



VOICES OF RMCHCS

MARCH - APRIL , 2022

FROM THE DESK OF DON SMITHBURG, I-CEO



An RMCHCS New Year's Resolution

For many people, the year-end holidays have been a time for reflection because either great joy or unexpected sadness seem to fall during this time of year. But looking into the new year, I wish for *strength* and *peace*, and especially the notion of *grace* during these difficult and sometimes contentious times.

Countless books have been written about *grace* and religions around the globe encourage us to pursue it as a virtue. As I reflected on my own need and desire for *grace*, it led me to make a resolution for 2022. I hope others will consider it as well.

We'll call it a **RMCHCS New Year's Resolution**.

To everyone receiving this message - can we go into the new year with an effort toward *grace*? This team is amazing, day in and day out, despite the realities and challenges of working in a hospital during a pandemic. The holidays reminded me we have much to be grateful for and to celebrate. Perhaps, as we move into 2022, if we can pursue *grace* as much as we pursue our own personal philosophies and agendas, we'll more clearly see the common goals and values we share and we'll be able to do so with respect.

Virtues such as *grace* and *respect* may help us accept each other's input and perspective as we continue to improve our community hospital. While some Gallup residents were born and raised here, many have moved away and many others have chosen to relocate here to work, invest in a home, raise a family and seek happiness. Again – we share many of the same goals and values. We all want to have access to high-quality health care close to home. Don't we all deserve *grace*, *respect*, and *acceptance*?

Of course, virtues are somewhat abstract and can be hard to apply to an institution like RMCHCS. But all institutions are ultimately comprised of people. Doctors, administrators, board members, and other interested parties - we're all just people, doing our best to provide great health care to our neighbors and community.

As a local leader and hospital Board member Bill Lee recently said at an open board meeting: "It took a long time for the hospital to get in this condition, and it will take a long time to fix it."

So, Mr. Lee inspires the last virtue in this message: *patience*. Even in today's world of instant messaging and immediate gratification, change is hard and it takes time. "Fixing" the hospital – restoring our financial footing, repairing our facility and equipment, and most importantly, regaining the community's confidence in us – will take time and hard work. It will also take *patience*, *acceptance*, *respect*, and *grace*.

I am committed to continuing the hard work and to pursuing these ideals. I hope we can all make this our RMCHCS New Year's Resolution.

CHANTELLE VENTER, I-CFO



I am very excited to serve RMCHCS in my new role as interim CFO. As the new year began, my family and I traveled to Gallup. We were not prepared to meet so much beauty along the way and to be welcomed so warmly into the New Mexico community. I look forward to working together to ensure we remain a trusted local health resource and to support the people of Gallup.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, I am impressed every day by both the perseverance and dedication to great care provided by our caregivers and staff. Honestly, when any of us went into healthcare, we never contemplated we would be working through a pandemic. Yet, for the last two years, we have tirelessly taken care of our patients and their families. And we continue to do so as this next wave of COVID continues. Thank you all!

In the review of 2021 and looking at the hospital's achievements I am encouraged to hear, despite the national nursing shortage and COVID-19 challenges, RMCHCS continued to find better ways to serve McKinley County and the Four Corners region. New services in orthopedic surgery, reestablishing urology care and reopening Women's Health Services are signs that RMCHCS continues to grow no matter the challenges it faces. My goals as Interim CFO are to ensure our cash reserves are in place to continue the legacy of this great hospital and to improve and stabilize the organization operationally and financially. A hospital is so much more than a building and the beds inside; a hospital's greatness is measured by the caliber of its people and their passion for healthcare. As such, employee morale is close to my heart, and I hope to set a new spirit of collaboration in place that will produce an engaged and empowered culture where we focus on solutions that are best for our patients, team, and community as a whole.

I love rural healthcare. It's easier to keep people at the center of everything you do because you know them and have a relationship with them. And it will be my privilege to come to know all of you.

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT 5 STAR RATED FACILITY



Please join us in extending an RMCHCS *Thank You* to our dedicated environmental service department. The team has earned the hospital a Five Star Rating through their efforts, as determined by recent patient survey results. Our EVS team works hard to ensure our patient care and support spaces are well maintained. This was accomplished by cleaning and disinfecting, mopping and waxing, and polishing our halls until they shine. They ensure our patients have clean linens, in-room facilities, making RMCHCS a place where family and visitors experience a comfortable, safe environment to take care of loved ones. As we continue to manage COVID-19, their work is even more essential to help us reduce the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 ENCOURAGING WORDS FOR THE COMMUNITY

We would like to thank the community members for their prayers and intentions for all of us in the medical community. You have helped feed us, sent encouraging notes, and provided needed materials to help fight this pandemic. You have kept us going this far. We can be overworked and tired but we keep on going for the great community we serve.

Even though the positivity numbers are decreasing, let us not let our guard down. The way out from this pandemic is through vaccines and safe practices. The COVID-19 vaccine are safe and highly effective. Encourage each other to proceed with their covid vaccine primary series, if they had not done so yet. Those who need their booster shots should proceed with those as well. Remember to wear your mask all the time, especially in indoor settings. Remember to wash or sanitize your hands as often as you need to be protected. Be mindful of other people and your surroundings. The life that you save might be your own or that of your loved ones. Please continue to be patient. Eventually, soon, we will reach a time where we can safely rejoin our family and friends again.

Christopher E. Gonzaga, MD, FACP
Chairman, Department of Medicine
Chairman, Infection Control Committee
RMCHCS Covid 19 Incident Command Medical Specialist

RMCHCS INTRODUCES ARENA HEALTH TELEMEDICINE ICU GROUP

Arena Health is a telemedicine company founded in 2019 by Dr. Omkar Vaidya (Dr. V), which is fueled by his passion for Telehealth, Medicine, and Critical Care. Arena Health prides itself on collaborating with local area hospitals and their teams to provide easy access to multispecialty physician care through teamwork. Arena Health is delighted to be partnering with the remarkable team at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Service to deliver high-quality critical care to patients in Gallup, New Mexico. We look forward to continued collaboration between Arena Health and the RMCHCS ICU physician and nursing team led by Dr. Murguia. The Arena Health Team is grateful for the exceptional leadership team: Mr. Don Smithburg, Mr. Curry Graham, Mr. Dana Wright, Mr. David Hodges, and Mr. Michael Fournier for welcoming Arena Health with open arms, to provide the best services through RMCHS to the Gallup community. Arena Health and RMCHS are looking forward to an exciting collaboration to benefit the Gallup community.

Telemedicine Carts provide a secure platform for communication between healthcare providers and patients accessible within seconds. It allows for easy connection between you and your healthcare professionals - enhancing performance for the ICU Department.

Physician Team:
Dr. Omkar Vaidya - Critical Care Intensivist/Nephrologist
Dr. Darshan Patel - Critical Care Intensivist
Dr. Jaya Buddineni - Critical Care Intensivist
Dr. Allison Nazinitsky - Hospitalist

This is a big step forward for us in elevating our hospital as a regional standout institution in providing comprehensive critical care services to Gallup and surrounding communities.

RMCHCS Hospital Services:
1901 Red Rock Drive
(505) 863-7000

College Clinic
2111 College Drive
(505) 863-1820

Family Medicine Clinic
2111 College Drive
(505) 863-1855

Home Health & Hospice
211 East Aztec Avenue
(505) 863-7041

Rapid Care
1850 East Hwy. 66
(505) 488-2603

Red Rock Specialty Clinic
1900 Red Rock Drive
(505) 863-7200

Rehabilitation & Wellness Center
1910 Red Rock Drive
(505) 863-7136

COLLEGE CLINIC
NEW COVID-19 TESTING HOURS
Monday - Friday
8am - 10am & 2pm - 4pm
Call (505) 236-1074
Someone will come out to your vehicle.

March Awareness & Recognition Days

- American Red Cross Month
- Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Breathe Better, Sleep Better Month
- National Nutrition Month
- Save Your Vision Month
- Women's History Month
- Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 13 - 19
- National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week, March 14 - 19
- Health Care HR Professionals Week, March 15 - 19
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- Health Information Professionals Week, March 20 - 25
- National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, March 21 - 27
- Anesthesia Technician Week, March 29 - April 4
- National Doctor's Day, March 30

April Awareness & Recognition Days

- Alcohol Awareness Month
- National Parkinson's Awareness Month
- Occupational Therapy Month
- World Health Day, April 7
- Easter, April 17
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 27
- National Osteopathic Medicine Week, April 18 - 24
- Medical Lab Professionals Week, April 25 - 29
- Patient Experience Week, April 26 - 30

