



**Manning Family  
Children's**  
LCMC Health



# Nursing Annual Report 2024



# 2024 Nursing Annual Report

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## A letter from the Chief Nursing Officer

Dear Nursing Colleagues,

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to share our stories and achievements in this year's annual report. I am truly grateful for the unwavering dedication and passion of our nursing team and the collective efforts of all those involved in supporting our mission.

At the core of our success is the protection and support of our most valuable asset – our nursing team. We know that in order to provide extraordinary care, our nurses need to feel safe and supported in every aspect of their work. In 2024, we continued to prioritize physical safety with the implementation of distress badges in our Emergency Department and Behavior Health areas. We continued to concentrate on empowerment and professional development through our hospital wide shared governance structure, residency program, emerging leaders program, and clinical ladder program. We understand that a healthy, well-supported team leads to better outcomes for both the patients and our nurses, and I'm proud to share the work of our extraordinary nurses who disseminated new knowledge with posters presentations and publications as well as those who received awards and recognition. I hope you enjoy getting to meet a few of our exceptional nurses in this report!

Equally important is our relentless focus on quality – ensuring that our patients receive the highest standard of care. This year, as we continue to implement evidenced based practices and leverage new technologies, we saw significant advancements in patient safety with initiatives focused on pressure injury prevention in our PICU and CLABSI reductions in our acute care units. In addition, our Emergency Department took an innovative approach to safety and operational efficiency with the implementation of first look nurse. As we continue our Magnet journey we're committed to the daily grind and forward progress that will allow us to achieve clinical excellence.

I am also overwhelmingly proud of the banner year we've had for advocacy, both at the state level and within our broader community. We have strengthened our voice, leading to Manning Family Children's becoming one of only a handful of centers approved for gene therapy as a curative treatment for sickle cell disease and beta thalassemia. In addition, our nurse's advocacy led to the change in the law to allow NICU babies post discharge to be eligible for relinquishment though the Safe Haven law. Together, we've demonstrated the power of nurses in impacting lives far beyond the walls of our facility.

We look forward to what the future holds and are excited to continue our mission to improve the health of the next generation.

Sincerely,



**Lindsey Casey, MSN, RN, NEA-BC**  
Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer  
Manning Family Children's

# Guiding our efforts

**Vision:** To be the regional leader in pediatric nursing excellence by caring for every child as our own.

**Mission:** To provide comprehensive, compassionate pediatric nursing care for all children through communication and collaboration to deliver the highest quality care with a commitment to education, professional development, and a nursing model that is rooted in evidence-based practice and research.

## Nurse Satisfaction

- Children's Hospital values the impact nurses have in the organization and recognizes employee engagement as an important factor for success.
- Children's Hospital utilizes Press Ganey RN Survey to evaluate RN satisfaction annually.

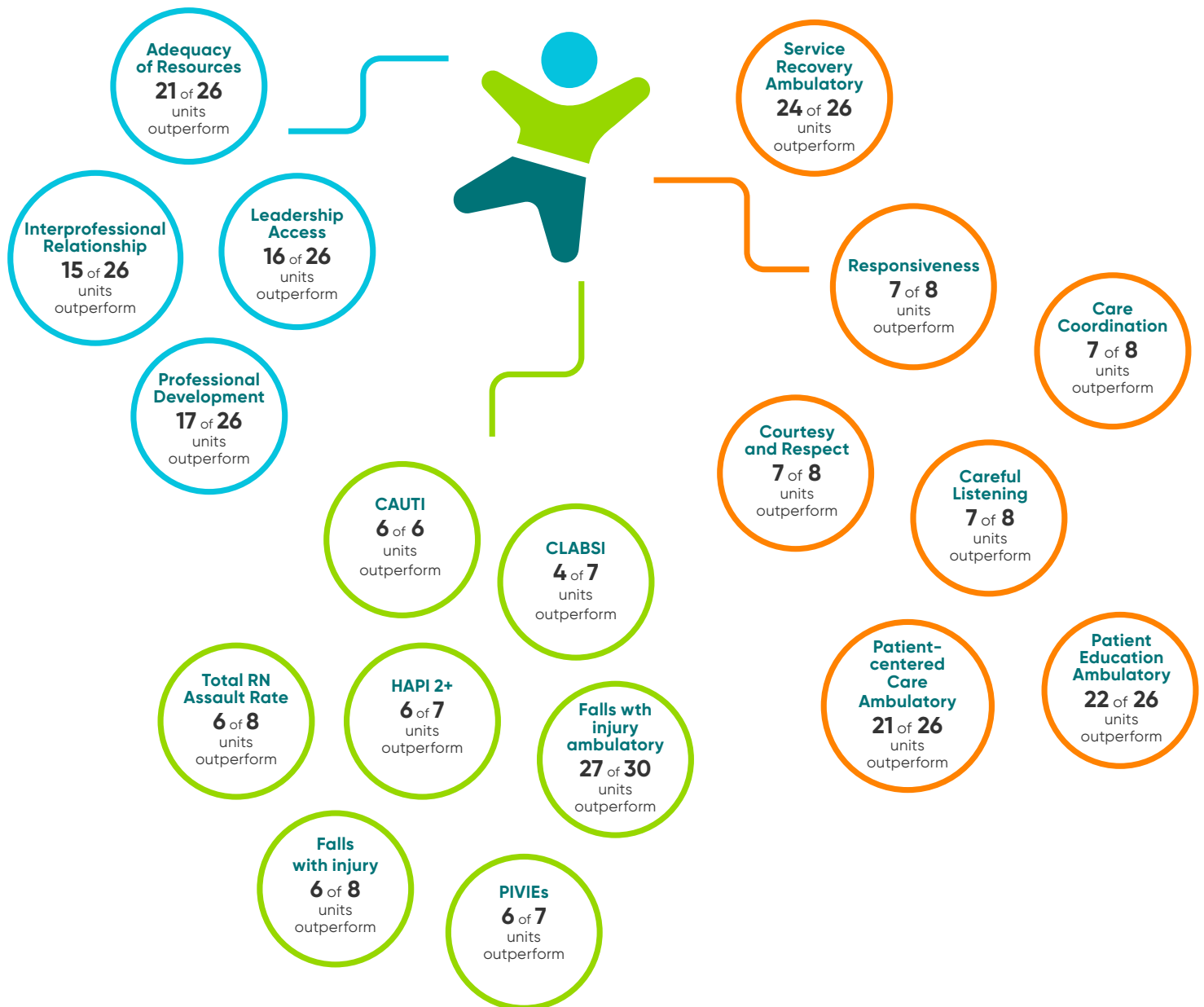
## Nurse Sensitive Indicators

- Children's Hospital compares nurse-sensitive quality indicators to national benchmarks through NDNQI to ensure that we are providing the best and safest patient care.
- Data is submitted quarterly to NDNQI, and indicators are compared at the unit level to similar unit types in other hospitals.

## Exceptional Patient Experience

- Children's Hospital evaluates perceived performance by comparing patient satisfaction scores to national benchmarks.
- Children's Hospital uses the National Research Corporation (NRC) survey tool to evaluate patient and family experiences and identify areas for improvement.
- Children's Hospital began surveying in all ambulatory areas in the first quarter 2019.

# Empirical model







## Hematology/Oncology team implements new standard of care for leukemia patients

For years, the standard of treatment for B-Cell leukemia patients remained largely unchanged. In 2019, however, a groundbreaking clinical trial, AALL1731 and AALL1732, introduced Blinatumomab, an immunotherapy added to standard chemotherapy protocols. Blinatumomab demonstrated such overwhelmingly positive survival results that the trial was closed early in August 2024, signifying a major milestone in leukemia treatment and prompting Manning Family Children's hematology/oncology team to change their delivery of care.

The trial involved two separate 28-day cycles of chemotherapy—three for patients with Down Syndrome. Patients randomized to this arm of treatment were hospitalized for 28 to 30 consecutive days during each cycle, posing a significant burden

on patients and their families. With a new standard of care and ability to ease this burden, a dedicated multidisciplinary team, including the Hematology/Oncology's senior director, director, advanced practice providers (APP), clinical pharmacist, clinical supervisor, RNs, and MDs, took the initiative to alter how this treatment was delivered.

The team formed a task force to enable patients to complete the majority of their 28-day chemotherapy cycles at home. This shift required the development of comprehensive guidelines, educational materials, and the selection of an appropriate home infusion pump to ensure treatment efficacy and patient safety. The clinical supervisor played a key role in identifying necessary supplies for home care and developing training materials for both patients and caregivers.



Under the new protocol, patients are admitted either on Mondays or Thursdays to begin their infusion cycles on Tuesdays or Fridays. They remain hospitalized for initial monitoring through the first bag change. If no complications arise, they are discharged home and return to the Hematology/Oncology clinic every Tuesday and Friday for bag changes.

Recognizing potential risks associated with home chemotherapy, the clinical pharmacist developed emergency roadmaps for chemotherapy bags in case of issues such as tubing disconnection or pump malfunctions. In the event of a problem, patients have access to emergency readmission protocols, ensuring their safety is never compromised.

To further support patients and caregivers, the team developed comprehensive guidelines addressing both pump-related and non-pump-related issues. A 24/7 support line was established to assist patients with any problems with pumps. Additionally, training materials were created for healthcare providers to equip them with the knowledge needed to respond to patient concerns effectively.

Education played a central role in this transition. The APP, clinical pharmacist, clinical supervisor, and senior director collaborated to provide educational sessions for the provider team also incorporated into monthly pharmacy update meetings. The new protocol officially became active in December, with the first patient successfully undergoing at-home treatment.

**“Although we learned some lessons, our team has embraced this exciting change in the standard of care,”** said Senior



Director, Patient Care Services, Lynn Winfield, BSN, RN, MBA, CPHON, NEA-BC. **“Not only are patient outcomes expected to improve, we are offering them more flexibility and comfort in managing their treatment.”**





## Emergency Department initiatives improve patient care

Led by Heather Billiot, BSN, RN, CPN, RN Clinical Director; Gwenn Marelo, BSN, RN, CPN, Vice President, Hospital Operations; and Dana Orgeron, Manager of Service Excellence, the Emergency Department (ED) at Manning Family Children's implemented key initiatives that were a focus throughout 2024 aimed at improving the patient experience by optimizing efficiency.

### Revitalizing "First Look"

Historically, critical patients arriving in the ED faced prolonged waits without adequate clinical oversight while in the lobby. Recognizing this significant gap in service, the department reintroduced and restructured the "First Look" role in December 2023. Initially staffed from 11 am to 3 am daily, this clinical greeter role was designed to ensure a trained medical professional was present to assess and prioritize patients upon arrival.

By June 2024, the "First Look" role evolved into a 24/7 presence, made possible by hiring additional staff. The department prioritized staffing the lobby with RNs, LPNs, or paramedics to maintain a high standard of clinical care from the very first point of patient contact.





## Transformational leadership

This strategic change allowed critical patients to be identified and expedited to treatment rooms quickly. The clinical staff member stationed in the lobby was able to initiate the triage process immediately, improving the department's door-to-triage time from an average of 14 minutes to under 5 minutes within just six months.

### Rapid Point-of-Care Testing Implementation

Another successful initiative was the implementation of rapid Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) using the Abbott ID NOW™ platform. Previously, diagnostic cultures for respiratory illnesses were sent to the main hospital laboratory, contributing to longer patient wait times. To streamline care, Abbott ID NOW machines were introduced in the ED's fast track area, dedicated to lower acuity patients. The devices provide rapid results for RSV, flu, COVID-19, and strep infections in 10 minutes or less. The program launched with four machines, and, following positive feedback from nursing staff, expanded to six machines to meet patient care demands more effectively.

The impact was immediate, with the average length of stay for fast-track patients decreasing from 150 minutes prior to implementation to under 100 minutes. This improvement not only enhances the patient experience but also improves departmental throughput and satisfaction among patients and staff.

## NICU manager advocates for at-risk babies

Louisiana's Safe Haven Law allows a parent to safely and legally relinquish custody of their unharmed child up to 60 days old by bringing the baby to a designated facility, such as a certified hospital, fire station, or police station. While this law has offered protection for some 64 babies in a 10-year period between 2013 and 2023, one critical subset of infants has been overlooked—babies who spend their first days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).



**"Many of our babies do not go home before 60 days and, thus, lose their coverage under the law,"** said RN NICU Clinical Manager Lisl Antee, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, CLC. Antee and her colleagues noted patients that had been discharged who were readmitted for non-accidental trauma or worse, victims of fatal traumas. She felt compelled to do something about it. **"Not a lot of people know what the Safe Haven Law is."**

Advocating for these at-risk babies became Antee's mission. She set out to include information on the Safe Haven Law in every family's education upon discharge. Nurses were already covering safety issues like Shaken Baby Syndrome, car seat safety, and the Back to Sleep initiative. Upon researching the Safe Haven literature, she learned that only babies 60 days and under were protected under the law, excluding many of those being treated in the NICU.

"I reached out to clarify and was told the cut off was 60 days of life regardless of any medical conditions preventing the baby being discharged home," said Antee. "This excluded a large portion of level IV NICU babies."

Antee contacted Senator Royce Duplessis, who agreed that there was an oversight in the law and would propose a change in the definition of infant to include NICU babies. In March 2024, Antee spoke at the State Capitol in front of the Louisiana Legislature's Judiciary A Committee stating the need to protect NICU babies who are at a statistically higher rate of abuse.

"Many of our babies are going home with complicated medical issues that can be overwhelming to parents," said Antee. "I wonder, if they knew about this resource, would it help?"

Senate Bill 92 passed unanimously through the Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate, and the House of Representatives and was signed by Governor Jeff Landry in May 2024. The bill became Act No 145 in August, changing the definition of infant to include NICU babies.

**"Their 60 days of life commences upon their primary discharge from the hospital, giving them the same coverage time as well babies,"** said Antee. **"This law now covers every infant in the state of Louisiana."** Information about the Safe Haven Law is now included in the standard education for all NICU families. **"High-risk infants and their families are now given the same resources well babies are."**



## Clinics launch adolescent champion model

Adolescents access primary care services at lower rates than other age groups, although they often exhibit high-risk behaviors such as substance use, sexual activity, interpersonal violence, and suicide. Two primary care clinics at Manning Family Children's adopted a new approach to providing improved services and care for adolescent patients. In 2024, after 18 months of planning and preparation, Manning Children's Baratara (Westbank Pediatrics) and Manning Children's I-10 Service Road (Academic Clinic) received certification as an Adolescent Centered Environment by following the Adolescent Champion Model (ACM).

The ACM was developed as an Adolescent Health Initiative (AHI) at Michigan Medicine. The model is evidenced-based and uses a multidisciplinary intervention to address a health center's environment, practices, and culture. The 18-month process focuses on best practices in providing adolescent-friendly care. Implementation includes baseline data collection followed by a 12-month implementation period and three months of year-end data collection. The goal is that the clinic will meet requirements to become a certified adolescent-centered environment.

Lisa Duffy, BSN, RN, Clinical Manager, oversaw the implementation for Manning Children's Baratara (Westbank Pediatrics), and Angela Nguyen, Clinic Manager, oversaw the Manning Children's I-10 Service Road (Academic Pediatrics) implementation. Working with an interdisciplinary champion team comprised of a provider, manager, and two to three dedicated staff members inclusive of nursing from each clinic, the teams began training and data collection in 2022 with the post-implementation phase ending in December 2023.

Priority area initiatives were implemented during the year to increase best practices. To improve access to care, cab vouchers and Uber assistance became available as needed for adolescents that needed

transportation to and from appointments. White noise machines were added to each exam room to improve the environment and provide privacy in the exam rooms. In addition, updated resources were added related to nutrition, food access, and physical and sexual activity. Staff education was provided during the implementation phase on adolescent-specific topics, such as adolescent laws and confidentiality, adolescent brain development, cultural responsiveness, and communication.



**"I felt that this was an important initiative to participate in since we see a large number of adolescents at our clinic,"**

**said Duffy. "We want our clinic to be a place where our patients feel comfortable talking to us about issues even if they don't feel comfortable talking to their parents. As a mother of five, now adult children and a grandmother of five, I have seen firsthand how important it is for our adolescent population to have a resource they can trust and go to for advice. We have an excellent rapport with our patients, and this just helped us increase our knowledge."**

In February 2024, Manning Children's Baratara was awarded Silver Certification for Adolescent Friendly Environments. Manning Children's I-10 Service Road obtained Bronze Certification in April 2024.



## Nurses among LCMC's Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is a six-month, cohort-based initiative designed to equip high-performing, front-line team members with the tools they need to transition into future leadership roles within LCMC Health. Through a dynamic mix of in-person sessions, organizational learning experiences, peer collaboration, and personalized coaching, the program helps participants build the confidence and capabilities required to lead.

Now in its sixth year, the program has graduated over 120 team members. More than 25% of alumni have stepped into leadership roles. From the most recent cohort, 93% of participants reported a boost in engagement, 73% said it strengthened their commitment to LCMC Health, and 100% agreed that the program positively contributed to their professional growth.

Selecting top talent for this program is vital to ensuring LCMC Health's continued success and in a competitive healthcare landscape. Candidates are selected from a pool of nominees who demonstrate a commitment to professional development and readiness to invest in growing leadership skills. Other requirements include a potential to advance in a position with direct reports, exceedance of expectation of job duties, a manager's recommendation and support of the required time commitment, and a minimum one year in his/her current role free of disciplinary action. Employees must remain in their full-time position for the entirety of the program.

The most recent graduation was held on April 5, 2024. Of the five graduates representing Manning Family Children's, three came from the Nursing staff.

## Congratulations to the 2024 ELP Nursing graduates:



**Megan George**

BSN, RN, CPN, RN Outpatient Supervisor, ACC



**Jennifer Harvey**

LPN, LPN Clinic Lead, Children's Pediatrics - Marrero



**Margaret Meyers**

BSN, RN, RN Clinical Research Coordinator, Clinical Trials Center

# Structural Empowerment

is demonstrated through the development of structures and processes that provide an environment where the organizational mission, vision, and values are a foundation for professional practice and improvement in patient outcomes.

## Achieving excellence through certifications

The professional development of the nursing team remains a top priority at Manning Family Children's. In support of nurses on their journey to achieve a higher level of nursing excellence, three in-person certification review courses were offered in 2024: Pediatric Nurse, Pediatric Critical Care, and Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse. Self-paced e-course modules were offered allowing nurses to choose from a library of 34 different review courses. In total, 94 nurses took advantage of the opportunity to complete their certifications, with 59 choosing an in-person review course, and 35 opting the e-course method. In 2024, 55 nurses were newly certified.

Children's honored its 355 certified nurses with a tote bag of relaxation items on Certified Nurses Day, March 19, 2024.



- In 2024, 59 nurses participated in live certification courses; 35 nurses took advantage of an e-course option.
- By the end of 2024, Children's had a certification rate of 54.6%, surpassing the average pediatric Magnet<sup>®</sup> organization certification rate of 48.44%.



# Clinical Ladder elevates nursing careers

Manning Family Children's Clinical Ladder Program continued to gain strength in 2024 as a resource for RNs and LPNs seeking professional development.

In its sixth year, 36 new nurses were accepted on the RN Clinical Ladder, bringing the total number of nurses to 83. Of the 83 RNs, 68 are Level III participants, and 15 are Level IV participants. Established in 2022, the LPN Clinical Ladder Program works in tandem with the RN Clinical Ladder to advance nursing practices. Two LPNs are currently enrolled in the program and are Level III participants.

The Clinical Ladder criteria is reviewed annually by the Nursing Professional Development Council to ensure the program meets the current needs of the nursing staff. When an LPN on the LPN Clinical Ladder in 2023 graduated with an RN degree, she questioned whether her years as an LPN could count towards the two years of experience required for the RN Clinical Ladder. With approval from the council and the CNO, the guidelines were changed to the following:

An LPN who has recently completed an RN program may apply for the RN clinical ladder without having two years of RN experience if **any** of the following criteria are met:

- The applicant was previously on Children's LPN Clinical Ladder
- The applicant has more than five years of LPN experience by application submission date, and one completed year at Children's in direct patient care.



**“In 2023, I transitioned from LPN to RN. I was devastated when I realized that I would have to sit out for one year. I requested to have the board review the policy and consider accepting LPNs that have transitioned to RN, are still working at the same facility, and participated in the LPN Clinical Ladder. I was very excited when they made the change! The Clinical Ladder has always felt important to me because it is a way to show what you have accomplished over the year towards your professional development!”**

- Elizabeth Phillips, RN, Northshore Specialty Clinic



## ThriveKids implements suicide prevention measures

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among children and young adults (ages 10–24) in the U.S. and the third leading cause in Louisiana. Alarming, 41% of youth suicides involve a firearm, and in 2021, 73% of Louisiana communities lacked sufficient mental health providers to help struggling youth. Understanding that suicide is preventable with greater investment in education, prevention, and research, ThriveKids Student Wellness Program at Manning Family Children's increased its efforts in 2024 to address this growing concern among Louisiana's children and young adults.

ThriveKids has a history of supporting students by focusing on suicide prevention and suicidal ideation while intervening effectively when necessary. In 2024, the organization partnered with several Manning Family Children's departments to spearhead new initiatives that enhance the region's capacity to address youth suicide. A multidisciplinary team—including social workers, licensed professional counselors, physicians, registered nurses, and nurse practitioners—collaborated to develop interventions targeting the complex risk and protective factors affecting young people. Their efforts focused on three key areas: community engagement and education, direct clinical services and care coordination, and training and professional development.

While nursing staff contributed across various initiatives, their most profound impact was in clinical services and care coordination. Five ThriveKids registered nurses serve as nurse navigators, ensuring students are connected with outpatient providers to meet their needs. Additionally, two dedicated nurse practitioners completed 641 psychiatric appointments in 2024. ThriveKids care coordinators facilitated connections to health services for over 2,000 students.



**"Having a multidisciplinary team of nurses, physicians, mental health professionals, and education specialists who connect with the community and leverage the various resources at Children's is the key to decreasing Louisiana's suicide problem,"** said Venus Parker RN, BSN, RN Manager, ThriveKids Student Wellness. **"ThriveKids is committed to this charge in our various efforts to improve the mental health of the children and young adults of our state."**

All ThriveKids mental health professionals (MHPs) are trained in the Evidence-Based Suicide Risk Assessment and Safety Planning tool. To date, more than 670 students have benefited from intervention services. To enhance continuity of care, all New Orleans Public School ThriveKids staff utilize Epic for session documentation, creating a seamless information flow between primary care providers and Children's staff. Key documentation highlights include:

- 343 students and 3,800+ sessions recorded during the 2023–24 school year
- 236 students and 750+ sessions recorded in the 2024–25 school year (ongoing)

Supporting frontline staff is also a priority. ThriveKids MHPs receive weekly supervision to maintain clinical excellence, and sustain their well-being in high-acuity environments. ProQQL data indicates that frontline workers report high levels of compassion satisfaction and low secondary traumatic stress, reinforcing the effectiveness of these efforts.

## Structural Empowerment

Other ongoing components of the program include trauma and grief component therapy and care coordination.

Among the new initiatives in 2024 was the widespread distribution of *My Ascension*, <https://www.myascension.us/>, a film about a young suicide attempt survivor from Ascension Parish. ThriveKids helped coordinate 12 screenings at eight area high schools reaching more than 2,000 local students. The screenings were followed by a panel discussion involving social workers, NPs, and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Megan Campbell, DO, alongside the film's subject, Emma, and the film's director. Children's Behavioral Health team brought their expertise to the panel discussions and was instrumental in building the relationship with the film's production team. The hospital also created a corresponding toolkit that was distributed to school and community agencies to help advance the mental well-being of adolescents.

ThriveKids continued to partner with Children's marketing and schools to bring awareness and support to the region through advertising, professional development of school staff, and programming at area schools. These efforts were emphasized during Suicide Prevention Week, September 8 – 14, 2024.

In collaboration with Manning Family Children's, ThriveKids has actively promoted Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer, school-based program designed to reduce youth suicide

through education, community partnerships, and cultural transformation. Schools were incentivized to implement this program, further embedding suicide prevention efforts within student communities.

To foster professional education for social workers, ThriveKids partnered with the Louisiana and Texas chapters of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to host a regional continuing education event in May 2024. The event featured suicide prevention training, screening, and intervention strategies, and a *My Ascension* screening with a panel discussion. Both in-person and livestream options made it possible to reach 250 mental health professionals across four states, including Louisiana and Texas.

ThriveKids remains committed to expanding its impact through several future initiatives:

- **Back-to-School Training:** Hosting annual training sessions for school leaders and staff, covering mandated suicide prevention strategies in partnership with organizations like The Care Center.
- **Continued Screenings of *My Ascension*:** Alongside the rollout of the companion toolkit, schools will be encouraged to integrate film discussions into their mental health programming.
- **Means Restriction & Gun Safety:** Children's will amplify its efforts to reduce firearm access through collaborations with the New Orleans Health Department and other partners.



**“ThriveKids envisions a future where all students have equal access to physical, mental, and social well-being,”** said Chelsea R. Moore, MHA, MSW, LCSW, Director, ThriveKids Student Wellness. **“Through our continued investment in prevention, education, clinical services, and advocacy, we are making strides toward a safer, healthier future for young people in our region.”**

## New emergency response system safeguards staff

After a distressing incident with a patient sent a Mental Health Tech to the emergency room, Behavioral Health (BH) leaders began investigating ways to better protect staff. Meetings were held with BH staff in late 2023 evaluating the former Vocera system of emergency response. These meetings prompted improvements aimed at eliminating some of the barriers when using the system.

After several months and multiple meetings with staff to work through the issues, the Vocera system was deemed inadequate, and BH leaders, with the help of Public Safety, began looking for alternatives. The answer came in the form of a wearable, and easily accessible panic button.



**“Following a demonstration by the company, it was determined that the Strongline Duress Badge System would be a benefit and would improve safety by decreasing Public Safety’s response time in the event of an emergency,”** said Behavioral Health Director, Nick Koehler, MHA, BSN, RN.

The new system, implemented in September 2024 throughout the Emergency Department as well as the Behavioral Health building, incorporates a panic button on an ID badge assigned to a unique staff member. When the button is double pressed, an alert is sent out to the Public Safety Department indicating who signaled the alert and their location. Public Safety is then able to immediately dispatch team members to the area to assist.

Gateways that pick up signals from the duress buttons were installed throughout the areas to be monitored. Once signaled, the gateways communicate, in real time, any movement from the employee after the button is pressed.

Since implementation, BH leaders have experienced an overall positive response from staff regarding the new system.

**“Staff have become comfortable with using the badges to call for assistance before situations escalate, which has helped to minimize employee injuries,”** said Koehler.

## Nurse Residency Program builds solid foundation

Introduced at Manning Family Children's in 2017, the LANTERN Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program continues to be a valuable tool for new nurse graduates at the start of their careers. The residency program supports the new nurse through monthly continuing education classes, mentoring, and guidance, through his/her professional development portfolio. According to the Casey Fink Graduate Nurse Experience Survey, nurse residents report improved confidence, competence, ability to organize and prioritize, communication, and decreased stress. The Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program is the largest in the country, with over 703 participating hospital systems and over 38,000 participating nurse residents per year. A total of 655 Manning Family Children's nurse residents have participated in the program since its inception.



**"Nurse residency is more than a transition to practice program—it's a foundation for lifelong learning, professional identity, and meaningful connection,"** said Katy Tanet, MHA, BSN, RN, RN-BC, Nurse Residency Coordinator at Manning Family Children's. **"With the support of dedicated facilitators and strong peer connections, residents gain the skills, insight, and resilience needed to deliver exceptional patient care."**

The nurse residents showed consistent improvement in their skills from the beginning of the program to the end. The top three skills that showed the most improvement were blood administration, prioritization/time management, and communication with providers.

	Initial survey	12 Month survey
Blood Administration	2.42	3.07
Prioritization and Time Management	3.04	3.66
MD Communication	3.13	3.71
Code/Emergency Response	2.01	2.52
Trach Care	2.52	3.03
Central Line Care	2.88	3.36
Assessment	3.38	3.7
Wound Care	2.58	2.88
End of Life Care	2.23	2.52



## 2024 at a glance

**45** nurses graduated from Cohort 12 in March 2024

**71** nurses graduated from Cohort 13 in Sept 2024

**79** nurses entered Cohort 14 in April 2024

**67** nurses entered Cohort 15 in October 2024

## Areas with new grad RNs in 2024

Acute Care – 43

NICU – 21

CICU – 16

Emergency Department – 13

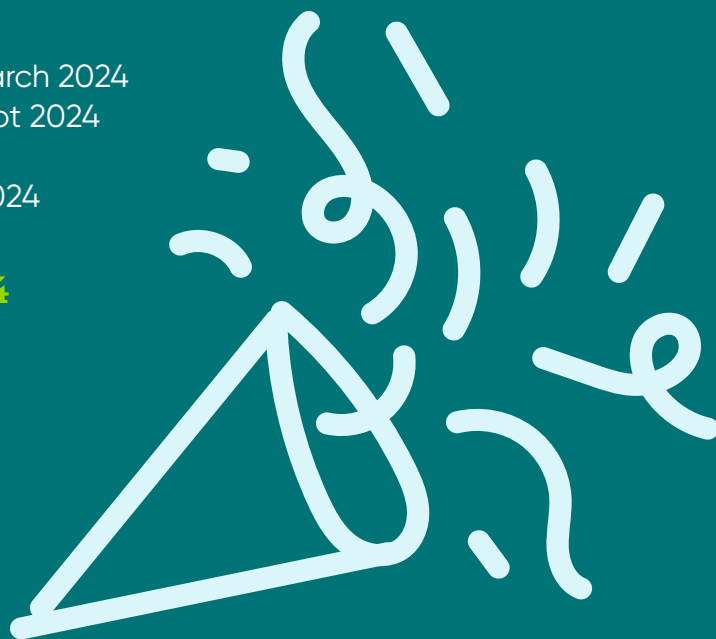
PICU – 13

Perioperative – 7

Behavioral Health – 7

Oncology – 7

Ambulatory Setting – 6



## Top 3 schools that nurse residents were hired from in 2024 were:

LSU Health School of Nursing – **33%**

Delgado Community College / Charity School of Nursing – **25%**

Nicholls State University College of Nursing – **16%**

## Accreditation



In May of 2021, the LANTERN Nurse Residency Program received full accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, (CCNE). CCNE, the leading accrediting body for nurse education and nurse residency programs, has awarded the program a five-year accreditation, the maximum term measured. Accreditation is considered the industry's "gold standard" and provides a metric by which nurse residency programs are measured.

At present, the LANTERN Program is the only nurse residency program in Louisiana that is CCNE accredited and is one of 45 in the country.



## Cohort 12 Graduates

**On March 20, 2024, Manning Family Children's celebrated the graduation of 45 nurse residents from Cohort 12 of the LANTERN Program.**

Kellie Adams, RN  
 Brandon Allemand, BSN, RN  
 Darrya Armont, BSN, RN  
 Ashley Barbier, BSN, RN  
 Allie Bartels, BSN, RN  
 Logan Bodet, BSN, RN  
 Alyssa Breaux, BSN, RN  
 Madelyn Bridges, BSN, RN  
 Marisa Brown, BSN, RN

Chelsea Cook, BSN, RN  
 Sarah Davis, BSN, RN  
 Teresa De La Torre, RN  
 Destiny Ernst, BSN, RN  
 Michaela Frey, BSN, RN  
 Brooke Gueho, BSN, RN  
 Hannah Guidry, BSN, RN  
 Hailey Harrelson, BSN, RN  
 Brittany Haynes, RN

Kylyn Hebert, BSN, RN  
 Jordan Jackson, BSN, RN  
 Wayneisha Jefferson, RN  
 Samolia Johnson, BSN, RN  
 Mallory Kerrigan, BSN, RN  
 Chloe Lagarrigue, RN  
 Caroline Leblanc, BSN, RN  
 Emily Licata, RN  
 Ellen Loudermilk, BSN, RN





Macie Matherne, BSN, RN  
 Alexis Mccurdy, BSN, RN  
 Marlee Michaels, BSN, RN  
 Hailey Morris, BSN, RN  
 Katherine Mouton, BSN, RN  
 Caylee Palazzalo, BSN, RN  
 Carley Pigeon, BSN, RN  
 Amanda Piner, RN  
 Allison Plaisance, BSN, RN

Mark Polk, BSN, RN  
 Emily Richard, BSN, RN  
 Celeste Scanio, BSN, RN  
 Rachel Smart, BSN, RN  
 Kamryn Snowden, BSN, RN  
 Anna Stoma, BSN, RN  
 Lauren Timphony, BSN, RN  
 Naomi Turley, BSN, RN  
 Taylor Yuratich, BSN, RN



## Structural Empowerment

The Nurse Residency Advisory Board selected the top EBP project from each hospital to present at the graduation ceremony. For Cohort 12, Macie Matherne, BSN, RN; Marlee Michaels, BSN, RN; Rachel Smart, BSN, RN; Caylee Palazzalo, BSN, RN; and Taylor Yuratich, BSN, RN, were recognized for "We've Got Your Back: Preventing C-Collar Related Pressure Injuries."

Other Cohort 12 projects were:

### "Do You See What Eye See?"

Children's NICU

Presented by Logan Bodet, BSN, RN; Teresa de la Torre, RN; Allie Deranger, BSN, RN; Destiny Ehmer, BSN, RN; Hannah Guidry, BSN, RN; and Hailey Morris, BSN, RN

### "Baby on Back"

Children's NICU

Presented by Marisa Brown, BSN, RN; Caroline LeBlanc, BSN, RN; Emily Licata, BSN, RN; Ellie Loudermilk, MN, BSPH, RN; Carley Pigeon, BSN, RN; Anna Stoma, BSN, RN; and Lauren Timphony, BSN, RN

### "IPASS"

Children's PACU

Presented by Ashley Barbier, RN, and Madelyn Bridges, RN

### "It Ain't Easy Being Wheezy"

Children's 3 Center, 5 Center, and Ambulatory Clinic

Presented by Alyssa Breaux, RN; Amanda Piner, RN; Katherine Mouton, RN; Kellie Adams, RN; and Wayneisha Jefferson, RN

### "Let's Communicate"

Children's CICU

Presented by Alexis McCurdy, BSN, RN; Chelsea Cook, BSN, RN; and Naomi Turley, BSN, RN

### "Patient Satisfaction"

Children's 4 West

Presented by Sarah Davis, BSN, RN; Kylyn Hebert, BSN, RN; Mallory Kerrigan, BSN, RN; Chloe Lagarrigue, RN; Emily Richard, BSN, RN; and Celeste Scanio, BSN, RN









## Cohort 13 Graduates

On September 11, 2024, Manning Family Children's expected to celebrate the graduation of 71 nurse residents from Cohort 13 of the LANTERN Program. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the graduation ceremony was canceled.

Hannah Avault, RN  
Tasia Barrett, BSN, RN  
Mallory Benoit, BSN, RN  
Brittany Bienvenu, BSN, RN  
Corinn Bolton, BSN, RN  
Alissa Bonnicksen, BSN, RN  
Megan Brown, BSN, RN  
Breiona Calender, BSN, RN  
Amy Clark, RN  
Cole Clement, BSN, RN  
Vivian Conroy, RN  
Abbey Delcambre, BSN, RN  
Alexander Dolmseth, RN  
Dwanna Ealy, RN  
Liezle Figueras, RN  
Mickelle Forbes, BSN, RN  
Brooke Gagliano Alfaro, BSN, RN  
Parker Galjour, BSN, RN  
Deborah Gibbs, BSN, RN  
Ericka Gilmore, BSN, RN  
Mary Harden, RN  
Roxanne Heitmeier, BSN, RN  
Hailey-Ann Heyl, RN  
Derryn Himel, BSN, RN  
Dwannta Kent, RN  
Ryleigh Kreger, BSN, RN  
Mary Kroll, BSN, RN

Lauren Labbe, BSN, RN  
Kaleigh Ladehoff, RN  
Alexis Larkins, BSN, RN  
Lexie Leblanc, BSN, RN  
Lacey Lingle, RN  
Erika Lujano, BSN, RN  
John Mahler, BSN, RN  
Emma Marmande, RN  
Haleigh Martinez, BSN, RN  
Clara Mccance, BSN, RN  
Sarah Mckeough, RN  
Peyton Miller, BSN, RN  
Peyton Montz, BSN, RN  
Ashley Morris, BSN, RN  
Lillie Neil, BSN, RN  
Chelsea O'Lansen, BSN, RN  
Ron'Tashala.Parker, BSN, RN  
Jacob Porch, BSN, RN  
Samantha Prados, BSN, RN  
Raven Price, BSN, RN  
Jade Randall, RN  
Daranisha Raymond, BSN, RN  
Chloe Reeves, BSN, RN  
Kaylee Ricks, RN  
Brianne Rousse, RN  
Chantel Rozas, BSN, RN  
Skye Sanders, BSN, RN

Samantha Searce, BSN, RN  
Megan Sepulvado, RN  
Siobhan Slattery, BSN, RN  
Kristemony Sode, BSN, RN  
Cyra Sonnier, BSN, RN  
Madison Theriot, BSN, RN  
Kyler Thomas, RN  
Lauren Trahan, BSN, RN  
Kenna Walker, RN  
Kadee Weller, BSN, RN  
Tiana Williams, BSN, RN  
Gavin Wisdom, BSN, RN  
Julia Wood, BSN, RN  
Justina Woodside, BSN, RN  
Amanda Yesso, BSN, RN  
Pylar Zeringue, BSN, RN  
Bianca Ziegler, RN



The Nurse Residency Advisory Board selected the top EBP project from each hospital to present at the graduation ceremony. For Cohort 13, Hailey-Ann Heyl, RN; Lexie Leblanc, BSN, RN; Emma Marmande, RN; Brianne Rousse, RN; Megan Sepulvado, RN; Kenna Walker, RN; and Bianca Ziegler, RN, were recognized for "Simulating Success: Escaping Imposter Syndrome with Mock Trauma Training."

## Other Cohort 13 projects were:

### "Improving Post-Operative Discharge Education"

#### Children's 3 Center

Presented by  
Brittany Buckel, BSN, RN  
Breiona Calender, BSN, RN  
Cole Clement, BSN, RN  
Roxanne Heitmeier, BSN, RN  
John Mahler, BSN, RN

### "Get Your Gear On: Preventing Adverse Effects of Occupational Chemotherapy Exposure with Proper PPE"

#### Children's Hematology/Oncology

Presented by  
Samantha Prados, BSN, RN  
Amanda Yesso, RN

### "Let's Talk: Communication Between Providers and Nursing Staff"

#### Children's 5 Center

Presented by  
Vivian Conroy, RN  
Dwanna Ealy, RN  
Sarah McKeough, RN  
Chelsea O' Lansen, BSN, RN  
Cyra Sonnier, BSN, RN  
Kyler Thomas, RN

### "Let's Go Home"

#### Children's 6 Center

Presented by  
Chantel Hoffman Rozas, BSN, RN  
Haleigh Martinez, BSN, RN  
Daranisha Raymond, BSN, RN  
Samantha Searce, BSN, RN  
Siobhan Slattery, BSN, RN

### "Triage 101"

#### Children's Emergency Department

Presented by  
Lizzy Harden, RN  
Dwannta Kent, RN  
Lacey Lingle, BSN, RN  
Clara McCance, BSN, RN  
Jade Randall, BSN, RN  
Kaylee Ricks, BSN, RN

### "Pop Ya Label On"

Children's CICU  
Presented by  
Corinn Bolton, BSN, RN  
Abbey Delcambre, BSN, RN  
Erika Lujano, BSN, RN  
Skye Sanders, BSN, RN

### "GOT DISCHARGED?"

#### Children's CICU

Presented by  
Madison Theriot, BSN, RN  
Kadee Weller, BSN, RN  
Gavin Wisdom, BSN, RN  
Julia Wood, BSN, RN

### "Are We Ready for the World?"

#### Children's NICU

Presented by  
Tasia Barrett, RN  
Alissa Bonnicksen, RN  
Meredyth Buisson, RN  
Mickelle Forbes, RN  
Parker Galjour, BSN, RN  
Deborah Gibbs, RN  
Erica Gilmore, BSN, RN  
Ryleigh Kreger, BSN, RN  
Alexis Larkins, RN  
Ron'Tashala Parker, RN  
Peyton Picou, BSN, RN  
Kriste Sode, BSN, RN  
Lauren Trahan, BSN, RN  
Tiana Williams, BSN, RN  
Justina Woodside, RN

### "Let's Ditch Delirium!: Relocating Patient Rooms in the Pediatric ICU to Prevent ICU Delirium"

#### Children's PICU

Presented by  
Derryn Himel, BSN, RN  
Mary Kroll, BSN, RN  
Jacob Porch, BSN, RN  
Pylar Zeringue, BSN, RN

### "Let's Talk Leeches!"

#### Children's PICU

Presented by  
Malloy Benoit, BSN, RN  
Lauren Labbe, BSN, RN  
Peyton Miller, BSN, RN  
Lillie Neil, BSN, RN

### "Baby, It's Cold Outside!: Improving Thermoregulation of Neonates During the Perioperative Phase"

#### Children's Periop/Dialysis

Presented by  
Megan Brown, RN  
Ashley Morris, RN  
Liezle Figueras, BSN, RN  
Brooke Gagliano, BSN, RN  
Raven Price, RN  
Chloe Reeves, RN

### "Using Stimuli Reduction Techniques to Decrease Use of Seclusion and Restraints on Pediatric Behavioral Health Patients"

#### Children's Behavioral Health

Presented by  
Hannah Avault, RN  
Amy Clark, RN  
Alexander Dolmseth, RN  
Kaleigh Ladehoff, RN

## Innovative nursing initiative enhances adaptability and patient care



A groundbreaking initiative was introduced in March 2024 to address concerns from nurses who felt uneasy when assigned to unfamiliar units. The Pull Shadow Shift program, championed by the Nursing Education team, is an innovative solution designed to improve nurse satisfaction and adaptability.

Shadow shifts allow nurses to spend time in new environments prior to their rotation, helping them acclimate to diverse workflows and patient populations. This proactive approach enhances clinical exposure, facilitates smooth transitions, fosters collaboration and communication, supports skill development, and builds confidence. By ensuring that nurses feel well-prepared and supported, the initiative is poised to positively impact both staff morale and patient care outcomes.

Clinical educators play a pivotal role in coordinating shadow shifts for new graduate nurses. Integrated seamlessly into their preceptorship period, these shifts involve exposure to four different hospital units over two 12-hour sessions. Each session is split between two units, granting nurses hands-on experience with varied clinical settings without disrupting their primary training.

Feedback is integral to the program's success, with nurses completing surveys after their shadow shifts and again after their first independent reassignment. These insights guide continuous improvements to the initiative.

**"Nurses who have been exposed to multiple units and patient populations develop a well-rounded understanding of patient needs,"** said Claire LeGrange, MSN, RN, Nursing Professional Development Specialist. **"This experience improves their ability to provide comprehensive, high-quality care across various settings."**



Another benefit of the program is improved team integration and professional development.

"Nurses who have shadowed different units can collaborate more effectively with colleagues from various specialties," continued LeGrange. "This improved understanding fosters stronger working relationships, enhancing team dynamics and patient outcomes."

**"The shadow shifts were great for exposure to more units within the hospital and especially helpful when the nurse you were shadowing showed you around. When I first got pulled on my own, I kind of already had a lay of the land, so my nerves were not as bad."** – Acute Care RN

## Tracheostomy/IV Shadow Shift Initiative builds confidence and bolsters patient care

Born out of one nurse's desire for more specialized training, the Tracheostomy (Trach)/IV Shadow Shift Initiative has been a standout success in 2024 for Manning Family Children's Nursing Education program. The initiative focuses on providing new graduate nurses and current staff with direct, hands-on experience in two critical areas: tracheostomy care and intravenous (IV) line insertions. This increased exposure not only enhances the confidence and skills of the hospital's nursing staff, but also positively impacts patient care.

The Tracheostomy/IV Shadow Shift initiative began with a request from a new graduate nurse who was eager to gain more exposure to patients with tracheostomies. She began shadowing the ENT team during trach rounds where she participated in changing trachs, performing trach care, and learning essential aspects of managing patients with tracheostomies. This experience gave the nurse more confidence when caring for these patients at the bedside. Recognizing the benefits of this hands-on experience, it was subsequently integrated into the onboarding process for all new nurses. During their eight-week preceptorship, each nurse is scheduled for a day with the ENT team, allowing them to build practical skills while caring for real patients.

Similarly, the IV shadow initiative emerged from the nurses' desire for more practical experience in starting IVs. Acute care educators worked with the Infusion Clinic team to create shadow shifts that allowed acute care nurses to learn from infusion clinic nurses. This initiative provided nurses with more confidence in starting IVs.

"5/5 sticks!," said Jaden, RN. "I really enjoyed the experience, and the nurses were super sweet!"

Nurses have eagerly embraced these opportunities, requesting additional shadow shifts whenever possible.



The coordination for the trach shadowing experience involved both the Respiratory Therapy (RT) educator, and the nursing unit educator, ensuring that nurses receive high-quality, hands-on experience in a clinical setting, under the guidance of skilled professionals.

The impact of these initiatives on patient care has been significant.

**"Nurses participating in the trach shadowing program have shared that they feel much more comfortable and confident in caring for tracheostomy patients,"** said Shelby Condon, BSN, RN, CPN, Acute Care Educator. **"The real-life experience, as opposed to simulation-based training, has been particularly valuable. The opportunity to work directly with the ENT team and ask questions about patient care has fostered a deeper understanding of trach management."**

Likewise, the IV shadow initiative has allowed nurses to gain confidence and proficiency in starting IVs by shadowing experienced infusion clinic nurses.

Nursing Education's Tracheostomy/IV Shadow Shift Initiative represents an exemplary model of nurse-led innovation and collaboration. By empowering nurses to gain hands-on experience and directly engage with specialized teams, the initiative led to enhanced professional development.



## Nurse supervisor returns to roots for medical mission



For the past 17 years, Miguel Behrhorst, MPH, BS, RN, Clinical Supervisor, Cath Lab, has returned to Guatemala, his country of birth, to care for those with limited access to medical treatment. For one week every year, he leaves his pediatric nursing role to immerse himself in a population health outreach initiative very different from his Manning Family Children's experience.

While in nursing school in New Orleans, Behrhorst connected with HELPS International, a nonprofit organization collaborating with Guatemalan communities to mitigate extreme poverty. In addition to assisting with agriculture, community development, and education, the organization helps to fill a gap where underfunded hospitals and clinics or access to healthcare in rural, impoverished areas,

leave many Guatemalans at risk. Interested in returning to his roots and lending a helping hand, he joined a Minnesota medical team of roughly 100 surgeons, anesthesiologists, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and support staff on mission trips with the organization. His latest, in March 2024, brought him to Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

"It's a very rewarding type of work," said Behrhorst, who traveled by bus to a remote village in the western highlands of Guatemala, over 100 kilometers from Guatemala City. "I like doing it."

The HELPS March mission team facilitated 600 clinic visits and 124 surgeries, including hernia repairs, hysterectomies, appendectomies, burn grafts and cleft lip/palate repairs. Behrhorst served as a translator for the team when triaging patients and was also a post-surgical recovery nurse, continuing to help interpret information for patients.

**"It's a different type of nursing," said Behrhorst. "It's 95% patient care and very hands-on."**

Behrhorst is driven to continue his volunteer work knowing how much benefit he is providing to patients in dire need. At the end of every mission, he also visits his relatives in Guatemala.



**"People are thankful for what you do," said Behrhorst. "When you see how happy they are, it makes all the difference."**

# Exemplary professional practice

## Shared Governance enriches patient and staff experiences

The ACTion: Shared Governance Council was created in 2018 to promote hospital-wide improvements based on a philosophy of accountability, collaboration, and transparency. Formerly comprised of six working councils, the coordinating Shared Governance Council was restructured in 2022 to more aptly align with the hospital's areas of focus. Three councils—Quality & Safety, Patient Experience, and Team Engagement—were formed, each with 10 to 15 members representing various areas of the hospital, including nursing, respiratory, pharmacy, child life, and dietary. The councils are comprised of an executive sponsor, facilitator, chair, co-chair, and secretary.

In 2024, the councils elevated their efforts to foster continuous improvement and enrich the experiences of both patients and staff.

### Quality & Safety Council

The council supported departments by providing templates to help implement effective and meaningful safety huddles. Additionally, it launched and piloted the "Room of Errors" initiative across all disciplines and departments, a program aimed at fostering a culture of safety and learning. This initiative will continue into 2025.

### Patient Experience Council

The council enhanced weekend engagement in our Family Resource Center with expanded activities for patients and families, including Bingo, arts and crafts, movie nights, and an Easter egg hunt. Collaborations with donors made it possible to offer rotating unit dinners, and complimentary haircuts for patients. The council also introduced Spanish-language meet-and-greets, and improved laundry access for families staying at the Hogs for the Cause Family Center.

### Team Engagement Council

To promote team spirit and appreciation, the council led monthly comfort cart rounds, and hosted festive department decorating contests in October and December. In November, they organized a Thanksgiving display titled, "A Handful of Things We Are Thankful For," highlighting gratitude across the organization.



**"For me, being on the Shared Governance Council allows me to be a part of the decision-making process and to meet and collaborate with amazing people from different departments. Working weekend nights can feel a little disconnecting, but through the council, I feel involved and informed about what goes on day to day. Since joining a year and half ago, we have worked on multiple projects, my favorite being the 'Room of Errors.' This is where we create a simulation of a patient's room and participants have 15 minutes to identify any 'errors' that they see, followed by Q&A and discussion. I love how this experience benefits all staff that interact with our patients—from residents, to Dietary, to Plant-Ops. It helps to reinforce that we are ALL part of patient care, that we ALL have a responsibility to 'see something, say something' no matter where you work."**

- Kacey Koehler, BSN, RN, CPEN



## VACP Celebrates 40 Years



For the past four decades, the Ventilator Assisted Care Program (VACP) at Manning Family Children's has provided specialized support to ventilator-dependent children living at home throughout Louisiana. Ventilator dependency can result from traumatic spinal cord injuries, birth-related complications, or neuromuscular diseases. For VACP services, individuals ages 0-25 with these medical conditions can access support if they live in Louisiana, are eligible for Medicaid, and require ventilator assistance for at least part of the day. Children's highly specialized team provides the care that equips ventilator dependent patients to easily integrate into their homes and communities.

Manning Family Children's nurses have been integral to the success of the program. Responsible for the coordination of care for roughly 86 patients throughout Louisiana, these nurses manage medication and respiratory equipment issues, establish clinic appointments, and attend patients' trach clinic visits. Nurses complete an annual plan of care for each patient, incorporating the goals of the family, and continuously adjusting throughout the year. They obtain necessary supplies, manage the wheelchair assessment process, and write letters of medical necessity. During hurricane season, nurses work diligently with patient families to ensure they have an evacuation plan and a home generator as they rely on power. Nurses perform quarterly in-home assessments and ensure each family has the necessary equipment in their go-bags for going out in the community.

Additionally, the VACP enhances the inpatient care system by offering in-depth discharge planning, training, and ongoing consultation with hospitals, families, and communities. This comprehensive approach makes it easier for ventilator-dependent children to transition back home, supported by their families and local communities.

**"The goal is to keep our patients safely integrated into the community,"**  
said Tanya Fox, RN, CPN,  
Clinical Supervisor.



Tanya has coordinated care for VACP patients for more than eight years. She is one of 10 full-time personnel devoted to ventilator-dependent patients. She joins four other RNs, social workers, an education specialist, and an office coordinator and manager.

Beyond medical care, the VACP also addresses the social determinants of health, which present unique challenges for ventilator-dependent children. These factors can impact not only immediate health needs but also the child's overall quality of life. A holistic approach is essential, focusing on healthcare, social support, environmental modifications, access to healthcare, transportation, and community resources – particularly for families in rural areas.

"By addressing these social determinants, the VACP helps to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, ensuring that children can stay healthy and remain at home with their families," said Annsley Stoma, LCSW, VACP Manager. "The VACP team provides training and technical assistance to caregivers, agencies, and school staff, promoting the health and safety of ventilator-assisted children within their communities."





## 3 Center achieves one year CLABSI-free and counting

In 2023, following several occurrences of Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI), the patient care team on 3 Center intensified its focus on infection prevention. Clinical Nurse Director, Ashleigh Couturie, MHA, BSN, RN, CPN, along with Clinical Nurse Supervisors, Rachelle Loerwald, MHA, BSN, RN-BC, and Catherine Pineda, BSN, RN, CPN, led a comprehensive review of case data and identified underutilized tools and strategies to strengthen the team's response. Feedback from the nursing staff helped nursing leaders identify gaps in care.

"With Children's becoming a Level II Trauma Center, our patient population has become increasingly medically complex," said Couturie. "Addressing the CLABSI issue quickly became a top priority for our unit."

A series of targeted initiatives were implemented to mitigate infection risk. A daily checklist was introduced for patient care technicians (PCTs) to standardize the cleaning of high-touch areas, chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) baths, and linen changes. PCTs were empowered to take ownership of these essential daily practices.

Recognizing the complexity and infrequency of certain procedures involving central lines, such as drawing blood cultures, novice RNs were paired or "buddied" with experienced nurses to reduce the risk of error and reinforce best practices.

"Sometimes we pick up bad habits inadvertently," Couturie explained. "A more experienced nurse can help prevent incorrect techniques from becoming routine."

Additional mitigation efforts included relocating long-term patients with central venous lines (CVLs) to a different room every two weeks. This initiative aimed to allow thorough cleaning without the hindrance caused by the accumulation of personal belongings. Once a room was vacated, staff conducted a deep clean. Additionally, when patients were taken to the operating room, the team used the opportunity to Tru-D the space for enhanced disinfection.

These concerted efforts yielded exceptional results. On April 30, 2024, 3 Center celebrated one full year CLABSI-free—a significant milestone in patient safety. The team marked the achievement with custom t-shirts and a celebratory cookie cake.



**"The 3 Center team remains committed to sustaining this success through continued vigilance, education, and innovation in infection prevention,"** said Couturie.



## Nurses lead LCMC's Maternal Fetal Medicine Program

LCMC's Maternal Fetal Medicine Program combines fetal medicine, obstetrics, and pediatrics into one care team for mothers experiencing high-risk pregnancies. Led by Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, Lindsey Casey, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, the program is a collaboration across LCMC hospitals that aims to provide continuity of care to address the unique needs of at-risk mothers and their babies.

Dana Schmitt, BSN, RNC-OB, Maternal Fetal Medicine Nurse Navigator, coordinates patient care for high-risk pregnancies within the LCMC hospital system. In so doing, she also manages healthcare needs for all high-risk/premature newborns born at partnering hospitals that transfer to Manning Family Children's NICU immediately after birth.



**"I find working as the MFM navigator to be the most rewarding,"** said Schmitt, who practiced in labor and delivery for six years before transferring to the Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) clinic. **"In a world where it is hard to get someone on the phone, patients are so thankful for the help navigating numerous appointments throughout the LCMC system. It is a privilege to be able to be the point person to support parents during a challenging time, and to make sure their questions are answered whether it is for a maternal specialist or a pediatric specialist. I also love helping our out-of-town mothers at Children's obtain local postpartum follow-up appointments to reduce time spent away from their little one(s) at the bedside."**

The MFM navigator follows patients who are high risk due to issues with the fetus or due to maternal complications. For the fetal patients, once identified prenatally, their chart is flagged in Epic, allowing the mother's care team to know the plan in place. This flag also creates a best practice advisory in the baby's chart to alert the admit pediatrician of any additional neonatal orders/referrals that may be needed. These patients are also followed by the Perinatal Neonatal Committee. Schmitt leads the monthly Perinatal Neonatal Conference that brings together the healthcare team, including maternal fetal medicine, neonatology, and pediatric specialties, to devise and discuss a plan for the baby. She also manages the weekly MFM huddle meetings, where staff from each site share updates on patients. Schmitt obtains authorizations, orders fetal and maternal MRIs, enters referrals, and gives tours of The Birthing Center at Touro Infirmary and the Manning Family Children's NICU.

For patients transferring their care for delivery at Touro, Schmitt obtains all records and manages the patient's itinerary of appointments between hospitals. She coordinates housing, if needed, schedules the delivery, and provides ongoing support through the process.

Maternal high-risk patients are followed by the Critical Care Obstetrics Committee. These patients have maternal histories often involving diagnoses such as placenta accreta, blood-clotting disorders, congenital heart defects, or seizures. Schmitt presents these patients monthly at Touro to a multidisciplinary team that includes MFM, obstetrics, cardiology, pulmonology, ICU, and anesthesia experts. The goal of this committee is to develop a multidisciplinary plan of delivery and postpartum to improve maternal outcomes. She places referrals to adult specialists, as well as anesthesia, and familiarizes them with Touro's Birthing Center.

At Children's, Schmitt rounds daily in the NICU and CICU to follow up with mothers whose babies are less than 6 weeks of age. She provides the mother with post-partum supplies, and reviews post-birth warning signs and other resources. She coordinates postpartum follow-up appointments with local obstetricians to address such issues as high blood pressure, postpartum depression, spinal headache, and incisional care.

**"I am always reminding moms that they have the best team taking care of their baby," said Schmitt. "My job is to see how these moms are feeling and healing, to make sure they are taking their medications and going to their appointments. My goal is to support our parents and help them to recognize signs and symptoms of postpartum complications to prevent readmission."**



## Nurses advance pressure injury prevention in the PICU

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) serves some of the most critically ill patients, with high acuity and complex medical conditions that place them at extreme risk for pressure injuries. To prevent these injuries and ensure the best possible outcomes for patients, the PICU nursing team implemented targeted strategies in 2024 that are proving to make a difference.

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the unit's pressure injury prevention efforts, the team took a proactive approach to refocusing the unit's awareness and education on this issue. Nurses received updated training on what it means for patients to be high-risk, the factors that contribute to their vulnerability, and the best practices for mitigating these risks. By fostering a prevention-first mindset, the staff was empowered to stay vigilant and proactive in safeguarding patients.

To strengthen prevention measures, twice-weekly touchpoints were introduced with the department director and charge nurse reviewing all high-risk patients. These discussions focused on ensuring that patients were on the most appropriate support surfaces, wound care involvement was initiated early, and proper moisture management techniques were in place. One of the most impactful changes was the increased utilization of specialty mattresses for the most at-risk patients.

Nurses began to proactively consider the need for specialty mattresses before a patient's admission. By preemptively ordering specialty beds, the staff was able to limit the time patients spent on suboptimal surfaces, reducing their risk of developing pressure injuries.

To further strengthen prevention efforts, PICU nurses collaborated closely with the wound care team. Their expertise allowed for in-depth skin assessments of high-risk patients, leading to more effective early interventions. This partnership ensured that the nursing team had the necessary support and knowledge to provide optimal skin care, significantly enhancing patient outcomes.

Understanding the importance of evidence-based practice, nurses initiated a research project focused on intentional quality rounding for high-risk patients. This project examines the impact of structured, proactive rounding on nurses' confidence and knowledge in caring for these patients, while also assessing the effect on pressure injury prevalence. Through this research, nurses aim to identify best practices that can further enhance preventative strategies.

The efforts of the PICU staff have yielded tangible improvements in patient care. Despite a notable increase in patient acuity in 2024 compared to 2023, the staff prevented an increase in serious harm pressure injuries. In fact, a significant reduction in the unit's stage 2 and above pressure injury rate was achieved, decreasing from 7.22 to 5.42 pressure injuries per 1,000 patient days.

Building on the unit's success, the staff aims to further reduce pressure injury prevalence in 2025 through continued use of the "beyond the bundle" rounding tool that explores additional strategies that can be integrated into patient care.



**"Our team remains committed to providing the highest level of care, ensuring that every patient receives the best possible protection against pressure injuries,"** said Bridget Joslyn, MHA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, CCRN, PICU Department Director. **"We continue to look forward to the impact that our ongoing research and quality improvement initiatives will have in further advancing patient safety and well-being in the PICU."**

# New knowledge, innovations, and improvements



## Nurse Practitioner leader shares expertise

Melissa Nunn, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, CNE, NEA-BC, CNEcl, Director of Advance Practice, took advantage of many opportunities in 2024 to share her knowledge with local and national nursing communities. To follow are a few of her outstanding accomplishments in 2024.

### **Leads Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners**

Founded in 1991, the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners (LANP) is dedicated to advancing the nurse practitioner profession. As the leading voice for advanced practice nurses in the state, the organization promotes excellence in health care and improves access to care by advocating through education, policy development, and leadership.

Nunn was elected LANP President in 2024 and will serve a two-year term.

With nearly 1,700 members, LANP is the only professional organization representing nurse practitioners in Louisiana.

### **Honored as keynote speaker**

Nunn was selected to speak at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Current Concepts in Advanced Practice Conference. Held virtually from December 4–6, 2024, the event drew an international audience of nursing professionals. As the keynote speaker, Nunn delivered a presentation on the topic of Leading a Multigenerational Workforce.

### **Published her work to national audience**

Nunn published Improving Communication-specific Developmental Screening Skills: Interprofessional Peer Teaching in Nurse Practitioner Education with Leslie Lopez, PHD; Megan Guidry, AuD; and Caroline Zimmerman, BS in the National Institute of Health's National Library of Medicine. Her article, posted on June 10, 2024, describes her current grant work and the efficacy of peer-led teaching to further nurse practitioner students' understanding of recognizing and properly referring pediatric patients with language delays.



## Symposium showcases nurses' evidence-based practice

At Manning Family Children's, clinical research and evidence-based practice (EBP) serve as core principles guiding nurses in delivering expert care and enhancing patient outcomes. To support this mission, the hospital launched the EBP Fellowship program in 2020, aimed at empowering clinical staff with the knowledge and tools to elevate their practice, leadership, and research skills.

Open to all clinicians, the program provides comprehensive training on executing an EBP project. Over the course of the 15-month fellowship, participants develop and complete their projects, which they present at the EBP and Research Symposium. This annual event, hosted by Children's, provides a platform for nurses to share their research, EBP initiatives, and quality improvement projects with their peers.

The 4th Annual Evidence-Based Practice and Research Symposium was held March 8, 2024, and showcased the EBP projects of fellowship participants, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student projects, and Children's staff.

### EBP Fellowship Project Presentation

#### **Timeliness of Antibiotic Administration in the Febrile Neutropenic Pediatric Cancer Patient**

Lynn Winfield, MBA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, CPHON, and Monica Bacino, MHA, BSN, RN, CPHON

#### **Doctor of Nursing Practice Student Project Presentations**

##### **Improving Education and Adherence Through a Text Messaging System in Pediatric Patients with Syncope in an Outpatient Cardiology Clinic**

Audrey Tallis, BSN, RN

##### **Implementation of an Educational Protocol in an Outpatient Endocrinology Clinic to Improve Metformin Compliance in Female Adolescent Patients with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and Obesity**

Lauren Flettrich, BSN, RN

##### **The Implementation of Pediatric Delirium Screening Tool in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit**

Terika Smith, BSN, RN

##### **Implementation of Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) for Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes in an Outpatient Pediatric Diabetes Clinic: A Quality Improvement Project**

Kristen Ramsey, APRN, PNP-PC

##### **Intravenous Sub-Hypnotic Propofol as a Laryngospasm Prevention Technique in Pediatric Tonsillectomy with or without Adenoidectomy: A Knowledge to Action Project**

Alexandria Toepfer, BSN, RN

##### **Implementation of a Provider Preoperative Surgery Checklist and a Patient Companion Information Sheet for Pediatric Patients and Parents to Reduce Dental Surgery Cancellations in a Same Day Surgery Department**

Connie Bridger, MSN, RN

### Children's staff presentation

##### **Reducing Falls: A Quality Improvement Project**

Diana Diaz, MBA, BSN, RN, PED-BC



## Nurses embrace new technology for heart patients

Vital Connect are monitors that provide live, real-time monitoring for patients with known or suspected heart rhythm disorders. Implementation of the program, ongoing education, and support from the Cardiology nursing staff has been a successful achievement in 2024 significantly impacting patient care.

Traditional Holter monitors did not deliver timely data to address arrhythmias effectively. Patients wore these monitors for a prescribed period, after which the devices were sent off for data analysis. The results were then communicated to the care team, causing potential delays. In contrast, Vital Connect is a cloud-based system that enables staff to monitor a patient's heart rate and activity level in real time, especially during episodes of arrhythmia.



**"The use of these monitors eliminates the risk of lost data and enables the Cardiology team to decrease the time to diagnosis and treatment by uploading recorded data in real time,"** said Vanesa Patterson, BSN, CPN, RN Clinical Manager, Pediatric Cardiology.

In 2023, the nursing staff collaborated with pediatric electrophysiologists to evaluate the Vital Connect monitors. The RN clinical lead at the time worked with hospital leadership to secure a service agreement for the monitors and coordinated multiple in-service training sessions. These sessions, led by company representatives, helped staff learn how to place and register the devices.

Vital Connect implementation was completed in early 2024. Nurses continue to provide real-time education for new staff, providers, and any team members in need of a refresher.

## Virtual sitter platform takes root in 2024

When Manning Family Children's frontline nursing staff indicated a need for additional patient sitters in 2023, hospital leadership convened to devise a solution that would help lessen the burden on nursing staff without impacting patient care. The option for a virtual sitter platform became the most viable.

"We looked at how we can utilize technology to reduce the gap even further," said Mark Ranatza, MHA, BSN, RN, Assistant Vice President, Hospital Operations - Behavioral Health.

For several months, the team evaluated virtual sitter solutions for two patient populations: Emergency Department behavioral health patients and acute care patients. After thorough research, this method proved to be the most effective for keeping patients safe.

Ten virtual sitter carts were purchased to deploy throughout the hospital. In addition, eight hardwired cameras were installed in the Behavioral Health (BH) preferred emergency department. Children's partnered with Hicuity Health to monitor the carts and the cameras.



**"Virtual sitters went live at the beginning of 2024 and have since kept our patients safe and allowed our PCTs and MHTs to focus on their primary job functions,"**  
said Ranatza.

In 2024, virtual sitters were used to help monitor more than 2,400 patients with an average of 6.7 patients per day.

"This system has been a huge asset to the team," said Ranatza. "Nothing can ever replace an actual person. But the virtual sitter has been a valuable tool for those patients who need a little extra monitoring."

Due to the system's success, Children's leadership is currently exploring the possibility of expanding the virtual sitter platform hospital wide.



## Nurses share expertise at national conference

The 34th annual Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN) Conference was held in Phoenix, AZ, April 17-19, 2024, drawing hundreds of pediatric nurses and healthcare professionals from across the country. Representing Manning Family Children's, six nurses attended the conference themed "Blazing the Trail to Pediatric Excellence." Among them, four distinguished nurses were selected to present their posters showcasing their innovative contributions to pediatric nursing.

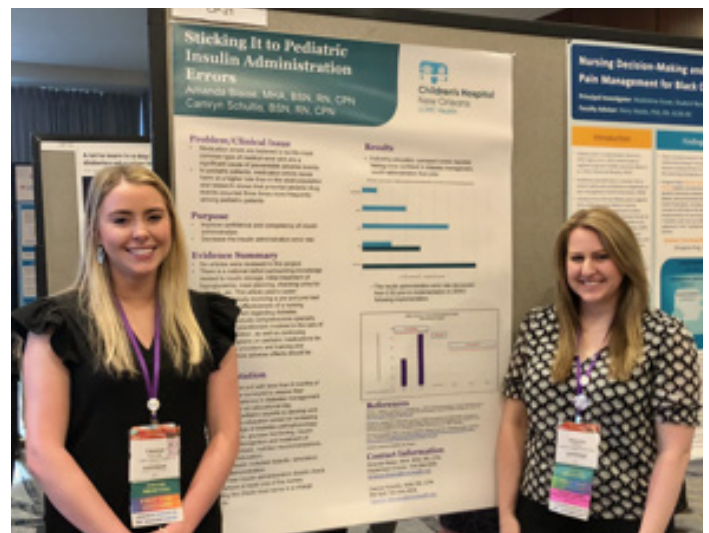
### The posters presented included:

#### **"The Value of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Education in Ambulatory Pediatric Nursing"**

Presented by Shellie Trahan, BSN, RN, CPN, and Katherine Autry, MSN, RN, this poster highlighted best practices to increase ambulatory nurses' knowledge in providing diverse, equitable, and inclusive care.

#### **"Sticking it to pediatric insulin administration errors"**

Presented by Amanda Blaise, MHA, BSN, RN, CPN, and Camryn Schultis, BSN, RN, CPN, this poster showcased how targeted nursing education and process improvements contributed to a decrease in insulin errors.



**"It was such an honor and opportunity to present our DEI work and poster at the national conference,"** said Shellie Trahan, BSN, RN, CPN, Magnet Program Manager. **"Networking with other pediatric nurses with common interests in these 'blazing the trail' topics was inspiring and innovative!"**



# Awards and recognition

## Manning Family Children's recognizes outstanding nurses and nursing champion

Manning Family Children's annual Nursing Excellence Awards celebrates the outstanding achievements of nurses throughout the organization and those who support their efforts. In 2024, a new category, Rookie of the Year, was added to recognize a novice nurse who demonstrated an extraordinary effort in transition to practice. In total, five nurses and a nurse champion were selected by a senior leadership panel of judges. The recipients were presented with the award in October as part of the Pediatric Nurses Week celebration.

### Nursing Excellence Award Recipients



#### **The Umbrella Award**

**Adrienne Groh, BSN, RN, CCRN,  
RN Staff Nurse, CICU**

For exemplifying excellence in all elements of the Nursing Professional Practice Model: Compassion, Teamwork, Professionalism, Communication, Evidence-based Practice and Research, and Quality of Practice.



#### **Outstanding Community Involvement**

**Lisl Antee, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, CLC,  
RN Manager, NICU**

For demonstrating service to the community and encouraging other nurses to foster community growth.



#### **Nurse Preceptor of the Year**

**Mikayla Meyer, BSN, RN, CPN,  
RN Clinical Supervisor, 5 Center**

For inspiring learning and growth of nurses in their roles, tailoring the orientation program to meet individualized educational needs, and acting as a role model of professional nursing behaviors.



#### **Excellence in Nursing Leadership**

**Sarah Bourgeois, BSN, RN, CCRN,  
RN Clinical Educator, PICU**

For exemplifying communication and relationship building, knowledge of the health care environment, leadership, and professionalism.



#### **Rookie of the Year**

**Mickelle Forbes, RN,  
RN Staff Nurse, NICU**

For actively seeking learning opportunities, showing compassion and unit involvement, and being a team player and patient advocate exemplifying Children's values.



#### **Champion of Nursing**

**Michelle Sclafini,  
Radiologic Technologist,  
Northshore Specialty Clinic**

For supporting nurses by demonstrating service and valuable assistance to the nursing profession.

## DAISY awards seven nursing superstars

Seven outstanding Children's nurses were honored with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in 2024. DAISY Award recipients are nominated by fellow nurses, hospital staff, providers, and/or patient families for their excellent clinical skills and remarkable compassion. From the 76 award nominations, the winners were selected by Children's Nursing Professional Development Council. For the first time in Children's DAISY history, an LPN was among the 2024 distinguished honorees.

### Congratulations to the hospital's seven DAISY Winners:



**Cassidy Blair**  
BSN, RN, RN Staff  
Nurse, PICU



**Christina Oakley**  
RN, RN Staff Nurse, NICU



**Cindy Messina**  
RN, RN Transport Team



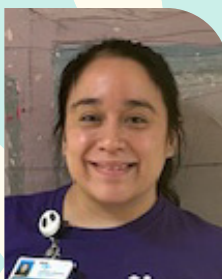
**Hallie Metcalf**  
BSN, RN, RN Staff Nurse,  
Same Day Surgery



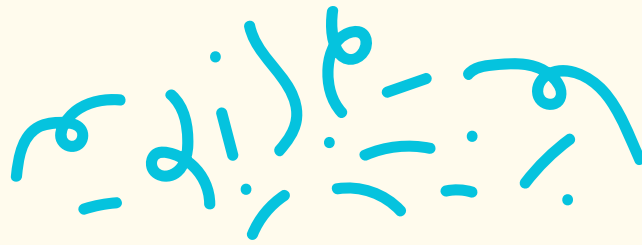
**Jennifer Provenzano**  
BSN, RN, CNOR, RN  
Clinical Supervisor,  
Operating Room



**Sarah Finken**  
BSN, RN, CCRN,  
RN Staff Nurse, NICU



**Nicole Canarte**  
LPN Acute Care, 6 Center



**With six nominations from patients and families, Nicole Canarte, LPN, Acute Care, is the first LPN DAISY Award recipient. Here are a few words about her care:**

"Nicole is a very special nurse for me because, from the first day she treated me, she was very kind and very attentive to all my care. Honestly, I am very grateful for having had a nurse as good as Nicole, because despite my situation, I was always in a bad mood and every day with her kindness and patience, she kept me feeling well. I thank her very much for taking such good care of me and, every day, being able to make me smile, especially in the most difficult moments."

"Nicole has been an absolute angel in part of my daughter's care. She has made us feel like family. The care she has given her is the absolute best! Y'all are so lucky to have her as part of the team. She has made us smile and laugh through all the ups and downs of this visit. She is always ready to help with a smile. Her support with my daughter's care has made our visit so much easier. We absolutely adore her! Her kindness and patience are a blessing. I just know all of her patients love her! In the words of my daughter, 'best nurse ever.' She has made her feel like she is special and cared for. We will miss her."

"I'd like to take the time to recognize Miss Nicole Canarte for her care and dedication for my daughter. Nicole is a very compassionate nurse that truly cares about her patients and their caregivers. She's very energetic and brings her A game to any task she sets her sights on. Nicole has a mother-like side of her that has a very calming, understanding, and easy to talk to demeanor. Nicole is a rock-solid game changer of a nurse that anyone would be pleased to have! Nicole's experience definitely sets a high standard in the pediatric nursing game! Thank you very much Nicole for your hard work."

"Nurse Nikki was our nurse for multiple nights. She was the best! So kind and thorough. She informed us of everything and was wonderful with our baby despite being very busy. She never rushed her time with us. Her cheerful disposition put me at ease and made our stay better. She was fabulous! Nurse Nikki also checked on me, the mom, every time she was in our room. As a nervous crying mother, this meant a lot to me."



**The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Foundation was formed in 1999 by Bonnie and Mark Barnes in honor of their son, J. Patrick Barnes, a 33 year old who died of an auto-immune disease. With a desire to fill the "giant hole in our hearts that Pat's passing had left," his family wanted to acknowledge the gifts nurses give their patients and families every day, just as the Barnes' had experienced.**

## Employee Recognition Committee honors nurses

Manning Family Children's employee recognition program acknowledges team members, leaders, and providers who consistently demonstrate a high degree of excellence, professionalism, and integrity in the performance of their duties. These select members of the Children's team were nominated by coworkers, peers, or leaders for their willingness to extend themselves to help others both on and off campus.

**The Division of Nursing is proud to recognize the following nurses awarded for their exemplary contributions in 2024.**

### Leader of the Quarter



**Christi Cabos, MSN, RN, COHN-S,**  
Human Resources  
Q3 2024



**Nick Koehler, MHA, BSN, RN,**  
Behavioral Health  
Q4 2024

### Team Members of the Month



**Renee Lemoine, BSN, RN, CPN,**  
RN Navigator Urology  
August 2024



**Angel Hargis, BSN, RN,**  
Nursing Administration  
September 2024



**Kelly Fulham, BSN, RN-BC,**  
Metairie Specialty  
December 2024





### Children's earns Hospital of the Year designation at Nightingale Awards

The Louisiana Nurses Foundation recognizes the achievements of nurses, hospitals, and nursing programs across the state through its annual Nightingale Awards. The 2024 ceremony, held August 31 at L'Auberge Casino Hotel in Baton Rouge, celebrated outstanding award recipients and nominees from throughout Louisiana. Manning Family Children's was recognized for excellence at the event, receiving nine nominations, and earning the prestigious Hospital of the Year Award (161 Beds or Greater).



### Congratulations to the nurses from Manning Family Children's honored as nominees at the 23rd annual event.

#### **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse of the Year**

Sheira Neely, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC

#### **Clinical Nurse Educator of the Year**

Shelby Condon, BSN, RN, CPN

#### **Registered Nurse Mentor of the Year**

Kristin Broussard, MHA, BSN, RN, CPN

Sharon (Shellie) Trahan, BSN, RN, CPN

Elena Vidrine, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, PED-BC

#### **Nursing Administrator of the Year**

Laura Tassin, MHA, BSN, RN, CPN

#### **Registered Nurse of the Year**

Celeste Arseneaux, RN

Tessa Ayme, BSN, RN

Ashley Duhon, MHA, BSN, RN-BC, CPHON

Since 1986, the Louisiana Nurses Foundation has served as the research, education, and charitable entity of the Louisiana State Nurses Association. The Foundation's focus is to promote professional nursing through academic scholarships and professional development, recognizing nursing accomplishments, and supporting nurses through the Nurse Relief Fund and Recovering Nurse Program.



## Nurse Practitioners earn recognition

### LSNA's 40 Under 40

The Louisiana State Nurse's Association (LSNA) 40 Under 40 Awards recognizes the future leaders of nursing in Louisiana by honoring 40 outstanding nurse leaders who are 40 years of age and under, exemplify dedication to the nursing profession, and demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities. Nominated by her peers, Melissa Nunn, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, CNE, NEA-BC, CNEcl, Director of Advance Practice, was among the inaugural group of inspiring leaders to receive the prestigious award. Nunn and her fellow 40 Under 40 Award recipients were honored as part of Nurses Month festivities.

## NP Excellence Awards

Manning Family Children's honored its nurse practitioners during Advanced Practice Providers Week in September 2024. A highlight of the celebration was the inaugural Nurse Practitioner Awards given to those who consistently demonstrate excellence in their field. Candidates were nominated by fellow NPs, physicians, and NP leaders.

### Congratulations to NP Awards winners:



**Malinda Ferrell**  
MSN, APRN, NNP-C

### NP Excellence Award

- For demonstrating exemplary practice as an APP and being a role model to others
- For her clinical practice as an APP and investment in her professional development
- For providing extraordinary care to patients and families and demonstrating positive communication



**Katie Gill, MSN**  
APRN, FNP-C



**Kaitlin Hastings**  
APRN, FNP-BC

### NP Preceptor of the Year Award

- For inspiring learning and growth of APPs in their roles
- For tailoring the orientation program to meet individualized educational needs
- For acting as a role model of professional behaviors





## Nurses recognized at NODNA ceremony

Two exceptional pediatric nurses were honored at the New Orleans District Nurses Association (NODNA) 2024 Crescent City Nursing Excellence Brunch. Held on May 11 at the Audubon Tea Room as part of Nurses' Week celebrations, the event recognized nominees for the Nursing Excellence Awards—nurses who exemplify outstanding commitment to their profession. This year's awards celebrated excellence across several categories, from leadership in nursing, to contributions to community health.

### Congratulations to:

**Sheira Neely, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC**  
recipient of the Ambulatory Award

**Jared Batiste, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC, CPN**  
recipient of the Hospital Outpatient Award







## Fourteen nurses honored at Great 100 Nurses Celebration

More than a dozen nurses from Manning Family Children's were selected alongside their esteemed counterparts from throughout the state to receive the distinguished Great 100 Nurses Award. Honorees were chosen from a vast pool of nominees based on their concern for humanity, contribution to the profession, and mentoring of others. Fourteen of Children's exceptional nurses were chosen to receive the award in 2024, representing the largest group of recipients in hospital history.

The Great 100 Nurses Foundation was established in the 1980s by New Orleans nurse PK Scheerle. Since its founding, thousands of registered nurses across Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas have been selected to be among the Great 100. Nominees from each state are chosen from an anonymous panel of judges based on their concern for humanity, contribution to the profession of nursing, and mentoring of others.

The Great 100 Nurses Celebration was held October 16, 2024, at the Pontchartrain Center.

### Congratulations to Manning Family Children's Great 100

**Amanda Blaise, MHA, BSN, RN, CPN**  
**Shelby Condon, BSN, RN, CPN**  
**Christina Dougherty, BSN, RN**  
**Adrienne Groh, BSN, RN, CCRN**  
**Kelsey Helmstetter, MHA, BSN, RN, CPST, NEA-BC**  
**Jana Hume, BSN, RN**  
**Nicole Laborde, MBA, BSN, RN, CPN**  
**Anneke Matthews, MHA, BSN, RN, CPN**  
**Laura McGinn, BSN, RN, CCRN**  
**Christina Oakley, ADN, RN**  
**Rhonda Picou, MSN, RN, CPN**  
**Brittany Russell Rainey, BSN, RN, CCRN**  
**Kathryn (Katy) Tanet, MHA, BSN, RN, NPD-BC**  
**Sharon (Shellie) Trahan, BSN, RN, CPN**





## CityBusiness names 2024 Health Care Heroes



Health Care Heroes was created by New Orleans CityBusiness in 2007 to honor nurses, physicians, professionals, and volunteers in the New Orleans area for their achievements and community involvement in the healthcare field. Ashlynn Millet, BSN, RN, CCRN, was among the 2024 nominees celebrated at the Health Care Heroes Awards, October 7 at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Millet joins a growing number of Manning Family Children's professionals who have been honored over the years as Health Care Heroes.

## Honor Society awards children's nursing leader



The Xi Zeta Chapter's Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing recognizes nurses who demonstrate consistent excellence in clinical practice, nursing education, and nursing leadership. The 2024 Excellence Awards ceremony was held on April 16 at Nicholls State University. Among the distinguished honorees was Elena Vidrine, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, PED-BC, Clinical Director, Nursing Education/Professional Development & Magnet Program, who received the Nursing Leadership Award.

Vidrine, a member of Sigma Theta Tau, was nominated by Children's nursing leadership in recognition of her contributions to nursing leadership, her development and utilization of innovative strategies to advance leadership knowledge, her efforts to enhance the image of the nursing profession, and her active role in shaping future nursing leaders.





## Nurses complete graduate programs

Unit	RN name	School	Graduation date	Degree
Acute Care, PICU	Brittany Bodet	University of South Alabama	December 2024	MSN (Nurse Practitioner)
Same Day Surgery	Connie Brider	LSU Health New Orleans	May 2024	DNP (Executive Nurse Leader)
Trauma Center	Mallory Cash	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	May 2024	MBA (Health Care Administration)
ThriveKids	Stacey Chalin	University of New Orleans	December 2024	MHA
Hematology/Oncology	Lauren Flettrich	LSU Health New Orleans	May 2024	DNP (Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
4 West	Brandi Goble	University of South Alabama	December 2024	MSN (Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
Transfer Center	Katrina Griffin	Grand Canyon University	October 2024	MSN (Healthcare Leadership)
Lakeside Pediatrics	Gabrielle Herman	LSU Health New Orleans	May 2024	BSN
Nursing Education	Claire LeGrange	Chamberlain University	July 2024	MSN (Education)
Juvenile Justice Intervention Center	Christina Lirette	University of South Alabama	December 2024	MSN (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner)
5 Center	Sarah Mckeough	University of Louisiana Lafayette	December 2024	BSN
Ambulatory Float Pool	Hang My Van	University of Louisiana Lafayette	May 2024	BSN
Ambulatory Float Pool	Julie Paniagua	University of Louisiana Monroe	December 2024	BSN
PICU	Terika Smith	LSU Health New Orleans	May 2024	DNP (Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
ThriveKids	Katherine Stoma	University of Alabama at Birmingham	August 2024	MBA
Cardiology	Audrey Tallis	LSU Health New Orleans	May 2024	DNP (Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
Sedation	Heather Vezinat	McNeese State University	May 2024	BSN
Informatics, Sedation	Amanda Weinberger	Chamberlain University	April 2024	MSN
Emergency Department	Bianca Ziegler	LSU Alexandria	December 2024	BSN



## Nursing by the numbers

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1,044

RNs and LPNs

139



RNs + LPNs

hired in 2024

85

RNs + LPNs on

CLINICAL LADDER

150

CNE contact  
hours offered

41

Nurses



received and award nominated  
by patients and families in 2024



81% RNs  
with BSN  
or greater

54.6%

RNs HOLD A NURSING  
SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

## Notes

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## Notes

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**Manning Family  
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