



Each day that I walk into Children's Hospital Los Angeles, I can do nothing but smile. So much has happened since I began my work here almost 12 years ago. As I pass the patients and their families on my way in to my unit, I am greeted with smiles and salutations. I pass a physician, a nurse, a secretary, a person from facilities, someone from environmental services and yes, even the CNO and the CEO, and I am greeted with a smile and a "hello". It seems that everyone is happy and proud to work here.

When we began our journey to Magnet, I had no doubt in my mind that we would soon have the designation. I had never seen teamwork as I had witnessed here. I had never seen so much collaboration as I had seen here. It was quite apparent why I saw the words "Team CHLA" on t-shirts and jackets.

The ability for staff to go back to school to further their education and career was so apparent. Several of my colleagues have gone back to school for their Bachelor of Science or for their Master of Science. The opportunities for advancement are available for those who choose to pursue the higher degrees.

I have seen many of the staff that I work with, prepare articles for publication. They have presented at national and local conferences. They have created posters for presentation at different nursing conferences. All this information has come from their hard work and experience at the bedside with many of the sickest children in the area. I am so excited for them and with them, when they are able to share their knowledge and expertise and be recognized for all their hard work.

The latest addition to the list of amazing things for me at CHLA is the work of the councils. I believe that the "meetings of the minds" from all the units, in each of the councils has increased the teamwork, which abounds here. Staff members, who represent many different

areas of patient care services, meet to discuss their concerns for safety, policy and procedures, education for staff, parents and families, and the need to continue to recruit qualified staff and to retain the excellent staff that we have here now.

It is amazing to see the amount of work that these people put in to their council work. It is also very gratifying for the staff to see that their concerns are being dealt with, house wide, with a group of their peers and taken seriously by the upper levels of management. I think that this shows each employee who works here that they can be heard when they have concerns for patient safety or patient care issues.

What makes me the most proud , is to see a change that is made that will have a positive effect on even the smallest of our patients and know that this change was brought about by a person at the bedside, who cares for this type of patient, day in and day out. To know that they had a part in effecting this change is so very gratifying and brings about a great deal of job satisfaction.

Soon we will move to the new hospital building. As the date for the move approaches, the staff members who continue to “step up” and put their hearts into the work that they are doing is most impressive. The nurses, unit assistants and physicians are full of ideas and suggestions on how we will make things work in a new and unfamiliar territory. The changes abound but they attack it head on and are determined to make things work. I want to let them know that their hard work is so greatly appreciated.

I believe that the nurses here at CHLA are the most talented nurses that I have ever worked with in my 28 years as a registered nurse. I am most proud of the work that we all do here and I know that many of my colleagues feel the same way. The encouragement from all levels of administration to continue to have the ability to advance in our practice is so important.

To see that they practice what they preach is even more important. Witnessing directors returning to school for a Doctorate degree is telling of just how important advancing our knowledge and increasing our professionalism in nursing is to them. What a great place we work in and what a wonderful time to be a nurse at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

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