

Nursing update



Organ donation excellence

April, celebrated nationally as Donate Life month, was a record-setter for organ donation at Via Christi Hospital St. Francis and for the Midwest Transplant Network, the non-profit organ procurement organization with which Via Christi works.

St. Francis' Trauma Surgical Intensive Care Unit had five recovered donors – three within a five-day period – and the Neuro Critical Care Unit had two. This kept St. Francis' Operating Room team busy, as they facilitated all seven cases in approximately three weeks.

“Kudos to everyone – from the physicians and ICU staff to the OR team, whose teamwork and flexibility made this possible,” says Missy Hampel, RN, director of Critical Care and Medical/Surgical Units for Via Christi's Wichita hospitals.

One shining example of that teamwork, says Jessica Stefek, RN, director of MTN's Wichita operations: Trauma Surgical Intensive Care Unit accepted a transfer of an organ donor from Neuro Critical Care Unit so that MTN's on-site transplant coordinator could manage both cases.

“Because of our collaboration as organizations and the generosity of these donors and their families, 22 people have been given a second chance at life,” wrote Stefek in her email. “Thank you for your exceptional leadership of these teams.”

That leadership will be recognized at MTN Excellence in Donation Ceremony this week, where Missy will receive an individual award honoring her outstanding work in helping achieve donation outcomes.

The father of a young woman who took her life and subsequently became an organ donor also recognized the kindness and compassion of St. Francis' TSICU staff and chaplains in a recent letter to the editor published in the Wichita Eagle.

“Cody Rodriguez, RN, nurse manager in TSICU, and Sara Onwugbufor, nurse manager in NCCU, and their teams work with some of the most critically ill and injured patients and under some of the most difficult circumstances,” says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer. “So they're routinely going the extra mile. Facilitating an organ donation is another step beyond that.

“They truly embody what compassion and excellence in healthcare is all about.”