

THE lamp LIGHTER

Methodist Hospitals Nurse Newsletter • June 2026

Congrats to this year's Nursing Award Nominees



Marla Hoyer-Lareau, RN, BSN, MHA, Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing and Operations Officer

This year's Nurses Week at Methodist Hospitals was a special opportunity to celebrate the compassion, dedication and excellence that define our nursing team. Throughout the week, we recognized the extraordinary difference you make for our patients, our organization and one another. From soothing massage therapy sessions to ice cream socials, the week provided meaningful moments of appreciation, connection and well-earned recognition.

One of the week's most memorable highlights was our Nursing Awards Presentations, where we celebrated nurses and team members whose efforts consistently go above and beyond expectations.

Please join me in congratulating this year's Nursing Award recipients. Your dedication to clinical excellence, leadership and compassionate, patient-centered care represents the very best of our profession. I also want to recognize the 32 nurses and staff members nominated for this year's awards. Every nomination reflects the respect, appreciation and admiration you have earned from your peers.

Thank you for all you do – not only during Nurses Week, but throughout the entire year. You are the heart of Methodist Hospitals, and it is an honor to celebrate you and the remarkable power of nursing.

For the third consecutive year, we received a record number of nominations for this year's Nursing awards. Please join us in saluting our colleagues whose dedication and expertise inspired those nominations:

Nurse Excellence Nominees

Valerie Alger, RN, Nursing Professional Development
 Mirko Bebekoski, RN, Case Management
 Diane Beukema, RN, Southlake Surgery Center
 John Coates, RN, Northlake Surgery Center
 Frank Covelli, RN, Southlake ED
 Melissa Genovese, RN, Northlake ED
 Dawn Lane, RN, Southlake Surgery Center
 Yolanda Lee, RN, Southlake 4W3
 Keith Leigh, RN, Southlake Surgical Evaluation Center
 Marcos Lopez Aguayo, RN, Southlake EP Lab
 Violetta Miller, RN, Southlake 5w2 IMCU
 Patrick O'Brien, RN, Stroke/Neuroscience
 Mary Padul, RN, Southlake 3W3
 Shania Richardson, RN, Northlake ED
 Jammie Smith, RN, Northlake ED
 Tammy Symmes, RN, Med Surg Resource Nurse
 Sonia Washington, RN, Northlake Surgery

Caregiver Excellence Nominees

Mei Anweiler, Southlake 5W1
 Natalie Burgos, Northlake OB
 Mile Konjevic, Southlake 3W2
 Matthew Laudig, Northlake 4E
 Hannah McDonald, Northlake ED
 Monah Musleh, Southlake Surgery Center
 Anquetta Wheatley, Southlake 3W2

Friend of Nursing Nominees

Jeffery Ballard, Northlake Environmental Services
 Karen Dates, Northlake Lab
 Brittany Golecki, Southlake Surgery Center
 Ursula Moore, Southlake Surgery Center
 Brenda Peaches, Northlake Patient Transport
 Da'jah Polk, Northlake Lab
 Benita Strickland, Southlake 5W1
 Nanthana Winters, Southlake Surgery Center



Our 2026 Nursing Award Recipients

Methodist Hospitals proudly celebrated its annual Nursing Award Ceremonies on May 6 at the Northlake campus and May 7 at the Southlake campus, recognizing team members whose compassion, professionalism, and dedication reflect the very best of Methodist nursing. Please join us in congratulating this year's honorees for their outstanding contributions to patient care and teamwork across our organization.

NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Northlake:
Melissa Genovese, RN
Northlake ER

Melissa is recognized for her exceptional clinical expertise, leadership, and commitment to patient-centered care in the Emergency Room. She is also a respected mentor and role model who promotes evidence-based practice, supports Shared Governance initiatives, and exemplifies our I-NURSE Model of Nursing Practice through her compassion, integrity, and dedication to excellence.



CAREGIVER AWARD

Northlake:
Natalie Burgos
*OB Technician,
Northlake Labor
and Delivery*

Known for her dependable nature, positive attitude, and genuine compassion, Natalie anticipates the needs of her team and patients before being asked. Her willingness to help, strong work ethic, and caring spirit make her an invaluable member of the department and someone her coworkers can always count on.



FRIEND OF NURSING AWARD

Northlake:
Jeffery Ballard
*Northlake Environmental
Services*

Jeffery is a trusted and dependable member of the Emergency Department team who consistently goes out of his way to support nurses, patients, and staff. From quickly preparing rooms for incoming patients to assisting with non-clinical needs, Jeffery's willingness to help and positive attitude contribute greatly to patient care and department efficiency.



Southlake:
Keith Leigh, RN
*Southlake Surgical
Evaluation Center*

Keith is known for the compassionate, reassuring care he provides to surgical patients during some of their most vulnerable moments. His positive attitude, professionalism, and commitment to patient-centered care make a lasting impact on both patients and colleagues, while strengthening the collaborative culture within the department.



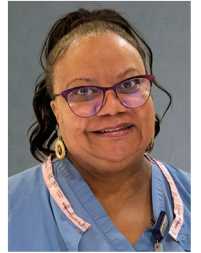
Southlake:
Anquetta Wheatley
*Nursing Assistant,
Southlake 3W2*

Anquetta "Ann" Wheatley is recognized for her tireless dedication to patient care and her uplifting presence on the unit. Whether answering call lights, supporting coworkers or comforting patients, Ann approaches every task with a positive attitude, compassion and energy – making her a valuable member of the Southlake team.



Southlake:
Nathana Winters
Southlake Surgery

Nathana plays a vital role in supporting both surgical families and the nursing team through her compassion, communication, and calming presence. She keeps families informed and reassured throughout the surgical process, helping ease anxiety during stressful moments while allowing clinical staff to remain focused on patient care.



Saluting our two recent DAISY Award recipients

Methodist Hospitals recently honored two outstanding nurses with DAISY Awards in recognition of the compassionate, patient-centered care they provide every day.

At the Northlake Campus, **Oyindamola "Oyinda" Eke, RN**, of the ICU, was praised by patients and families for her kindness, patience, and calming presence during difficult moments. One patient described her as "extraordinary," noting how she took time to explain medications, encourage progress, and provide reassurance when vital signs became unstable. Others commended her warm, efficient care and dedication to meeting every patient need.



At the Southlake Campus, **Julijana Miloshevskaja, RN**, of Neuro IMCU, was recognized for the compassion she showed while caring for a 95-year-old patient transitioning to hospice care. Family members shared that her patience, concern, and comforting support made a difficult experience more peaceful for both the patient and loved ones.



Congratulations to Oyinda and Julijana on this well-deserved recognition. Their compassion, professionalism, and dedication to providing exceptional care continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Methodist Hospitals patients and families every day.

Four Methodist Hospitals Nurses Honored by The Times

Four Methodist Hospitals nurses were recognized among Northwest Indiana's top nursing professionals as part of The Times "Nurses – The Heart of Health Care" initiative, which celebrates outstanding nurses throughout The Region. The honorees were recognized during the newspaper's annual Nurses Week event held at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville.



Christine Eggleston,
RN, BSN
Southlake Campus,
Resource Nurse



Jazmin Encarnacion, RN
Northlake Campus,
NICU



Cheryl Hutnik,
RN, BSN, CCM
Southlake Campus,
Case Management



Sheva Robinson,
RN, ASN, BSN
Northlake Campus,
Resource Nurse

Christine Eggleston, RN, BSN; Jazmin Encarnacion, RN; Cheryl Hutnik, RN, BSN, CCM; and Sheva

Robinson, RN, ASN, BSN, were selected by a panel of four judges and featured in the May 13, edition of The Times Get Healthy section.

"Nurses are at the forefront when we are sick; their work responsibilities immense, their efforts tireless and their commitment endless," wrote Get Healthy editor Mary Jane Grandinetti in recognizing nurses who serve in hospitals, clinics, schools, residential care facilities, physician offices, and in-home settings.

Please join us in congratulating these exceptional Methodist Hospitals nurses for this well-deserved recognition and for the compassionate care they provide to our patients and community every day.

IT UPDATE:

Sign In for Success with Epic

As Methodist Hospitals continues to enhance workflows within Epic, we're reminding nurses of the importance of signing in for each shift using the Epic Sign In function. This simple but essential step helps ensure that patient assignments, communication tools and important clinical tasks are accurately connected to the appropriate caregiver.

When beginning your shift, please select your shift times, assigned patients and contact number before clicking "Sign In." Once completed, assigned patients automatically appear in the Brain under "My Patients," helping streamline workflow and improve visibility into important patient care responsibilities.

Using the Sign In function will also help you stay on top of key clinical reminders and required documentation, including pain reassessments, blood administration documentation, and other overdue tasks. In addition, the Brain supports easier documentation for new AI care plans and provides access to MyChart Bedside messages from patients and families.

Taking a few moments to correctly sign in at the start of your shift can help improve communication, efficiency and patient care throughout the day.

The screenshot shows the Epic Sign In interface for a Registered Nurse (RN). At the top, it says "Sign In [redacted] RN". Below that is the "Shift Overview" section with fields for "Shift Start" (1323, 05/22/2026) and "Shift End" (2123, 05/22/2026). A red arrow points to the "8h 12h" dropdown menu. Below the shift end field is a "Contact:" field with a phone icon and a red arrow pointing to it. There is also a "Comment:" field. The "Roles and Times" section shows a checked box for "Registered Nurse" with "0 departments | 0 patients" below it. An "Add role" button with a plus sign is also visible.