

# 2023 NURSING YEAR IN REVIEW



HEART OF THE ROCKIES  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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& Heather Roberts

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# LETTER FROM VP'S APRIL ASBURY & HEATHER ROBERTS

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## Happy Nurse's Week 2024!

Florence Nightengale is credited with modern nursing and it is during this week each year that we have the opportunity to appreciate the profession. In 1974 the International Council of Nurses established May 12 as International Nurses Day and National Nurses week was officially born 30 years ago in 1994.

As nurses, we are recognized as highly specialized and trusted professionals with a wide range of talents. The versatility of our career offers dozens of specialties where we are the crucial link between patients and providers. During Nurses Week, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated nursing staff who provide exceptional care and compassion to our patients. Your commitment, expertise, and kindness make a profound difference every day. Thank you for your dedication and contribution to our communities and HRRMC.

### Fun Facts:

1. The first recorded nursing school was established in India in 250 B.C.E. Only men were allowed to attend.

2. In 1863, the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia began offering a six-month nursing program. This was the first state chartered nursing school in the U.S.

3. In 1923 The first independent nursing school opened at Yale University and they accepted women into the program.



With love and appreciation,  
April Asbury &  
Heather Roberts

# NURSING ACCOLADES

## New roles



### ASHLEY CRAIG

Ashley was promoted to Buena Vista Health Clinic Nurse Supervisor



### TODD GRATE

received a promotion from RN, ICU to RN Nursing Supervisor.



### DEVYN KINDALL

Devyn was promoted to Buena Vista and South Park Clinics Manager.



### MICHAEL FUSSELMAN

received a promotion from RN, ED to ED Charge Nurse.



### COURTNEY TRULUCK

received a promotion from Patient Care Tech to RN Clinics, Float.



### MARY JONES

received a promotion from Ortho RN to Clinic Nurse Supervisor.



### ASHTON HARRISON

received a promotion from Ortho RN to Ortho RN Clinical Coordinator.

## New Certifications

Marty Pack, RN, received his OMS (Ostomy Management Specialist) certification after taking a 40-hour, week long class and passing the certification exam through the National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy. Great work, Marty!

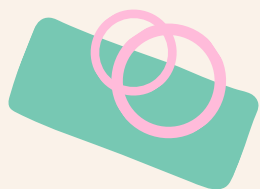


# NURSING ACCOLADES CNTD.

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## JIRKA MYERS AND APRIL ASBURY RECOGNIZED AS HEALTH CHAMPIONS BY CHAFFEE COUNTY HEALTH COALITION

Congratulations to Oncology/Infusion Manager Jirka Myers and VP of Patient Services April Asbury, who were both recently recognized as Health Champions in Chaffee County! Thank you for your dedication to keeping our community in good health!



## NURSES WE SAID GOODBYE TO

### YVONNE MCDONALD

Yvonne worked in the Emergency Department for over 25 years. When asked what advice she had for someone starting out, she offered, "Remember to laugh, don't take an angry patient personally and if you're struggling at work, share that with your coworkers because if you're struggling, we all struggle!" Thank you for all that you contributed to HRRMC over the years!



### LINDA TYPER



Through Ms. Typer's 10-plus year tenure at BVHC, she provided compassionate care, kindness and dedication to our local community, as well as patients of all families and ages traveling through the region. Linda said of her time here, "I love to make my patients happy and feel good about taking care of their personal health. I will miss those one-on-one conversations in caring for them and making them feel comfortable and confident as they leave the clinic."

### LORRIE HOCKE



Lorrie was a nurse at HRRMC for decades, most recently in the Family Birthing Center. Lorrie recalls, "Every birth I attended was a special moment. In one instance, we had a patient who had limited prenatal care and when we delivered the baby, we unexpectedly discovered a second one not far behind! They were twin boys with six toes on each foot! This was before every woman had a prenatal ultrasound." Thank you Lorrie for your dedication and hard work over the years!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR TEAM, PATIENTS AND HRRMC OVER THE YEARS,  
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU AND WISH YOU THE BEST IN YOUR NEXT CHAPTER!**

# HEALTH DISPARITIES INITIATIVES AT HRRMC

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**Led by our identified champion - Director of Quality/Risk Christine Blaney-MacMillan - below summarizes HRRMC's areas of focus in helping those in our service areas at risk or with limitations in place receive the proper care they need.**

## Health Disparities in 2023 and 2024

In 2023, HRRMC was able to successfully initiate a plan to address what we determined to be the most critical social determinant of health (SDOH), transportation. The SDOH that we focused on were: Transportation, stable housing, domestic violence threats, utility shut off and food security. HRRMC recognizes that these socio-economic factors can affect the ability of our community to attend to their healthcare needs, especially in our rural service areas.

Our plan for 2023 featured key components, such as attending the Chaffee County Public Health Coalition meetings on a regular basis to connect with the community. Identifying areas of need in our service area, such as reviewing care needs for the perinatal patients we provide care to in the Westcliffe community; reviewing the transportation needs of our dialysis population; and reviewing the way that we capture information of patients with SDOH needs. We were able to focus on the need for education for groups that are seen as underprivileged or underserved. In conjunction with Chaffee County Public Health, education on cultural differences was offered to employees and community members.

Our Perinatal providers have expanded to Westcliffe to offer additional services for the community to better serve the population in the area that may find it difficult to make it back to the hospital after newborn delivery. These services now are available at the Custer County Health Center for those who find travelling to Salida difficult.

A team was also consulted to review forms and resources for patients whose primary language is Spanish. The Language Line offerings were reviewed and a new contract with Propio-LS was initiated to provide a portal that allows for documents to be interpreted into Spanish as needed. We also have noted that with the incoming Spanish-speaking migrants in our area, there will be a need for a Spanish phone tree.

In early 2024, we were able to meet and brainstorm about community needs with a team consisting of members from our case management department, as well as local organizations including Full Circle Restorative Justice, Partners for Community Action, the HRRMC Foundation and Solvista Health. This will be a primary focus for the 2024 Health Equity Plan.

-Christine Blaney-MacMillan





# YEARS OF SERVICE

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**20 YEARS**



**BETH HERDMAN**



**15 YEARS**



**PATSY JUAREZ**



**KATHY MILLWARD**



**KATIE KOWALSKI**

**10 YEARS**



**JONI BAKER**



**5 YEARS**



**MARGO BURNS**



**MOLLY KNIGHT**



**EMILY SMITH**



**MONICA EATON**



**STACEY KRAYNA**



**KELSEY TEMPLE**



**ROBERT GOWER**



**JOELLE MARTIN**



**MARISSA WEST**



**TODD GRATE**

## MINDY KLINE IS THE 3RD QUARTER TRAC STAR WINNER!

RN and Staff Development Instructor Melinda "Mindy" Kline was named the TRAC STAR of the third quarter of 2023 in a ceremony that took place on Oct. 18. According to her nominator, "Mindy is a committed, loyal and extremely talented nurse. She seeks out areas to improve care, makes herself available when staffing gets tough, and is always making sure our staff and patients have what they need. She takes call for the Family Birthing Center to ensure safe newborn care, and shines in her educational duties as an instructor and employee resource." Mindy was also referred to as "an amazing representation of professionalism and commitment to Colorado's rural community, and especially here at HRRMC."



To All The Doctors  
and Nurses who have  
cared for our brother,  
Rand... THANK  
you!!  
Being able to spend  
the last 4 weeks of  
healing with all of you  
was a huge blessing &  
the reason he now gets  
to go home. Our lives  
have all been touched by  
your love, compassion  
and wisdom!

MR GRANDSON, [REDACTED] CAME IN ON  
4-23 WITH A BUSTED LIP. HE NEEDED  
4 STITCHES. FROM CHECK IN TO CHECK  
OUT WE WERE TREATED LIKE "ROYALTY"

MR NURSES, SKYLAR, CARLEY AND  
VICTOR WERE WONDERFUL. THESE  
SERIOUS PROFESSIONALS WITH BIG  
SMILES AND A GREAT SENSE OF  
HUMOR.

They put [REDACTED] AT EASE AND  
ON CASE OF BUSINESS.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH

My whole family thanks  
you all for everything you  
did for them and me!  
You are a blessing to  
your professions!  
Thank you!!  
[REDACTED]

Dear ER/Trauma Center.

Thank each of you —  
staff, doctors, nurses, aides,  
helicopter pilots for saving  
my life on September 3rd.

My family bragged on all  
of you on the great care I  
received when they brought  
me to the trauma center. I  
don't remember anything there  
but I know everything you  
did for me saved my life.

My family doctor here in  
[REDACTED] said we were  
blessed that you put me on a  
ventilator.

I do know that when I  
woke up in ICU in Colorado  
Springs that I thanked  
God every night for the wonderful  
care I received from you all,  
and I prayed for each of you.

# HIGH PRAISE