



20 Years of Compassion: A Journey of Faith and Care at Good Shepherd Hospice

Read Debbie's story on page 2

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Debbie Bonds, RN

Long time Good Shepherd Hospice RN looking forward to 20 years in May 2025

story and photo by
Van AMitchell, Staff Writer

Faith has always been a driving force for Debbie Bonds, RN case manager at Good Shepherd Hospice in Oklahoma City.

In May 2025, Bonds will celebrate 20 years of her calling at Good Shepherd Hospice.

"In my heart, it's a calling," she said. "I serve the Lord by helping people and by being there for them when they are in need, which they are certainly in need when they have a loved one on hospice or they're on hospice. That's very rewarding and fulfilling to me."

Her career began at a local hospital where she worked in a cardiac unit before accepting a position with Good Shepherd, and she earned her RN degree at Oklahoma City Community

College. Bonds earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Southwestern State University.

"I was working at a hospital, and I knew that was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," she said. "I went back to get my bachelor's, and I had to take a community health course that required clinicals and hospice was one of the choices. When I was in nursing school, I always said I would do any kind of nursing but hospice. I had been praying for the Lord to guide me. I went out for a day (for clinicals) with one of their (Good Shepherd) nurses, at the end of the day I knew that I wanted to do hospice for the rest of my career."

Bonds said the past 20 years at Good Shepherd have been

rewarding.

"It's been wonderful," she said. "In the hospital, I felt like I was doing what I would call drive-by nursing, you're responsible for a whole unit of people. You dash in and give the pills, hang an IV and dash out to the next one. There's no time for interactions to truly meet their needs and truly provide the care that they need. When I went out that day with that Good Shepherd nurse many years ago, 20 years ago, I knew that that was what I wanted because she was one-on-one with the patient and she had time to think about that one patient and taking care of the needs of that patient, supporting that patient, supporting the family, providing the care that was needed."

Bonds said compassion and communication are key to helping hospice patients and their families.

"Sometimes a patient may be in hospice for six months or a year, and during that time you become an integral part of the family, and they look to you when they have a problem," she said. "When you come in, you're coming in bringing

answers that they need, support that they need and it's vital to them. It becomes a real deep thing in your heart to be able to be there to help them. It's very important to me to build a rapport with the family."

Bonds added, "Here at Good Shepherd, we believe in calling the family often. If they sense that you have a caring heart and that you care about their loved one, then they trust you," she said. "When it's time for a decision to come, you're able to help counsel them and give them knowledge that they need currently. You can really make a difference."

Bonds said Good Shepherd has a great team of caring and compassionate people.

"It's wonderful to be a part of the team," she said. "It's very fulfilling and rewarding to work with a team and not be a lone ranger. We work together well. We respect one another. We respect one another for our separate roles."

Bonds said faith plays a role in helping her to decompress when

Continued next page



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Debbie Bonds, RN case manager at Good Shepherd Hospice in Oklahoma City will celebrate working there 20 years in May 2025.

BONDS

Continued from Page 2

she leaves the office each day.

"I cast my cares when I leave the office. That means I give this to You, Lord. And then I don't think about it when I'm away," she said. "I purposely discipline myself to have a total break when I'm away and not carry the burden. That has helped to preserve me and prevent burnout."

Bonds said she loves teaching the next generation of hospice caregivers.

"I love to teach about hospice, and that's something I've had the opportunity to do over almost 20 years," she said. "They have sent

many new nurses to me to train, and it's rewarding and fulfilling."

Bonds said coming to work each day is a blessing.

"It's very enjoyable to me," she said. "I think that's amazing to have done the same job for almost 20 years and not be burned out. In nursing, there are so many different areas of nursing available that it's very unusual to see a nurse stay in the same position for 20 years. Often you see them move around about every couple of years. I feel like it speaks well of Good Shepherd that I have been here this long and I'm still happy being here. I don't have a cut-off date. I'm just enjoying what I do."

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CAREERS IN NURSING:

VALUING LIFE: COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM EXPANDS

Mighty redwood trees are often admired for their incredible height, growing up to 350 ft. tall. It may be surprising to learn the roots beneath are actually quite shallow. The trees reach their great height, in part, thanks to their intertwined root system. The shallow roots grow with the roots of neighboring redwoods, creating a vast network that provides exceptional stability against strong winds and floods - enabling them to endure whatever comes.

This is the imagery that comes to mind when Alexia Geer, ICU charge nurse, describes what it's like working at Stillwater Medical Center, an innovative healthcare system serving north-central Oklahoma.

"We're somewhere in between a small hospital and a large healthcare system, and that creates a family environment here that's really unique," Geer said. "Everyone knows you by name. That creates a safe, kind and helpful culture that encourages and supports you in stretching yourself."

Geer has had many opportunities for growth since joining the Stillwater Medical team in 2017 as a surgery scrub tech. She stayed with the health system through her nursing education, serving in the emergency and labor and delivery departments. In 2022 she transitioned to the ICU as a registered nurse, drawn by the opportunity to form long-term relationships with her patients.

"We have these patients during one of the scariest times of their lives. We get to be there for them to help them get through this hard time," Geer said. "Continuity of care is very important to us and that gives me the opportunity to build relationships with my patients and their families."

She has a passion for providing care to her friends and neighbors in Stillwater and the surrounding rural communities. The need is great, and the hospital recently expanded its ICU from seven beds to 14 to accommodate the demand for quality, compassionate intensive care close to home. Geer is grateful for the opportunity to treat more patients locally so they can remain close to their support system during a stressful time in their lives.

In addition to capacity and facility expansion, Stillwater Medical has also invested in new service lines and providers who can deliver expert



Registered Nurse Alexia Geer is grateful to work for a healthcare system that's responsive to the needs of her community. Stillwater Medical Center's newly renovated ICU doubled its patient capacity, creating an opportunity to expand its care team. Nurses hired in key positions before the end of 2024 can qualify for sign-on bonuses up to \$25,000.

care. Dr. Daniel Roton is a new pulmonologist and critical care specialist who is building a robust lung program in Stillwater.

"Lung nodules are being found every day on a massive scale. There are just not enough pulmonologists or people in the healthcare field to keep up with the demand," Roton said. "By providing a robust lung program here, we're keeping our patients from having to wait to be seen in Oklahoma City or Tulsa, which can make a real impact on survival rates."

Like Geer, Dr. Roton said he loves the ICU because of the strong emotional bonds he's able to develop quickly. Patients and family members look to their doctors and nurses to help them navigate uncertainty as they entrust their physical, mental,

emotional and spiritual health into their care. It's a responsibility the ICU care team does not take on lightly. To be their best, they need well-rounded expertise, so they lean on their coworkers for support and development.

"I always tell everyone that we have a very special group of nurses here. Every nurse here is ready to learn and excited to grow. We've built relationships here, and we support one another," Geer said. "It's a happy place to be."

Geer is proud to call Stillwater home, but among the more than 1,800 employees at Stillwater Medical, many commute so they can experience the unique culture of this growing healthcare system without uprooting their families. And, in doing so, the intertwined root system of Stillwater Medical grows, making it even stronger to endure whatever the future has in store.

Stillwater Medical Center has immediate openings for nurses providing direct patient care. Those hired in key positions before the end of 2024 can qualify for sign-on bonuses up to \$25,000. To learn more or apply, visit www.stwmedical.com/bonus.

"This is our home, and we're growing together," Geer said. "The more our team expands, the more patients we're able to treat. It's really nice to know we're providing that service to the community and keeping them closer to their families."





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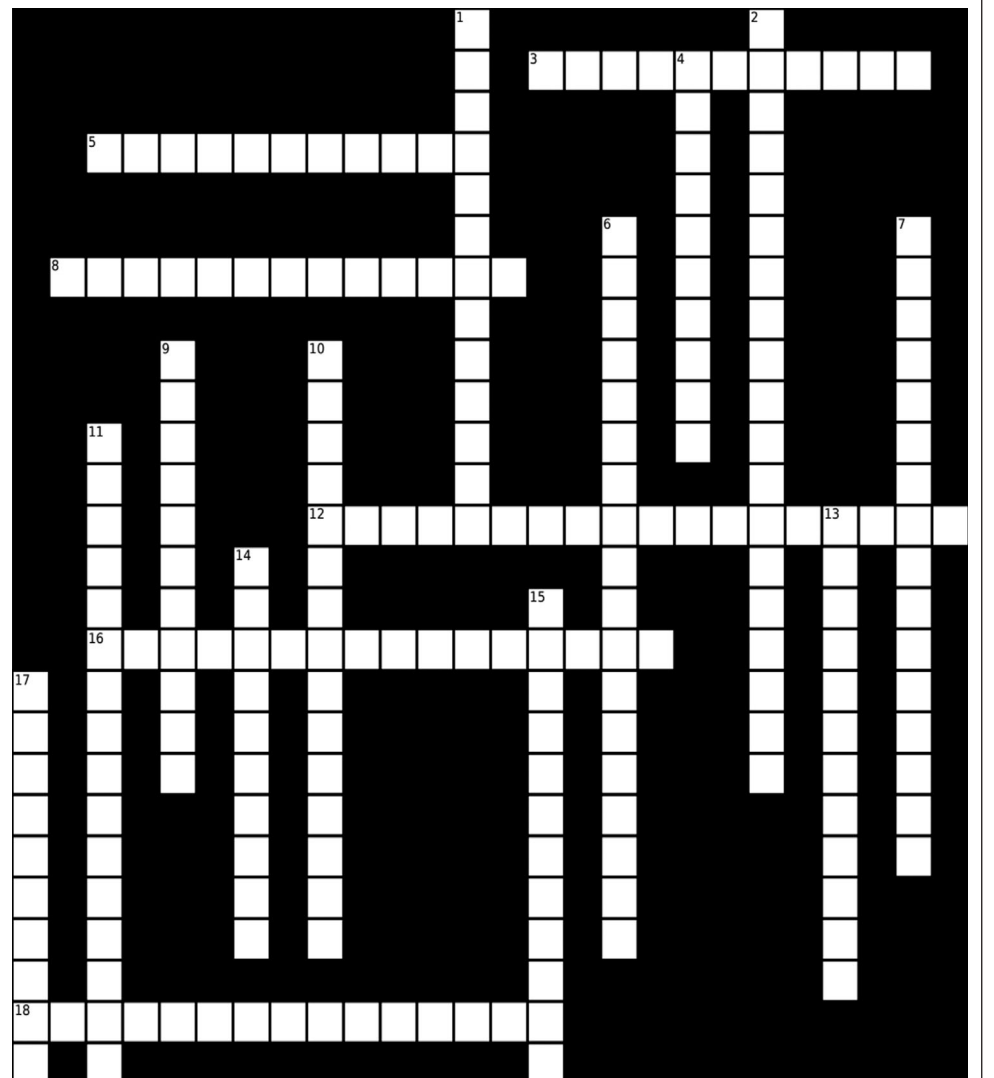
Across

- 3. Publishes The Red Cross in Peace and War.
- 5. She is still honored today as nurses in the Philadelphia area hold an annual procession to the Cemetery where she is buried
- 8. Was appointed to the newly established (first in the nation) New York State Board of Nurse Examiners
- 12. Developed the Code of Ethics for Professional Nurses
- 16. Wrote History of Nursing with Adelaide Nutting
- 18. She wrote A Sound Economic Basis for Nursing

Down

- 1. In 1954 authored the classic "The Child, His Parents, and the Nurse"
- 2. A national leader in nursing she served as president of National League for Nursing Education from 1917-20

- 4. Above Nurse that is Is buried in Corunna, Michigan
- 6. Started the "American Journal of Nursing" in 1900
- 7. This nurse was driving force behind rural health-care in America
- 9. This nurse was executed by firing squad for nursing enemy soldiers
- 10. This nurse was best known best known as the author of the book Little Women
- 11. The first African American trained nurse.
- 13. In 1922 published "Textbook of the Principles and Practices of Nursing"
- 14. 1909 Became chair of National Committee of the Red Cross Nursing Service
- 15. gained national and international recognition for her efforts to upgrade nursing education and promote sound legislation for nursing practice.
- 17. The mother of Anesthesia



ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

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Valuing Life: RN Finds Solace in Hospice Care

story and photo by
James Coburn, Staff Writer

Mallory Mains, a registered nurse serving Companion Hospice entered a new realm of hospice nursing three months ago. She brought with her hospital skills she learned while working in an emergency room, and outpatient neurology.

Additionally, she is also an adjunct at The University of Central Oklahoma. She graduated from UCO with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

She tells them about being a hospice nurse and how nursing is a diverse profession full of opportunities.

"When I was in the emergency room it was the complete opposite of this coin. So, it's nice to see people with good lives pass in a way that they choose," Means said. "Encouraging that philosophy in the lives of patients we take care of makes your job easy."

Mains' choice of hospice came when she needed a break, she said. It wasn't necessarily hospice that drew her in. It was the company of Companion.

"I needed to work for someone who values nursing. And this company is one of a few that does that," Mains said. "Hospice is a bonus because I get to help people during their end of life, keep them comfortable and fulfill their last wishes."

Mains sees 8-15 patients twice a week or daily, depending on her case load and her patients' stages in life. Her goal is making sure they're comfortable and their pain is under control. Services for hospice patients usually last an average of six months or less. But individual endurance may be surprising.

Working amid a nursing staff of team players makes best practices run like a well-oiled machine with a large dosage of compassion and empathy. Hospice is all about palliative care, and there is a benefit in the circle of care with physicians, social workers, chaplains, nurses and certified aides, therapists, as well as volunteers who are there to assist families and patients through their entire journey. The nursing

staff shares ideas.

"They're willing to help each other out. If I'm caught up with a patient and have another emergency, I can basically text anyone and say, 'Can you go check on them?'" Mains said.

Patients and families come to hospice with many questions. Patience is essential in hospice care. Hospice nurses need to be willing to answer the same questions repeatedly. Patients may be scared, and forgetful family members might have stress overload.

"On that first encounter we paint a picture of what hospice looks like. It's kind of scary to some people. We make sure we give them the information they need and then encourage them to make their own decisions, never force our services on them. And then follow up the next day to make sure all their needs are answered," she said.

There is a lot of mutual agreement about a care plan. Families are encouraged to ask questions at any time. The timeline of decline for every patient is different. Education helps families to recognize the normal shifts of decline a loved one experiences before passing. She inevitably follows with how Companion Hospice is meeting this vulnerable time of life.

"We have some really good resources here that staff has put together. There are a lot of booklets and pamphlets that we give to the family and the patients," she said.

Mains has developed a keen ability to read each patient. Sometimes they feel like opening up to her and get to know her. Other times, they are not as personal. But the hospice nurses continue to treat each patient the same without changing how they provide care, Mains said.

"It's nice to get to know your patients because then you feel like you have a friend," Mains explained.

Being a hospice nurse comes with experiences that inspire Mains to move forward in facing challenges ahead.

"Our patients really are fabulous.



Mallory Mains, RN, says choosing a company that values nurses makes a difference in their longevity.

"I don't know if it's because of the way we treat them. They treat us well. It is easy to help someone who wants your help," she continued.

Means has found during her three months at Companion Hospice that hospice care is often a subsequent nursing job that college graduates pursue. She doesn't recall any of her UCO classmates choosing hospice as their first career option.

Hospices nationwide may see a mass exodus of registered nurses in coming years, particularly younger, newer, and less experienced nurses living with pandemic-related burnout, according to a 2023 analysis by the National Council

of State Boards of Nursing. Nearly 900,000 of the nation's 4.5 million registered nurses expect to leave the health care workforce by 2027, according to the NCSBN research.

However, being a nurse has only deepened Means' outlook on life. "Society is changing in ways I had never prepared for," she said.

"And so being a nurse has required me to be quick to change, and adapt to whatever situation I'm put in," she said.

Meanwhile, she reduces stress by exercising at a gym. She and her husband spend time at a lake during summertime.

"I do a lot of reading," she added.



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Nursing Shortage Calls for Relief

Policy Makers, Educators and RNs Respond

story by
James Coburn, Staff Writer

The decades-long shortage of registered nurses in the U.S. is no stranger to Oklahoma. Nursing shortages continue to affect every state, especially in the southwestern U.S.

According to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oklahoma ranks 46th in the U.S. for nurses per capita with just 7.5 nurses per 1,000 residents. 2022 statistics indicate there were 30,320 RNs statewide. There are 9.22 nurses per 1,000 population in the U.S.

Nursing educators and working registered nurses have told Oklahoma's Nursing Times for the past 25 years that not enough college educators, the COVID pandemic, an aging workforce, and employee burnout have contributed to the steady decline. More than half of RNs in the U.S. is over age 50.

Terry Meler-Flinn, RN, is in her 39th year of serving orthopedic patients at SSM Health Bone & Joint Hospital at St. Anthony. At 67, she has no plans of retirement. Flinn attributes her longevity to a perennial love of helping others, inspiring mentorship, and a freedom to grow by adapting to changes in the medical industry.

Additionally, 76 million baby boomers (people born between 1946-64) in the U.S., 29 percent off the population, challenge the nursing industry to respond to the growing needs of the aging population.

There is also optimism mounting by policy makers at the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing. Programs are set to advance nursing practices in rural areas of the state and broader community. Enrollment is on the rise to filter nurses and partnerships.

A 2022 nursing workforce analysis in Health Affairs cited the number of registered nurses decreased nationally by more than 100,000 from 2020-21, which is a record over the past four decades.

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) workforce



Solution oriented policy makers continue their efforts to resolve the nationwide shortage of registered nurses.

is expected to grow by 38 percent from 2022 through 2032. Approximately 29,200 new APRNs, are prepared to respond to a demand for primary and specialty care.

Another report by The Institute of Medicine stated patient safety will necessitate increasing the number of Bachelor of Science in nursing degrees by at least 80 percent. Currently, two-thirds of RNs are educated at the baccalaureate or graduate level.

In 2022 the Oklahoma State Senate and the House approved a measure addressing Oklahoma's nursing shortage which worsened during the pandemic. Senate Bill 1458 has targeted \$55 million of the state's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to establish grant programs to help 21 state colleges, universities, and technology centers.

State Sen. John Haste, R-Broken Arrow, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding, said these grants will help 21 institutions to expand their nursing programs, enabling the state to help

meet crucial needs.

House Majority Floor Leader John Echols, R-Oklahoma City, was the House principal author of the measure.

"It's absolutely critical we get more nurses into our health care facilities to help improve care and outcomes for Oklahomans," Echols said.

"The dollars provided by this legislation will ensure more nurses are trained and ready to help address our current shortage," he continued.

This year, the Biden administration mandated new staffing regulations for nursing homes.

- *Facilities must provide a minimum total of 3.48 hours (3 hours and 29 minutes) of direct nursing care per resident, per day.*

- *The 3.48 requirement must include .55 hours (33 minutes) of care from a registered nurse per resident, per day and 2.45 hours (2 hours and 27 minutes) from a nurse aide per resident, per day.*

- *Facilities must have a*

registered nurse on site 24/7.

- *Facilities must conduct a stronger annual facility assessment to improve the planning and identification of the resources needed to care for residents.*

- *Facilities must develop a staffing plan to maximize recruitment and retention.*

Gov. Kevin Stitt has urged Biden to reconsider the mandate which Stitt stated would cause an economic hardship on the state's nursing homes.

According to KOSU, this year the legislature directed the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to appropriate \$30 million toward improving long-term care provider rates. That state investment will be matched with \$61.4 million in federal funds. Facilities will see the following bumps pending agency approval.

- *Nursing Homes: An average rate of \$224.64 to an average rate of \$244.78*

- *Regular intermediate care* He also agreed that the Biden mandates are harmful.

Cornerstone Home Health has Long History of Serving Seniors and Veterans

story and photo by
Van Mitchell, Staff Writer

Cornerstone Home Health has been providing services to seniors and veterans in the Oklahoma City metro area since 2003.

Balinda Callison, President of Cornerstone Home Health said in an interview with Bott Radio serving veterans is a core aspect of their business.

"We service a lot of our veterans, and in fact, probably 80% of our business right now is with the veterans," she said. "We take care of the veterans, we can do therapy for them, nursing wound care, all those types of things. We can also do their personal care, help them with showers or as little as driving them to an appointment for a doctor's appointment, going grocery shopping for them, helping them strip and remake their bed, emptying the trash."

Callison, the daughter of a nurse, has been helping to take care of patients in their homes since she was a young girl. As an adult with small children of her own, she brought meals and did light housework for members of her church, who appreciated the help and enjoyed seeing her children.

She later went back to school, earned a Business Administration degree in Health Care, and was licensed to work in Oklahoma as a Home Health Administrator. She was a co-owner of a staffing firm providing home health care services before starting CHH.

Callison said the lessons she learned as a child with her mother helped shape her vision for Cornerstone.

"My mother did work in convalescent homes," she said. "She was working almost 16-hour days, and she ended up getting her RN license through the convalescent home years ago. After my dad got back from Vietnam, she started working in private homes for individuals. Somewhere between eight and nine years old, I went with my mother at times to go out to these people's homes and help her work alongside her because we became their families. Senior care or the home care portion is a big part of keeping people in their home and keeping them from having to need advanced care."

Callison said Cornerstone Home Health is about building relationships

with their clients and families.

"We'd find out what their needs are and if they're needing transportation to the doctor, if they're needing physical therapy, if they've got a wound or if they're, then we have to find out first what their needs are," she said. "Then we would discuss what our services are."

Callison said faith led her journey to Cornerstone Home Health.

"I look back on my life and the Lord had been preparing me ever since I was a young girl for this kind of work," she said. "It's very challenging, it's rewarding, it's hurtful. You've got to have a passion because if it's about the money, it isn't going to happen."

Now, the veteran-owned company is expanding its footprint by opening a location in Weatherford.

"We've opened an office this summer in Weatherford and started taking clients here, within about a 35- to 40-mile radius of Weatherford," Kathy McGee, Business Development Administrator. "That's going to include Custer County, Blaine County, basically all the way up I-40 back into Oklahoma City."

McGee said Cornerstone saw a growing need for its services outside of Oklahoma City.

"It wasn't necessarily a decision to press forward in one area. It just came out of being contacted to take care of a client, then another," she said. "Instead of bringing people from Oklahoma City to do that, we decided that we would just go forward this way. We opened the office in the summer, started getting to know some people in the area, and we are really starting to dial into community activities and taking more patients."

McGee said Cornerstone Home Health wants to hire local caregivers in their expanded area.

"Clients that are here in the Weatherford, Clinton area, their caregivers are going to be from the Weatherford, Clinton area," she said. "If we have a client that's in Hinton or Watonga, it's probably going to be more like someone from that area. Our goal is hiring caregivers in those areas that are closer to those clients that we have in the rural markets."

McGee said Cornerstone is focusing on personal care services for seniors and veterans in their



Balinda Callison, President of Cornerstone Home Health



Cornerstone Home Health has been providing services to seniors and veterans in the Oklahoma City metro area since 2003. The veteran-owned company is expanding its footprint by opening an office in Weatherford.

expanded area.

"We'll start with maybe light duty housekeeping, meal prep, cooking. We can help with some showering, running errands, some of those kinds of things," she said. "We offer nursing services for veterans now and will expand nursing services to seniors in 2025." For more information call (405) 354-5454 or visit www.cornerstonehomehealthservices.com.

Mercy Primary Care Provider Honored as Oklahoma's Physician Assistant of the Year

Amanda Laughlin knew as a teenager she wanted to be a health care professional, but it was in college that she realized a physician assistant role was her calling.

Now after 15 years in her field, Laughlin has risen to the top - she's the Oklahoma Academy of Physician Associates' Physician Assistant of the Year for 2024.

"I was pleasantly surprised to earn this award. It's such an honor to be recognized by my colleagues in Oklahoma," said Laughlin. "I love taking care of patients and establishing those relationships and trust. Being a part of Mercy has been such a blessing to me and my family." Laughlin practices at Mercy Clinic Primary Care - Piedmont, 11900 Northwest Expressway. She's a primary care provider and part of Mercy's extensive network in central Oklahoma.



Amanda Nicole Laughlin, PA

Physician assistants are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in all specialties and settings. They work closely with physicians and undertake a wide variety of duties: conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, prescribe medication, perform research, develop treatment plans and much more. The annual physician assistant award goes to a caregiver who provides top-quality health care, exemplary service and leadership that furthers the image of the profession in Oklahoma. The academy announces the award in early October in recognition of National Physician Assistant Week. The organization honored Laughlin for her work on Mercy's leadership council and as a mentor to and advocate for physician assistants across the state.

Visit <https://www.mercy.net> for more information.

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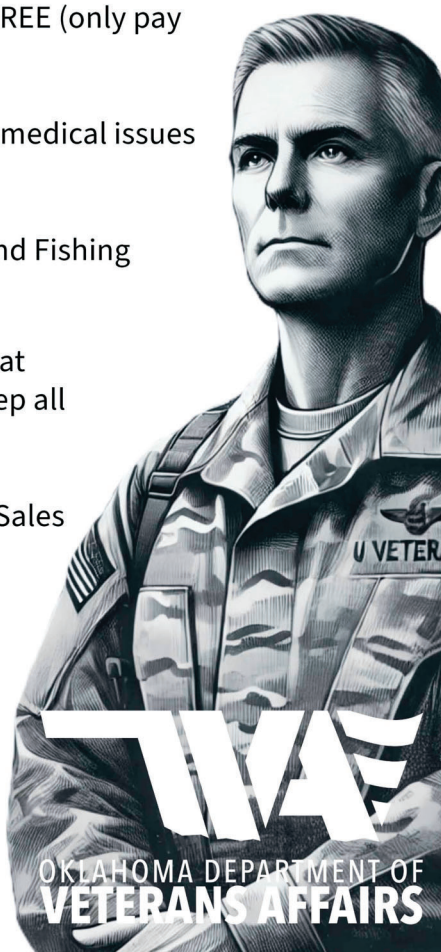
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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2024 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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Oklahoma Hospital Association Presents Top Award to Tammy Powell

Tammy Powell, RNC, MPH, FACHE, president of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Oklahoma City and Bone & Joint Hospital at St. Anthony, received the Oklahoma Hospital Association (OHA) W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award, the OHA's top award. This award is presented each year to an individual in the hospital or health care industry who has made a substantial contribution of service to the OHA, the profession of health care management and community service. It was presented last week at the OHA's 105th annual convention.

Powell has more than 30 years of health care leadership experience. A mental health nurse by training, Powell rapidly advanced her career to oversee one of the largest hospitals in Oklahoma. She is a passionate advocate for health care funding and services for Oklahoma residents, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Powell graduated with a Master of Public Health and Bachelor of

Science, Nursing degree from the University of Oklahoma. She is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She has served on the OHA board of directors since 2018 and was chair in 2022 and 2023. She has also served on numerous OHA councils, including quality & patient safety, education, finance & information services, advocacy, and rural health. She currently serves on the OHA PAC board of trustees and the finance committee.

Powell serves on numerous other community boards including Downtown OKC, Oklahoma National Memorial and Museum, EMSA, and Oklahoma City University.

Powell is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City Class XXV, the 2021 Journal Record Woman of the Year Award winner, 2021 OHA Advocacy in Action Award winner, and 2012 OKC Friday Rising Star. She was also named in the 2022 Most Influential Oklahomans list presented by the Journal Record.



Tammy Powell (left) receives the OHA Distinguished Service Award from Rich Rasmussen, OHA president and CEO, and Denise Webber, OHA board chair and president/CEO of Stillwater Medical.

OU Health Nurses Honored with 2024 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards

Four registered nurses from OU Health received a 2024 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award, recognizing their exceptional contributions to patient care and the nursing profession in Oklahoma.

Beckett Perkins, Katherine Bracken, and Jessica Noll won in the Advanced Practice, Neonatal/Pediatric and Women's Health categories. Additionally, Michelle Welander, Chief Nursing Officer at Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health, was awarded Influencer of the Year.

"Having our nurses recognized for this prestigious award reflects the extraordinary level of care and commitment demonstrated by our nursing staff," said OU Health Chief Nurse Executive Stefanie Beavers, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC. "These healthcare professionals exemplify the highest standards of patient care, compassion, and service excellence that define OU Health."

Twelve nurses were recognized as finalists, including Linda Perron, Katelynn Collins, Rachel Eudey, Mikayla Gathers, Christina Bruster,

John Karlin, Cherrylene Montano, Bobbie Tobae, Lauren Lindemann (Basso), Breleigh Hughes, Janette Davis and Tamika Rhodes.

These dedicated healthcare professionals serve across various areas of OU Health, including Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health and OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center, serving patients in inpatient and ambulatory settings.

Recognizing Excellence in Nursing

The March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards recognize nurses across various categories who demonstrate excellence and achievements in quality patient care, innovation, and leadership in their specific disciplines. Nominations are submitted by colleagues, supervisors, or the families of those they have served. Winners are selected by a committee of healthcare professionals who review each confidential nomination.

"These results highlight our nurses' dedication to advancing healthcare excellence and their unwavering commitment to serving our patients



OU Health Nurse of the Year Award Winners and Finalists

and communities," said Beavers. "Each finalist represents the core values that drive our mission at OU Health, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements."

To learn more about nursing opportunities at OU Health, visit www.ouhealth.com/careers/nursing-careers/.

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