Nursing Gives Back

Applauding the Volunteer Efforts of Baptist Health Nurses

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A sk nurses why they chose the nursing profession and they will talk about a fervent desire to help others and make a difference in someone’s life. Our profession surely does make a difference. Nurses help heal the sick, ease suffering and save lives every day. At the end of our careers, each one of us will be able to reflect proudly upon instances when our efforts made it possible for a patient to go home to loved ones. We will look back and see the smiling faces of a patient’s family. We will also be able to take comfort in the compassion we provided to those who were not so fortunate.

Nowhere is the desire to make a difference more evident than in our own backyard. Our nurses are passionate about helping others and they do so every day by providing excellent, caring and compassionate care to our patients and families. This strong commitment to delivering high-quality care through nursing practice, education and research is part of the culture at Baptist Health.

Baptist Health nurses not only excel at delivering high-quality patient care, they go above and beyond to share their expertise with others. Throughout this issue of Nursing Excellence, you will read about how Baptist Health nurses are spearheading and participating in initiatives that help people in need, both locally and internationally. These stories showcase nurses reaching beyond the walls of our hospitals and bringing healthcare education, screenings and support services to a broader community.

Our nurses have invested time and energy in medical mission trips to Haiti and Jamaica. We have shared our expertise with our fellow nurses in the Dominican Republic. Because many of our nurses are originally from other countries, it is extremely rewarding to give back to the international community.

Baptist Health nurses lead the way in the spirit of giving back — to the local and international communities, and to the nursing profession. The reasons for giving may vary, but that charitable spirit is always present. Many of our nurses contribute to the nursing profession in recognition of a special nurse who helped them or a loved one. Nurses who were once recipients of nursing scholarships from Baptist Health have donated money to the Center of Excellence in Nursing. In turn, this contribution provides educational and research opportunities for other nurses pursuing advanced degrees.

Our nurses also invest significant time and effort in activities that touch a chord in their hearts, such as the Heart Walk, Relay for Life, Walk to Cure Diabetes, Habitat for Humanity and Day of Smiles.

Winston Churchill eloquently said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” At Baptist Health, we give so that others may live.
Baptist Health is fortunate to have leaders with foresight and generosity who support a place of healing, such as the Double Harvest Clinic at Croix des Bouquet, southwest of Port au Prince, Haiti.

In 2006, Baptist Hospital Board Chair Calvin Babcock asked Baptist Hospital to sponsor medical missions to Haiti to provide healthcare to the poor and underprivileged. It wasn’t long before volunteer staff and physicians from other Baptist Health entities joined the international outreach effort.

Each quarter, the volunteer medical team travels to Haiti for four days. The group focuses on a selection of surgical procedures, performing approximately 50-70 cases per trip.

To say that planning these trips is complex is an understatement. It requires collaboration between many within the Baptist Health system. Supplies, equipment and medicines are assembled at Baptist Hospital and accompany the team as they set out on these missions.

Thea Dehlinger, R.N., a Baptist Hospital certified operating room nurse, has traveled to Haiti several times with the volunteer team. Ms. Dehlinger was part of the team that responded immediately after the earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010. She described what she saw as a “crisis in magnitude beyond belief.”

Ms. Dehlinger eloquently wrote about her experience in the Baptist Hospital Magnet application. She said, “My prayers those four days never took on a more clear purpose, and never did my prayers have such strength of purpose as they did at that time. I became changed in a way I cannot explain. I am honored to have been a participant of something so much greater than I can even understand and yet feel on a level as deep as my soul.”

I salute our Haitian mission volunteers.

Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

At Baptist Children’s Hospital’s Day of Smiles, more than 50 doctors, nurses and supporting specialists volunteered their time and expertise to provide free corrective facial surgeries to children whose families could not afford the procedures.

Nurses were involved in patient screening, coordinating services and preoperative and perianesthesia procedures. In the operating rooms, they assisted surgeons who repaired cleft lips and palates, performed nose revisions, hand surgery, ear reconstruction and scar revisions. In the postoperative suite, the nurses shared happy smiles with the children and their families.

Yvonne Barbato, R.N., has volunteered at Day of Smiles for five years. “It’s a heartfelt day — a day to give back to the community,” she said. “The parents and children are so grateful. There are many tears of joy — from everyone involved.”

Day of Smiles was founded 10 years ago by Michele Ryder, R.N., vice president of Clinical Operations, and is managed each year by Patti Waisbrot, R.N., director of Perioperative Services. Since its inception, more than 117 free procedures have been performed on children and young adults in need.

Initiatives such as Day of Smiles are an important component of Baptist Hospital’s Magnet designation. “The Magnet Recognition Program does not allow organizations to rest on their laurels — and we do not,” said Diane Bolton, director, Nursing Operations and Magnet Programs. “Competent, dedicated and empowered nurses are expected to develop strong partnerships to improve patient outcomes and the health of the community they serve. Baptist Hospital Magnet nurses extend their influence to community groups, advancing the nursing profession, supporting organizational goals and enhancing their own growth and development.”
The nurses of South Miami Hospital assist thousands of people locally, nationally and internationally. They join their co-workers in representing Baptist Health and South Miami Hospital at sponsored events, as well as volunteer as individuals.

Many South Miami Hospital nurses assist at local events such as the City of South Miami Farmer’s Market, The Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and at community health screenings and education presentations. Members of our nursing team participate in the NBC 6 Heart Health Interactive programs and give of their time to Operation Smile, the Living Hope Haiti Project and Habitat for Humanity. In addition, our nurses and staff deliver individual Thanksgiving dinners each year to more than 90 seniors at the South Miami Senior Center.

Martha Pearson, 5 Tower, is making a difference in the lives of others. She went to Haiti to help those in need after the devastating earthquake in January 2010. To aid in the recovery, she has single-handedly financed the building of a school, donated funds to ensure that an orphanage in Haiti is able to feed its children, and paid the salaries of several teachers, helping to keep a rural Haitian school open.

Kris Kist, a longtime community humanitanian, is a volunteer for the Living Hope Haiti Project, coordinated by Baptist Health South Florida Board member Calvin Babcock. Mr. Kist joins the volunteers from Baptist Hospital’s surgical department as they travel to Haiti every three months to perform lifesaving surgeries. Baptist Health provides all of the medical supplies for this effort.

Mr. Kist said that the experience has been life-changing. “Some folks have never received any kind of healthcare,” he said. “Preventive care is foreign to most. We see many people with teeth so rotten that extraction is the only intervention our volunteer dentist can offer. We have had women so severely anemic that they had to be carried into the clinic for lifesaving treatment. Patients who come to us blind from cataracts leave the clinic the same day able to see again.”

Ms. Pearson and Mr. Kist are two examples of the many South Miami Hospital nurses who perform unselfish acts of service — acts that benefit so many people outside our hospital walls.

The mission of South Miami Hospital’s Culture Diversity Council, directed by Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Kathy Sparger, is for the hospital to become a center of excellence for cultural diversity and linguistic care. To achieve this mission, the council has implemented initiatives that reflect the Baptist Health diversity strategic mission.

Each year the council presents Cultures Come Alive, a celebration that promotes the hospital staff’s diverse culture. More than 40 cultures were represented at the 2011 event, making it evident that our culturally diverse workforce is one of our greatest assets.

In collaboration with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, nursing leadership and staff received training to help them better care for visually impaired and blind patients.

In October 2011, the hospital was awarded chapter membership and named liaison to the Transcultural Nursing Society, a member society that provides healthcare professionals with the knowledge to ensure cultural competence in practice, education, research and administration. South Miami Hospital is the first hospital in South Florida to be afforded such distinction.

Freda Arzadon, R.N., represented the Philippines at the 2011 Cultures Come Alive event.
Why do we choose to become nurses? Is it a calling? Is it a promise to help others?

This “promise” is an underlying theme throughout historical medical literature. Countless articles have been written about the medical professional’s obligation to put the rights and needs of the patient first and foremost. The American Nurses Association’s Code of Ethics for Nurses states that nurses’ “primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group or community.”

The team at Doctors Hospital strives to fulfill our promise to improve the lives of patients — in our community and beyond. Our staff has volunteered each year with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for families in need. Our nurses are regular participants in the annual Heart Walk and Walk to Cure Diabetes. Each Thanksgiving, the Doctors Hospital team rallies to provide food, canned goods and supplies to churches and other organizations in our community.

Several new charitable initiatives were introduced in 2011. Doctors Hospital nurses spearheaded a holiday clothing drive and participated in a health fair for the homeless. Our Unit Practice Councils’ nursing and ancillary staffs collected toys to donate to Toys for Tots during the holidays and volunteered at His House Children’s Home, an organization that provides residential care for abused and neglected children.

Our promise to help also extends to those in other nations. We continually raise money to provide goats, a primary source of milk, for Haitians who were devastated by the 2010 earthquake. In addition, doctors and nurses from our operating room travel to Coya, Peru, for 10 days every summer to provide free gynecological medical and surgical services to the indigent population.

At Doctors Hospital, we are living up to our promise to protect the rights, safety and health of our patients. We continue to provide services and give of our time to those in need. We are proud of our accomplishments, and we look forward to broadening our reach and participating in additional charitable endeavors in 2012.

Our promise is to keep our promise!

Serving Seniors in Our Community

Doctors Hospital partnered with the City of Coral Gables to host a day dedicated to the health of seniors at the second annual Senior Health Fair last September.

Twenty-eight nurses volunteered their time at the event and more than 200 seniors attended. The free health fair included screenings for osteoporosis, blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol, health lectures, yoga and tai-chi exercise demonstrations, chair massages and complimentary lunch.

Magnet Project Director Pat Blanco, R.N., collaborated with Baptist Health South Florida Community Health and the City of Coral Gables to organize the very first Senior Health Fair held in the fall of 2010. “As part of our Magnet journey, it is important that we focus on the needs of our community,” said Ms. Blanco. “These events have had a positive impact on the health of seniors in our community. We look forward to hosting the next Senior Health Fair this fall.”
Homestead Hospital

Message from Chief Nursing Officer Gail Gordon, R.N.

Homestead Hospital nurses reach out to our local and international communities to help those in need. They provide valuable healthcare services, serve as teachers, counselors and mentors and donate food, medications and clothing.

Our nurses have gone on medical missions to Haiti, Guatemala, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. They have traveled to other countries to teach basic first aid to other healthcare workers. One of our nurses shared her knowledge on pregnancy-induced hypertension, fetal demise of one twin and postpartum depression. And yet another nurse has spoken internationally on her research on abdominal compartment syndrome.

At home, nurses rally to participate in the Heart Walk, Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride, Leukemia & Lymphoma Walk, and Relay for Life. They give of their time to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and March of Dimes. They raise money for these organizations by holding bake sales and raffles. Staff members also participate in local health fairs, including Homestead Hospital’s annual event that serves more than 500 people.

Many of our nurses serve the community even when they are not representing Homestead Hospital. They serve as Boy Scout leaders and Big Sisters. They tutor students and speak at area schools. They support Patches, a daycare facility for chronically ill children. They donate food to feed the poor, school supplies to local schools and toys to children at the Homeless Assistance Center. Many also volunteer at outreach programs sponsored by their church or congregation.

Homestead Hospital nurses inspire young people through various programs. In

Making a Difference

When Branches United Methodist Church needed help providing its congregation with health and wellness programs, Homestead Hospital came to the rescue.

The congregation consisted of many Mexican migrant workers who had little or no access to healthcare. Elva Diaz, R.N., recruited volunteers Ana Cabrera, ARNP, Rosa Filomeno, R.N., Ann Marie Allen, R.N., and Julie David, ARNP, to help educate the congregation on healthcare topics.

To kick off the Manna Center program, health needs assessments and screenings were conducted. Each month thereafter, the Homestead Hospital nurses, dietitian and wellness coach collaborated to teach classes about diabetes, hypertension, nutrition and proper exercise. To encourage higher attendance, the nurses provided the migrant workers with healthy meals and snacks at the meetings.

A special bond has been created with those at the Manna Center. The nurses who volunteer offer a valuable gift to the community — the gift of their time.
Mariners Hospital

Message from Chief Nursing Officer Cheryl Cottrell, R.N.

Mariners Hospital is an integral part of the fabric of the Upper Keys community. As the sole acute care health provider, we have the privilege to care for people we know personally — our neighbors, families and people we see routinely in the community.

Nursing is about meeting the healthcare needs of the individual, as well as the community. The nurses at Mariners Hospital donate their time and skills in a variety of ways. Many volunteer at schools, churches and organizations related to their personal interests. One of our nurses volunteered weekly at a charter school to provide the students with age-appropriate health education. She recently collaborated with Baptist Health Clinical Learning and the school principal to offer an online health service for the school’s families.

Molly Vlach, R.N., infection control, visits local preschool classes to educate children on the importance of hand washing. The teachers happily report that their students routinely sing the alphabet as they wash their hands.

Two Mariners Hospital nurses provide basic lifesaving classes annually to local Boy Scout troops. At the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department’s National Night Out in 2011, our nurses provided blood pressure screenings and answered health-related questions while attendees learned about crime prevention.

Our nurses collaborate with other healthcare professionals from Mariners Hospital to make a difference in our community. They provide health screenings and educational booths at our Community Health Fair. They participate in the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life of the Upper Keys and the National Kidney Foundation fundraiser, an event coordinated by the Imaging Department. In addition, Mariners Hospital employees take pride in planning and preparing a monthly meal for the visitors of God’s Kitchen, which serves anyone who needs a nice hot meal.

Hillary Clinton has been credited with the saying, “It takes a community to raise a child.” At Mariners Hospital, it takes a hospital team to meet the needs of the community. I am proud to say that the nurses at Mariners Hospital are doing their part to take care of our friends, family and neighbors in the Keys.

Serving in God’s Kitchen

At God’s Kitchen, the community outreach program that provides meals to Upper Keys residents, Mariners Hospital employees feed approximately 65 people the third Thursday of every month.

Meals are served every Thursday at Burton Memorial United Methodist Church in Tavernier, a short two miles north of the hospital. Nourishment and mealtime respite are available to anyone who visits. Guests are welcomed on a walk-in basis with no questions and no qualifiers. Not everyone who comes to God’s Kitchen is hungry or homeless; some live alone and come for a few hours of companionship and socializing.

The Mariners team takes pride in the meals they serve at God’s Kitchen. Menu items include lasagna, pretzel pork chops, shepherd’s pie and Thanksgiving turkey with sides. Delicious homemade desserts conclude each meal.

Upon recognizing the members of the Mariners team, a diner who visits God’s Kitchen each week commented, “Oh, it’s you. Now I know the meal will be good.” Compliments such as these are rewarding and inspire the Mariners team.

In God’s Kitchen are (l to r) Natalie Vogt, R.N., Jean Santaguida, ARNP, Sharon Hauk, R.N., Jo Ann Aromandi, R.N., Sharon Detweiler, R.N., and Debra Blaida, R.N.
Nurses are professionals committed to maintaining and improving the health of their patients, families and communities they serve. Since opening West Kendall Baptist Hospital, the nurses have been focused on their rapidly increasing patient volume. Yet, even during these growth times, our nurses have demonstrated their commitment and passion to serve their community.

West Kendall Baptist Hospital nurses were active in community events such as the March of Dimes March for Babies and the Heart Walk, and raised money for United Way and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. They recently collaborated to raise awareness and funds through their participation in the American Cancer Society’s West Kendall Relay for Life.

In anticipation of flu season, members of our nursing team have provided hand hygiene education at local elementary schools. Nursing experts Florence Nightingale and our own Infection Control Practitioner, Zebina Roger, R.N., can be extremely proud!

Health education programs are offered monthly at West Kendall Baptist Hospital, and our nurses provide health screenings, give presentations and serve as panelists. They lend their time and talents at programs such as Empowering Your Preteen Daughter and bicycle and swimming pool safety seminars.

Ann Mullings, R.N., patient care manager of Women’s Services, is making a difference. She traveled to the Caribbean Islands with the Rotary Girls’ Getties to serve as a mentor to orphaned teenage girls residing in group homes.

Last fall the hospital hosted a very spirited Halloween event to provide a fun and safe environment for the families of the West Kendall community. More than 1,000 parents and children attended and wandered through Baptist Health Way, enjoying a haunted house, trick-or-treat booths, photo opportunities, food vendors, giveaways and music.

Our unofficial mascot, Gumby, made a special appearance at the event. Families enjoyed the age-appropriate thrills of the haunted house, hosted by the nurses of the Pediatric Emergency Department. The team also staffed a nurses’ station to provide comfort and care for attendees.

Nurses at West Kendall Baptist Hospital are committed to living their values of giving and caring for their patients, families and community. As the hospital matures and evolves, so does our nurses’ rich history of giving back to the community at the local, state and national levels.

A Thanksgiving to Remember

Like all Baptist Health facilities, West Kendall Baptist Hospital embraces the culture of patient- and family-centered care. So when the daughter of a critically ill patient asked the nursing team if she could host her family’s traditional Thanksgiving dinner at the hospital, ICU Nurse Manager Bernie Arcena, R.N., worked tirelessly to make her wish come true.

Mr. Arcena faced many challenges while planning this holiday event. He collaborated with the patient’s critical care physician to ensure her safety and with Dining and Environmental Services to accommodate the 25 family members.

As the family enjoyed their meal and celebrated the true meaning of the holiday, tears were shed by all who attended. They expressed their gratitude to the hospital staff for bringing them together. The West Kendall Baptist Hospital team was also thankful for this unique opportunity to make a difference in the life of this patient and her family.

West Kendall Baptist Hospital was the scene of a joyous Thanksgiving celebration.
Giving back is not new in healthcare. Those who serve in the healthcare profession are not only dedicated to helping anyone who is sick or injured in some way, but are also committed to helping and supporting others in the community.

In 2011, the team at Baptist Outpatient Services introduced its Giving as One campaign to give back to our neighbors in need. We kicked off this campaign with a holiday wagon initiative. During the holidays, red Radio Flyer wagons were lovingly filled with gifts, toys, food and decorations and delivered to our “adopted” families.

The efforts of this initiative began earlier in the year. At an employee retreat, staff members were challenged to build Red Flyer wagons as part of a team-building exercise. As the holidays approached, these wagons took on new life at each facility.

Team members creatively decorated the wagons with a festive, holiday theme and filled them with items that were generously donated by employees. Thirty-eight wagons with their bounty were delivered to deserving families who live within a 10-mile radius of our locations throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

Our Giving as One campaign continues in 2012 with a creative shoebox initiative. Baptist Outpatient Services team members recently filled more than 340 shoebox care packages with supplies and personal hygiene items. These special packages were delivered to a local charity to help those in need. We are proud to give back to the communities we serve.

The Giving as One campaign has not only provided gifts, food and supplies to our neighbors, but has also brought many happy smiles to the faces of everyone involved.

Baptist Outpatient Services Chief Executive Officer Patricia Rosello said, “Despite the tough years we have experienced due to the economic downturn, Baptist Outpatient Services has been very fortunate. It is during times such as these that we need to step back, put our challenges into perspective and recognize our blessings by paying it forward. In our Giving as One campaign, we have found a way to give as ‘one person, one team and one organization.’”

### Delivering Holiday Cheer

Members of the Torres family were the happy recipients of a Radio Flyer wagon filled with holiday gifts donated by employees of Baptist Outpatient Diagnostics. The community outreach initiative was part of Baptist Outpatient Services’ Giving as One campaign.

The wagon received by the Torres family, decorated as a warm and glowing fireplace, was crowned best-decorated in a friendly competition among Baptist Outpatient Services locations. The single mother of three was delighted at the arrival of her special holiday care package. She expressed her gratitude and said that the wagon was clearly decorated and filled with love.

The gifts and supplies delivered by team members Terry Walkington and Maureen Morales helped make the holidays happy for Ms. Torres and her family.

Terry Walkington, left, and Maureen Morales from Baptist Outpatient Diagnostics delivered a holiday surprise to the Torres family.
Nursing Notes

Yvonne Brookes, R.N., director of Clinical Learning, was the regional recipient of Nurse.com’s 2011 Nursing Excellence Award for mentorship. Recipients are nominated, selected and honored by nurses. Corporate Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Deborah Mulvihill, R.N., presented Ms. Brookes with the prestigious award Nov. 17 at the Baptist Health corporate offices in Coral Gables. The presentation was attended by all Baptist Health chief nursing officers.

“Yvonne exemplifies clinical expertise, customer service, leadership, education and mentoring,” Ms. Mulvihill said. “She has mentored new nurses and experienced nurses, and she is a role model for every nurse at Baptist Health.”

At the event, Ms. Brookes said that she was humbled by the award. “Because mentoring is so important to me, I can’t think of another award that would mean more. I am extremely honored,” she said.

Three Stars for Baptist Hospital Program, Three Cheers for the Nurses

Baptist Hospital’s open heart surgery program received the highest-quality rating of three stars for outstanding results in coronary artery bypass surgery by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the authority when it comes to rating the quality of heart surgery. The program’s nursing team, physicians and supporting specialists collaborated to achieve the prestigious three-star rating, achieved by only 14 percent of the 1,000 participating centers.

“This was an enormous undertaking and a true team effort,” said Vice President of Clinical Operations Michele Ryder, R.N., who directs the nursing effort with the support of her colleagues Carol Mascioli, vice president of Clinical Services, Faith Solkoff, R.N., vice president of Operations and Clinical Outcomes, and Becky Montesino, R.N., vice president and chief nursing officer. “Through standardization, process improvements and practice patterns, our nurses address the needs of each patient and deliver outstanding care, resulting in better patient outcomes.”

Niberto Moreno, M.D., medical director of the Baptist Health Cardiac & Thoracic Surgical Group, recognized the nursing team for its contribution.

“Because mentoring is so important to me, I can’t think of another award that would mean more. I am extremely honored,” she said.

Baptist Hospital Receives Fourth Consecutive Magnet Recognition

Baptist Hospital received its fourth consecutive Magnet Recognition in nursing excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), an honor that fewer than 1 percent of hospitals in the nation have ever achieved.

The ANCC appraisers interviewed hundreds of employees, physicians and community members during the May 2011 survey. “Prior to the validation site visit, we submitted a comprehensive application for redesignation, which scored in the ‘excellent’ range,” said Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Becky Montesino, R.N. “Magnet designation is about the work we all do every day and is an exceptional accomplishment.”

Reader Wins Trip to Magnet Conference

Candida Bell, R.N., a Labor and Delivery nurse at Baptist Hospital, was the winner of the Nursing Excellence Summer 2011 reader reply drawing. Ms. Bell, pictured below in the back row, far right, with nurses from Baptist Hospital, was awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to the ANCC national Magnet Conference in Baltimore last October. She joined the more than 85 Baptist Health nurses who attended the conference, and said the event provided her the opportunity to connect to the nursing community. “We bonded and learned from each other, and shared personal stories and best practices,” she said. “It was a fantastic experience.”
Baptist Health Clinical Learning Educators Susana Flores, R.N., and Sally Bonet, R.N., travel to the Dominican Republic each month to train the nursing staff of Central Romana Hospital, located in the town of La Romana. The mission of this international outreach program is to provide training that will ensure a superior-quality level of patient care at the hospital, while raising the level of nursing standards in the region.

The educational initiative, led by Deborah Mulvihill, R.N., corporate vice president and chief nursing officer, and Yvonne Brookes, R.N., director of Clinical Learning, began in June 2011 as the team of Central Romana Hospital prepared for the November 2011 opening of their new and improved facility.

“The new Central Romana Hospital is a beautiful facility with state-of-the-art equipment,” said Ms. Mulvihill. “Under the direction of Ms. Brookes, the clinical educators have done an exceptional job in strengthening the nursing staffs’ competencies and critical thinking ability, thereby elevating the perception of nursing in this international community.”

During the initial meetings, the Baptist Health educators spent time with the nursing team to break down barriers and establish trust. “It was important for us to understand the culture in place and not judge,” said Ms. Brookes, a 20-year veteran of Baptist Health. “There is a sisterhood in nursing. We have worked as advocates for these nurses and, as part of the educational process, have coached them how to advocate for themselves.”

Prior to beginning the training program, Ms. Flores and Ms. Bonet conducted multiple skills assessments that evaluated the nurses’ critical thinking, technical skills and interpersonal relations. Results of the evaluations helped determine any gaps in practice and competency, enabling the Baptist Health team to develop an effective education curriculum.

Training sessions began in September 2011 and are currently scheduled through September 2012. Each month during their weeklong visits, Ms. Flores and Ms. Bonet conduct classroom and clinical setting training that addresses the practice and developmental needs of the nursing staff. Baptist Health educators Katherine Tyron, R.N., Jose Guitian, R.N., Nelson Pena, RRT, Maria Vargas, R.N., Cherice Rivera, R.N., and John Mouw have also visited the Dominican Republic to teach specialty classes. The Baptist Health educators have supported the Central Romana Hospital nursing team in developing a staffing matrix, leadership hierarchy, patient admissions process, job descriptions and competencies. “As with any educational process, we constantly assess the progress and training needs,” said Ms. Flores. “We recently revised the training schedule to spend more time in the clinical setting.”

During those real-time sessions at the bedside, the educators are seeing positive results. “It is very satisfying to see the nurses have those ‘aha’ moments,” said Ms. Bonet. “Each month when we return, we are seeing progress, and that is very rewarding.”

When the new Central Romana Hospital opened, members of the Baptist Health executive team joined the educators at the event. Those attending included Ms. Mulvihill, Chief Operating Officer Wayne Brackin, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer George Foyo and Corporate Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations Roymi Membiela.

“They were able to see first-hand the warm welcome the Baptist Health team receives from the hospital staff and the community when we visit,” said Ms. Brookes. “Everyone is confident that the education we are providing will help the hospital deliver a level of patient care that has never been seen in the region.”
Nursing Achievements

Publications, Presentations and Research

Podium presentations:


Publications:


Education and Certifications

BSN degree:

MSN degree:

RN degree:
- Abdul Ghaffar, R.N., John Landino, R.N., Andres Perruc, R.N.

MSN/MHA degree:
- Vanessa Perez, R.N.

MSN-MBA-HC degree:
- Myriam Bigaud, R.N., Rhonda H. Piner, R.N.

MBA degree:
- Deborah Montgomery, R.N.

Certified:
- Judy Bancroft, R.N., Certified Professional Healthcare Quality (CPHQ).
- Tina Clark, R.N., Cardiovascular Nurse Certification.
- Maxine Dellanos, R.N., Healthcare Accreditation Certified Professional (HCAP).
- Paula Fonte, R.N., Certified Nursing Education.
- Maria E. Garcia, R.N., Certified Low Risk Neonatal Nursing (RCN-LRN).
- Karen Johnson, R.N., Cardiac Medicine Certification (CMC).
- Alena Ludwik, R.N., Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM).
- Martha Martinez, R.N., Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
- Jessica Roldan, R.N., Certified Gastroenterology (CGRN).
- Bibiana Vargas, R.N., Certified Heart Failure Nurse (CHFN).
- Dena Videtic, R.N., Certified Radiology Nurse (CRN).
- Certified Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN):
- Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN):
  - Purificacion Arlos, R.N., Dhanmattie Chato, R.N., Jessica Henry, R.N., Maria San Juan, R.N., Christine Williams, R.N.
- Certified Medical-Surgical (CMSRN):
- Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN):
  - Marianne Issa, R.N., Natasha Jacobi, R.N., German Padilla, R.N., Allen Yarem, R.N.
- Certified Nurse, Operating Room (CNOR):
  - Ana Alex, R.N., Gail Weston, R.N.
- Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN):
  - Leonor Perez Aquino, R.N., Julio Delvalle, R.N., Yuli Hernandez, R.N., Malinda Walsh, R.N.

Certified Oncology Nursing Chemo and Biotherapeutics Instructor: Charlene Means, R.N., Jan Roy, R.N.
Certified Orthopedic Nurse (ONC): Ashley Cortez, R.N., Cheryl Deffin, R.N., Margaret L. Romer, R.N., Apri Triana, R.N.
Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse (CPEN): Rebecca Maya, R.N., Rebeca Ojito-Torre, R.N.
Certified Post-Anesthesia Nurse (CPAN): Sheela Johnson, R.N., Derrick Yuyr, R.N.
Certified Wound Care Associate (CWCA): Beverly Davis, R.N., Patricia Spann, R.N.
International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC): Cecilia Betancourt, R.N., Meg Fergil, R.N., Alicia Hing, R.N.

Professional Awards/Recognition

Anne Marie Allen, R.N., inducted into Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society.
Marie Bonnenman, R.N., named March of Dimes Nurse of the Year: Emergency Trauma Nursing, Nov. 2011.
Alice Cockrell, R.N., named 2011 Orthopedic Nursing Certification Nursing Advocacy Award, National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses.
Roberta Fismer, R.N., received letter of recognition from AACN for 30 years of CRN certification.
Susana Flores, R.N., Susana Sanchez, R.N., named West Kendall Baptist Hospital Employees of the Month.
Julie Fullerton, R.N., received Robyn Main Award for Excellence in Bedside Nursing, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, Sept. 2011.
Cathi Galvin, R.N., named South Miami Hospital Leader of the Year, 2011.
Denise Harris, R.N., named March of Dimes Nurse of the Year, Executive Nursing Leadership, Nov. 2011.
Terry Leo, R.N., received Mariners Hospital DAISY Award.
Sue Nixon, R.N., inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.
David Pastor, R.N., named West Kendall Baptist Hospital Leader of the Quarter.
Barbara Russell, R.N., elected 2012 president of the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, and secretary of Florida Nurses Association.
Nancy Vihlen, R.N., named treasurer of South Florida Infusion Nurses Society.

As of December 2011

Nursing Excellence is guided by the Editorial Advisory Board, which includes nurses from all Baptist Health hospitals and entities. These nurses serve as the pulse point for the innovative and interesting programs and ideas that are taking place in nursing across Baptist Health. Editorial Advisory Board:
- DeDe Austin, R.N., Doctors Hospital; Diane Bolton, R.N., Baptist Hospital, Baptist Children’s Hospital; Rosalina Butao, R.N., and Denise Harris, R.N., West Kendall Baptist Hospital; Sandy Jones, R.N., Homestead Hospital; Deborah S. Mulvihill, R.N., Baptist Health South Florida; Maria Olmeda, R.N., Baptist Outpatient Services; Melanie O’Neill, R.N., Mariners Hospital; Debra Witherspoon, R.N., South Miami Hospital. 