

**SPECIAL**  
Announcement!



August 7, 2020

# New Direction

## Say 'welcome' to Sandy Hare, chief human resources officer

Sandra Hare, Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital's new chief human resources officer, explored a lot of different avenues before settling into healthcare human resources 14 years ago. "I've been a professional singer, a radio DJ, an actor, a bartender, a trainer for Homeland Security, an incident command officer for Wildland Fire," Sandy reflects, but healthcare is where her heart landed.

"I have a deep love and respect for healthcare and all of the dedicated people that put the care of patients, families and community before themselves. My mom was an LVN, my son was a combat medic and my youngest daughter is an RN, so healthcare runs in our family," she said. "I can't take care of patients but I do take very seriously my opportunity to take good care of the people that do."

As an army brat, Sandy says it's always hard to say where she's from. She's lived many places but considers Montana and Texas her two homes. She recently moved from eastern Washington state where she served as an executive director over human resources, education and employee health.

With two of her three children in Texas, Sandy had always planned to come back to the Lone Star State. Timing was right to make the move now, and she really liked what the Memorial leadership team had to say. "I wanted to be a part of the future of this hospital," she said. "I think it's a very pretty hospital. I love all of the natural light! And I love the stories I've been hearing about how long people have worked here and how many times I've heard 'this is my family.' That says a lot for an organization, especially in these challenging times. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone better and to being able to contribute to the community."

Sandy says she loves to laugh and has a few tenets that she likes to live and work by. She was happy to share them.

- There are three sides to every story.
- If you were going to say yes, why did you say no?
- If we can't change it, how do we improve on it?
- People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.
- And one of her favorites.... "Oh Sandy, grow down!" (She says feel free to ask her about that one.)



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## KTRE thanks nurse Courtney Freeland for dedication to her patients

Courtney Freeland, RN in the women's and children's department, was recently recognized by KTRE's Thank a Nurse program. Joe Scifo, KTRE/KLTV account executive, presented Courtney with a large gift basket, courtesy of the Thank a Nurse sponsor, Premier Kia.

"I love the passion all of the honored nominees exemplify for the love of their careers," Scifo said. "They are all super heroes and I thank God for all of them."

Courtney was nominated for the award by her mom, Junelle Heldenbrand, who is also a nurse with a special perspective on her daughter's dedication. The mother/daughter team attended nursing school together ten years ago, before Courtney returned to school for her RN and BSN degrees.

"Courtney always puts her patients first. No matter what kind of a day she is having, she always has a big smile on her face. Courtney is willing to go the extra mile for her patients, no matter what," Junelle said. "After their child is born [her patients] always want to talk to her whether it's in Walmart or the gas station. They all express their gratitude and thanksgiving for how much they appreciate how she helped them through that rough pregnancy; or they just give her a hug. She has shown me what a true nurse does!"



## Raising Cane's neck gaiters

### Foundation reaps benefit from promo

Katy Crawford, foundation director, got some great news recently, when she learned that a joint promotion with the local Raising Cane's resulted in a donation of \$864.88

The virtual check presentation was definitely a first and was recorded for broadcast on the restaurant chain's social media platforms. Bright pink, blue and gray neck gaiters were sold as a good face covering option during COVID-19 and were printed with the company's slogan "One Love."

The local restaurant also treated our nursing staff to a lunch and dinner during the earliest stages of the ongoing pandemic.

## Staffers enjoy recent treats from adoring community supporters



Coffee & muffins were sponsored by Stallings Court Nursing and Rehab, Texas Home Health Hospice, Right At Home Caregiving and Advantage Plus Home Healthcare.



An ice cream social was sponsored by Oceans Behavioral Hospital, A Pineywoods Home Health, AeroCare, Heart to Heart Hospice and Post Acute