

2016: In Review

By Kyle Swift

I don't know about you, but these years start passing by faster and faster. I can't believe it is 2017 and my family and I have been in Lufkin for a year and a half. 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. As I look back on 2016, it was a busy and exciting year at Woodland Heights.

At the end of last year, construction crews completed a \$9.8 million development within the facility that involved 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 included enlarging the outpatient area and the addition of one new surgical suite. The NICU saw the addition of 9 beds that took the unit from six beds to 15.

Speaking of the NICU and our tiniest of patients....Woodland Heights celebrated the third “birthday” of our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This past year, the unit saw nearly 130 admissions, saving these families time, money and additional stress. We continue to take pride in the care we offer these tiny lives. Additionally, our facility now offers its own transport team for babies needing care in the hospital's NICU. There is an ambulance stationed at the facility 24 hours a day, at the ready to pick up babies locally and in the surrounding area that need a higher level of care.

Woodland Heights also added several new screenings and procedures available for our patients, preventing the need to travel out-of-town for healthcare:

- Patients with Heart Failure were offered an option to assist in managing their health with a tiny, implantable wireless monitoring sensor, CardioMEMS. It allows patients to transmit daily sensor readings from their homes to their health care providers allowing for personalized and proactive management to reduce the likelihood of hospitalization.
- Low dose CT scan lung cancer screening is the first and only cost-effective test proven to significantly reduce lung cancer deaths.
- A home sleep apnea test is now available, with personalized education for proper use and improved usability with one-touch operation, longer recording time and good signal indicators, as well as reliable analysis and validated results.
- 3-dimensional mammography exams utilize advanced breast tomosynthesis technology. These exams are clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers, while simultaneously decreasing the number of women asked to return for additional testing.
- A non-surgical solution to assist patients in losing and maintaining weight, in intragastric balloon option is now available.

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.....\$39,273,437

- Property & Sales Tax.....\$3,133,003
- Charity & Uncompensated Care.....\$33,822,761
- Community Donations.....\$83,043

Additionally, Woodland Heights welcomed Mariyam Cherry, M.D., an Internal Medicine physician who joined Woodland Heights Internal Medicine in September of last year.

As we begin 2017, we thank you for allowing us to care for you and your loved ones.

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