

Now

Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees
Feb. 23 – March 1, 2026

Nurses continue the Valentine's Day tradition of

Sharing the love with our patients



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Parkland nurses continue a Valentine's Day tradition

For many of us, Valentine's Day brings back memories of childhood classrooms filled with decorated shoeboxes, carefully chosen cards and the simple excitement of feeling remembered. At Parkland, that same spirit of connection and kindness continues each February through a tradition that brings comfort and joy to patients across the system.

From Feb. 12–19, Parkland nurses delivered personalized valentine cards to patients during the day shift, night shift and throughout the weekend, ensuring no one is missed. Now in its 11th year, the annual initiative reflects Parkland's commitment to caring for the whole person — recognizing that emotional support plays an important role in healing.

The project is sponsored by Parkland's Professional Excellence in Nursing (PEN) Council, which provides English- and Spanish-language valentines for nurses and staff to personalize for their patients. Members of Parkland's leadership team also participate by signing cards. In total, more than 3,500 valentines were delivered to hospitalized patients and to those receiving care in Parkland's network of community-based health centers.

For patients coping with illness, injury or extended hospital stays, a simple card can offer a powerful reminder that they are seen and supported. Nurses say these moments of connection — brief but meaningful — often help lift patients' spirits and provide a welcome distraction from the challenges of their care.

"Our support goes beyond what people traditionally think of as medical care and includes the emotional needs of our patients as well," said Donna Richardson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, EVP & Chief Nurse Executive. "When a patient receives a valentine from the staff caring for them, it's an unexpected gift that can brighten their day and offer comfort, even if just for a moment."

The tradition is equally meaningful for Parkland's nurses and staff. Taking time to sign and deliver valentines allows caregivers to pause, connect and reflect on the human side of their work.

"Signing and delivering these cards not only lifts the spirits of our patients," Donna added, "it's also a wonderful morale booster for our staff. It reminds us why compassion and kindness are such powerful parts of healing."



► Retirement Readiness: 2026 and Beyond

Join us for a series of in person or virtual sessions to learn more about preparing for retirement. With so much going on in the world, we often put important tasks such as saving for retirement on the back burner. Whether retirement is a long time in the future or just around the corner, will you be ready financially?

Attend these on-campus/virtual meetings hosted by Milliman, recordkeeper for our retirement plans, to discover how Parkland's retirement benefits can help you retire when you are ready. We will close each session with a Q&A.

Milliman will kick off the series on Tuesday, Feb. 24, with a session on key planning concepts! Whether you are a new hire or a long-term employee, you can get a clear overview of Parkland's retirement benefits and learn how to maximize your options. You will also learn about key considerations to help you plan for your financial future.

Tuesday, Feb. 24: Understanding Your Parkland Retirement Plans

- 11 a.m. in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (in person + virtual)
 - [Join the Webex](#)
 - Event number: 2316 798 6385
 - Event Password: qQcj2MDMc32
- 1 p.m. in the Private Dining Room (in-person only)

Tuesday, April 21: Are You Retirement Ready? Tools and Tips to Help You Prepare for Retirement

- 11 a.m. in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (in person + virtual)

Wednesday, June 17: Ready, Set, Retire: Navigating Retirement Income, Social Security and Medicare

- 11 a.m. in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (in person + virtual)
- 1 p.m. in the Private Dining Room (in-person only)

Tuesday, Aug. 11: Master Your Money: A Guide to Debt, Credit and Saving for the Future

- 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (virtual only). [Register here.](#)

▼ Lasting Impressions: Sara Darwin



Each week, “Lasting Impressions” features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week’s “Lasting Impressions” features Sara Darwin, Social Worker (LMSW) Care Management.

“Sara serves as the evening social worker and consistently demonstrates efficiency, professionalism and a strong commitment to patient-centered care. She manages frequent hospital transfers with precision, ensuring that all documentation, transportation arrangements, and care teams are properly coordinated to facilitate seamless transitions. During a recent complex transfer, Sara collaborated effectively with providers and the transfer coordinator to secure placement at the patient’s preferred facility. Her ability to advocate for patients while clearly communicating essential tasks reflects her dedication to both quality care and smooth operational processes.”



Badge access added for Wellness Garden gate

Based on employee feedback, Parkland’s Facilities team added badge access to one of the gates to the Moody Foundation Wellness Garden earlier this month. This gate, which faces the Ron J. Anderson, MD, Clinic Building, is now accessible to staff from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Previously, you could use this gate to exit (but not enter) the garden.

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.

OnSight Eyes returns March 10-12

We’re excited to once again offer OnSight Eyes, providing employees currently enrolled in Parkland’s vision plan a convenient opportunity to receive vision care here at Parkland!

OnSight Eyes is a vision care service that brings wellness to work. Rather than having to schedule an appointment with an offsite optometrist or eye care professional, Parkland will host OnSight Eyes on campus from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, through Thursday, March 12. for employees currently enrolled in Parkland’s vision plan. To schedule an appointment, [register here](#).

Services include:

- Eye exam (covered by Parkland’s vision plan)
- Selection of glasses and eyewear for employees – covered by Parkland’s vision plan.

OnSight Eyes will offer these services next to the Employee Health Center in the Moody Outpatient Center 4th Floor Conference Room (MOC 04-1100). Vision plan copays will apply, and appointments are required.



► Construction crane going up outside Logistics Building

As significant improvements are made to the utility and pneumatic tube systems for the Parkland Lab, a construction crane will be placed on Dr. John Wesley Anderson Way outside the Logistics Building beginning Tuesday, Feb. 24. It will remain there until work is complete in April.

While normal traffic will mostly be unaffected, there will be times where access to some areas will be restricted. This includes:

- **When steel is being off-loaded from arriving trucks:** During this time, the sidewalk that runs alongside the Logistics Building as well as the main entrance to the building will be closed to pedestrian traffic for about five minutes each time a piece of steel is being lifted.
- **One major equipment lift in early April:** This will block access to the front door of the police station for up to four hours. This may also cause delays for the employee shuttle.

If this schedule changes, further details will be communicated at that time. We appreciated your patience while this work is completed.

► Recognizing our latest ICARE Award winners

Congratulations to Parkland's most recent ICARE Award recipients! These exemplary employees, listed below, were recently honored for setting an outstanding example of living our ICARE values through their words and actions.

- **INTEGRITY:** Debbie Howard, HOMES
- **COMPASSION:** Sonia Hernandez, Environmental Services
- **COLLABORATION:** Macy Crossman, Emergency Department
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Katherine McDuff, Respiratory Care
- **RESPECT:** Catherine Quintana, Labor & Delivery
- **EQUITY:** Thomas Medrano, Labor & Delivery



If you see an individual with an ICARE-branded badge reel or polo, you'll know

they go above and beyond to embody our ICARE values! Our ICARE Awards are presented quarterly. Be sure to visit our [Recognition Platform](#) and nominate a fellow team member for our next ICARE Awards today.

Onward & Upward

Ambulatory Specialty Clinics: Alisha Franklin to Business Support Coordinator, Cindy Green to Medical Practice Assistant, Oluchi Onebunne to Advanced Practice Provider II – General, LaToya Wright to Administrative Coordinator – Global Programs

Clinical Support Services: John Becker and Caroline Danner to Registered Dietitian – Advanced Practice

ED and Behavioral Health: Brennen Bassett to Manager – Nursing

Environmental Services: Dorothy Wright to Senior Contact Center Specialist

Information Technology: Melissa Sanchez to Information Technology Application Systems Specialist

Medical Affairs: Guillermo Anguiano to Advanced Practice Provider II – SAMA, Gabriela Camacho to Advanced Practice Provider III – General, Tacovia Ingram to Senior Registered Nurse – Nurse Clinician

Medicine Services: Absana Pathak to Senior Registered Nurse – Acute Care, Shane Sibley to Senior Neurodiagnostic Technologist

Nursing Administration: Katharina Givens to Associate Manager

Office of Talent Management: Michelle Ng to Associate Administrator – Post Residency

Patient Financial Services: Kytrina Lewis to Revenue Cycle Supervisor, Carmen Williams to Manager – Quality Review

Perioperative Services: Jareion Chambers to Senior Sterile Processing Technician

Surgical Services: Ashley Olvera and Lacie Stone to Senior Registered Nurse – ICU CCU PCU

Women & Infants Specialty Health: Catherine Carter and Kelsey Magenheimer to Associate Manager – Nursing, Grace Park to Advanced Practice Provider II – Neonatal Resuscitation Program

Retirements

- Mumtaz Noorani, Senior Registered Nurse, Ambulatory Specialty Clinics
- Anjum Varshney, Associate Director, Performance Improvement Population Health, COPC



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.