

HOW

Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees
June 24 – 30, 2024

Camp I-Thonka-Chi

brings out the kid in everyone

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Camp I-Thonka-Chi brings out the kid in everyone

For more than three decades, children have eagerly anticipated the first week of June and attending Parkland Health's annual camp for children with burn injuries. Camp I-Thonka-Chi, which is Choctaw for "a place that makes one strong or fearless, not afraid to face life," held at Camp John Marc near Meridian, Texas, has hosted hundreds of children and teens since its inception and provided a place for them to interact with peers who have experienced similar circumstances.

But it's not just the children who look forward to the week-long camp. Adults become kids at heart as they delight in helping the youngsters with horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, archery and a ropes course complete with a zip line, among other activities that last from dawn to dusk.

This month, David Magill, a former burn nurse who is now an Applications Systems Manager in Parkland's Information Technology department, marked his 30th trip to Camp I-Thonka-Chi. He joined more than 50 children who took part in the week-long camp free from stares that often accompany their injuries. In addition, eight former campers and four additional adult burn survivors returned to serve as counselors and mentors to their young counterparts. Firefighters, burn nurses and others serve as camp counselors.

Magill describes camp as "a family reunion not only with the counselors but the kids, too." The best part, he says, "is seeing the kids running and playing and doing things I never thought they would do again when I was taking care of them in the Burn Intensive Care Unit."

"The best part is seeing these kids be kids again," said Beth Ellsworth, a Senior Physical Therapist who works in Parkland's burn unit. "I see these kids during their hospitalization when they are going through painful treatments as a result of their trauma, and then to see them at camp, well, it's the best family reunion you could possibly imagine."

In reminiscing about her 28-year involvement with Camp I-Thonka-Chi, she mentions a former camper now in his 30s who is married with children of his own and volunteers at camp. "That just tells you what an impact camp has on you," she said. "It means so much that you keep coming back as an adult."

Since the original camp, which hosted nine campers on a cold March weekend in 1992, hundreds of children have benefitted from what Camp I-Thonka-Chi co-founder Donna Crump describes as a "magical" time.

"Seeing the kids in that environment is special. The kids are able to interact with others who truly know what they are going through back home. They can try new things, share their triumphs and struggles with peers and supportive adults, and have a blast in the great outdoors," said Crump, a manager in Parkland's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department.

"As caregivers in the hospital, we can see all the pain they have had to go through. Camp is proof positive that things truly do get better," she said noting the campers' "amazing" resiliency. "And all of the adults who give up a week or more away from their families to help ensure the camp runs smoothly truly reaffirms one's faith in humanity. It is just a magical place like none other."

Crump's inspiration for forming Camp I-Thonka-Chi was forged when she learned about a burn camp in Colorado and had the chance to attend with a camper from Texas. After witnessing first-hand the positive effects it had on the young burn survivors, she was hooked and determined to create a similar experience for Parkland's children with burn injuries.

Asked if there was one memory that stood out over these past three decades, Crump paused and said, "I think one of the most special memories occurred in our early years. One of the campers was a young teenager from a small town who was very shy and all week he hardly said anything, would stand outside the circle if we were playing a game. He slowly warmed up throughout the week and on the last night one of the counselors pulled him out on to the dance floor to join in the fun.

"After we got back home, I got a call from his mom and the first thing she said was, 'What did you do to my son?!' I will admit I was a little panicked at first and asked her what she meant exactly," Crump recalled. "She then replied, 'he talks, he laughs, he smiles. For two years since his injury, I have not seen this. What did you do in that one week?' Well, it wasn't anything that we did. It was the kids, the environment. To me, that is what camp is all about!"



Lasting Impressions: Lori Kirkpatrick



Each week, "Lasting Impressions" features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week's "Lasting Impressions" features Lori Kirkpatrick, Advanced Practice Provider III – General, Advanced Practice Provider Oncology Service Line.

"Not only is Lori very knowledgeable in her role as a PA, but she is a real team player. She always helps any member of the team when needed. I have seen her help our medical assistants obtain vitals on patients to help them get through the busy morning, on weekends she will walk around the unit and hand out snacks to patients, escort patients to the infusion area and many other tasks not related to her provider role but helpful to the team. She is also a joy to work with and has a very pleasant spirit."



Want to nominate an employee who goes above and beyond? Tell us what makes them so fantastic by emailing Employees@phhs.org or calling ext. 28048.

Nominate a deserving APRN by June 25

It's time to submit nominations for Parkland's 2024 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse of the Year. The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Council is seeking nominations now through Tuesday, June 25. To submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Parkland recognizes one APRN each year for their outstanding contribution to our patients. Criteria for the APRN of the Year award are based on Parkland's ICARE values. Honorees are recognized for their contributions toward clinical practice, professional involvement, community service, leadership, research and education. Anyone may submit a nomination.



The 2024 Pulse Survey Begins July 22

Parkland's 2024 Pulse Survey is scheduled to begin Monday, July 22, and run through Friday, Aug. 16. This survey is designed to help us gain a better understanding of workforce engagement and measure progress toward our collective goals at Parkland.

The survey will include the following team engagement action items:

- Trust & Involvement and Safety Culture (five system action plan items)
- Engagement Indicator Items (six Press Ganey-defined items)
- Action Plan Verification Questions (three items)
- Definition of Burnout (one item)
- Workplace Violence (three items)

Press Ganey will be our third-party administrator for this year's Engagement Pulse Survey, and will send an email with an invite to the survey on July 22. We will continue to communicate more details on the 2024 Pulse Survey as we near the survey's start date.

'Black Men in White Coats' documentary now available for Parkland team members

As we celebrate Juneteenth, Parkland's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has purchased an enterprise license of the 80-minute documentary "Black Men in White Coats." Fed up with the lack of diversity among doctors, a medical doctor set out to explore why only 2% of American doctors are black men and what that means for society.

To watch the film, Parkland team members can create accounts at members.bmwcevents.com using their Parkland email address. Once complete, you will have access to the film for 30 days.



Miss the virtual town hall? Watch the recording!

More than 1,000 Parkland team members tune in to our virtual employee town hall each month, but we know there are many more of you who are not able to watch. Lucky for you, the town hall recordings and PowerPoint presentation are posted on the Parkland intranet each month. To catch up on any town halls you missed, [click here](#).

▶ OnSight Eyes returns July 23-25

As part of our ongoing commitment to the well-being of our employees, we're pleased to offer OnSight Eyes once again, providing employees currently enrolled in Parkland's vision plan a convenient opportunity to receive vision care at Parkland.

OnSight Eyes will offer these services next to the Employee Health Center in the Moody Outpatient Center 4th Floor Conference Room (MOC 04-1100) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, through Thursday, July 25. Vision plan copays will apply, and appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, [click here](#).

For more information on this exciting new opportunity, view this flyer or visit www.ParklandBenefits.org.

▶ Reusable water bottle drive begins July 1

The Professional Excellence in Nursing (PEN) Council invites all Parkland team members to participate in the 3rd Annual Reusable Water Bottle Drive. Bottles received will be distributed directly to individuals experiencing homelessness by Parkland's Homeless Outreach Medical Services (HOMES) program.

Beginning Monday, July 1, though Monday, July 15, you can drop off new, reusable water bottles at the following locations:

- Parkland Center for Nursing Excellence (NPC 02-505) from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- HOMES in the Moody Outpatient Center (MOC 04-123) from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Centralized Staffing Office (NPC 01-617) 24/7

Let's come together and donate 700 NEW reusable water bottles to those experiencing homelessness this summer. For more information, contact Clara.Jackson@phhs.org, Domingo.Davila@phhs.org, Daisy.Jasso@phhs.org or Jayson.Villanueva@phhs.org.

Onward & Upward

Ambulatory Clinical Support Services: Krieg Curry and DeMarcus Johnson to Referral and Care Coordinator

Behavioral Health Social Work: Kennedi Foreman and Cris Hernandez to Social Worker (LCSW)

Dietary – Nutrition Services: Henson John Carrera to Associate Sous Chef

Engineering Services: Joby Varghese to Senior Electrician

Global Cancer Program: Gabriela Caraveo to Patient Navigator

Irving Health Center: Martin Banda to Senior Medical Practice Assistant

Information Technologies – Desktop Support: David Haddox to IT App Systems Team Manager

Mother/Baby B: Lynda Le to Associate Manager, Nursing
Plastic Surgery: Sharla Bennett and Nancy Kinuthia to Registered Nurse – Acute Care

RIGHT Care: Faithe Mistretta-Hamilton to Social Worker (LCSW)

Talent Acquisition: Ayataha Felix to Human Resources Workforce Planning Coordinator

Talent Management Administration: Byron Talley to Manager, Workforce Planning

Urgent Care Center: Rose Gold Resuena and Jennifer Ruiz Sanchez to Senior Registered Nurse Specialist – Emergency

Retirements

- Jesus Espinal, Mechanic Building, COPCs & Off-Site
- Kottuviruthil George, Cashier, Dietary – Nutrition Services
- Kathy Johnson, Advanced Practice Provider II – General, Advanced Practice Provider Cardiology Service Line
- Dao Ly, Laboratory Supervisor, Hematology
- Alice Montgomery, Health Unit Coordinator, Labor & Delivery
- Leelamma Panachakunnel, Senior Registered Nurse – Acute Care, Hospitalist A
- Harold Peacock, Senior Medical Interpreter, Language Services
- Mary Varghese, Care Coordinator, Expand Care Transition Program



Care. Compassion. Community.

Parkland Now is published by the Corporate Communications department at Parkland Health. Please note the submission deadline for each issue of *Parkland Now* is by the end of day each Monday. To publicize your news in *Parkland Now*, please send all submissions to Employees@phhs.org or call ext. 28048.