

2015: In Review

By Kyle Swift

It is hard to believe that we have closed out another year and 2016 is here. As we look ahead to this new year, I am excited to face the challenges ahead and celebrate the successes with the great team at Woodland Heights. Although I have not been in Lufkin for all of 2015, I wanted to offer a review of the highlights at Woodland Heights Medical Center.

There were several exciting projects that were either completed or started in 2015. In April, Woodland Heights made an investment and upgraded The Orthopedic Center at Woodland Heights. The new-and-improved program focuses on patient education and family involvement. A patient- and family-centric program that brings together surgeons and specially-trained nurses, therapists and technicians, the unit also underwent construction and aesthetic improvements. We have seen great results as our patients are getting back to their lives quicker and the feedback regarding their experience has been positive.

In October of this past year, construction crews broke ground on a \$9.8 million development within the facility that involves two major projects – an upgrade and addition in the surgery area and an increase in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) footprint. In the surgery area, the improvements will include enlarging the outpatient area and the addition of one new surgical suite. The NICU will see the addition of 9 beds that will take the unit from six beds to 15. The anticipated completion for this project is summer of 2016.

Speaking of the NICU and our tiniest of patients...Woodland Heights once again broke the annual delivery record having had more than 1,170 births at the facility in 2015. We also celebrated the second “birthday” of our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This past year, the unit saw more than 140 admissions, saving these families time, money and additional stress. We continue to take pride in the care we offer these tiny lives.

Heart Disease continues to be the leading cause of death we understand the importance of staying ahead of this disease with new investments in technology and equipment.

- The Medtronic Cryoablation treatment along with the St. Jude Ensite Velocity 3D mapping work together to decrease procedure time and the radiation dosage.
- Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) system approved for use with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

The care we offer extends beyond our facility and out into the community. We are invested in this community and our friends and neighbors who share it with us. The economic impact speaks for itself:

- Payroll.....\$39,382,839
- Property & Sales Tax.....\$3,177,759
- Charity & Uncompensated Care.....\$39,335,837
- Community Donations.....\$94,397

Additionally, Woodland Heights worked with our current medical staff to assist in the recruitment of several new physicians and providers into our community:

- Amir Mohani, MD (Cardiology)
- Peter Ross, MD (Orthopedic Surgery)
- Shawn Todd, DO (Urology)
- Kindrell Tucker, MD (Family Practice)
- Mike Davis, PA-C (Family Practice)

Lastly, I want to commend our entire Woodland Heights team for all they did to continue with the tradition of providing quality care to East Texans. They were once again awarded for their commitment in November of last year when Woodland Heights was recognized as a 2014 *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*[®] by The Joint Commission. As we begin 2016, we thank you for allowing us to care for you and your loved ones.

Kyle Swift is the CEO at Woodland Heights Medical Center. He can be reached at kyle.swift@woodlandheights.net.