

Celebrating Our Employees With Nurses Week and Hospital Week



President and CEO Karen Bowling and Chief Nursing Officer Tim Anderson got into the spirit of the event during the Mexican Fiesta Luncheon on May 1, 2023.



Summer Winebarger, Leslie Jones, and Brittany Aust enjoyed the employee picnic on May 12, 2023.

We began the month of May with two weeks of daily events honoring the hard work and dedication of our employees: National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week.

Events for National Nurses Week, May 1 – 5, included Mexican lunches, donut days, *Blessing of the Hands Ceremony*, *Walk a Mile with a Nurse*, and an awards ceremony the following week that recognized *Best Nurse* recipients in all departments. The organization-wide *WVUM PCH Nurse of the Year Award* was presented to Kathy Dooley, the longest serving member of the Orthopedic Center. Kathy retired on May 13 after 45 years of outstanding service.

National Hospital Week, May 8 – 12, was celebrated with special theme days and food including pretzels, pizza, nachos, and ice cream. The week culminated with an employee picnic on Friday, May 12.



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2023 WVU Medicine PCH Best Nursing Awards

2023 Nurse of the Year:
Kathy Dooley

Outpatient Oncology:
Best Nurse – Ashley Nelson
Best PCT – Carole Eversole

Critical Care Services:
Best Nurse – Steven Furches
Best PCT – Kendra Duesing

Emergency Services:
Best Nurse – Elizabeth Pack
Best PCT – Heather Allen

Med-Surg:
Best Nurse – Kathy Dooley
Best PCT – Lillian Justice

Pediatrics:
Best Nurse – Caroline Poff
Best PCT – Courtney Davis

Obstetrics:
Best Nurse – Heather Roberts
Best PCT – Madison Nichols

Behavioral Health Pavilion:
Best Nurse – Stacy Nowlin
Best PCT – LaTessa Dacanay and
Carolyn Mullins Stark

Surgical Services:
Best Nurse – Chris Southers
Best Tech – Julia Scott

Ancillary Services
Best Nurse – Rebecca Young
They do not have techs.





Some 2023 Nursing Award Recipients

Blessing of the Hands Ceremony



Walk a Mile with a Nurse



National Hospital Week Activities



Leona Hendricks Retires After 51 Years of Dedicated Service to PCH

Leona Hendricks retired on Friday, June 9, 2023, after devoting 51 years to serving the patients at PCH as the Patient Support Service Manager.

Shortly after graduating from Graham High School, Bluefield, Virginia, Leona accepted a full-time position in the admissions department at Princeton Community Hospital on April 17, 1972. She worked admissions for nine months before transferring to a new position in the business office as collection manager. A few months later, the credit manager left, and the decision was made to combine the collection and credit manager responsibilities into one position, Patient Support Service Manager. Leona served in that capacity until her retirement.

Leona Hendricks was born and raised in Tip Top, Virginia, near Tazewell, where she shared a home with her parents, six brothers, and one sister. Her father spent 46 years as a hard-working coal miner at the tippie in Bishop, Virginia, and her mother was a loving homemaker.

Of her 51 years at PCH, Leona said, “When I started in admissions, I worked on a typewriter. And when I moved into the business offices, patient invoices were all on paper and in folders. Computers were just coming into play. I’ve seen many changes and I’ve worked with several administrators over the years, but God has really blessed me here. Even though there have been frequent changes with staff, I’ve always worked with thoughtful people. When I came here 51 years ago, the hospital was much smaller. You pretty much knew everyone. Now with over 1,200 coworkers, I still know a lot of people, and it is like a big family. I’ve spent most of my life here, eight hours a day and longer, and it has been a wonderful place to work. It has truly been a blessing, and I thank God for placing me here.”

Leona’s strong Christian faith is the primary force that has shaped her worldview since her youth. She credits her parents with instilling in her that guiding foundation. She said, “I had godly, Christian parents. They started me out at an early age in church. They taught me to love the Lord and to love everybody. They lived that love by example by opening their home to 76 foster children over the years.”



Leona early in her career.

As Patient Support Service Manager at PCH, Leona assisted patients with monthly payment schedules, she prepared numerous monthly reports; if a case required it, she represented the hospital in court; she assisted attorneys with the resolution of insurance contracts; and on a daily basis, she worked with staff throughout the hospital to address patient billing questions.

Leona said, “Working with patients and being able to help them with their bills was very rewarding. I worked with contract staff, DHHR, and Bolder Insurance. They helped patients get Medicaid and disability. But even without that, I could sometimes help patients through our assistance program or with setting up a manageable payment schedule. I’m also thankful to have been on the *Evening of Hope Cancer Care Committee* that helps raise money for local cancer patients. I lost my mom and two brothers to cancer.”

Of her family, Leona said, “I have a beautiful daughter, granddaughter, grandson, and a son-in-law who is like a son to me. They live in Oakdale, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I’ve been blessed to have a wonderful family. The years have gone by so fast. It’s like I blinked and they’re gone. I can truly say PCH has been a wonderful place to work over the past 51 years. It was a pleasure working with a great Patient Support Service staff and with everyone in Patient Financial Services.”

Thank you, Leona, for 51 years of dedicated service, and for the loving kindness you brought to our patients, your fellow employees, and to this organization.



225 Combined Years of Service to PCH

A retirement reception was held on May 18 for five dedicated, long-term employees:

**Kathy Dooley, RN,
Orthopedics**
45 Years of Service

**Kevin Graham,
Plant Operations**
35 Years of Service

**Leona Hendricks,
Patient Support Services**
51 Years of Service

**Marlene Martin, RN, BSN,
Orthopedics/Med-Surg**
45.5 Years of Service

**Debbie Meadows,
Outpatient Testing Coordinator**
49 Years of Service



From left, Kathy Dooley, Debbie Meadows, Kevin Graham, Leona Hendricks, and Marlene Martin.

These five individuals represent 225 combined years of knowledge, wisdom, and experience. Their many years of service are a true testimony of their commitment and dedication to Princeton Community Hospital and its mission to help meet the healthcare needs of the region. They are truly valued for their contributions, and they will be greatly missed.

New Environmental Services Leadership Team



Director of Environmental Services Justin Hardy and WVUM PCH welcome the new Environmental Services leadership team. Pictured from left, Justin Hardy; Megan Mendoza, EVS supervisor PCH second shift; Lindsey Terry, EVS supervisor PCH first shift; Jackie Akers, manager of Laundry; Jasmin Smith, EVS supervisor at The Behavioral Health Pavilion of the Virginias; and Linda Hammock, EVS manager.

Point-of-Care Ultrasound Workshop Held at WVU Medicine PCH

May 16, 2023: WVU Medicine physicians and advanced practice providers are now equipped with the latest technology to improve patient care immediately, at any bedside.

The Center for Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) now brings point-of-care ultrasound to patients across the WVU Medicine Health System, enabling practitioners to diagnose life-threatening conditions, guide critical procedures, and more – in real time, decreasing diagnostic errors and reducing healthcare costs.

Faculty at the Center for Point-of-Care Ultrasound recently partnered with the Trauma Center and Department of Emergency Medicine at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, as well as the Departments of Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, and Critical Care at WVU Medicine Berkeley Medical Center, to conduct hands-on POCUS education.

Led by Joseph Minardi, MD, and a group of talented faculty, POCUS came to Princeton Community Hospital to provide training for our physicians and advanced practice providers. Everyone received hands-on practice with multiple applications, including the Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma (FAST) exam, abdominal applications, extremity, cardiac and lung, airway, and a variety of POCUS-guided procedures.



HR Welcomes New Recruiter



Melissa Bowling is HR's newest team member. Originally from Bluefield, Melissa now resides in Princeton.

Prior to coming to PCH, Melissa spent 35 years in retail management at Mercer Mall. For the past 16 years, she managed Bath & Body Works at the mall.

Melissa will serve as a recruiter with HR. Soon, she will begin visiting job fairs at local colleges and universities.

Melissa said, "I love PCH. As my kids were growing up, we always came to Princeton Community Hospital. We've also been visiting WVU Medicine for a very long time. Both my children (now adults) have cystic fibrosis. We've been going to WVU Medicine in Morgantown for 23 years. Coincidentally, while viewing the PCH orientation video, I recognized one of their pediatric cystic fibrosis doctors. That was very nice. I sent her a message letting her know I saw her in the video."

Welcome, Melissa! We wish you all the best in your new career at PCH.

Memorial Day and National Mental Health Awareness Month at The Pavilion



The Mercer County Coalition for Healthy Communities recently invited The Behavioral Health Pavilion of the Virginias and other area businesses to participate in *Chalk The Walk For Suicide Prevention* in honor of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Suicide Prevention Week, May 7–13, 2023.

The Pavilion staff filled the campus sidewalks with positive messages.

Contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline if you are experiencing mental health-related distress or are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. Call or text 988.



The Behavioral Health Pavilion nurses wore Mental Health Awareness Month T-shirts and waved American flags in celebration of Memorial Day.