

# Nursing update



## Mission in action

Georgia and Rick Stubby, who have been married 19 years and have long served side-by-side in the Via Christi Hospital St. Francis Emergency Department, spent their Thanksgiving helping patients in Puerto Rico get the care they needed.

They did so as members of the Oklahoma team of the National Disaster Medical System. For this assignment, they were attached to the Alaska One team, comprised of doctors, paramedics, pharmacists, therapists, EMTs, nurses and support staff.

For Rick and Georgia, it was a natural extension of what they do every day as part of Ascension and Via Christi. “The sisters started Via Christi to care for people,” Rick says. “That’s what we’ve always done. It’s caring for the people, caring for those who can’t care for themselves – helping the underserved.”

For most of their two-week stay, they slept on army cots within the temporary hospital they set up. During that time, they cared for dozens of patients each day, providing the emergency and everyday hospital care the area was missing. They saw firsthand the extent of the damage, including downed power lines, homes covered in blue tarps to keep the rain out, undrinkable public water, and countless toppled trees. The team’s goal was to give the Puerto Ricans a helping hand until they could return to normalcy.

“I hope we got them through the tight spot and back on their own two feet,” says Rick, noting that work they did in Puerto Rico aligned perfectly with the reason why they chose to be nurses.

“We both got into nursing to help people,” Rick says. “This experience was true to that to the fullest. It spoke to why I am a nurse. You really felt like you were helping these people get a leg up again.”

## ED care that spurs others to act

Via Christi Philanthropy recently recognized the Emergency Department at Via Christi Hospital St. Teresa for exemplary care. An ED patient recognized nurse Brenda Willis and Dr. Tiffini Battiste with a donation in their honor. “My nurse Brenda was quick to act and got my pain under control the best they could without killing me and they definitely love their jobs...Dr. Battiste treated me better than I’ve ever been treated before!”

Through the Grateful Patient Program, we are able to continue to provide quality programs, medical equipment, and services to patients in need. This year alone, Via Christi received nearly \$5,000 in gifts from grateful patients and their families. Thank you for being great care providers!

If you need more Grateful Patient Program brochures to display in your area, please contact Via Christi Philanthropy at 719-1468.