

# Nursing update



## Exceptional recognition for an ER nurse

Daytha Willson, RN, ER charge nurse at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph, recently received an impressive award from the Sedgwick County EMS employee association: ER Staff Person of the Year. She was one of six individuals – and the only nurse – recognized by for their outstanding contributions to Sedgwick County EMS and its mission to provide exceptional pre-hospital care.

Daytha was chosen in part “for her exceptional concern for EMS employees,” according to a release from Sedgwick County, noting her advocacy for the inclusion of EMS in the Nurse and Healthcare Worker Protection Act, which provides protections for all types of healthcare workers who are assaulted by patients.

The recognition comes as little surprise to those who serve with Daytha, who joined Via Christi in 2012 and has nine years’ nursing experience.

“Daytha has developed tremendous clinical expertise coupled with exceptional listening skills that have led to her being recognized previously with a Daisy Award,” says Julianna Rieschick, chief nursing officer at St. Joseph. “She also has a gift for problem-solving so when a major event occurs or the ED is exceptionally busy, she is already planning her team’s response and coordinating with first responders.”

Adds Jackie Carnahan, nursing manager for the St. Joseph ED: “Daytha keeps the patient at the heart of all her decision-making and helps others do the same. She’s here because she wants to provide safe, quality care to every patient.”

As for Daytha, she’s humbled by the recognition. “I just try to do as I’d want done for me. Sometimes in healthcare we can lose sight of that.”

## Speaking of Daisy Awards

The Daisy Awards continue to be an excellent way to recognize nurses who go above and beyond to ensure patients receive quality care provided in a safe and compassionate manner.

Nominations should be directed to Fawn McDonough, who serves as the program’s coordinator, who then forwards them to the Professional Development Program for consideration.

“We are committed to developing and recognizing our team members – an important component of any Model Community, but especially so in Nursing,” says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer. “By sharing stories of outstanding care through Daisy Award nominations, we provide examples of what can be done to improve the quality and safety of the care we provide and provide the best possible patient and family experience.”