



Nursing annual report

2022

Dear colleagues and friends,

This nursing annual report offers a reflection of the past year at Cook Children's; celebrating the values our nurses bring to Cook Children's - each in their own unique way. Our nurses truly embraced the values of kindness, imagination, safety, respect, generosity and collaboration.

Our nurses are empowered to think innovatively and implement quality improvement initiatives. A Behavioral Emergency Response Team was created to support staff when caring for our high-risk behavioral health patients, a population that has increased since the beginning of the pandemic.

You also will read about 38 nurses who presented at the Society of Pediatric Nursing conference, nurse resident projects that are making a difference in the quality of life for our patients, a nurse who desires to lessen the communication challenges for Spanish-speaking parents, and research nurses improving patient care and outcomes, not only at Cook Children's but globally. Each nurses' commitment to evidence-based practice shined through in their hard work every day at our Magnet® designated facility.

I am very proud of our outstanding nurses who continued to persevere through unprecedented numbers of COVID-19, flu and RSV patients. Connected together, our team of 1,800 nurses brought hope and joy to children and families in some of their most vulnerable times. I saw them taking empathy to a different level, meeting our families where they were and making their lives better in any way possible.

I am honored to share this Nursing annual report that highlights the many ways our nurses care for patients and families as if they were

their own. As one patient's mom said, "My daughter has been coming to Cook Children's almost every week since she was diagnosed with leukemia, so the nurses are her people now. They truly do become family."

Cheryl Petersen

Cheryl Petersen, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC
Senior Vice President, Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer



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Nursing mission statement

Cook Children's Nursing is committed to supporting the Cook Children's Promise and values by providing continuous, excellent care for our patients and families, resulting in the highest quality outcomes.

Nursing philosophy

Nursing at Cook Children's is about caring and quality. We commit to caring for our patients, our community and our colleagues by demonstrating the values listed on our professional practice model.





Cook Children's Promise

Knowing every child's life is sacred, we promise to improve the well-being of every child in our care and our communities.

Nursing value: Safety

Making life better for the whole family



Nguyen Ha pictured above

At 18 years old, **Nguyen Ha, BSN, RN**, began volunteering in the Pharmacy at Cook Children's. After spending time interacting with nurses while delivering medications, Nguyen immediately knew nursing was his calling. Nguyen cares for children on the medical/surgical floor with conditions ranging from RSV to flu. He says the most rewarding part of his job is seeing the children improve and go home. "I work to the best of my ability for every single patient and love the people I work with," said Nguyen.

If anyone is having an especially hard day, Nguyen says the team steps in wherever they can from admitting patients to helping with medications. "Everyone who is involved with the patient care, including the Environmental Services staff who clean the room, plays a part in getting the children healthier," said Nguyen.

As Nguyen works to earn a pediatric nurse practitioner degree, his goal is to stay at the hospital. "I think I'll spend the rest of my life at Cook Children's," Nguyen said.

"Nguyen is simply amazing. My daughter has been in and out of the hospital so much and nurse Nguyen has made life in Cook Children's so much better. He is always there to lighten the mood by being silly and telling funny jokes. Not only that, when I was here with my daughter, I had a seizure and he was there for me. He called medics and stayed with me until they got there. My anxiety also started to get the best of me and he was there to cheer me up. I am very grateful for him. He is truly a blessing."

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Safety

Connecting in special ways with patients



Adrea Crump, third from the right, and her colleagues celebrate teamwork

Before every shift, **Adrea Crump, BSN, RN**, prays and asks God to guide her hands and mind as she works with patients and families. Adrea says every day brings different challenges, but her goal is always to get to know the patients and families. One of those patients was a child who was scared of being in the hospital. Adrea worked on making a connection with the mom first and then the child by checking the teddy bear's blood pressure. "As the night went on, this child let me do everything without being fearful and progressed so much he was able to go home the next day," said Adrea. "A big part of pediatric nursing is connecting with the family." Adrea's love for kids matched with a team who works well together makes an ideal work environment.

"I love the people I work with at Cook Children's. We all help each other on the night shift and feed off each other's vibes," said Adrea.

"Adrea stood out to me like no other. Her attention to my son was something that brought tears to my eyes. As any kid when they aren't feeling good, all my son wanted was me, and he flipped the minute anyone entered the room. Adrea noticed that from him. So she made it her mission to slowly break that wall. She always asked and tried different ways to check vitals and IV checks to make sure his fluids were doing well, but in a way, my son would not feel overwhelmed. She came up with a brilliant idea. She asked to check his teddy's vitals. You see, the fact that she tried everything under the sun to make my son comfortable given the circumstances is what made this momma's heart melt. Not only is Adrea extremely knowledgeable and gave me the plan for each night she was scheduled with us, but she had a heart of gold. It takes a special kind of heart to care for patients and I believe she was our angel on this hospital visit."

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Safety

Keeping patients safe by decreasing central line infection rates

Josephine Camus, BSN, RN, wears many hats as one of three line nurses at the Hematology and Oncology Center. Specializing in central lines, PICC lines and mediports, Josephine and her team serve as a resource for the unit. When the Infusion Nurses Society (INS) updated standards for changing caps prior to drawing blood cultures, Josephine's manager began her own research with the goal of reducing central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI).

"Our floor has a lot of cap changes, so we weighed the risks versus the benefits and found new evidence of false positive results to not changing caps," said **Laura Portillo, BSN, RN**, nurse manager. "We worked with Solutions for Patient Safety to put a protocol in place to change caps prior to blood cultures and have seen a huge improvement. It has been a collaborative effort on every front. The Hematology and Oncology Center piloted a lot and we were able to implement interventions hospital-wide, which is encouraging."

Josephine says the CLABSI crew played an essential role in developing the policy. The group, a unit-based committee created by Laura Portillo and quality specialist **Maggie Maxtin, BSN, RN**, includes 20 day and night shift nurses, educators and a provider. They meet once a month to discuss topics relating to central lines and to brainstorm ideas. When rolling out education, they think of creative ways to encourage staff.

"CLABSI crew did a great job describing the scenarios they have had or other bedside nurses have experienced when changing caps prior to cultures," Josephine said. "Because of this, we encouraged our nurses to implement a buddy system when it comes to drawing cultures to make sure we are continuously able to draw our cultures within policy every time."

As Josephine and Maggie provided the education and data behind changing caps prior to cultures, they saw a big increase in compliance. The unit achieved a sustained decrease in CLABSI infection rates for eight consecutive quarters, which dropped their center line – an accomplishment made possible by the collaborative effort and one the unit had not seen for 10 years. **Tiffany Epperson, MSN, RN**, director of the Hematology and Oncology Center, is thrilled about the CLABSI reduction rate and says the hard work and dedication the team has put into the project are invaluable.

"Laura and Josephine have been such amazing leaders and project managers," Tiffany said. "I'm beyond proud of each and every staff member for the work they do every day. Reducing CLABSI rates is a team effort and such a positive outcome for our patients. Cheers to teamwork and providing exceptional patient care."



Laura Portillo, nurse manager, works with Solutions for Patient Safety, a national network of more than 145 children's hospitals with the vision that no child will ever experience serious harm while being healed.

Laura researched ways to protect lines for patients who have diarrhea, nausea and vomiting and ordered foam protectors to keep lines out of their way.

She also searched for solutions to help patients who have a hard time keeping their hands off the dressing and discovered CareAline® wraps – a soft fabric with Velcro® to tuck into the caps. Our Hematology and Oncology Center was the first to trial the wraps with central lines and PICC lines.

Nursing value: Collaboration

Putting all the pieces together



Rachel Harless, pictured top row, second from the right

Rachel Harless, BSN, RN, has been on both sides of the hospital – as a patient and now a nurse. After being born at 30 weeks gestation, hospital visits were a big part of her childhood. “Being in the hospital as a kid, you learn that the people around you make a difference in your day,” said Rachel. “That makes me want to be a better nurse.”

Starting out as a nurse for adults, Rachel says she picked up skills that help her tune into the children and families she cares for, such as when parents need an advocate. On the floor that treats patients from Endocrinology, Rheumatology and serves as an overflow for Psychology, she watches for parents who don’t

feel comfortable and need more questions answered. Rachel facilitates all the different people involved in their medical care to get them on the same page.

“I love what I do. I’m really close with every single nurse on my floor. We’re all each other’s support system,” Rachel said.

“My 17-year-old daughter was in excruciating pain and was overwhelmed. When I left the room, Rachel intuitively recognized my daughter was having a hard time and sat with her to support her until I was back in the room. She made an appropriate pain management plan with my child and looked after her mom as well. When my child’s pain level was increasing, she listened to and validated her concerns about the stronger medication. She was a calm, reassuring presence during a long night. Not only is she an excellent nurse, but she delivers nursing care with a level of compassion and advocacy that is unrivaled.”

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Collaboration

Behavioral Emergency Response Team (BERT)



Lisa Farmer, pictured top left and Jennifer Horn, pictured bottom left with members of the BERT team

Many times, hospital stays for children trigger fear, stress or memories of trauma. This can result in escalations of behavior, which quickly becomes a dangerous environment for the patients and employees. **Lisa Farmer, BSN, RN-BC, LMSW**, director of Psychiatry Services and a Cook Children's employee for 17 years, has seen the need emerge for a dedicated team to respond to these urgent situations as they arise.

"A few years ago, our team started lobbying for a solution," Lisa said. The hospital has seen a large increase of high-risk behavioral patients including an over 40% increase in suicide

attempt patients on non-psychiatric floors. Since the pandemic began, there has also been an uptick in children presenting with disruptive and aggressive behaviors, as well as those with autism or delays, whose families have been in crisis mode and could no longer manage these symptoms at home.

Additional employees were hired and the program specialists, who are direct caregivers on the psychiatry unit, became the responders to these behavioral events. Nurse residents completed a project with extensive research on the effectiveness of a group of staff members trained to react to escalations. This planning team utilized this research to understand Cook Children's needs, in order to develop the response team and policy. The BERT team was then created.

Jennifer Horn, MSN, RN, CPN, CPPS, quality improvement coordinator in Clinical Collaborative, works with Solutions for Patient Safety, a clinical collaborative of 145 pediatric hospitals which focuses on patient safety initiatives and reducing harm. Since 2018, Jennifer has worked closely with Occupational Health, which tracks employee injuries as a result of patient actions, such as kicking, hitting or biting. "Our first planning meeting came just in the nick of time because we saw a big influx of high-acuity behavioral patients," Jennifer said.

Nursing value: Respect

Nurse treats patients as she would her own

Amber Harkey, BSN, RN, CPN, has a special connection with the moms of the patients she treats. For Amber, being away from her own kids is a challenge, but when a mom hugs her at the end of a shift, it is all worth it. “There are times when a mom will cry and tell me she really needed me that day, and that’s when I’m reminded I’m exactly where I need to be,” Amber said.

One mom, in particular, left a mark on Amber. The patient has come in several times throughout the years; the first when she was just a baby with a fever.

“We all had more questions than answers, and the mom didn’t speak English. I was still in the process of learning Spanish so the conversations we had were very small, but we were still able to communicate and connect. They were scared and tired and it felt so good to be able to love on their daughter and hug the mom,” said Amber.

“The child did get a very hard diagnosis and we have seen each other several times, but each time it has been bittersweet because we get to see milestones she is meeting. It’s hard to see someone walk through something so hard, like a life-changing diagnosis for their child. But just something as simple as offering them a cup of coffee and being available for the broken small conversations really helped them, too. She holds a special place in my heart.”

Amber has worked on the respiratory and infectious disease floor for seven years. She cares for patients with cystic fibrosis and says she gets to know all about their lives and families. She says the most rewarding part is sending kids home after helping them through a particularly rough time, such as the babies with RSV. “It’s a complete 180 for those babies,” Amber said. “The moms are also in a much better state.”

Amber says she has an incredibly close team with a blend of people who have worked at the hospital for three to 20 years and bring different experiences to the group. Some have worked in the Hematology and Oncology Center and are well-versed in central lines and ports, while others have experience in IVs or catheters.

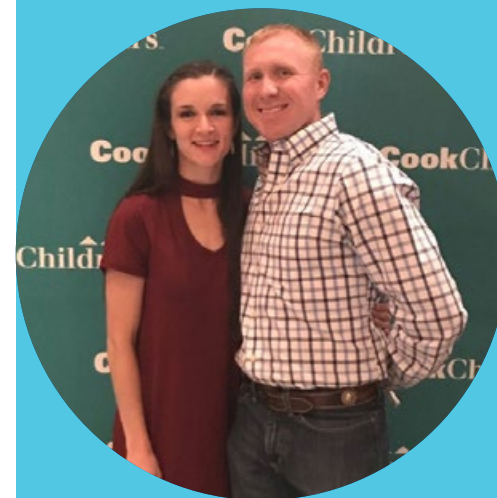
“I love my team and my manager is awesome. We support each other outside of work relating to maternity leave, financial burdens, and being a parent, and we all share our struggles. It helps us work really well together. We know what each other’s tones of voice mean and can tell when someone needs help.”

“Amber is the epitome of the Cook Children’s Promise and family-centered care. She treated Ainsley just as she would her own. Not only did she care for our sweet baby, she cared for me as well. She showed me empathy as we discussed the challenges of being both a nurse and a mom and how oftentimes, those two worlds collide. She was always present in what she was doing, never in a rush to get out of the room. She reassured me when my anxiety was getting the best of me and reminded me that I also needed to take care of myself. While this was one of the most challenging times in Ainsley’s life so far, I’m forever grateful that Amber was put in our path. She is a true blessing to the nursing profession. Cook Children’s is lucky to have her.”

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®



Amber Harkey, pictured above and below on the left



Nursing value: Respect

Improving communication for Spanish-speaking families



Jennifer Stephen, pictured above

For parents whose children are in the hospital, communication with caregivers is key. One nurse realized the challenges Spanish-speaking parents experienced and wanted to make a difference. **Jennifer Stephen, Ph.D., RN, CPN**, who has served as a nurse at Cook Children's for 29 years, has a special interest in health equity for children and families. For her Ph.D. project, she explored the culturally congruent care needs of Spanish-speaking parents who speak little to no English. She interviewed 11 parents who identified as having limited English proficiency with children ages eight or younger. "We touched on several topics including family, social support and technology," Jennifer said.

Jennifer obtained grants from the Society of Pediatric Nurses, DAISY Foundation™ and Transcultural Nursing Society. After collecting information, Jennifer analyzed the qualitative pieces looking for categories, patterns and themes. The three themes were:

- Role of the mother as an ever-present manager of care for the hospitalized child
- Parents felt negative feelings about their child being in the hospital, but said their child received good care
- Parents expected nursing care to be kind, compassionate, attentive and considerate

Jennifer discovered parents did not realize they had a right to an interpreter. She wanted to empower them and let them know how to access language services. "The goal is to put processes in place that are automatic and make it smooth and easy for these families to have the language access they need," Jennifer said. Jennifer's manuscript will be published in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing, and presented at the Society of Pediatric Nurses conference in the spring of 2023. "The whole process was very enlightening," Jennifer said. "For these parents, taking the time to communicate meant that you were caring. My hope is to help develop processes and interventions through participatory action research that will facilitate communication with nurses and parents."

Nursing value: Respect

Empowering nurses to end mental health stigma



Rachel Mark, pictured above on right

Rachel Mark, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC, learned firsthand that conversations with patients about mental health could save lives. During Rachel's first year as a nurse practitioner, the number of mental health appointments assigned to her was overwhelming. She feared she would say the wrong things to this population and cause them more harm. Rachel's personal growth in helping those with mental illness stimulated her to focus her doctor of nursing practice (DNP) project on an intervention that would empower nurses with the confidence to communicate with patients and their families about mental health concerns. "A psychiatry case manager initiated a suicide screening tool in the Emergency Department, and her research found that nurses are uncomfortable

communicating about mental illness," Rachel said. "There is a stigma toward patients with mental health disorders."

Rachel networked with organizations across the nation collecting video productions she would use in her "A Walk in My Shoes" behavioral health stigma reduction bundle. These videos would potentially connect nurses with stories of those who have a mental health illness, and a history of health care stigma while providing communication tips for this topic. Rachel also met with This is My Brave, an organization whose mission is "to empower individuals to put their names and faces on their true stories of recovery from mental illness and addiction."

Now Rachel and her team track how many patients are referred to clinical therapy. She revamped her DNP project proposal and implemented her behavioral health stigma reduction intervention in 12 weeks in the spring of 2023, in which staff on the short stay unit participated. Employees will receive mental health resources, video contact with mental health patients and hear real suicide stories. Rachel hopes to expand the educational program throughout Cook Children's Medical Center.

"Having the confidence to initiate these conversations can be lifesaving. I'm proud of what I perceive will happen with this initiative," said Rachel.

Nursing value: Imagination

Finding the magic in little moments



Shelly Litchfield, pictured above with Peaks the Dragon®

As a nurse on the Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant floor, **Shelly Litchfield, BSN, RN**, walks parents through some of the toughest times of their children's lives. She says the little moments, like making friendship bracelets and playing Nerf gun wars in the hallway, make her realize how close she gets to patients and families. "Many times these kids don't fully know the gravity of the situation they are in, so we try to make the experience as enjoyable as possible," said Shelly. "It's during those times that I realize how much they depend on me and trust me." Sometimes that trust does not come easily or quickly. But Shelly knows just what to do for each patient. For birthdays, she surprises her patients by decorating their rooms while they are

sleeping. For the younger patients who love the nurse badges, Shelly makes them a badge of their own. "It is a great distraction when you are trying to get them to sit still for you to take their vitals or do your assessment. It also is really fun for them to see their faces on the badge. Most of them love to parade around the hallways with a stethoscope and listen to everyone's hearts or take their temperature," said Shelly.

Oftentimes, patients can have planned admissions, and Shelly is so honored when patients ask if she can be their nurse again. "We get to make these really special relationships with our kids since they are here for a week or even two months. We show them that not all interactions with a doctor or nurse are scary or end with them being hurt or poked. I always remind them that there will be hard times, but I will be with them through it all."

"Shelly, each and every time, has gone out of her way to be there for little Olivia. For instance, one day Shelly noticed Olivia loved the nurse's badges, so Shelly made a little badge for Olivia to keep. Olivia loved it and wore it! She still has the badge with her name on it at home! These small gestures of kindness are the things that really mean the most, especially to the children of this unit. Shelly took the time to care and create a small little item for Olivia, which meant the world, especially when that world felt like it was crumbling."

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Imagination

Getting creative with the kids



Audrey Bledsoe, pictured top right with her team

Audrey Bledsoe, BSN, RN, knew she wanted to care for children after working at Camp John Marc. Camp John Marc is a year-round specialized camp, uniquely designed in partnership with Dallas-Fort Worth pediatric hospitals, community volunteers and health organizations dedicated to serving campers with chronic medical and physical challenges.

Now, as a nurse in the Infusion Clinic at Cook Children’s, Audrey gets to know her patients very well. “These kids don’t choose to get sick, but I do my best to help them,” said Audrey. “The best part is when I get to see kids finish chemotherapy and we throw a party with confetti while the kids ring the bell.”

Audrey started on a different floor in 2019, and when she was on the night shift, one of her patients lost his tooth. She wrote the 6-year-old a note from the tooth fairy and left a dollar bill covered in glitter under his pillow. The next day, he told everyone about the tooth fairy visiting him in the hospital. “Months later they came back and the mom asked if I was the tooth fairy. It’s fun to get creative with the kids,” said Audrey.

Audrey says she couldn’t ask for a better work environment than the one at Cook Children’s. “The culture is different. Everyone is treated with kindness and like family.”

“My son came into the hospital for a planned fasting study. The morning before he had the study, he lost a tooth at home. He was so worried that the tooth fairy would not be able to find him at the hospital, but he brought his tooth just in case. Nurse Audrey found out about my son’s worries and in her free time, “the tooth fairy” made the sweetest little card that told him how special he is and left him a dollar under his pillow. It was sweet and thoughtful and my husband and I will never forget how kind she was.”

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Imagination

The 32nd Annual Society of Pediatric Nursing Conference



Cook Children's nurses attended Society of Pediatric Nursing Conference

At the first in-person meeting for the Society of Pediatric Nursing since 2019, 38 Cook Children's nurses submitted and presented projects. Located in Disneyland, the theme of the conference was "Embracing the Magic of Innovation."

"At Disneyland, you couldn't help but feel the magic," said **Mary Cazzell, Ph.D., RN**, director of Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice at Cook Children's. "We had 13 posters and eight podium presentations. The nurses focused on research, quality improvement, evidence-based practice and educational initiatives. My goal was to acknowledge and recognize nurses who have completed strong projects," said Mary. All

abstracts submitted were accepted – the most in the history of Cook Children's. Mary guided the nurses through the process of developing the poster or podium presentation, but ultimately "they are the experts," she says. Special recognition during the closing ceremony highlighted the impact of Cook Children's, and one poster won the People's Choice Award. "It's been a tough two years and I felt very proud of our nurses," Mary said. "They stood out and were prepared, engaging and ready with handouts. I loved seeing the confidence through the eyes of the newer nurses who were first-time presenters at the conference."

Cailin Halvorson, BSN, RN, and Jamie Gomez, BSN, RN, submitted an abstract for their personality matching project, which was accepted for a 30-minute podium presentation. They studied personality matching between nurse residents and preceptors. The goal is to find out if the two people have similar personalities, does it create higher confidence and better practice? Is it more effective? The results showed that pairing nurse residents with similar personality types increased confidence and satisfaction when first starting out. "We talked through the process of getting buy-in from nurse educators and managers, reviewed current literature and used the Myers-Briggs assessment," Cailin said. "When incoming nurse residents were hired, we set up a time for them to complete the Myers-Briggs assessment."

Hayden Laukoter, BSN, RN, a nurse on the Neurosciences floor for two years, presented a poster. She noticed inconsistent charting with a withdrawal assessment tool used in units throughout the medical center with no policies for it. Pharmacists and doctors looked at the score to determine if patients needed to be weaned from a medication. Hayden and three other nurse residents worked with the pain team and surveyed nurses in the Transitional Care Unit (TCU), Rehabilitation Care Unit (RCU) and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), before sending out education and a follow-up survey. The results pointed to the need for education. “The pain team loved the idea and created a policy for the tool,” Hayden said. For Hayden, the conference solidified her decision to pursue a nursing career at Cook Children’s. “The conference gave me a glimpse of nursing as we met with nurses from many other hospitals. It made me even more impressed with the hospital and appreciative that Cook Children’s invested in nurses enough to send all of us there.”

Tori Sandsor, BSN, RN, CPN, CPEN, a nurse in the critical care float pool, and **Alyssa Slavin, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPN, NC-BC**, internal staffing nurse, completed an evidence-based practice project on mitigating drift in nursing practice – nurses deviating from the standard of care unintentionally because of a lack of resources. The two nurses found that clinical nurse leaders in every unit were very helpful, so after the project, the NICU and PICU each hired a nurse leader on their units. Developing a unit-based preceptor committee, with quarterly skills checkoffs for preceptors, would ensure consistency in the teaching of new hires and mitigate practice drift.

On **Jordan Staggs, MSN, RN** and **Andrea Knott, BSN, RN**’s surgical-trauma unit, they saw many patients after surgery who

struggled to get up and walk. The length of stay and hospital-acquired conditions are directly affected by when and how much patients get up and walk after surgery. The two nurses worked on a research study using IVEA early ambulation devices, which replace the IV poles, for children who had spinal fusions or abdominal surgeries. The device has a stable base with handles for kids to hold onto and areas for all medical equipment to be organized.

“Jordan and I had preliminary data that was promising,” said Andrea. “It was a collaborative process with managers helping to collect data and nurses and patient care techs and secretaries being aware of criteria to help identify patients and obtain consent.”

There was clinical significance with the new devices – patients were staying in the hospital one day less when using it – which amounted to a savings of \$558,477.18. Andrea and Jordan presented a poster at the conference and had many inquiring members.

They submitted a grant proposal to The Peaks Foundation for additional devices and were awarded the grant in full. “It’s an incredible blessing,” said Jordan. “It feels great knowing that two bedside nurses, in our extra time, can directly impact care and truly make a difference.”

Nursing Resident projects – media use

Decreasing patients' screen time

Helen Sweeney, BSN, RN, CPN, works night shifts and noticed the movie "Moana", playing on a patient's TV as she left to go home that morning. That evening she returned, and the movie was still playing what seemed like on repeat. **Jill Watson, BSN, RN, CPN**, sees iPads regularly used as a distraction technique and a way to cope. These nurses along with **Lauren Williams, BSN, RN, CPN, Hailee Storie, BSN, RN, CPN, and Samantha Smith, BSN, RN, CPN**, studied ways screen time was affecting patients for their evidence-based research project. "We have seen it in so many areas of the hospital," Lauren said. "The TV is on and blaring even for babies, instead of age-appropriate entertainment such as a sensory toy." The nurses involved Child Life specialists to find out how the screens were affecting development and surveyed the managers and nurses on the floors.

"Screen time affects every aspect of development, including cognitive and social," Lauren said. "I didn't realize this project would be as eye-opening as it has been." The group of nurses put together a pre-survey for nurses on the inpatient floors asking questions such as "What media use education are you aware of?" and "Do you try to utilize it with your patients?" Media use under the age of 1 was their main focus. They also provided education including the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and alternatives for each age group "We found a major education gap," Lauren said. "Children under the age of 2 should not be watching TV at all. Children age 18 months to 5 years old should have one hour or less of high-quality programming."

The group dug deeper and found out that nurses rarely, if ever, walked into a patient's room during their shifts without the TV on.

"It's one of those things as a nurse we don't think about," Lauren said. "But it makes a difference, especially for the ones who spend long amounts of time in the hospital, like the babies on the cardiac step-down floor. Parents tell me that when they go home, they have to put a TV in their child's room because they are hooked on it and can't live any other way." The group provided education with a video presentation, which Lauren says was received very well, and they left educational fliers at places nurses frequent, such as hand sanitizer stations and break rooms. Their motto was "Screen Time Doesn't Equal Dream Time."

The nurses sent a post-survey to parents on the floors asking if they knew the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations. For some, it was a matter of awareness and education to fix the problem.

Lauren and the other nurses have continued to brainstorm ideas to alleviate the problem, such as volunteers holding the babies during the busiest times of the night when the nurses are preoccupied with bathing, changing linens and giving medications.

"These children are already taking a step back by being in the hospital so we do what we can to help them not be even more behind," said Lauren.



Nursing Resident projects – music

Bringing joy to patients through music

Beyond the doors of the Dodson Surgery Center, patients dance, and parents clap and sing along to the music. It is typically a place with smiling faces, thanks to the addition of a rover, a sensory and distraction device with a bubble tube and long noodles that light up. It also shows pictures and plays music.

While traditionally used for patients with autism, a group of perioperative nurses uncovered a new way to put the rover to work. **Skylar Angelmaier, BSN, RN, CPN, Ally Accipiter, BSN, RN, CPN,** and **Casey Erickson, BSN, RN, CPN,** discovered a significant amount of literature linking positive outcomes when using a rover in preoperative areas.

“Before surgery, kids are usually unhappy and hungry,” said **Angie York, MSN, RN CPN,** nurse manager at the Dodson Surgery Center. “Our area of the hospital needed something to help boost morale and calm patients. We are very big on research and improvement projects, so when Casey and the other nurses asked to trial the rover, I supported them to move forward.”

The group sent out surveys to all staff members to determine expectations and the kind of music that would be best. For several weeks after introducing the rover, they surveyed staff and received positive feedback with 100% of them asking for the rover to be a permanent addition.

During Casey’s shifts, child-friendly music streams from an 8-hour playlist she created on her phone with hopes that one day a dedicated iPad will carry the tunes continuously.

“It really does set a different tone and seems to make everyone happy,” Casey said.



Sensory rover device pictured here

Nursing Resident projects – sleep hygiene

Promoting quality sleep for patients on the Psychiatry unit

Christina Tan, BSN, RN, a night shift nurse who rotated on the inpatient Psychiatry unit, noticed patients struggling with sleep. Staff members seemed to know methods they could use but no policies or handouts were in place. Christina and other night shift nurse residents, **Andi Alfaro, BSN, RN**, **Abey Schmidt, BSN, RN** and **Valerie Shorten, BSN, RN**, jumped into action.

“We thought they needed a consistent plan to help these patients fall asleep and decrease insomnia,” Christina said. During the nurses’ research, they found that sleep hygiene is important for growth, mood, alertness and attention, learning and memory, cognitive performance and happiness.

Poor sleep hygiene in early childhood has been linked to decreased productivity and focus, allergic rhinitis and immune system problems, development of sleep disorders, future cardiovascular risks and long-term effects on academic performance and mental health.

They researched and created an evidence-based sleep hygiene bundle with the goal of increasing the staff’s knowledge and awareness to increase their confidence in using non-pharmacological interventions. The bundle comes with seven categories including a rover with music and lights, environmental changes, music therapy, comfort, food/drink, relaxing activities and pharmacological interventions.

The nurses worked with a multidisciplinary team including inpatient psychiatry nurses, program specialists and behavioral care partners, a therapist manager, a psychiatry case manager, a pain management coordinator, an educator, a psychiatry director and a sleep clinic.

They initiated a survey to assess the current knowledge of sleep hygiene and interventions used to help patients sleep. Education through the sleep hygiene bundle was initiated before sending a post survey to all staff members on the floor to evaluate the effectiveness of the education material and knowledge gained after viewing it. Everyone responded that they felt more knowledgeable about interventions to help promote sleep hygiene and decrease insomnia within patients.

“The bundles allow patients to choose what they like and having a visual for both staff and patients really helps. We are excited for the bundle to expand and hope to create more for high-risk patients,” said Christina.



Christina Tan, pictured here holding the new sleep hygiene bundle

Nursing value: Generosity

Giving patients a listening ear



Colin O'Donnell, pictured above

It didn't take long for **Colin O'Donnell, BSN, RN, CPN** to know that he was meant to be in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit – two shifts to be exact. After hands-on experience in almost every area of the hospital during nursing residency, Colin wrote: "There is nowhere else that I would rather be than in the CICU. It felt great to be using my skills, brain power and accumulated knowledge in the CICU. The team has unmatched teamwork ability and is very quick to step in and help each other. They are all genuine superheroes and I want to learn to fly with them. Nine years later, those thoughts still hold true.

"The team that I work with are the best, most intelligent and compassionate humans I have ever had the privilege of knowing," said Colin. Everyone here is on a first-name basis and it took a little getting used to for me when I first started. We ensure every patient receives exceptional care and support each other ceaselessly to achieve that goal. But that's how a family operates and that's what we are." Colin says he loves how everyone at Cook Children's approaches each child individually to meet their unique needs – an approach he takes with each patient's family. "These families and patients are going through some of the hardest times in their lives, and I give them whatever I can – an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a plethora of knowledge to help answer their questions. I remember one shift when I was the charge nurse and a mom just needed someone to talk to. I was able to sit with her for 45 minutes and let her vent all their emotions and concerns. Her child was my patient the day before, but someone to talk to is what she needed the most that following day," said Colin.

"Colin saw that I was upset, came into our room, and asked me how he could help. It was the most gracious thing. Colin made me feel better as he just talked to me about my feelings. He went above and beyond and I am so thankful for him. He went above and beyond and I am so thankful for him."

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Generosity

Bringing smiles to patients' faces



Myrshawell located bottom right

Myrshawell Inocencio, BSN, RN, will always remember the time one of her patients started smiling again. "A teen patient got a nasogastric (NG) tube which was emotionally draining for her," said Myrshawell. "She only talked to her parents and not the nurses, but I got on her level, and she slowly started expressing herself to me. We were able to plan and educate her about pain medication and the parents started trusting me. After three days, the patient progressed and was able to have the NG tube removed, took her first steps again and smiled."

Those are the moments that motivate Myrshawell on the hard days. She says the past year Cook Children's has helped her

realize she truly loves nursing. "I was given a great preceptor who is very open, and my managers and charge nurses really listen. I love that everything I do is covered by research and involves evidence-based practice," said Myrshawell. Before treating children, Myrshawell started out as a nurse for adults. But pediatrics brings her the most happiness. Her goal with each family is to gain their complete trust while giving each patient her all. "It can be challenging being a new pediatric nurse but having a great team and knowing all of our strengths and weaknesses so we can rely on each other really helps. It is very fulfilling when you realize you are making a difference."

"My son who was admitted for severe dehydration was admitted and Myrshawell was his nurse. She was so nurturing to my son and comforted him when he cried, encouraged him when he smiled and went out of her way to seek out certain items that she knew would get him well (shakes, food, entertainment). Her love and grace for both myself and my son will always resonate with me during a very scary time. Thank you as always Cook Children's and to sweet Myrshawell. Lots of love to you, friend. You ARE setting the standard very high, and we hope to see you again under different circumstances."

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Generosity

Case manager makes the impossible happen



Demetria Thomas, pictured above

For **Demetria Thomas, BSN, RN, CCM**, being a case manager means using her nursing and critical thinking skills to help her patients. To prepare patients for discharge, Demetria sets up all medical equipment, home needs and outpatient therapy equipment and supply needs in conjunction with the social work team. She also assists families with financial needs.

“We are still nurses at the core despite taking on a role that is behind the scenes,” Demetria said. “It is very fulfilling to get tough tasks done. At the end of the day, our team gets recognized for making the impossible happen.”

One of those difficult situations involved a patient’s family who lived nowhere near the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They spoke an uncommon language, and education proved to be extremely difficult. Demetria also navigated a different insurance setup. The equipment for this patient with a new G-button could only come from Houston, so Demetria had it mailed to the clinic, but the driver delivered it to the wrong hospital.

“The social worker had set up Medicaid transportation for the three-hour commute home. The driver needed to depart, but this family couldn’t go home safely without the equipment,” said Demetria. She and a genetics dietitian drove to the other hospital to pick up the equipment and arrived at Cook Children’s right before the driver pulled away.

“It was a true multidisciplinary moment as we stalled the driver to make sure this family had what they needed,” said Demetria. As Demetria continues to follow in her grandmother’s footsteps as a nurse, she can’t see herself anywhere else.

“At this hospital, there is a lot of autonomy. People stay here for a long time and I can see why – they really care about the employees. Cook Children’s is an awesome organization to work for,” shared Demetria.

Nursing value: Generosity

Giving patients a second chance at life with CAR T-cell therapy



Hannah Doty, pictured above

As a program coordinator in Cellular Immunotherapy, **Hannah Doty, BSN, RN, CPN**, gives patients a second chance at life. The novel treatment, CAR T-cell therapy, is for patients with relapsed B-cell leukemia or lymphoma and is only offered at five hospitals in Texas. Hannah is notified when a patient is a candidate for the therapy, meets with the family and reviews therapy and side effects with them. She coordinates with the insurance company to get approval for the drug costing about \$500,000 and works with case managers. “I am honored to be in this role,” Hannah said. “It is so incredible to be part of this and to make a difference in lives from the very start.”

The process includes collecting white blood cells and using apheresis to separate the T-cells. The T-cells are sent to Carter BloodCare for further preparation and then to Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Hannah communicates with the apheresis team, Carter BloodCare and the inpatient unit at Cook Children’s to find a timeframe when the patient can start treatment. A lot depends on the timing of the patient’s last cancer treatment. “The goal is to equip the patient’s own immune system to fight cancer. The treatment is very patient-specific. There are very serious potential side effects, but the child can also be cancer free within one month,” said Hannah. Clinical trials that led to FDA approval of the treatment reported 80% of patients were in remission in one month and 60% did not need further therapy. “When leukemia comes back, a lot of hope is lost at that point because it can be much harder to treat. This therapy offers good hope for patients with difficult-to-treat leukemia. It is really special that we don’t have to send these patients somewhere else – they can do it all right here,” said Hannah.

Hannah says she is very proud and thankful for Dr. Holly Pacenta, director of the program, who has helped her to grow professionally. “Having a consistent nurse role to coordinate all the pieces is helpful because of the clinical background. I get to stretch myself with program management, but still get to keep the relationships with patients and clinical thinking,” said Hannah.

Nursing value: Generosity

Cutting-edge research changes lives



Ora Asheton pictured above on the left

As a research nurse with the hematology team, **Ora Asheton, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRC**, contributes to improved patient care and outcomes, not only at Cook Children's but globally. Her team coordinates studies ranging from registries that gather information on pediatric strokes, investigational drug studies that provide families with access to innovative treatments that would not be available to them otherwise, and genomic medicine studies that utilize CRISPR, a technology that can be used to edit genes and, as such, will likely change the world. For the first time, genomic medicine studies could cure blood diseases.

"The research department is a truly collaborative environment," Ora said. "Nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians, regulatory professionals, and physicians all work together to ensure that our patients are getting the best possible care and that we are adhering to the study protocols." An experimental therapy Ora coordinates, concizumab, is under study as a preventive treatment for patients with hemophilia A and B with inhibitors. A patient with hemophilia at Cook Children's has a rare and severe type of hemophilia that was resistant to all available treatment options. The interdisciplinary research team worked together to apply for and receive the drug manufacturer's approval to provide concizumab to this patient as part of a compassionate use program. Not only did the patient have no other treatment options, the administration of concizumab is an easier process, administered as a subcutaneous injection using a ready-to-use, prefilled pen instead of intravenously through an implanted port. "It's hard to even articulate how it feels to help improve the quality of life on so many levels for these children," Ora said.

Ania Joseph was diagnosed with sickle cell disease before birth. After moving to Fort Worth when Ania was 1 year old, she began treatment at Cook Children's. Regina Knox, Ania's mom, met Ora Asheton when Ania was introduced to a trial medication. From that point on, Ora kept track of all her treatments, vitals and changes during the course of the study. "Ora was always one of the best parts of Ania's appointment," Regina said.

Nursing value: Generosity

Supporting, educating and empowering patients through their treatment journeys



Brittany Downham, right, pictured with Aria, left

Brittany Downham, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRC, is one of the first faces many parents see after their child has been diagnosed with leukemia or lymphoma. For Brittany, transitioning from an oncology bedside nurse to a research nurse coordinator has allowed her to work closely with physicians and nurses in a unique way. “It is a privilege for my team and me to be there with the patients full circle – from diagnosis to the last treatment when they ring the bell to celebrate,” Brittany said.

Brittany helps patients and families take ownership of their treatment if they choose to enroll in a clinical trial – for acute lymphoblastic leukemia or lymphoma that means a clinical

trial through Children’s Oncology Group or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital®. Brittany is part of a team of research nurses, clinical research coordinators, a data manager and a research assistant who all help the oncologists enroll leukemia patients into therapeutic clinical trials as well as specimen banking and registry studies. “Approved researchers can pull from those banks to test new chemotherapy agents, learn more about why patients are getting cancer or learn more about new markers that may drive treatment escalation or de-escalation,” said Brittany.

As many of her patients may visit Cook Children’s weekly for up to three years, Brittany and her team track treatment administered, side effects, treatment responses, as well as indications for dose modifications, and then she communicates with the study sponsors for unique patient situations. “With each subsequent trial based on what has been learned from past trials from kids all over the world, changes are made with the goal of increasing cure rates and decreasing side effects,” said Brittany.

“Aria and Brittany really bonded,” said Nicole, Aria’s mom. “They talk a lot about Aria’s pet axolotl and make paper doll clothes together. It means a lot that Brittany cares so much. Aria has been coming to the clinic almost every week since she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, so the nurses are her people now. It truly does become a family.”

Nursing value: Kindness

Going above and beyond for patients



Amanda Moore, pictured above

For **Amanda Moore, BSN, RN, CPN**, the patients she cares for motivate her on the hard days. “The kids are so resilient, and it has been the biggest blessing to partner with patients and families during the hardest times of their lives,” said Amanda.

Amanda always knew she wanted to be in a profession that helped others. After volunteering at Cook Children’s in the Child Life department, she fell in love with nursing, especially caring for children. Three years ago, she landed her dream job on the Neurology floor where she says the team is very close-knit.

“We have amazing teamwork. You can tangibly feel the love we have for each other on the floor. I still pinch myself every day because it feels like a dream,” said Amanda.

Amanda’s goal with every patient is to be empathetic and a resource for them. She remembers one patient who made an impact on her life. After a stroke, the patient had a poor prognosis and could not talk or walk. Amanda cared for him for several weeks in a row, and he miraculously started progressing. To her surprise, one day when she walked in, he started talking – a moment Amanda will never forget. “He told his mom he loved her and that he wanted McDonald’s. I couldn’t believe it,” said Amanda. She continued to visit him on the rehab floor for several months, and when he was discharged from the hospital, she gave him a high five on the way out.

“These children have every reason to be mad at the world yet no matter what is going on, they have a smile on their faces and choose joy,” reflected Amanda.

“Amanda went above and beyond for our son who had a traumatic week and was looking for some normalcy. She accepted his invitation to play Uno with him, and it was the first time I had seen him be joy-filled in four days. Thank you, Amanda, for not only caring for our son’s health but also caring for his heart.”

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Kindness

Colorful uniforms brighten patients' days



Damon Street, pictured above on left

When **Damon Street, BSN, RN**, also known as “Super Damon,” walks into a room on the Neurology floor, he immediately brightens the patients’ days. Damon wears scrub caps ranging from Disney princesses to Texas Rangers and Toy Story, with more than 50 pairs of colorful shoes to match his scrub pants and hats. After Halloween, it changes to a Santa hat.

“I like to think of myself as a fun nurse,” Damon said. “I do it to bring a sense of comfort which helps to gain the trust of the patients and families. That is incredibly important because we see a lot of kids with chronic conditions, and we’re able to really get to know them.”

One of those patients was a little girl who was in and out of the hospital from Halloween through the new year to treat seizures. Damon’s Santa hat became a conversation piece and she liked to joke with him about not being the real Santa. It helped to take her mind off the treatments.

Damon says he has always wanted to work with kids. He and his wife began their nursing career at Cook Children’s on the same day two years ago and have never looked back. In August, Damon became a charge nurse. “After I visited Cook Children’s several times with my daughter, it became really close to my heart,” said Damon. The support Damon receives from his wife and daughter along with his team on the unit motivates him to give the best care.

“I will always brag about my team. Everyone from the managers to the care partners helps each other and I couldn’t see myself anywhere else in the hospital,” shared Damon.

“Damon took extra time to help my toddler get through her very tough night. When Damon sees a parent or child in pain or fear, he jumps into Damon mode and fixes the situation. He just went over and beyond his duty, and I will always be grateful for him.”

– Nomination excerpt for The DAISY Award®

Nursing value: Kindness

AngelEye camera system allows families to see babies in NICU

When a parent can't be with their baby at the hospital, the next best thing is seeing them. Parker's family knows the feeling all too well. Born two-and-a-half months early and weighing 1 pound 10 ounces, Parker was transported to Cook Children's NICU for treatment of chronic lung disease and heart defects. During their stay, a newly installed camera system in the NICU helped to ease their stress by giving them a chance to peek at Parker any time of the day or night. For Parker's mom, the sense of comfort that came with the cameras was priceless.

"If you cannot be at the hospital for whatever reason, it gives you peace of mind that your child is OK – you can see it with your own eyes," said Misty Kent, Parker's mom. "It's a very, very big deal." Parker's dad visited his son on weekends, but otherwise had to be at work in their hometown, two-and-a-half hours away. Not only did the cameras benefit Parker's parents, but his grandparents and siblings as well. "Our family was over the moon," Misty said. "Of course, grandma cried because she was so excited to be able to see him."

The system, created by AngelEye Health, went live in November 2021 and allows families 24-hour access to their babies via individual cameras. The project was a multidisciplinary effort between the NICU, IT and Biomed. Funded by private donors in the community, a total of 106 AngelEye cameras are set over patients' beds and turned off only if patients are receiving treatment. When a baby is admitted to the NICU, the baby's

mom creates a password through a protected server. The access link can be shared with family and friends.

"These cameras couldn't have come at a better time because of COVID – they really helped us navigate that," said **Brittany McLaughlin, MSN, RNC-NIC**, director of the NICU. "They have made a huge difference, allowing the moms to feel safe to go home, heal and recover. A lot of our babies don't come from the DFW Metroplex, and those parents need to go home and take care of their other kids or go back to work."

Misty says it is hard to explain just how much the cameras mean to families like hers.

"I think people who have never had to face this situation might not understand the gravity of it and how this will help people going through it," Misty said. "It's a life-changing event, and Cook Children's is one of the biggest blessings we've ever had in our lives."



Brittany McLaughlin, shown here with AngelEye camera

Professional Development program

The Professional Development program was created to support Cook Children's nursing philosophy and promote quality patient care. The program encourages and recognizes nursing excellence and provides both career enhancement opportunities and financial incentives. The program is a two-year commitment with mentors guiding candidates to achieve identified goals. Nurses participate in evidence-based practice projects, quality initiatives, research studies, volunteer work, councils/committees and much more. At the end of the program, candidates submit professional portfolios to a review committee and earn level placement (level 1, 2, 3 or 4).

Level 1:

Jade Anderson, BSN, RN, EMT, CPN
Ora Asheton, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRN
Amber Ball, BSN, RN, ATCN
Amanda Banton, BSN, RN
Megan Batts, BSN, RN
Brittany Beck, BSN, RN, CPN
Loren Bryant, BSN, RN, CPN
Rachel Collins MSN, RN, CPN
Hattie Davidson, BSN, RN
Valerie Doyle, BSN, RN
Kristin Geist, MSN, PMC, RN, CDCES
Shannon Giles, BSN, RN, CPN
Karen Jimenez, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRN
Alexandria Lewis, BSN, RN

Sarah Meek, MSN, APRN-FNP
Veronica Ortega, BSN, RN
Priyanka Parikh, BSN, RN
Leo Pesin, BSN, RN
Helen Ramsbottom, BSN, RN, LCSW
Lacey Reed, BSN, RN
Leslie Rodriguez, MSN, RN, CPN
Kimberly Sheehan, BSN, RN
Melodi Thompson, BSN, RN
Rachel Townley, BSN, RN
Renee Twaddle, BSN, RN, CPN
Amy Valenta, BSN, RN, CPN
Cassandra Westlake, BSN, RN

Level 2:

Whitney Brazzel, BSN, RN, CPN
Ollie Burke, BSN, RN
Kristen Cook, BSN, RN, CPN
Laci Brown, BSN, RN, CCRN
Julianne Guibert, BSN, RN, RNC-CIN, CPN
Kelsey Hale, BSN, RN, CPN
Rhonda Hawkins, MSN, RN, RNC-NIC
Sabrina Illingworth, BSN, RN, CPN
Janae Jones, BSN, RN, CPN
Stephanie Ogburn, BSN, RN, CDCES
Tamara Sims, ADN, RN
Beth Spears, BSN, RN, CPN
Renee Stinnett, ADN, RN, CPEN
Katelyn Terry, BSN, RN, CPN
Morgan Watson, MS, RN, CPN

Level 3:

Cristina Ayala, BSN, RN, CPN
Kara Adams, BSN, RN, CCRN
Nicole Bleacher, BSN, RN, CPN
Brynli Clayton, BSN, RN, CCRN
Samantha Corkum, MSN, RN, RNC-NIC
Tara Drake, MSN, RN
Aubrey Korol, MSN, RN, CPHQ, LSSGB, CPN
Karen Gartner, BSN, RN
Nakima Isler, MSN, RN, CCRN
Carolyn Jolly, BSN, RN
Katie Lesikar, BSN, RN, RNC-NCI, CBC
Sandy Manoushagian, BSN, RN, CPN
Nicole Miller, BSN, RN
Emily Percy, BSN, RN
Laura Portillo, BSN, RN
Kathy Roden, BSN, RN
Shannon Rosiere, MSN, RN
Tori Sandsor, BSN, RN, CPN, CPEN
McKenzie Siegmund, BSN, RN
Deb Smith, BSN, RN, CPN
Chandler Patton, BSN, RN, CPN
Tara Wells, BSN, RN, CPN

Level 4:

Jennifer Bias, MSN, RN, ENPC
Sarah Cunningham, MSN, RN, CP-SANE, CPEN
Shawn Dailey, MSN, RN, CPN
Marissa Henson, MSN, RN, EMT, CPN, CPEN
Dawn Ishman, MSN, RN

Jaime Kuhn, MSN, RN, CPN, ELNEC
Brittany McGlaughlin, MSN, RN, RNC-NIC
Nancy Russell, MS, RN, CPN, CPPS
Erin Schulz, MSN, RN, EMT, C-NPT
Katy Walthall, MSN, RN, CPN, NPD-BC
Julie Van Orne, MSN, RN, CPN, CNL
Angie York, MSN, RN CPN

Certifications received in 2022: Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN)

Laura Aguilar, BSN, RN, CPN
Andrea Alfaro, BSN, RN, CPN
Skylar Angelmaier, BSN, RN, CPN
Christopher Carter, BSN, RN, CPN
Allison Connell, BSN, RN, CPN
Bailey Cook, BSN, RN, CPN
Andie Edwards, BSN, RN, CPN
Casey Erickson, BSN, RN, CPN
Carley Gedeon, BSN, RN, CPN
Tara Gibson, BSN, RN, CPN
Sara Holden, MSN, RN, CPN
Camry Jones, BSN, RN, CPN
Lauren Marines, BSN, RN, CPN
Theresa McMinn, BSN, RN, CPN
Jill Pittman, BSN, RN, CPN
Alyssa Reyes, BSN, RN, CPN
Ginna Reynolds, BSN, RN, CPN
Stephanie Rush, BSN, RN, CPN
Helen Schlender, BSN, RN, CPN
Abey Schmidt, BSN, RN, CPN
Lauren Simpson, BSN, RN, CPN
Alexandra Spears, BSN, RN, CPN
Mark Stabell, BSN, RN, CPN
Chloe Stanford, BSN, RN, CPN
Katherine Stone, BSN, RN, CPN

Hailee Storie, BSN, RN, CPN
Kristen Tepera, BSN, RN, CPN
Mollie Tonner, BSN, RN, CPN
Jewel Walker, BSN, RN, CPN
Jill Watson, BSN, RN, CPN
Nathan Watson, BSN, RN, CPN
Lauren White, BSN, RN, CPN
Megan White, BSN, RN, CPN
Kara Williams, BSN, RN, CPN
Shannon Willis, BSN, RN, CPN

Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS)

Stephanie Lavin, MSN, RN, CCRN

Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN)

Cammie Larson, MSN, RN, CCRN

Vascular Access Board Certification (VA-BC)

Shelby Craig, BSN, RN, VA-BC

Nursing Case Management Certification (CMGT-BC)

Bradley Cain, MSN, RN, CCM, CMGT-BC

Certified perioperative nurse (CNOR)

Christine Brown, BSN, CNOR
Kailey Castles Kelly, BSN, CNOR

Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRC)

Brittany Downham, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRC

Degrees received in 2022:

Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Evelyn Ball, BSN, RN, CPN
Kyra Dean, BSN, RN

Melissa Mireles, BSN, RN
Jazmine Quintero, BSN, RN
Lacey Reed, BSN, RN
Luis Rivas, BSN, RN

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Catherine Chochran, MSN, RN
Tiffany Crow, MSN, RN, CPN
Heith Gammons, MSN, RN, CPEN
Andrea Holliman, MSN, RN, CPN
Nakima Isler, MSN, RN, CCRN
Christina Martinez, MSN, RN
Katherine Newland, MSN, RN
Mykayla Pfursich, MSN, RN, PNP-AC
Andrea Rosas, MSN, RN, CPN
Miranda Tam, MSN, RN

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Natalie Mangels, MBA, RN

Master of Theology

Rebecca Udermann, MS, BSN, CPN

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Roberta Miller, DNP, CPN, CPEN

Nursing Awards 2022

Texas Christian University Evidence-based practice Fellowship poster winner

Ashley Barnes, BSN, RN
Courtney McCloney, BSN, RN, CPN

CHIME CIO of the year

Theresa Meadows, Chief Information Officer

John Jordan Award (Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association)

Amanda Davis, MBA, BSN, RN, EMT, C-NPT, RNC-NIC

Society of Pediatric Nurses People's Choice Poster Award at 32nd annual conference

Jarrett Dawson, MSN, RN, CST

Jennifer Jarvis, MS, RN

Lori Parrott, MSN, RN

Christa Schronk, MSN, RN, CPN, CNL

2022 AVA Foundation Scholarship

Kathy Grieser, BSN, RN, VA-BC

2022 Association for Vascular Access Conference 2nd place People's Choice Poster award

Kathy Grieser, BSN, RN, VA-BC

Leticia Caraveo, BSN, RN

Texas Emergency Nurses Association Team Award

Roberta Miller, DNP, CPN, CPEN

Society of Pediatric Nurses 2022 Chapter of the Year

Nancy Russell, MSN, RN, CPN, CPPS (North Central TX SPN Chapter President)

Tarrant County Award in the American Heart Association's 2022 Woman of Impact Competition

Christie Thornhill, DNP, APRN-AC, CPNP-AC, SANE-P

Society of Pediatric Nurses Academic Education Scholarship

Julie Van Orne, MSN, RN, CPN, CNL

DFW Great 100 Nurse

Christie Thornhill, DNP, APRN-AC, CPNP-AC, SANE-P
Ineshia Simmons, BSN, RN

The DAISY Award® 2022 honorees

Adrea Crump, BSN, RN

Nicole Pilgrim, BSN, RN, CPN

Misty Mackie, BSN, RN

Deborah English, BSN, RN

Kelly Nunley, MSN, RN, CPN

Virginia Holcomb, MSN, RN, CPN

Mariah Carpenter, BSN, RN

Dallas Young, BSN, RN

Catherine Cochran, BSN, CCRN, CPN

Cook Children's Great 10 Nurses

Emily Carvajal, RN, BSM, CPN

Dana Cruz, RN, BSN, CPN

Anthony Garcia, RN, ADN

Jenny Hathaway, RN, MSN, CPN, CNOR

Jennifer Horn, MSN, RN, CPN, CPPS

Kristen Jackson, RN, BSN

Heather Jernigan, RN

Misty McCutchen, RN, BSN, CWOCN, CWS, CFCN, TNCC

Tori Sandsor, RN, BSN, CPN, CPEN

Susie Spellman, RN

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certifications (LSSGB)

Maggie Maxtin, MSN, RN, CPN, LSSGB

Jenny Riddle, BSN, MHA, CPHQ, CSSGB

Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certifications (LSSYB)

Stacey Bancroft, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, CPN

Ora Asheton, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRC

Bradley Litzkow, MSN, RN, CPN, LSSYB



Cook Children's recognitions



ANCC Magnet Recognition®



AACN Beacon Award for Excellence™



Level 1 Children's Surgery Center: ACS CSV



Society for Simulation in Healthcare Accredited Program (Assessment, Research, Systems Integration, Teaching/Education and Core)



The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses



Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) Award for Excellence in Life Support – Gold Level



Level II Trauma Center



Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)



CHIME Healthcare's Most Wired® recognition



Platinum Recognition – National Hospital Organ Donation Campaign



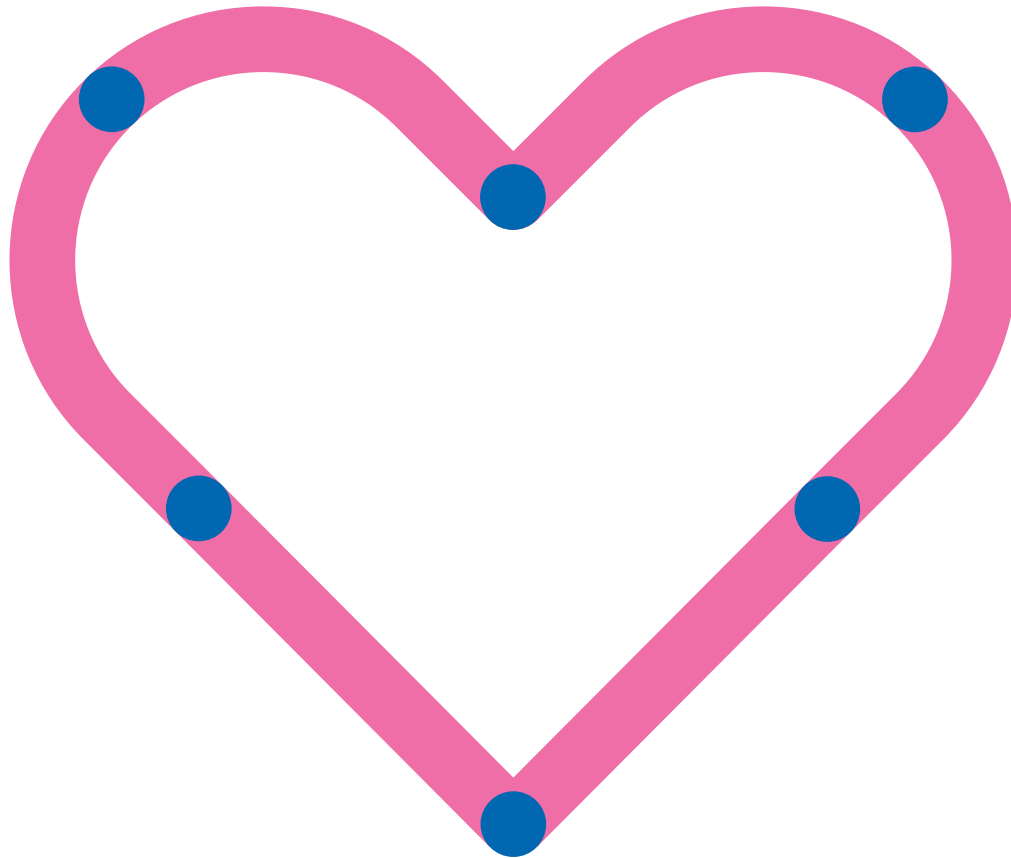
The ENA Lantern Award



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every child in our care and our communities.







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