2014 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
TENNESSEE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
November 5 - 7, 2014
HEALTHCARE HERO AWARD
Mia Sharp
Registered Nurse
Pediatric Emergency Department & Pediatric Ground Transport Team
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
Nashville, TN
Mia Sharp was honored for her efforts to provide emergency care to victims of a mass shooting in Aurora, CO, while she was on vacation.

Sharp’s exceptional skills and knowledge of trauma and critical care were needed while she and her sister were attending the midnight showing of a movie. A gunman in an adjoining theater set off tear gas grenades and shot into the audience with multiple firearms, killing 12 people and injuring 58 other individuals.

Sharp and her sister had no information or warning on what they would find as they exited the theater. She immediately began treating the severely injured people and offering other assistance. Medical personnel had not arrived so she began providing emergency care using clothing and other items from people leaving the theater. She also provided psychological support for victims who were terrified in a very chaotic environment.

Sharp stayed with the injured and continued to provide needed care despite the risk to her personal safety. The shooter walked right past her and the victims.

She administered care until emergency medical teams arrived to transport patients to surrounding hospitals. She also stayed onsite to offer information to police and investigative units.

One of those quiet heroes, she stated, “I just did what needed to be done in the situation I was in.”

Sharp returned to her life in Nashville and continues to provide care to patients and families with sick and critically injured children in the pediatric emergency department and pediatric ground transport. She also serves as a member of the specialized trauma and critical care team and neonatal/pediatric safety committee. She provides education with the hospital’s outreach team to emergency medical services, community hospitals and pediatrician offices and teaches pediatric advance life support and pediatric emergency assessment recognition and stabilization.

She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing at Belmont University, Nashville.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
John Marshall
Chief Executive Officer
TriStar Horizon Medical Center
Dickson, TN
John Marshall was honored for his leadership and commitment to his hospital and community and participation in the Tennessee Hospital Association (THA).

Marshall epitomizes the five leadership characteristics of a great CEO: personal insight, resourcefulness, courage, willingness to look at risk and foresight. He has a keen ability as a leader that very few people have—getting the right people in the right place at the right time so they can succeed. He knows people are more important than the bricks and mortar of the hospital.

To create a strong open dialogue, Marshall started the project patient focus program, which requires the senior team to work with staff on a full 12-hour day and night shift once a quarter. This includes transporting patients, making coffee or allowing staff to talk with the senior team about process improvement. Quality is the first priority for him, not the finances.

Marshall has dedicated more than 40 years of services to health care, starting his career as a respiratory therapist, with a deep passion for patient bedside care. He returned to Tennessee in 2002, providing leadership to the hospital and establishing numerous new services, including opening a freestanding emergency department in 2015.

A fellow in ACHE, Marshall has served on numerous THA councils and committees since 2003, including as chairman of the THA quality committee. He also serves on the Tennessee Board for Licensing Healthcare Facilities.

He received a PhD in health administration at the Warren National University School of Health and Public Administration, Cheyenne, WY; a master’s degree in healthcare administration at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI; and a bachelor’s degree at Ottawa University, Kansas City, MO.
Brennan Francois was recognized for several initiatives that are making a difference in the lives of individuals with substance abuse and mental health issues in the Chattanooga area.

Francois has invested significant time and effort in helping create two major initiatives that increase access to behavioral health treatment for those with mental illness and give law enforcement the intervention skills they need to assist individuals with behavioral health issues.

He helped establish the Chattanooga/Hamilton County crisis intervention team (CIT) and is part of a consortium to establish a drug court that helps juvenile offenders get the help they need. He is passionate about finding solutions that help police officers, the court system and community to effectively address the issue of mental illness.

Since this program began, there have been decreases in the use of force, injuries and arrest rates for the mentally ill and an increase in securing outpatient treatment for consumers. In 2012, Francois was recognized as the CIT partner of the year by the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department and Chattanooga Police Department for his many contributions to the program.

More recently, he has become involved with a drug court consortium, building a network of mental health professionals and treatment resources for defendants in the Hamilton County Juvenile Drug Court. He is a firm believer that getting at-risk youth the behavioral health assistance they need can prevent further issues later in life.

He received a bachelor’s degree at Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA, and a master’s degree at Cumberland University, Lebanon.
Curtis Mansfield was honored for his contributions while serving on the West Tennessee Healthcare board of trustees for the past 17 years.

Mansfield is a healthcare advocate who is recognized for his passion for improving educational outreach for healthcare access. Very dedicated and hardworking, he always makes decisions based on what he believes is in the best interest of the organization. His decisions are thoughtful, insightful and reflect integrity at every level.

President and a member of the board of directors at FIRSTBANK in Jackson, Mansfield has helped guide the continued growth of healthcare services in the Jackson area. He was instrumental in the development of the nationally recognized LIFT Health and Wellness Center, which is the cornerstone of the Jackson Walk, a major downtown revitalization effort. The state-of-the-art Kirkland Cancer Center also was developed and constructed during his tenure. His leadership and guidance on the board has helped pave the way for new services, growth and innovation in the areas of cardiovascular services, neurosciences, and other diagnostic and treatment services.

In addition, Mansfield is a past chairman of the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital board of trustees.

He attended West Tennessee Business College, Jackson.

Arthur “Buddy” Scott was honored for his 32 years of service on the Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center board of directors and 14 years on the Wellmont Health System board of directors.

Patiently tenacious and undaunted by challenging tasks, Scott has been a key figure in many major initiatives that have positioned Wellmont for short-term and long-term success. He has worked diligently to ensure all of the Wellmont hospitals and other medical facilities are equipped with the technology and caregivers to deliver the high-quality care patients deserve.

With unquestioned ethics, an institutional memory that is unequaled and remarkable leadership, Scott led the hospital board through the planning of Project Platinum, a $114 million investment that updated many key facilities at Holston Valley. He also guided the hospital as it became one of the premier hospitals in the country for cardiovascular care. In addition, Wellmont has made tremendous advancements in its cancer program.

Scott has paid considerable attention to growth in relationships with providers through the creation of physician clinical councils in an effort to strengthen and improve physician relationships. During challenging economic times, he also has worked with the health system administration to ensure Wellmont takes appropriate measures to address the changing revenue stream while not impacting care at the bedside.

Earlier this year, Wellmont announced it was exploring its strategic options for the future, a process that will allow the board to make the best decision for the health system. He recognized it was wise to consider Wellmont’s options in a proactive manner while it was operating from a position of clinical strength and relative financial stability.

He has practiced law in Kingsport for 40 years. He received a law degree at the University of Virginia School of Law and a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Science.
Peter Grubb, MD
Medical Director
Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN

Peter Grubb, MD, was recognized for his efforts to improve healthcare delivery in Tennessee through his work with the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care (TIPQC).

A visionary leader, Grubb’s tireless efforts have been a driving force behind the steady improvement of birth outcomes and reduction of infant mortality in Tennessee. He is a founding member and medical director for TIPQC, which is a quality improvement network involving hospitals that seek to improve birth outcomes through collaborative multidisciplinary teams across the state.

As of 2013, TIPQC has engaged over 1,500 individual stakeholders comprising 107 quality improvement teams in 70 hospitals and other medical facilities across Tennessee. Working together, hospitals are applying data-driven, evidence-based medicine to benefit the smallest Tennesseans.

Grubb has guided TIPQC into a quality improvement model recognized through the state and country for its work toward optimizing birth outcomes across Tennessee. He has shepherded over 15 improvement projects, ranging from evidence-based care of critically ill newborns requiring stabilization and resuscitation to optimization of the management of babies and mothers affected by neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Grubb is a recognized national thought-leader in the area of perinatal care through quality improvement methodology. His leadership is demonstrated by the results of the sponsored quality improvement initiatives, including a reduction in central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), reduction in hypothermia on NICU admission and reduction in elective pre-term delivery.

A neonatologist, he received a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, and a doctorate of medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD.
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Dorothy Sowell
Volunteer
Maury Regional Medical Center
Columbia, TN

Dot Sowell, a charter member of the auxiliary at Maury Regional Medical Center in 1953 who continues to serve today at the age of 91, was honored for her lifelong volunteer activities at the hospital.

Sowell exemplifies what it means to be a volunteer in every sense of the word. Her life-long commitment to giving her time and talent in service to others is truly remarkable. She set the bar by exemplifying service above self and challenging others to be servant leaders.

She was one of 127 women who met on the hospital’s front lawn six weeks before its doors opened on Dec. 13, 1953. She continues to serve as a volunteer more than 60 years later. She is the last remaining charter member of the auxiliary, and has continued to serve on the auxiliary board for the past 38 years.

In the past 10 years, the auxiliary has provided more than $1 million in funding for special projects at the medical center, many of which she played a role in organizing.

A former member of the hospital board of directors and advisory board, Sowell served from 1985-2004. As a volunteer, she has held the offices of president, vice president and secretary, and currently serves as the ambassador for the medical center. She also served as state president of the THA Council on Auxiliaries and was a member of the council for many years.

Sowell was instrumental in the auxiliary’s push to bring men into the roles of volunteer service. The first male volunteer was added in 1977 and now 96 men participate in the program, making up nearly 25 percent of the total volunteers.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Robert Woodruff, PhD
Volunteer Cuddler
East Tennessee Children’s Hospital
Knoxville, TN

Robert Woodruff, PhD, was honored for his exemplary volunteer service focusing on the needs of at-risk babies diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).

Upon his retirement as a professor of marketing at the University of Tennessee, Woodruff, a grandfather who says he loves babies, decided he wanted to do some volunteer work. He began volunteering at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital in 2011, first working in child life on the inpatient floors. However, he soon moved to the cuddler program where he took on several new roles. He became a trainer and mentor for new adults entering the program and co-produces a bimonthly newsletter for all neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) volunteers.

Woodruff became a volunteer member of the NAS task force at the hospital, a multidisciplinary team formed to help improve the care of babies born drug dependent. When the NAS unit was having trouble scheduling nurses with the difficult circumstances of caring for the babies, he formed a team and was able to create a nurse scheduling proposal that was presented to nursing leadership to address the problem.

As a cuddler, Woodruff spends six hours per week as one of 57 volunteers the hospital relies on to gently hold, rock and swaddle infants who are suffering from NAS symptoms. With a gentle and patient demeanor, he is the perfect example of a true volunteer. He provides much-needed comfort to the tiny patients who often are inconsolable and suffering unimaginable tremors. He is referred to as the “baby whisperer” by the staff.

He received a bachelor’s degree at DePauw University and a master’s and doctorate degree at Indiana University.
Arie Nettles, PhD

DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD

Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Director of the Office of Inclusion & Health Equity
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Nashville, TN

Arie Nettles, PhD, was honored for her leadership and the formation of the office of inclusion and health equity (OIHE) at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital (MCCH) at Vanderbilt.

This office was Nettles’ vision and has remained her passion since its inception. With over 120 languages spoken among the diverse pediatric populations, the office was necessary to address the issues of cultural competency unique for a children’s hospital.

Nettles can be described as a triple threat—excelling as a leader clinically, in teaching and in program building. The OIHE plan that she created, which won an award from the disparities leadership program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, is a clear reflection of her leadership skills and ability to reach out to many different groups and work with them in understanding the central value of diversity in the mission of the medical school and MCCH.

Nettles has been instrumental in integrating the mission and objectives of the OIHE in the broader contexts of staff competency, the patient experience and clinical quality. By effectively engaging stakeholders across the medical center in the OIHE advisory board, including physician, nursing and administrative leaders, she has been successful in initiating cultural competency training for staff and faculty, and linking these efforts to patient satisfaction and outcome measures.

Nettles currently serves on the statewide planning and policy council for the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Development Disabilities. An American Psychological Association minority fellow, she earned her doctoral degree in psychology at George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University and received a bachelor’s and master’s degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Cynthia Allen

DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD

System Community Involvement Manager
Baptist Memorial Health Care
Memphis, TN

Cynthia Allen was recognized for her efforts to increase the diversity of the workforce at Baptist Memorial Health Care and reach across the organization to recruit volunteers and resources to help implement community activities.

Allen specializes in creating new diversity initiatives with interns, pulling high school and college students from a variety of mid-south educational institution. She shows them the opportunities for different careers in health care.

Baptist continues to attract and retain employees from diverse backgrounds. In the past two years, she developed a task force within the Baptist system to attract and retain diverse employees as part of a community initiative through the city of Memphis.

An influential leader, Allen’s achievements include creating, sustaining and implementing programs like Memphis Healthy Churches, now rebranded as Baptist Health Communities that was launched as a follow-up to the decade of successful partnerships and work with more than 100 area churches. Through this program, church members earn points for checking their blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index and lowering their numbers to become healthier.

Often the face of Baptist’s community involvement efforts, Allen has helped:
• Write grants to purchase a new bus and coordinate the Baptist Operation Outreach Healthcare bus for the homeless in partnership with Christ Community Health Services efforts (4,000 patients seen in 2013, $1.7 million program).
• Coordinate health screenings and health information by Baptist hospitals (valued at more than $80,000 in 2013).
• Coordinate free health physicals for student athletes at area high schools, one of Baptist’s adopted school outreach programs.
• Coordinate Baptist’s health screenings at Memphis Farmers’ Market (value $6,000).
• Conduct and arrange more than 240 free health fairs for Baptist.

She received a bachelor’s degree in business administration at Christian Brothers University, Memphis.
Phyllis Dossett was recognized for her leadership and dedication to improving the health care in her community. Wearing many hats in the day-to-day operations of the hospital, Dossett constantly is looking for innovative ways to promote the hospital’s services in the community. She is an invaluable asset and her drive and motivation to help others is exceptional.

Working at a critical access hospital in a rural setting can be challenging so Dossett wanted to ensure the entire hospital staff can be ready to help in the event of a major emergency, right down to the workers in environmental services. The hospital’s two CPR instructors (one of whom was Dossett) trained all of the 54 hospital staff members and they all earned their CPR certifications.

Dossett can be found working in the emergency department, assisting patient family members, rounding on patients at home and in the hospital, providing rides to individuals with transportation issues and entering electronic medical records. She also volunteers to provide health screenings at local health fairs, assists with the local high school’s career day and volunteers on the local EMS board, foster care review board and Hancock County Health Council.

Dossett believes mutual respect is an essential element in patient care and employee satisfaction. The hospital’s staff turnover remains the lowest in the Wellmont Health System and was named one of the top 20 critical access hospitals in the nation for quality and patient care excellent by the National Rural Health Association.

She received associate’s and LPN degrees at Walter State Community College and a bachelor’s degree at Tusculum College.
Jill Kinch

Advanced Pediatric Nurse Team Manager
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Nashville, TN

Jill Kinch was honored for her exemplary work as an advanced practice nurse (APN).

Currently serving as the advanced practice nurse team manager for perioperative and procedural services at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Kinch renders support and guidance to other APNs. Her belief in a patient and family-centered philosophy within a safe, quality environment is evident.

Kinch’s leadership ability positively impacts the outcomes for patients and their families. Partnering with pediatric anesthesiologist Dr. Jill Kilkelly and closely collaborating with team members, she enabled a proactive, personalized planning of a child’s perioperative processes. In addition to improving patient and family convenience and satisfaction, the impetus of this project was supported by research noting that exposure to anesthesia in early childhood may have long-term effects on brain development. To date, this individualized approach to the process has been effective in minimizing exposure to anesthesia, airway manipulation, painful IV starts and hospital stays for over 250 patients and their families.

Kinch recently partnered with other Vanderbilt APN leaders to create an advanced practice provider emergency preparedness plan for enterprise-wide implementation. The plan’s purpose is to orchestrate and maintain an organized, accountable response of credentialed APNs and physician assistants in the event of a declared emergency, internal or external disaster.

Kinch founded the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. She received a master’s degree in management in health care at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing at the University of Texas at Austin.

Bonnie Miller

Perinatal Patient Safety Nurse Coordinator
Regional One Health
Memphis, TN

Bonnie Miller was recognized for her consistency and compassion while serving as the perinatal patient safety nurse coordinator at Regional One Health, Memphis.

Miller’s interest in nursing began by watching her grandmother, a nurse, administer care to her patients. In 2007, she earned her nursing degree and became a staff nurse in labor and delivery at Regional Medical Center at Memphis. This position was a perfect fit, as she believes mothers are people who spend so much time taking care of others that while they are under her care, they should be pampered.

Since becoming a member of the Regional One team, Miller has served on numerous committees advocating for women’s health and patient safety. She also has participated in the 39 weeks project and antenatal steroid project with the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care (TIPQC).

When Giancarlo Mari, MD, presented an idea to improve the quality and safety of the patient experience in the high-risk obstetrics program by utilizing a perinatal patient safety nurse coordinator, Miller was perfectly suited for the position. She works with the care team to prevent early deliveries for as long as possible and ensures the safe delivery of the baby when the time comes. Her compassion, coupled with her technical expertise, makes her the ideal person to work with patients and families.

Miller’s patients are her top priority and she always is looking for ways to ensure their delivery plan is followed and the patient is kept informed and understands what is happening. She regularly reviews cases to look for ways to improve safety and the quality of the patient experience. She is a constant force working towards a positive outcome.

She received an associate’s degree in nursing at Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, MS.
PATIENT SAFETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

George Testerman, MD
Trauma Surgeon
Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center
Kingsport, TN

George Testerman, MD, was honored for his contributions to traumatic injury prevention and treatment at Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center.

Testerman has long been dedicated to safety and injury prevention and saved the lives of countless critically injured trauma patients. However, in the fall of 2013, he took his mission one step further by giving a significant endowment to build a permanent injury prevention and research fund to commemorate Holston Valley’s 25th anniversary as a level I trauma center.

This contribution will improve the safety and quality of life for the entire Tri-Cities area through improved safety equipment for local high school sports teams, safety classes for senior citizens and more training for teenage drivers. Holston Valley’s trauma outreach team also plans to expand its role in the local prescription drug abuse battle.

The new fund will continue the trauma team’s partnership with local law enforcement and emergency medical services agencies. Testerman and his colleagues have dedicated many hours reaching out to an extremely accident prone population—teenage drivers—to help eliminate needless deaths and injuries due to reckless driving.

In the wider region, Testerman has been active in other research and education initiatives. He has worked with the Kingsport Police Department to write a red light camera research paper, and with the data gleaned from that report, the department has increased traffic regulation in the most dangerous intersections. He also has given presentations on ATV safety throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia.

He is a graduate of King College, Bristol; the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES AWARD

SENIOR LEVEL AWARD

Joe Winick
Senior Vice President, Planning & Business Development
Erlanger Health System
Chattanooga, TN

Joe Winick serves as senior vice president of planning and business development at Erlanger Health System, Chattanooga.

He is responsible for planning, business development and analytics. He is the liaison to the board planning committee and involved in developing the master plan for Erlanger’s facilities, major capital initiatives and various regulatory filings related to services provided.

He is board-certified in healthcare management and a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He serves on various professional and community boards, including East Tennessee Health Care Executives and Ronald McDonald House.

Winick received a master’s degree in hospital administration at George Washington University and an undergraduate degree at the University of Florida.
Nicole Jones
Business Manager
Le Bonheur Pediatrics
Memphis, TN
Nicole Jones is the business manager at Le Bonheur Pediatrics. In her current role, she works to provide access to quality primary care for children in Memphis by establishing pediatric primary care offices throughout the community.

Prior to joining Le Bonheur, Jones served as the administrative fellow at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare System. Her major accomplishments include renegotiating the food services contract for the system, which resulted in a $1.5 million savings and rolling out standard uniforms to all clinical staff in the system’s six hospitals.

Jones serves as the membership and advancement chair for the Mid-South American College of Healthcare Executives, and is the scholarship and awards co-chair for the National Association of Health Services Executives.

She received a bachelor’s degree in healthcare management and policy at Georgetown University and a master’s degree in health services administration at the University of Michigan.

Dennis Wolford
Administrator
Macon County General Hospital
Lafayette, TN
Dennis Wolford has served as administrator at Macon County General Hospital since 1984.

He has been an outstanding rural healthcare representative and advocate on behalf of rural and critical care hospitals. He has served on various THA councils and committees, including the association’s Small or Rural Executive Committee, president of the Upper Middle Tennessee Rural Health Network and chairman of the Macon County Health Council.

A fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, Wolford has served on the THA board of directors and currently serves on the Tennessee Rural Partnership board of directors. He also is a recipient of the THA Small or Rural Leadership Award in recognition of his service to rural healthcare in Tennessee.
**THA CHAIRMEN OFFICERS**

**Reginald Coopwood, MD**
THA Chairman  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Regional One Health  
Memphis, TN

**Mark Medley**
THA Chair-Elect  
Senior Vice President  
President, Hospital Operations  
Capella Healthcare, Inc.  
Franklin, TN

**Joseph Landsman**
THA Immediate Past Chair  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
University of Tennessee Medical Center  
Knoxville, TN

**Craig Becker**
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Tennessee Hospital Association  
Nashville, TN

---

**EARLY CAREERIST AWARD**

**Michael Hatmaker**

Vice President of Support Services  
LeConte Medical Center  
Administrator  
Fort Sanders Sevier Nursing Home  
Sevierville, TN

Michael Hatmaker is the vice president of support services at LeConte Medical Center, Sevierville, and administrator at Fort Sanders Sevier Nursing Home.

He has worked at Covenant Health for 10 years, most recently serving as director of supply chain operations/acute care.

Hatmaker currently serves as president-elect for the East Tennessee Healthcare Executives affiliation.

He received a master’s of business administration at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

---

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES AWARD**
Thanks for your continued support.

DHG HEALTHCARE
The national healthcare practice of DIXON HUGHES GOODMAN

MedAssets

TENNESSEE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

5201 Virginia Way · Brentwood, TN 37027
800-258-9541 · 615-256-8240 · Fax 615-242-4803