

## Employee Healthbeat

*From the desk of Judy Wenzl, BSN, RN, infection prevention*

### Get vaccinated and prevent measles

Measles is a very contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles starts with a fever. Soon after, it causes a cough, runny nose and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny, red spots breaks out. It starts at the head and spreads to the rest of the body.

Measles can be prevented with the MMR vaccine. This vaccine protects against three diseases: measles, mumps and rubella. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children get two doses of the MMR vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Teens and adults should also be up to date on their MMR vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is very safe and effective. Two doses of the MMR

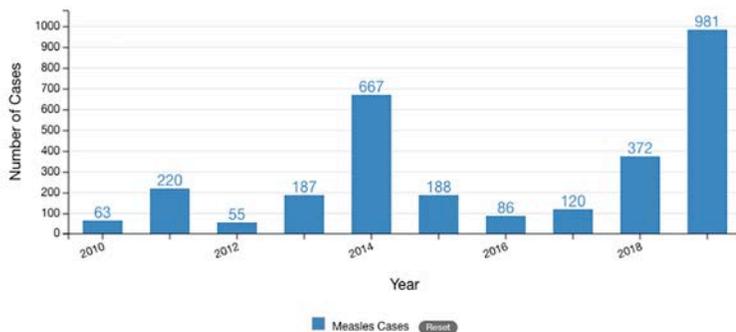
vaccine are about 97 percent effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93 percent effective.

Children may also get MMRV vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chickenpox). This vaccine is only licensed for use in children who are 12 months through 12 years of age.

Before the measles vaccination program started in 1963, an estimated 3 to 4 million people got measles each year in the United States. Of these, approximately 500,000 cases were reported each year to the CDC; of these, 400 to 500 died, 48,000 were hospitalized and 1,000 developed encephalitis (brain swelling) from measles. Since then, widespread use of the measles vaccine has led to a greater than 99 percent reduction in measles cases compared with the pre-vaccine era. However, measles is still common in other countries. Unvaccinated people continue to get measles while abroad, bring the disease into the U.S. and spread it to others.

### Number of Measles Cases Reported by Year

2010-2019\*\* (as of May 31, 2019)



Data Table

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Measles Cases	63	220	55	187	667	188	86	120	372	981

\*Cases as of December 29, 2018. Case count is preliminary and subject to change.

\*\*Cases as of May 31, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. Data are updated every Monday.

### Measles cases and outbreaks

From January 1 to May 31, 2019, 981 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 26 states, which is the greatest number of cases since measles

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was declared eliminated in 2000. So far, there have been no reported cases in Kansas this year, but surrounding states including Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado have reported cases. Other states with reported cases to the CDC in 2019 include Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Washington.

Measles can spread due to the following: the majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated; measles is still common in many parts of the world; travelers with measles continue to bring the disease into the U.S.; and measles can spread when it reaches a community in the U.S. where groups of people are unvaccinated.

*Information for this submission was provided by the CDC. Visit the CDC website for more information, including information specific to health care workers and details about who should consider this vaccine. ●●●*

## Engage the Community

*From the desk of Katie Allen, communications and foundation*

### Hospital hosts community meeting

Norton County Hospital invited anyone interested in learning about our local health care system to a community meeting on Wednesday, April 24th. The evening meeting was hosted in the basement of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative.

The event was the start of regular community-wide meetings being hosted by the hospital to educate on the current status of local health care provided at the hospital and its clinic, Norton Medical Clinic, as well as allow administration and board members to answer questions posed by the public. At this first meeting, Gina Frack, Norton County Hospital CEO, talked about the Norton County Hospital Strategic and Implementation Plan for 2018-2020. It was developed throughout 2018 from data driven by the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment for Norton County and subsequent meetings with members of the community and hospital staff.

Wichita State University was involved in collecting data and facilitating strategic and implementation plan development. Funding for this process was made possible by the hospital and the Norton Regional Health Foundation. The Norton County Health Department also collaborated on this project. The event had a great turnout and dialogue. (Photo below, left)



### Goodies sent to school

A special thanks to our NCH Dietary department for making home-baked goodies for the staff at Norton Community Schools. We wanted to share our support for them after some tragic losses in the Norton community. (Photos above, center/right)

### Cards from local children

Eisenhower Elementary School students drew "get well" cards for our patients at NCH. We know these will bring smiles to those who are in the hospital. We thank these children and their teachers for their thoughtfulness! (Photos below)



## In the Spotlight

### Nex-Tech's Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth internship: Welcome, Alyssa DeBoer!

Norton County Hospital has been able to host interns the past couple of years through Nex-Tech's Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth Program. This summer, Alyssa DeBoer is joining us as part of this program. Please make her feel welcome when you see her! She wrote a bio about herself, included below.

My name is Alyssa DeBoer, and I was born on August 10, 1999, in Hays. I am currently 19 years old. Along with my parents, I live with my brother, Gage, my dog, Angel, and my cat, Bear, in Prairie View. I graduated from Logan High School in May of 2017. I am currently attending Fort Hays State University in Hays to major in nursing.

While in high school, I participated in many activities, such as volleyball, basketball, track and field, Kansas Association for Youth, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 4-H and church youth group. I enjoyed playing sports in high school because of the competition atmosphere and the many friendships I gained. Now that I am in college, I do not have as much time for sports; however, I still enjoy playing them when I get the chance. While in college, I have participated in intramural volleyball and some other organizations such as Christian Challenge and Fort Hays Association of Nursing Students.

Through the last couple years of high school and in college, I have had different jobs. I received my first job at Pizza Hut in Phillipsburg in June of 2016. I worked there until I left for college in August of 2017. I also had the opportunity to work at the Hammond Hut in Long Island for the Summer of 2017. I enjoyed both of these jobs in the food industry, as they gave me the foundation of many life skills I have learned over the years. I did not work during my first year of college. In the Summer of 2018, I was a Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth part-time summer intern at Phillips County Health Systems. This program helped me learn more about local hospitals, confirmed the decision on my major and increased my passion for health care. The internship program was very meaningful, which led me to apply for the same internship at Norton County Hospital this summer. I also worked at Dillon's in Hays for the 2018-2019 school year and plan on returning in the fall.

My dream is to become a labor and delivery nurse once I graduate from Fort Hays State University. I realized I want to become a nurse after a job shadow experience my junior year of high school at Hays Medical Center. I fell in love with the role of nursing a mother while preparing to give birth, as this process creates many special life moments. Since my discovery of nursing, I found that I love smaller local hospitals and the opportunities they provide. Although many smaller hospitals do not have an OB department, I found that I also enjoy surgical and clinical nursing. Therefore, I can also see myself coming home after college to take part in the local health care system. ●●●



### Norton County Hospital welcomes new physical therapist

Norton native Spencer Shirk will be joining the Norton County Hospital Rehabilitation staff as a physical therapist, with a tentative start date of July 8, 2019. He will be the third physical therapist on staff at the hospital and will also join two physical therapy assistants and an occupational therapist in the department.

Spencer graduated from Wichita State University with a Bachelor of Exercise Science, followed by a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2017. During his education at Wichita State, Spencer spent his clinical rotations in a wide variety of settings that included hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and outpatient clinics in Whitefish, Montana, and Jackson, Wyoming. Through these clinical experiences, Spencer said he gained valuable knowledge in working with patients of all ages and diagnoses. He went from working on balance training with older patients to working with some of the top skiers in the world.

Most recently, Spencer has served as a physical therapist at hospitals in southwest Kansas, including in Lakin and Leoti. Spencer said he believes people deserve the best in rehabilitation. He prioritizes patient education to help them better understand and manage their rehab, and he enjoys creating trusting relationships with patients to dispel myths and build confidence. Spencer is also Level 1 Certified in Dry Needling.

"I'm looking forward to moving home and working with the current Rehab department and all staff at NCH to improve the health and lives of people in and around Norton County, whether that's through PT or joining community efforts that are already trying to provide healthy and active opportunities," Spencer said.

Spencer and his wife Bethany, also a native of Norton, enjoy all forms of outdoor recreation and are excited to be moving back to the community.



## In the News

*From the desk of Katie Allen, communications and foundation*

### Hospital marketing efforts honored in statewide competition

Norton County Hospital was recognized for excellence in public relations and marketing at the Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators (KAHCC) Spring Conference April 12 in Hutchinson.

Presented by the KAHCC, the Emerald Awards are given annually to hospitals across the state that excel in internal communications, external communications, special events, digital media, advertising, writing and other categories. Marketing professionals from Georgia with extensive health care experience evaluated this year's 44 entries for planning and research, implementation, cost effectiveness and results.

Awards were given on a tiered scoring system. Entries that scored within the top tier received Emerald Awards, and entries within the next tier were awarded Certificates of Merit. Awards Norton County Hospital received include:

- In the external communications – annual report category, the hospital received an Emerald Award for the “Foundation Annual Report,” written, designed and produced by Katie Allen. Katie oversees communications at the hospital and is the executive director of the Norton Regional Health Foundation.
- In the advertising – total campaign category, the hospital received a Certificate of Merit for the “Community Health Needs Assessment Campaign,” by Katie Allen and collaborators.

Awardees were given an opportunity to present their projects so health care communication professionals statewide had a chance to ask questions and get ideas to take back to their facilities.

The KAHCC is a group of health care communications professionals dedicated to improving communication with our communities, health care employees, physicians, media and more.

KAHCC contributed information for this release. A photo is included, at right, showing Katie Allen (left), Foundation and Communications Director at Norton County Hospital, receiving an Emerald

Award for the “Foundation Annual Report” at the Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators Spring Conference. Presenting the award is Janice Reese, current KAHCC Board President. ●●●

### National Walk @ Lunch Day hosted April 24th

Many employees with the Norton County Hospital, Norton Medical Clinic and Norton Regional Health Foundation were among individuals and groups across the state of Kansas and nationally who participated in National Walk @ Lunch Day® on Wednesday, April 24th.

National Walk @ Lunch Day encourages people to take a walk during their lunch break and start a healthy routine. According to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, “the path to better health begins with just one step” to start a regular walking program. Walking is one of the easiest and most effective forms of exercise.

A brisk, 30-minute walk five times a week can:



- Reduce stress and anxiety;
- Lower blood pressure; and
- Be a positive influence on heart disease, diabetes and osteoporosis.

A person doesn't have to be a power walker to receive the health benefits of walking. It is just important to move and eventually make walking a regular part of daily activity. ●●●



## In the News

From the desk of Katie Allen, communications and foundation



### Nursing scholarships awarded

The Norton Regional Health Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to support the enhancement of quality health care for the residents of Norton County and surrounding counties, has awarded scholarships to students pursuing advanced degrees in the nursing field. The Foundation presented the scholarship awards to the following recipients to help financially support their education for the Summer 2019 semester:

- Nicholas Peterson, Norton, awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Warren and Jean White Nursing Scholarship Fund; Nicholas recently became an RN, but he is continuing courses to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Fort Hays State University.

- Stefanie Dodd, Norton, awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the George Jones Nursing Scholarship Fund; Stefanie is an RN and nursing instructor and is working on completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Ottawa University.

The Norton Regional Health Foundation at Norton County Hospital awards academic scholarships each spring, summer and fall semester to students who are enrolled in college courses, are seeking degrees in the medical field and express interest in working at Norton County Hospital in the future. It is through

donor support that these scholarships can be awarded, and the Foundation is grateful to donors for their generous contributions.

For more information about the Norton Regional Health Foundation, visit the Foundation tab of the NCH website. *Nex-Generation intern Alyssa DeBoer contributed to this release.* ●●●

### Training for a hazardous material event

A decontamination training at Norton County Hospital on April 16th helped staff understand what to do during a hazardous materials event (Code Orange). When this happens, NCH would receive patients who have been exposed to chemical, radiological, biological, etc. contaminants. These patients would need to be decontaminated before being allowed into the facility for medical care.

Staff members trained on how to set up the showers to 1) let the Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) gown up to decontaminate patients, 2) allow nursing staff to prepare ER for receiving/transferring patients and 3) understand it is a time sensitive event, and we would need to be ready as soon as possible to receive patients. Photos are included at right. ●●●



## Other Celebrations

### Supporting colorectal cancer awareness

March 1st was “Wear Blue Day” for colorectal cancer awareness. Many staff wore blue to recognize the importance of preventive health screenings that include colonoscopies. According to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, every year, more than 140,000 people are diagnosed with this highly preventable disease. They will join more than 1.4 million colorectal cancer patients and survivors living today.

This awareness day was also a good time to remind patients and the community that NCH recently brought back general surgery with the addition of a visiting specialist, Dr. Charles Schultz.



## Other Celebrations

### Celebrating our 'Employees of the Month'

The March NCH Employee of the Month was Tracey Hartzog from the Lab department (pictured below, left)! Her nomination read: "Tracey is one of the most dedicated, hardest working people in our facility. When we had a group of doctors who visited our hospital recently on a recruitment visit, they were impressed with our staff overall, but they made specific mention of Tracey. They were amazed by all that she does and called her a great 'advocate' for NCH. She is very deserving of this honor."

The April NCH Employee of the Month was Cheryl Mann from the Laundry department (pictured below, center). Her nominations read: "She is always friendly and willing to help. She does a great job and steps up to help wherever needed."

"Cheryl is always willing to step outside her department and help out when needed. She has worked here for many years and finds ways to appreciate her coworkers. We are very lucky to have her on our team!"

The May Employee of the Month was Brenda Dole from the Dietary department (pictured below, right). Her nomination read: "Brenda has taken on a new role as dietary manager and has done a fabulous job! She seems to work well with her team. She organized a successful silent auction to benefit one of her staff in need and has added wonderful new items to the menu. She and her team are even going above and beyond to make treats for the schools in their time of need. I think Brenda is very deserving of this honor."

*Congratulations to these outstanding employees!*



### Thank you, Laboratory staff!

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week was April 21-27, 2019. According to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, the week provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory personnel. Medical Laboratory Professionals Week originated in 1975 as National Medical Laboratory Week under the American Society for Medical Technology, now called the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). In subsequent years, other organizations have served as cosponsors and campaign supporters. (Jeanette Haskett is pictured at right.)



## Other Celebrations

Norton County Hospital staff celebrated Hospital Week May 12-18, 2019. Some staff members explained the “why” they enjoy their jobs. We were happy to celebrate them and all other hospital staff during this important week!



“The secret of joy in work is contained in one word – excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it. Our mission: Caring, Commitment, Community is lived each and every day at Norton County Hospital. My wife and I are very lucky and blessed to be part of such a wonderful community and an amazing hospital!”  
- **Gary Hembd, CRNA, 9 years of service**



“Working in the Physical Therapy department at NCH continues to be a rewarding experience. It is a great feeling to assist patients on their road to recovery.”  
- **Jan Volgamore, Physical Therapy, 39 years of service**



“I like the quiet while I keep busy. I do more than 500 pounds of laundry per week, so I enjoy getting right to work when I arrive.”  
- **Cheryl Mann, Laundry & Environmental Services, 38 years of service**



“I enjoy working at NCH because of the people. Every single department has great staff who are eager to provide exceptional care in the roles that they perform. It is a joy to work with individuals who are dedicated to serving the community.”  
- **Travis Nykamp, Nursing, 4½ years of service**



“Norton has been everything to my family and me. My job is never boring. I’ve never had the same day twice, and there is never a day I haven’t learned something. I also love the impact I can make in life transitions, from delivering babies to helping a patient at end of life. The ability to work with patients throughout their lifetime is rewarding and is why family medicine is so important.”  
- **Dr. Glenda Maurer, 22 years of service**



“I enjoy cooking and serving lunch. I’ve always had fun in the kitchen with my co-workers, and I enjoy being able to feed the patients.”  
- **Jeanne Pharis, Dietary, 31 years of service**



“I love the personal connection with my cardiac rehab clients and developing ongoing friendships with them. The NCH family has become a second family to me, and we share each other’s life events.”  
- **Ruth Mizell, Nursing, 34 years of service**



“I love my job because it allows me to be a positive influence in the lives of so many people that I never would have met otherwise. It’s very satisfying knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of your patients.”  
- **Jonna Inman, APRN, 8 years of service**

## Other Celebrations

### More Hospital Week testimonials!



"I have been a RN for 21 years. The No. 1 reason I like it at NCH is my co-workers, not just nurses, but all the staff are so nice, caring and quick to help with anything. It makes for a very enjoyable work environment when you feel comfortable and glad to see the people you work with every day. I can say I am proud to work here."

- *Jay Alexander, Nursing, started March 2019*



"I feel supported by the Norton community as a physician assistant. I feel the community has been welcoming and appreciative of me. I also have great support with the nursing staff, and I have become family with my co-workers."

- *Kristin Vogel, PA-C, 11½ years of service*



"I love working in imaging; it's never boring! With sonography, it's like detective work, looking for clues to help diagnose a patient. It's so satisfying when I can help solve a patient's illness."

- *Shawnee Branek, Radiology, 18 years of service*

### About Hospital Week

The theme for National Hospital Week 2019 was "Celebrating Hope and Healing." The 125 Kansas community hospitals, including Norton County Hospital, provide vital health care services to communities statewide. Annually, Kansas hospitals staff nearly 9,000 beds; serve more than 315,000 inpatient visits; assist in more than 37,000 births; care for more than 8.2 million outpatient visits; and treat more than 1.2 million patients in Kansas emergency departments.

In Kansas, hospitals employ more than 93,000 people or 4.7 percent of all job holders and generate \$6.7 billion in direct total income. Kansas hospitals support the creation of additional jobs in other business and industry and have a total employment impact of approximately 177,500 jobs. For every \$1 of income generated in the hospital sector, another 59 cents is generated in other businesses and industries in the state's economy; thus, having an estimated total impact on income throughout all business and industry of more than \$10.7 billion. ●●●

## Human Resources

*From the desk of Shannan Hempler, human resources*

### Blood drive June 20th

The next blood drive at Norton County Hospital is Thursday, June 20th.

### *Introducing the Blood Drive Partner Journey! (From the American Red Cross)*

Thank you, Norton County Hospital, for partnering with the American Red Cross! We are very excited to introduce to you Blood Journey, a new communication that will showcase your organization's lifesaving impact. The blood collected from your most recent blood drive is now on its way to the below hospitals.

While there may have been other hospitals that benefited from your efforts, the following hospitals received the majority of blood products collected from your drive.

VIA CHRISTI HOSPITAL-ST. FRANCIS  
KIOWA DISTRICT HOSPITAL  
SALINA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER  
WILLIAM NEWTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
VIA CHRISTI HOSPITAL-EAST HARRY

Every day, hospitals provide lifesaving blood to patients in need. Your willingness to open your doors and recruit blood donors remains vital to the lives of the patients that we serve, not only locally, but across the country. ●●●

### Recent milestones

Congratulations to these employees and thank you for all that you do!

#### March

Mary Boyce	27 years
Allison McChesney	9 years
Josie Logemann	3 years
Adam Jolly	1 year

#### April

Jeanette Lacy	24 years
Charla Sprigg	23 years
Dan Dole	21 years
Jennifer Schoenberger	20 years
Jan Long	13 years
Gary Hembd	9 years
Julia Thompson	7 years
Megan Juenemann	5 years

(Continued on p. 10)

# Human Resources

*From the desk of Shannan Hempler, human resources*

## Recent milestones (from p. 9)

### May

Cheryl Mann	38 years
Jeanne Pharis	31 years
Haley Jones	10 years
Charli Enfield	9 years
Jonna Inman	8 years
Sierra Wahlmeier	7 years
Nicole Henry	3 years
Melisa Fowler	2 years
Tamara Haussermann	2 years
Rachel Jones	2 years
Megan Kats	1 year

## EMPAC-Employee Assistance Program

*What NCH does to help you and your family—*

*Our most valuable assets*



<http://empac-eap.com>

Member Login: NCH

EMPAC offers numerous benefits and services for you to take advantage of, including one-on-one counseling; practical, meaningful group training sessions; and a wide network of partners we can connect you to depending on your needs or struggles.

### Confidential Counseling

EMPAC's exceptional licensed counselors provide short-term solution-focused counseling. They are effective and experienced in the real-life concerns that you or your family may face. They will help you through all kinds of situations that may have a tendency to rob you of your sense of security and balance. Common concerns EMPAC helps with are:

- Family and parenting
- Life event changes
- Marital & relationship issues

- Addictions
- Self-esteem concerns
- Grief and loss
- Stress, depression, & anxiety
- Work-related concerns
- School concerns
- Divorce recovery

On a case-by-case basis, you may be referred to an outside agency for further assistance.

### Training and Education

EMPAC provides training on numerous topics. A small sample of these educational training sessions include:

- Stress Management
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Essentials of Supervision
- Improving Your Leadership Skills
- The Power of an Attitude of Gratitude
- Work-Life Balance

EMPAC provides all kinds of information on its website, available anytime.

### Wellness

To find balance, it is necessary for us to be as healthy as possible, not only emotionally, but physically as well.

EMPAC provides:

- Personal Wellness Program
- Stress Management
- Managing Change

### Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

A crisis in the workplace, assault, bank robbery, death of a coworker... each of these scenarios is not only terrifying, but each is also incredibly stressful for all involved. EMPAC can assist you and your employees in dealing with such crises.

A CISD session is rather informal and can last anywhere from 30 minutes to more than an hour. No one should be forced to participate, but you should encourage employees to at least attend the session. Smaller groups of around 10 are best; however, some employees may prefer to meet with a counselor for a private session. In either case, you should assure your employees that the employee assistance program is always available to them for assistance.

### Money Management

EMPAC provides access to financial specialists with a wide range of experience in personal financial services. You can find assistance for:

- Budgeting and debt
- Identity theft
- Retirement questions
- College funding

### Legal Assistance

EMPAC will help you and your family members in finding experienced attorneys to assist with most legal issues. An attorney who specializes in your area of need will meet with you for a consultation at no charge. (Continued on p. 11)

**EMPAC-Employee Assistance Program (from p. 10)**

If you decide to retain the attorney, you will be given a 25 percent discount. EMPAC can help instruct and assist you on:

- Preparing a will
- Power of attorney
- Living will
- Other legal forms and documents

***Dependent Care Referrals***

When others depend on you, it can be very stressful. What kind of assistance is right for your aging parents? How can you find excellent daycare at an affordable cost? EMPAC is your source of assistance to help you get started. EMPAC can help with:

- Finding licensed, affordable childcare
- Eldercare
- Long distance care giving
- Referrals for appropriate care
- Helping dependents with special needs

***Frequently Asked Questions***

*What is EMPAC?* EMPAC is an employee assistance program for your company. EMPAC provides help to employees and their immediate family members for marital and family issues, emotional concerns, work-related issues, alcohol and drug abuse as well as financial and legal concerns. EMPAC assesses the needs of employees or their family members, and makes an appropriate referral based on the assessment. Some employees are eligible for what is called short-term counseling. This benefit will give employees and their family members up to six sessions with an EMPAC counselor free of charge.

*Who knows if I come to EMPAC?* EMPAC is confidential. Your employer will not know that you utilized our services. Applicable state and federal laws regarding privacy and confidentiality regulate EMPAC. If a person is an imminent threat to self or others, the authorities must be notified. Beyond that, utilization of our services is confidential.

*Who pays for EMPAC?* The employer pays for employee assistance services for the employees and their family members. There is absolutely no cost to the employee or family member when they utilize the services of EMPAC. If EMPAC refers you outside their agency, there may be a cost. Often, health insurance will pay for a significant portion of the charges that may be incurred. EMPAC will assist you in finding an excellent preferred provider.

*What are the credentials of your staff?* All counselors are licensed, certified and are graduate-level clinicians.

*How do I contact EMPAC?* In the Wichita area, call (316) 265-9922. If you're outside of Wichita, KS, call (800) 234-0630. EMPAC is located in downtown Wichita at 300 W. Douglas, Suite 930 in the R.H. Garvey Building. Tell EMPAC you have an EAP with Norton County Hospital. ●●●

**Meet the Team! Norton County Hospital is excited to announce our new employees. Please say hello, and welcome them to our team!**

	<p><b><u>Alasia Kenney</u></b>  <b>Outpatient Specialty Clinic, LPN</b>                  Joined NCH Team Full Time February 11, 2019 in the Outpatient Department                  Alasia grew up in Norton. She attended nursing school in Norton through Colby Community College. She is a wife and mother of 4 children—1 boy and 3 girls. Alasia loves to read and to go camping, fishing and hunting with the family.                  When asked why she chose to seek employment at NCH: "We choose to stay close to home to raise our kids around family."</p>
	<p><b><u>Courtney Lawellen</u></b>  <b>Nursing, RN PRN</b>                  Joined NCH Team March 11, 2019</p>

	<p><b><u>Liz Albright</u></b>  <b>Clinic Patient Access Rep</b>                  Joined NCH Team February 28, 2019                  Liz grew up in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Her previous experience is in business and office education.                  She has a wonderful son, great daughter-in-law and awesome grandson. They live in California and love it. She loves visiting them.                  Liz loves to make flower arrangements and wreaths.                  When asked why she chose to seek employment at NCH: "I came to Jennings to help with family and decided to stay. I love the area."</p>
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(Continued on p. 12)

## More Meet the Team! (from p. 11)



**Sherry Strayer**  
*Clinic Patient Access Rep*

Joined NCH Team February 20, 2019 (Sherry had recently decided to retire in the near future).

Sherry grew up mostly in the Jennings, KS area. She attended junior high in Durango, Colorado and graduated from high school in Liberal, KS. But she has always considered Jennings her "home" town. Sherry studied computer programming at Seward County Community College in Liberal, KS.

Sherry has 3 children—their daughter (granddaughter) passed away in August leaving her husband to raise their 2 little ones. They have 5 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Sherry is a Mary Kay Consultant and enjoys getting together with friends for their "beauty" needs. She loves working in the yard in the summer and seeing grandkids.

When asked why she chose to seek employment at NCH: "I have lived in Norton for 30 years now. Met the love of my life here after living in Texas for 10 years. I like working with and helping people."



**Jay Alexander**  
*Outpatient Specialty Clinic, BSN, RN*

Joined NCH Team March 18, 2019

Jay grew up in Norton. He received his BSN, RN at Bethel College. His wife Angie is also a Bethel College graduate and the school nurse in Norton. Their son Connor is now a senior in high school and daughter Olivia will be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Jay enjoys auto mechanics, construction, plumbing, electrical and fishing when he finds the time.

When asked why he chose to seek employment at NCH: "We moved here 11 months ago to a family farm since my wife got a job at school. An employee here at the hospital sought me out to apply here a few months ago."



**Nancy Vap**  
*Patient Financial Counselor*

Joined NCH Team March 27, 2019

Nancy grew up in Atwood, KS. She has a BA in Music from Baker University, BME in Music Education from Bethany College and Medical Coding from US Career Institute.

She has a daughter, Alexandria, and a granddaughter, Ilyana, who live in her house in Atwood on the farm she and her dad grew up on. She and her husband designed and built a house on his family farm in Prairie View where he raises cattle and crops, and she raises pumpkins and veggies.

Nancy used to sing in sweet adelines, and loves Halloween and growing pink pumpkins for her annual breast cancer research fundraiser in October. She loves to find new uses for old things (up-cycle). Come by her house, and she will gladly show you.

When asked why she chose to seek employment at NCH: "Married Larry Tien in 2017. Thought spending more time with new husband would be a good idea instead of splitting my time 50/50 between Atwood and Prairie View."



**Alexis Ord**  
*Patient Access Rep*

Joined NCH Team May 1, 2019

Alexis grew up in Norton. She graduated from Norton Community High School in 2013. She is a CNA, CMA, and certified Pharmacy Tech.

She recently married in October 2018 to Kasey. They have 3 fur pups—Cinch, Rosie and Harley. She enjoys playing with the dogs, spending time at the lake, rodeos during the summer, DYI-ing, crafting and sewing.

When asked why she chose to seek employment at NCH: "We recently decided that we wanted to relocate and chose to move to Norton where we are still close to family."

## Supporting Pat Michael

The Dietary department hosted a silent auction benefit for staff member Pat Michael. Staff donated more than 150 items to a silent auction to benefit Pat, who is fighting cancer. Many of us got together to bid on the items and raised more than \$2,700! Thank you to all who participated in this great cause. (Photos below)

