

Recognizing the work of Nurses and Hospitals

Hospitals are more than a place where people go to heal or to receive treatment when sick or injured. Hospitals are often at the very heart of their communities, contributing to the physical, emotional and financial health. During National Hospital Week, Woodland Heights Medical Center celebrates the hundreds of associates who work together 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to ensure quality medical care is available to every person in deep East Texas.

National Hospital Week was established in 1953, and this year it will be celebrated from May 8 through May 14. The dates overlap the celebration of National Nurses Week (May 6 through 12 this year), and were chosen to coincide with Florence Nightingale's birthday, honoring her role in revolutionizing hospital care in the mid 1800's.

At Woodland Heights, our staff has long played an important role in creating a culture of safety. Through our nurses' commitment to hourly rounding, careful communication with patients and the incoming shift's nurses, and specialized nursing training, they are making a difference each day. Due to our ancillary and support staff's attention to providing a caring, compassionate environment for our patients, they positively impact our community.

Many of our associates have lived in this community for much of their lives. They care for their friends and neighbors, they raise their children in our schools, they drive aging parents to appointments with our physicians, and they retire with a few tears and the fondness and esteem of their colleagues.

Woodland Heights is proud to serve Angelina County and the surrounding counties with high-quality clinical services that continue to expand, year after year. In 2015, our hospital touched thousands of lives through inpatient and outpatient care. We delivered more than 1,170 babies and saw approximately 150 visit our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and treated more than 22,500 patients in our ER. We are currently in the middle of a construction project that will expand and renovate the surgical services area and increase the NICU from six beds to 15. Woodland Heights continues to be certified with The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® in Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement, Heart Failure and Chest Pain.

In addition to celebrating the millions of workers dedicated to patient care in the U.S., National Hospital Week also serves as a reminder that hospitals truly matter in our society, and are worth fiercely protecting. From providing treatment and comfort to the sick, to welcoming new life into the world, hospitals are indeed at the heart of healthy and vibrant communities.

This year, Woodland Heights is proud to acknowledge and celebrate our associates and other healthcare providers, who tirelessly serve the community.

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