



Growing, recruiting our own

Nursing leadership will be hosting a meet-and-greet on Tuesday, Jan. 24, with associates pursuing a nursing degree as well as nursing students doing their clinical rotations and capstones at Via Christi.

“The purpose is to take a pro-active approach to recruitment by connecting with nursing students earlier in their journey,” says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer.

The event will take place from 6 – 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe Conference Center at St. Francis.

Via Christi also will be holding an interview fair from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, in the McNamara Center at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph.

“We will be interviewing for all open nursing positions and quickly following up with anyone who expresses an interest and appears to be a good fit for the position and Via Christi’s mission,” says Yost. If you know a nurse you’d like to have as a teammate, please encourage him or her to bring a resume and join us!

Meet Maya: From Russia with love

Maya Fayzieva, RN, emigrated in 2004 from Russia to the United States as an electrical engineer, but after 28 years working in that field, she chose to go into nursing. Tired of life in a cubicle, she says, “I wanted to go from using my brain for technical work to have a meaningful impact on people.”

She earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing from the UMKC School of Nursing in 2013, and joined Via Christi Behavioral Health on Orme immediately after. While she initially wanted to work in the ICU, Behavioral Health is now her passion. “Almost every day you’re getting a patient who is suicidal, depressed and thinking life isn’t worth living,” says Maya. “So to give them hope, I share my story.”

Maya came to the United States unable to speak or understand any English beyond simple phrases. To some, that may have felt overwhelming or even thrown them into a depression.

“But I am fighter,” says Maya, who began studying English and over time developed the proficiency needed to pursue her new career choice. “I try to teach my patients how to fight for their lives as well.

“I tell them, ‘I came here and started from zero. If I can do it, you can, too.’”

Maya finds working with behavioral health patients extremely gratifying.

“Their affect is completely different when they leave than when they arrived,” she says, often within a few days. She’s grateful to be nurse, she says, adding: “My patients give me just as much as I give them.”