- Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA)
- Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma)
- Transcultural Nursing Society (TNS)

ANA is grateful for the partnership and support of Johnson & Johnson for their sponsorship of the COVID Vaccine Facts for Nurses campaign. The Company has a deep and long-standing commitment to supporting and advocating for the nursing profession.



When Breanna was a teenager, she woke up from a nap with jaundiced skin and her mom rushed her to the emergency room. She was later diagnosed with Hepatitis A, and instead of making a full recovery like expected – it destroyed her liver. Her condition was so severe that she was life-flighted to a transplant center that night and she received a liver transplant that morning.

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. If you don't have a license or state ID card and do not have internet access, call **800-826-LIFE (5433)** and ask for a donor registration card.



NURSE TALK

What animal best describes you and why?



Legend Senior Living

I would choose a dolphin. Dolphins are care-free, stick together with their families



Whitney Craig, LPN-AHCD

I am most like a tiger...Wild, creative and humble, keeping the pack together.



Chrisla Godbee, Life Enrichment Coordinator

Definitely a bunny rabbit! Quick on my feet, soft and cuddly on the inside.



Dyanna Tucker, Life Enrichment Assistant

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SITUATION UPDATE: COVID-19

Cases	434,491
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date	3,264,480
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date	3,671,576
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facility Hospitalizations	235
Other Types of Facilities Hospitalizations	19
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	24,865
Provisional Death Count (CDC/NCHS)	7,673

- As of this advisory, there are 434,491 cases (+416) of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- 446 is today's 7-day rolling average for the number of new cases reported.
- Today's Provisional Death Count (CDC/NCHS): 7,673

- Additional hospitalization data can be found in the Hospital Tiers report, published evenings Monday through Friday.
- Register online to receive a notification when you're eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at vaccinate.oklahoma.gov, or locate other vaccine opportunities at vaccinefinder.org.
- For more information, visit <https://oklahoma.gov/covid19.html>.

*The total includes laboratory information provided to OSDH at the time of the report. As a result, counts are subject to change. Total counts may not reflect unique individuals.

***The purpose of publishing aggregated statistical COVID-19 data through the OSDH Dashboard, the Executive Order Report, and the Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Report is to support the needs of the general public in receiving important and necessary information regarding the state of the health and safety of the citizens of Oklahoma. These resources may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be used in any way that would determine the identity of any reported cases.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. *As of 2021-03-19 at 7:00 a.m.



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Enid Couple Overcomes COVID-19 with Help of BAM Infusion

Just before Christmas of last year, Ron and Josie Shafer, of Enid, fell ill and began experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

The Shafer's daughter, Tina Crane, had the virus in July of 2020 and was familiar with how it manifested and how the symptoms presented. The low-grade fever. The sore throat. The exhaustion. She knew that her parents, in their late 60's (Ron, 69) and early 70's (Josie, 71) had likely contracted COVID-19.

Over the next few days, their conditions steadily declined. Crane knew how vulnerable her parents were to the virus and its side effects. "I was able to convince them to get tested on Dec. 29," Crane said. "Their symptoms continued to worsen."

Both Ron and Josie tested positive for COVID-19. According to Crane, Josie's symptoms were worse than Ron's, but she was very concerned about both parents and what might happen without proper care and treatment.

Crane, an employee with INTEGRIS Health, was recently made aware of an infusion used in cancer patients that had received emergency approval from the FDA late last year for use in COVID-19 patients who meet certain criteria. The infusion was helping to relieve symptoms and was keeping scores of COVID-19 positive patients out of the hospital.

"The bamlanivimab (BAM) infusion contains a monoclonal antibody that replicates the body's natural antibodies needed to fight the virus," INTEGRIS Cancer Institute of Enid Manager Miranda Martinez, MSN, RN, said. "These antibodies are created in a laboratory to target certain antigens in the body. In the bamlanivimab case, it targets the COVID-19 antigen."

INTEGRIS Bass has been administering this infusion in COVID-19 patients since Nov. 25, shortly after its approval for this use.

According to Martinez, eligible patients range from age 12 and up, but must meet certain criteria if under the age of 65. COVID-19 positive patients age 65 and older within the 10-day window of symptom onset automatically qualify for treatment. Martinez emphasized the infusion must take place within 10 days of when

symptoms first begin.

Once positive COVID-19 test results are received within the 10-day window of developing symptoms, and criteria are met, a patient may then be referred by a physician to receive the infusion.

Once the patient arrives, the nurse will gather information about symptoms and ensure the patient meets qualifications. The nurse then begins the infusion through an IV. The treatment itself takes one hour. Following the infusion, the patient must stay an additional hour to be monitored for side effects.

Because Ron and Josie started experiencing symptoms right before Christmas, and the 10-day window that must be adhered to receive the infusion was closing, Crane knew that they had no time to waste.

The Shafer's received the infusion on Dec. 31, just inside the 10-day window and right before the New Year's holiday and upcoming weekend.

From that point, Crane said her parents' symptoms began to alleviate, and in less than two weeks, major symptoms had disappeared.

"I truly believe that the BAM infusion helped keep my mother, whose symptoms were worse, out of the hospital," Crane said. "I am relieved they are back to normal now and grateful things turned out well for us."

Unfortunately, that has not been the case for thousands of older Americans. According to the CDC, around 80 percent of the more than half a million COVID-19 deaths in the United States were 65 or older.

While the Shafer's experienced symptoms considered more severe, anyone who is COVID-19 positive and meets the criteria may receive the infusion, even with mild symptoms, if it is within the 10-day window.

"Cases are now declining as people are becoming vaccinated and adhering to CDC mask and social distancing guidelines," Martinez said. "However, people are still testing positive, and we are still administering BAM to those who fit the criteria. We are still giving the infusion every day, and we encourage anyone who tests positive and meets the criteria to take advantage of the opportunity."

Eli Lilly, the producer of the BAM infusion, reported a 70 percent rate of reduction in hospitalizations and deaths in those who were given the treatment. Martinez said that local numbers are depicting the same rate of success.

"We believe that since its emergency clearance from the FDA last year, hundreds of lives have been saved as a result of the BAM infusion."



Enid Residents Ron and Josie Shafer contracted COVID-19 late last year. After receiving the BAM infusion at INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center, Both made full recovery within a couple of weeks of receiving the treatment.

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