


September 2024

THE INSIDER

Coffey County Hospital

Employee news for Coffey Health System



Coffey Health  Olympics



"You don't have to be serious all the time to do a good job." – Simone Biles



Augustyn takes reins as new CEO

It's hard to believe that we are already a month into this new chapter together. I am honored to serve you and our community in this new role.

Some of you may not know that my connections to Coffey County run deep. My mother grew up on a farm in Coffey County, and I made many visits to Burlington during my childhood. I fondly remember playing on the rope swing in the barn, jumping on hay bales, and being treated to DQ ice cream every visit made to town. Driving through the Flint Hills always brought excitement as I knew we were getting close to the place that felt so familiar and comforting.

In 2008, while I was in nursing school at Emporia State University, I found myself back in Burlington, but this time under much different circumstances. My grandfather was ill, and after a long battle, we made the difficult decision to bring him home to Coffey County Hospital. During his final days, our large family spent most of our time together in the solarium at the end of the 200 hall, which was set up like a living room at the time. It was in those days that I knew, with certainty, that Coffey County Hospital was special and that it was where I wanted to make a difference someday.

The care my grandfather received was nothing short of extraordinary. The nurses who came in to give him a haircut and the gentle way they spoke to him as if he were their own loved one left a profound impression on me. Every person who entered his room treated him with the dignity and compassion that one would hope for their own family.

What struck me most was not just the care provided to my grandfather but also the attention given to our family during a very difficult time. The staff went above and beyond to support us, bringing drinks, snacks, games, and checking in regularly with genuine concern. Their teamwork, professionalism, and compassion were qualities I desired to someday be a part of.

Many of the respiratory therapists, nurses, and physicians who cared for us are still members of the Coffey County Hospital family today. I am forever grateful and proud to be part of this remarkable team.

Thank you all for your support, dedication, and for making Coffey Health System a place where compassion and excellence thrive. I look forward to seeing where we go together over the next several years!

Stacy Augustyn
Chief Executive Officer

Stacy Augustyn took the reins as Chief Executive Officer of Coffey Health System today. She joined the CHS family in 2013 as a nurse in the emergency room and rose through nurse leadership positions to become the Chief Quality and Compliance Officer in 2018. Since 2022, Stacy has served as the organization's Chief Operating Officer.

Board of Trustees Chairman Steve Hopkins stated on behalf of the board, "Stacy has shown impeccable leadership skills and attention to detail, and her deep knowledge of Coffey Health System provides stability to move Coffey Health System forward."

We wish Joben Rieth all the best and thank him for his three years of leadership.

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Stacy Augustyn Tracy Jones
Chief Executive Officer Director of Marketing

Submit ideas or items for consideration in The Insider by contacting the marketing office at (620) 364-4507 or tjones@coffeyhealth.org.

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Christina Crane's family accepts posthumous BEE Award



The Crane family



Christina Crane



Fellow BEE Award nominees
Kathryn Carlson & Anna Nicolet

CHS honored three nominees for The BEE Award on September 10: Kathryn Carlson, radiology; Anna Nicolet, cardio-pulmonary; and the late Christina Crane, clinics.

Sadly, Christina passed away on July 16, but her family was present to accept The BEE Award on her behalf. Following her cancer diagnosis in 2021, Christina continued her passion for helping people and taking care of CHS patients. When she could no longer continue as an EMT with Coffey County EMS, she transferred to the clinics where she inspired her colleagues with her optimistic spirit and ever-present smile. She was the living embodiment of what The Bee Award stands for: Being Excellent Everyday.

Thank you to her husband Casey, daughter Carina, parents Donald and Sandra, and brother Daniel for making the trip to be with us.

The family expressed their gratitude for the support Christina received from her CHS family.

"Thank you, all," her father said. "She really loved this hospital and everyone here."

A video of the presentation is posted on the Coffey Health System Facebook page.

Board changes meeting date, reviews strategic plan

During its August meeting, the CHS Board of Trustees voted to change their monthly meeting from the fourth Monday to the last Monday of the month, effective September 30.

All nine trustees were present for the meeting: Mike Abendroth, Peter Allegre, Perry Chapman, Jeff Clark, Eric Ervin, Robert Fleming, Steve Hopkins, Arden Payer, and Jodi Thomas.

In her first meeting as chief executive officer, Stacy Augustyn reviewed progress and revisions to the organization's strategic plan as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee. Among other data presented, the committee changed the goal of 15 percent first-year voluntary turnover to 20 percent, which still falls under the state and national average for healthcare. The committee also monitors the hospital's patient satisfaction scores based on Medicare surveys; however, it is difficult for small hospitals to excel in this area because it

involves a small percentage of patients. Staff will explore matrixes and survey options that will better measure satisfaction at Coffey Health System.

Augustyn and Chief Financial Officer Raymond Leadbetter, who joined CHS after an interim stint in July, will review financial goals that were established in the strategic plan last year. The committee will reconvene to discuss any proposed changes.

"Strategic plans are notorious as something that you put a lot of work into and then put it on the bookshelf and don't touch it until we have to," Augustyn said. "We're going to change how we review it in the executive team meetings. We will review one of the five priority areas every week, so, in theory, we review the entire strategic plan every five weeks."

The hospital recently underwent a "mock survey" led by executives from two other Kansas hospitals through a program of the Kansas Hospital Association. Augustyn

also participates in the program, helping to conduct mock surveys at other hospitals.

"Overall, it was a really good exercise for our staff to go through so that they are more comfortable with the state's survey process," Augustyn reported. "Of the items identified, there was nothing that I was overly surprised about, and everything should have fairly easy fixes."

Shifting to human resources, the board learned more about international recruitment. With a shortage of lab personnel in the United States, international recruitment for positions in the hospital lab continues to be fruitful. Chief Human Resource Officer Theresa Thoele announced that two new lab techs will arrive from the Philippines this fall for three-year appointments. Two current techs recruited through this method recently purchased a home in Burlington and want to stay. With this success, Thoele

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Job Openings

Director

Admin. Emergency Management

Clinical

CMA

EMS Team Lead

EMT or AEMT

Lab Assistant

Paramedic

Respiratory Therapist

RN - Float

RN

RN - Night Shift

Scrub Tech or LPN

Speech Therapist

Non - Clinical

Coder

Cook

Dietary Aide

EVSTech

Groundskeeper / Painter

Patient Access Coordinator

Visit coffeyhealth.org/careers for detailed information and requirements. For more information, call Ext. 4254.

Employee Health Scoop



Linsey Knipp, R.N.
Director of Quality & Risk Management,
Infection Preventionist,
Employee Health

Schools are starting again and summer is winding down. That means fall is right around the corner and so is flu season! Please mark your calendar now to come in on the date most convenient for you.

Reminder:

- Flu shots are a condition of employment, meaning you must have record of a flu vaccine (or a waiver) turned in to Linsey.

- TB Health Screening Assessments are done at time of the flu shot in lieu of yearly TB skin tests, if you get a flu shot elsewhere or sign a waiver, you still have to fill out the health assessment. Make sure both items are turned in to Linsey!

- If you sign a medical or religious waiver (updated yearly), you will be required to wear a mask while at work starting November 1 through March 31.

- If you get a flu shot after November 1, you will be required to wear a mask until you have turned in proof of vaccination.

At this time COVID vaccines remain recommended, but not required. FDA approved a monovalent vaccine to be manufactured for the 24-25 season, but has not been released as of this writing. Once it is available and official recommendations are published, I will share what I know.

Sept. 24 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sept. 25 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sept. 26 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 4 – 10a.m. to 4 p.m.
Oct. 7 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Oct. 15 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Oct. 24 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Conference room next to HR

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHS Holiday Fun!

Boo Baskets

Departments will be matched up to provide fun Halloween goodie baskets. If your department would like to participate, please notify Julie Schneider or Michelle McVey by Oct. 18.

Chili/Soup/Cinnamon Rolls Cookoff

November 18

Individuals compete for the titles of best cooks--while everyone else enjoys a great lunch tasting all the great creations.

Holiday Throwdown

Week of December 2

Departments create holiday decor for a silent auction and "best in show" award. Proceeds benefit our CHS Adopt-a-Family holiday program.

Cookie Contest

Week before Christmas 12/16 with a Christmas "Spirit" themed week that week. Seriously, who doesn't love Christmas cookies? And we have some excellent bakers at CHS! An expert panel has the tough job of taste-testing these wonderful creations.


Holiday Party

The annual CHS holiday party and service awards presentation will be held in January. The date will be announced soon.

CHS
Coffey Health System
Women's Health Conference

Live. Love. Believe.

Wednesday, Oct. 9
Burlington High School
Social hour at 5:30 p.m.
Presentations 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Register online at
coffeyhealth.org or (620) 364-4507



Featured Speakers:
Licensed Therapist Amy Osner &
Mammography Tech Lynn Bolen



Kansas Hospital Association President Chad Austin presents a Heart of Health Care Award to Coffey County Hospital Laboratory Assistant Holly Peters during the Association's annual award luncheon in Kansas City on September 5.

Holly Peters honored with Kansas Heart of Health Care Award

Coffey County Hospital Laboratory Assistant Holly Peters is a shining example of dedication in the healthcare field. Her unwavering commitment to patient care was recognized on September 5, when the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) presented her with a 2024 Heart of Health Care Award.

"We couldn't be more proud of Holly's recognition," said Coffey Health System Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn. "She sets an incredibly high bar for patient care and genuinely cares about her patients, their families, and colleagues."

The CHS staff elected Peters to represent them in the KHA program (previously the Health Care Worker of the Year Award). She was among 21 nominees from across Kansas.

Leading a vital community service

For 14 years, Holly Peters has been the driving force behind Coffey Health System's annual community blood tests in Coffey and Woodson Counties. Her collaboration with all CHS clinics, dietary, marketing, materials, billing, and Coffey County EMS has made this program a resounding success. This year alone, 317 community members and CHS staff received discounted comprehensive panels and prostate screens, a testament to Holly's dedication to the community and her understanding of the importance of a familiar face in healthcare.

Holly's patients consider her part of their personal healthcare team, alongside their doctor and clinic nurse. Even if the patient is under the care of a specialist in another city, they frequently have their labs done at CHS and ask for Holly by name. She advocates for her patients and carefully monitors physician orders and test results. She also researches tests that might not typically be conducted at rural hospitals. If she thinks an additional test can benefit a patient, the providers know that she has done the homework and will



Holly's cheering section at the KHA Awards Luncheon.

typically give approval. For these patients, Holly truly is the face of CHS. Lab Supervisor Gerald Fuller respects that connection, even if it means rescheduling tests around Holly's schedule.

"It's all about what is best for the patient. One person can make or break a healthcare journey. If it's Holly that a patient wants and we can make it happen, that's everything," Fuller said. "That's where healthcare shines, and it is worth it to ensure that they see Holly."

Compassion & empathy are her calling cards

Holly has a unique ability to meet patients where they are emotionally. A colleague states, "She interacts with every patient like they are her long-lost best friend, making them feel important." If

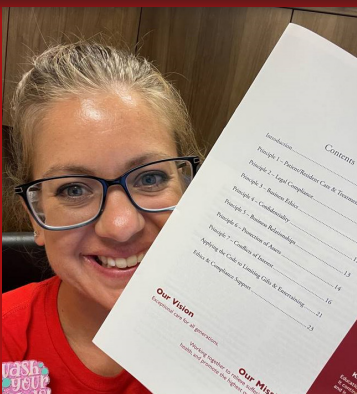
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Infection Control Chaos	Clinic	S
Tongue Depressor Tower	Lab	P
Syringe Squirt	EMS	S
Hospital Hangar Showdown	Surgery	R
CHS Healthcare Hunt	Clinic	P
Department Olympian Flag	Clinic	



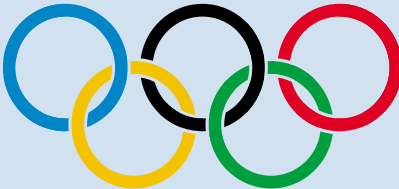
TEAM ALL-AROUND CHAMPIONS
Gold - Clinic Silver - Surgery Bronze - Radiology





2	3
Surgery	Med-Surg/ OB
EVS	Infection Control/ Quality
Surgery	Meadows
Radiology	Med-Surg/ OB
Rehab	Med-Surg/ OB
HR	Radiology



Coffey Health  Olympics



Volunteers annual service project for military canine units kicks off soon

Friends of Coffey Health System volunteers are preparing for their annual service project. In the past 15 years, Friends of Coffey Health System have mailed 1,400 boxes have been sent to American soldiers and canine units overseas. Since 2020, the effort has been coordinated in partnership with the U.S. War Dogs Association.

“Again, this year, we are excited to support the US War Dogs program,” said coordinator Linda Booth. “This is an organization we have partnered with for several years to send care packages to overseas dog teams. Approximately 2,700 canine teams are serving to detect danger and protect people. 100 percent of donations go to fulfilling the wish list of the handlers and dogs.”

To kick-start the effort, CHS employees dedicate a portion of their annual “Jeanerosity Fridays,” in which employees contribute (at least) one dollar per week for the privilege of wearing jeans to work on Fridays.

With tremendous community support, last year’s collection raised \$5,774.30 to support canine troops around the world. Led by former handlers, US War Dogs ensure that care packages meet the dogs’ unique needs, such as training leashes, leather muzzles, goggles, and booties. They also include dog toys and special items for the trainers and handlers.

“As a former US Marine Corps dog handler, I remember fondly receiving gear and care packages from US War Dogs,” writes Chris Willingham, who now serves as the organization’s president. “What made them so special was the care taken to make sure the gear sent was of the highest quality and met our most urgent needs.”

Individuals and organizations are welcome to join the Support the Troops project. Monetary donations are accepted by October 30 in care of Friends of Coffey Health System, 801 N. 4th, Burlington, KS, 66839. To arrange a convenient pick-up, call Linda Booth at (620) 364-8015 or the Coffey County Hospital Gift Shop at (620) 364-2121 Ext. 4267.

So much more than treats and toys

The United States War Dogs Association—founded by five handlers from the Vietnam War—supports military working dogs and their handlers. This support ranges

from providing equipment to deployed troops into the retirement stage with medical assistance for retired dogs.

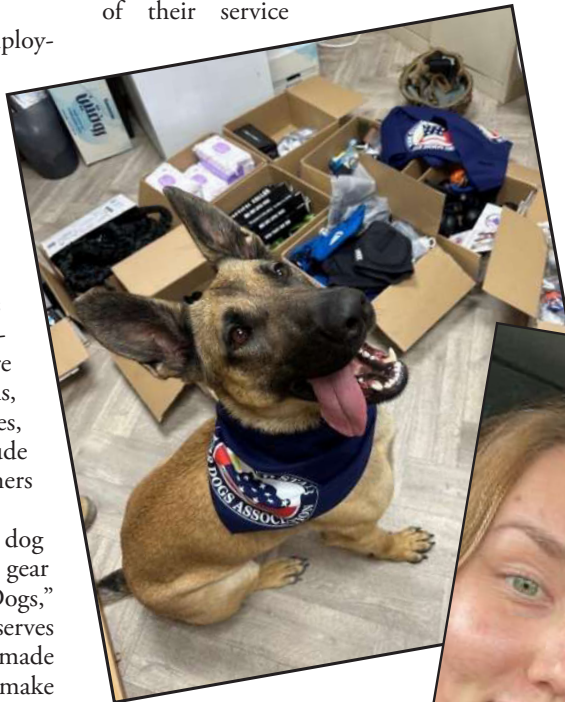
- **Providing working dogs with necessary equipment both overseas and in the US and sending care packages to K-9 teams currently deployed.** Our team has been busy fulfilling specialized gear requests to active-duty dog teams to the tune of \$12,500 this quarter. One such request came in from Kuwait, where we were able to provide harnesses for helo casting.

- **Recognizing military working dogs who are retiring through our awards program.** The US War Dogs Service Award is a cherished memento for owners to receive for their MWDs, in recognition of their service

over \$35,000 on medications for dogs on the program. We are proud to have supported 13 retired MWDs by paying for life-saving treatments, to the tune of \$35,727.

- **Providing funds for The Rainbow Bridge Assistance Program Memorializing K-9 Heroes.** Our Rainbow Bridge Assistance program pays the cost of euthanasia and cremation, to ensure beloved retired MWDs receive a dignified end to their life. We supported three families this last quarter, and I know how much this gesture means to them as they come to terms with the loss of their K-9.

- **Educating the public about the service and sacrifice of military working dogs.** For four years, US War Dogs has organized a reunion for former Marine Corps dog handlers and Gold Star families. We also have a long history of supporting the dedication of monuments honoring war dogs and their handlers, including one recently completed at Fort Drum, New York. Speaking engagements and participation at events for military and civilian working dogs also helps spread the word about this important mission.



and sacrifice. Over the last three months, we have been honored to issue 12 awards, along with a retirement care package which includes a plush dog bed, to make sure our retired MWDs experience all the comfort possible.

- **Facilitating a free prescription drug program for retired working dogs.** From April to June, we received 21 new Rx Applications and spent

New purchasing processes underway, smaller financial footprint

Coffey Health System's new purchasing contract with Central Link Services (CLS) and The University of Kansas Health System went into effect July 1.

There is quite a bit of work being done behind the scenes by our internal materials team, Vizient/APS, Captis/CLS, Medline, and other vendors. Few updates to share with everyone regarding timelines, etc.

Medline will become our primary vendor; replacing Cardinal. We will still work with Cardinal, but as a secondary vendor (high cost of items). A 60-day turnover period is expected between Cardinal/Medline/APS/Captis.

All other vendors associated with Vizient/APS/Captis will take an estimated 45-60 days to add CLS to already existing contracts under our agreement with Vizient/APS/Captis.

We've been assigned an additional representative at Medline who focuses only on rural healthcare organizations (Howard). He will be able to help us navigate struggles rural hospitals experience because of lower volumes, slow usage, etc.

Medline performed an analysis on our supply usage report. We received this report back along with any potential substitute products to further enhance our savings. Potential substitutes were ranked 0-4 to show simple change (cotton balls) to not 100% a direct swap or might be a difference in clinical care processes. We provided this information to each leader and overseeing executive staff member to allow for informed decisions to be made regarding our supply chain.

We are marching forward with the goal to convert everything we can through Medline and/or Medline branded products (if available) to ensure we can receive the highest rebates possible. These rebates are funds given back to us by manufacturers and wholesalers for appropriate usage, etc.

By Samantha Kuhlmann



Our materials management team consists of Samantha Kuhlmann and Leslie Mahoney.

Reducing our dollar-associated footprint



- Reduce on-hand supplies to 45 days or less.
- Reduce shipping and handling fees.
 - Streamline purchasing to Medline or Cardinal.
 - Reduce, eliminate use of other vendors when possible.
- Reduce utilization of Amazon.
- Sell stagnate or unused inventory.
- Implement CLS & convert to Medline as primary vendor.

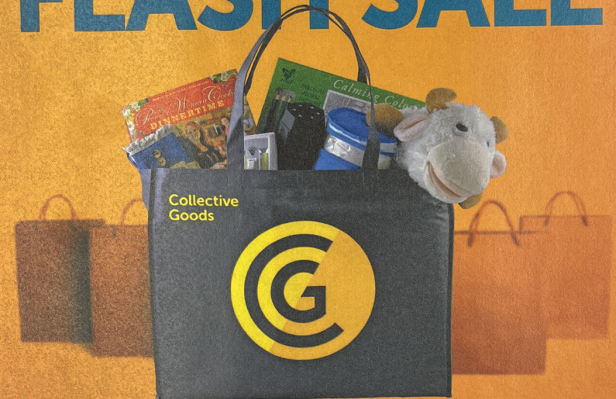


Saturday, October 19
Watch for details coming soon!

The Spooky Sprint (formerly Daisy Dash) helps to support recognition of CHS nurses through international DAISY Award program.

Follow Coffey Health Foundation on Facebook for announcements and online registration.

Collective Goods FLASH SALE



There's a new bag in town.

BOOK/GIFT FAIR

THURSDAY

Sept. 19th 9am-3pm

Coffey County Hospital

A portion of the proceeds benefits Friends of Coffey Health System

Payroll Deduct, All Credit Cards & Digital Payments Accepted!



Payroll Deduct available at select locations



Holly Peters

Continued from page 5

a patient is anxious, Holly offers comfort and calmly explains the test. She can make a distraught child laugh, a worried family member smile, or a confused senior feel safe and heard. Every day, Holly turns what could be a negative patient experience into a tolerable one. She can enter a room with a stranger and come out with a friend—regardless of the discomfort involved with needle sticks, blood draws, or nasal swabs.

Her compassion and empathy are also evident to her colleagues. She shows the utmost respect and understanding of various departments throughout CHS. She races to the ER because she knows how crucial an initial baseline result is. She volunteers to visit the clinic to see patients for whom coming to the lab poses difficulty. In obstetrics, she consoles and educates new moms regarding tests performed on their newborns. Through this dedication to her

patients, Holly has built a strong rapport with the CHS medical staff.

Never was Holly's compassion and empathy more evident than during the pandemic. Not even full PPE could mask her cheerful demeanor and sense of calm. Even when staff forgot to inform her that a busload of patients with special needs was coming in for tests, Holly didn't miss a beat—she just grabbed more supplies and cared for the patients, each like they were her only patient of the day.

Making CHS a better place

While Holly's work on the Community Blood Tests program is undoubtedly the shining star of her healthcare career, her influence among the CHS family goes much deeper. She makes it a point to welcome new staff, especially lab staff from around the world. She generously acquaints these new colleagues with the community and ensures they have everything they need—at work and home—and checks in regularly to offer help, including transportation. She is always mindful of cultural differences and

how situations might impact these colleagues and gracefully speaks up for them when necessary.

Holly's genuine care and concern for her colleagues is evident throughout the year. Still, it shines most brightly during the holidays. She crafts several unique Christmas trees, wreaths, and gift baskets each year for our annual silent auction. Not only does she contribute to fundraising, but she also volunteers her time to shop for families. When she discovered that a couple had only provided gift ideas for their children, Holly dipped into her own pocket to purchase gifts for the parents. She even redeemed her Hoover's "points" to provide additional gift cards; in doing so, she ensured these CHS families could enjoy a special holiday meal.

When CHS started a new Associate Advisory Council (a forum to give employees an additional voice regarding concerns or issues that affect them in the workplace), she was among the first to volunteer.

Holly was honored as Coffey Health System's award recipient during a presentation on August 24.



Thank You Note

Dear CHS Family,

I would like to extend a very sincere thank you to everyone at CHS for the beautiful green plant, and the very special wishes I received at my retirement celebration.

I feel very blessed to have been a part of the CHS family for almost the past 19 years.

Love,

Pat (the painter)



Rehabilitation Services Supervisor **Karen Foster** welcomed her first grandchild, Mallory Elizabeth, on July 3. Mallory is the daughter of Megan and Drew Pyle. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces.

ER Nurse Emily Smith and her husband Alec welcomed her first child, Ryan Rae, on August 20. Ryan weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. **Julie Schneider**, director of clinic operations, is Ryan's very happy grandma.



Thank you to **Casey Lyons, Suzanne Garcia, Ray Leadbetter, Jordan Hartpence, Jim Edwards, and Jesse Presley** for volunteering to help serve lunch at OK Kids on September 7.

Lab Supervisor Gerry Fulton graduated from the Kansas Hospital Association's Leadership Institute. He was recognized along with his classmates at the KHA Awards Luncheon on September 5 in Kansas City. This is a tremendous honor. Watch for details about the program and Gerry's experience coming soon!

Kathryn Carlson did a fantastic job covering the August 9 Lunch & Learn for Scott Sutherland. Thank you, Kathryn and **JaNae Pritchett**, for your hard work!

Leslie Mahoney has been working hard at ensuring the success of the materials management department. Thank you for the long hours and flexibility over the past several weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in community parades and events this summer!

Summer scheduling can be hard. Clinic Director Julie Schneider writes: All **clinic staff** that are willing to fill in as needed in the event of a last-minute illness/emergency or so their coworker can take a vacation. I appreciate you."

Thank you to everyone who helped with the sports physical clinics!

Radiology would like to express our appreciation and submit kudos for **Rich Messerly and Robert Huyett** from EMS. We had a physically challenging patient that needed a DEXA scan. When asked, they both willingly brought a hydraulic lift ambulance cart to radiology and, using the Hoyer lift, placed the patient on the ambulance cart, took her to DEXA, helped transfer patient to DEXA table, waited outside the room during the test and the reversed the process. Only an ambulance cart will fit into DEXA and lifting patient out of wheelchair was not an option. So, KUDOS to Rich and Robert!

A four-year-old patient said, "I so proud of **Dr. Sides**. He's so great."

During the August Board of Trustees meeting, a board member highlighted the outstanding performance of the EMS crew who responded to a traumatic car accident in our community. The crew was commended for their professionalism, composure, and efficiency in a very challenging and chaotic situation. It's clear that everyone at the scene was very thankful for the Coffey County EMS crew. A big thank you to **Joe Tuthill, Jordan Hartpence, Robb Huyett, and Richard Plue** for a job well done!



Nicole Branson
Dietary
Hospital



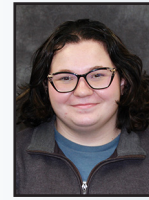
Spencer Crump
Laboratory
Hospital



Taryn Lather
CNA
The Meadows



Katelyn Mackey
Med/Surg
Hospital



Katie Martin
Environmental Services
Hospital



Jennifer Muniz Serna
Obstetrics
Hospital



Rhea Stuart
CMA
The Meadows



Addison Varvel
Specialty Clinic
Hospital

Stacy Augustyn writes: A thank you to **Brenda Salazar and Angie Ireland** who provided exceptional care to a friend of mine in the Emergency department. Your professionalism, attentiveness, and kindness did not go unnoticed. Thank you both!

Angie Ireland also made a huge impression on another ER patient. The patient reports that Angie was "so kind and gentle" and even helped her get dressed and saw her to her car.

Thank you to **Julie Schneider** for her compassion while assisting a patient in the pain clinic a few weeks ago. The family expressed their gratitude for Julie's help, noting her reassuring response, "It's what we do. I am helping you the way I would want someone to help my family." Julie, you are a shining example of the mission and value of Coffey Health System. Thank you!

Josh Sweet and Cindy Levieux provided the exceptional care to a young boy in the ER. His mother was extremely anxious, especially being from out-of-town. She even considered driving

2.5 hours home to seek care in her hometown. Your attention and compassion extended to both her and her son made all the difference. As the family was leaving the ER, the mother said, "They were just so wonderful!"

HIM offers a special "thank you" to **Kandi Alvarado!** Kandi went above and beyond in taking her laptop to a provider's office so he could complete an operative report that was holding up a claim.

Thank you to the amazing **CHS staff** and community members who came in to help replenish the blood supply for hospitals in our region, including Coffey County Hospital. 38 people took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the blood drive on July 25. We're excited to report that the rock-star team from Community Blood Center in Kansas City collected 30 units of live-saving blood! Throughout the blood shortage, we will continue to offer internal blood drives. **Mark your calendars for the next event on the afternoon of December 6.**

WELCOME!

July & August Anniversaries

Our employees are our greatest resource. Each month, we include a list of employees who will celebrate their anniversary with Coffey Health System. Here's to each of you, and thank you for your service to our patients!

Jered Schulte 33 years

John Shell 31 years

Christopher Jarvis 25 years

Timothy Spears, Ladonna True 21 years

Jon Sides, Jeff Sloyer 20 years

Donneta Karmann 17 years

Beverly Clark, Charlene Sowder 12 years

David Douglass, Laurel Louderbaugh,

Raysha Ratzlaff, Orio Rodriguez,

Nick Worthen 11 years

Renee Branson, Stephanie Lasswell 10 years

Joe Tuthill 9 years

Shelley Denney 7 years

Suzanne Garcia, Vicki Ward 6 years

Denise Hamilton, Amy Osner,

Maycee Hegwald, Tony Traffanstedt 5 years

Darlene Bennett, Taylor Keighley 4 years

Jessica Collins, Blake Schulte 3 years

Rachel Adams, Sarah Birch, Ian Gaddis,

Angie Ireland, Jadan Wolfsbauer 2 years

Ava Beyer, Paul Broyles, Mike Danaher,

Haley Denney, Olivia Lyons, Kayla Reed,

Melissa Thompson, Laisen Stitt,

Nakia Stitt 1 year

September Observances

Assisted Living Week

Sept. 8-14

Environmental Services Week

Sept. 14-20

Information Technology Day

Sept. 17

October Observances

Pharmacy Month

Physical Therapy Month

Food Service Week

Oct. 6-12

Physician Assistant Week

Oct. 6-12

Quality/Compliance Week

Oct. 20-26

Facilities/Engineering Week

Oct. 20-26

Respiratory Care Week

Oct. 19-25

Board

Cont. from page 3

expanded the program to include a registered nurse in the obstetrics department.

Leadbetter summarized information from the August 22 Executive Finance Committee meeting. July financials posted net revenue of \$2,172,457 and expenses of \$2,241,224. He stated that contract labor continues to be an item of concern.

The board approved initial medical staff appointments for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Kassie Lukasz and Cassandra

Vilander and re-appointments for APRNs Jennifer Chambers Daney, Kisha Patterson, and Brenda Salazar and Physicians Chen H. Chow, Joseph Vaglio, and Christian Weller.

The meeting concluded with two executive sessions totaling 25 minutes. In addition to the nine board members, the executive team was also present: Augustyn, Shell, Leadbetter, Thoele, and Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Garcia. The session focused on matters of non-elected personnel.

The board meets next at 6:30 p.m. on September 30, 2024.

When I knew...



My mom is a pharmacist, and I always thought about the medical field, so I started college as a pre-pharmacy major. I took one chemistry class and decided I didn't want six more years of that! So, I started searching for other medical careers and became interested in ultrasound. I found the field interesting, but the program I was researching required an associate's degree with direct patient care, so I decided to first go to x-ray school and then go on to ultrasound. I went to a general/vascular ultrasound program and then later went on to learn echocardiography as well. Although there isn't an exact reason I chose ultrasound, I have always enjoyed learning and there is always something new to learn in ultrasound!

I started at CHS as a travel sonographer and extended for an entire year. As my year was coming to an end, I was torn between finding another contract or staying on full-time. After much begging and pleading from my co-workers to stay, my husband and I decided to settle down here for a while, and we are so thankful we now get to call these crazy co-workers our friends.

I have been an x-ray tech for seven years and an ultrasound tech for five.

Kyndal Gaas, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, RDCS