



KershawHealth CEO Column

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Early in my healthcare career, a mentor reminded me of the following quote, “We can heal people often times; we can improve their health most times; but we can care for people all times.” I’ve seen that simple wisdom at play in every hospital where I’ve worked and I see it daily here at KershawHealth.

Although healthcare is an extremely complex and rapidly-changing industry, at its heart are people; the people we care for and the people who provide care. Everyone has a vital part to play in that process – from clinicians to housekeepers – and an important story to tell. Unfortunately, those stories don’t get told often enough, especially outside our own walls.

We recently launched a campaign for KershawHealth employees called “YouAreVital.” YouAreVital highlights some of these extraordinary stories that occur every day at KershawHealth. Stories about how employees from information technology, pharmacy, and nursing worked together to implement our bedside medication verification system that makes patient care safer for those in the hospital. The one about the irrepressible cafeteria worker, who greets every day and everyone with a smile, uplifts her coworkers, and always ensures visitors feel welcomed. The dedicated housekeeper who takes the time to greet, talk with, and sometimes pray for each of her patients because she recognizes that being in the hospital is always stressful and a bit of encouragement can make a huge difference.

There’s the physical therapist that pushes, prods, and encourages his patients to accomplish as much as they can. Why? Because he once suffered a traumatic brain injury and endured months of therapy – he’s walked in their shoes and knows what is possible. There’s the nurse who “just had a feeling” about one of her patients and went the extra mile to follow up with them, even taking the time to deliver test results to a hospital with a higher level of care to assist doctors there. “We’re healthcare providers. We have a mission. It’s what we do,” she says with humble pride. And finally, there’s the story of a family touched by hospice, a father’s dying wish to be a part of his daughter’s wedding, and how compassion and technology made that happen.

We all know that KershawHealth has faced a number of challenges in the past. But this is a new day...the beginning of an era! What is most important is that without fail, everyone at KershawHealth is fully committed to doing their part to delivering excellent care for our patients. The stories that are created each day are a testament to that fact. KershawHealth is moving forward into a bright future. No doubt

there will be changes and challenges. But when all is said and done, the heart of healthcare in our community will be beating strong, creating new stories of excellence, compassion and commitment that carry life to our community. I hope you will check out our most recent stories at YouAreVital.org.