

Nursing update



Recruitment update

Seventy-eight prospective Via Christi nurses attended our Nursing Student Meet and Greet and Interview Fair, for which offers are in the works for 68 new graduates and several experienced nurses; 20 offers already have been accepted. Students who came from Bethel, Butler County, Hesston, Newman, Pittsburg State and Wichita State, were asked to list their first, second and third preference for the unit in which they'd like to serve; 82 percent will be receiving an offer from one of the units that were among their top choices.

"Meanwhile, we continue to recruit experienced and new graduate nurses to ensure that we have the staff we need in order to be well-equipped to serve our patients," says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer. Know someone who'd make a good teammate? Have them fill out an interest form by going to <https://ascensionokks.recsolu.com/external/form/DFxVvEPFvXnChlqbD7kN8w>

UPC communication trees

If you're out and about, be sure to look for the Unit Practice Council Communication Trees detailing initiatives underway on the individual nursing units to improve patient outcomes and experience and help recruit and retain their bedside nursing teammates. "The boards are a great way to ensure that everyone on the unit is kept informed and also demonstrate the creativity and innovation of those who are creating them," Yost says. To see a sample of UPC Communication Trees, go to www.viachristi.org/nursing

A sweet passing

Robert Brougher, RN, who serves as a house manager at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph, recently passed along a story that in all his years of nursing is one of the most beautiful things he has ever heard: A patient with a perforated bowel was admitted to the IMC on her 100th birthday. After reviewing the patient's options, her large immediate and extended family decided upon comfort care. Leanne Hoover, RN, upon learning that it was the patient's birthday and that she was known to have a "sweet tooth" went to the hospital cafeteria and purchased a cupcake with icing and brought it to the room.

With her children, grandchildren and even some great grandchildren present, the family sang "Happy Birthday" and told the patient that they had a cupcake for her. The family put some icing in the buccal cavity area of the patient's mouth. She passed away peacefully in that room in IMC with her family at her bedside. Marta Lafond, RN, Katie Kaiser, CNA, Rachel Juby, CNA, and Resource Pool nurses Brogan Totty, RN, and Emily Butcher, RN, all helped make the patient's passing a poignant memory for her loved ones. It's this type of opportunity to serve as a healing presence at key times in the lives of patients and families that makes it so rewarding to be a Via Christi nurse. Well done, team!