

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Billi Jo Benson, RN, BSN
 ADMINISTRATOR

Billi Jo Benson had her career narrowed down to two choices when she was in junior high school: She was either going to be a nurse or an actress.

“I chose the path that was going to be more lucrative at the time — nursing,” she said. **“Plus, I loved science, and it was something that I excelled at in school.”**

She might not be starring on stage or screen now, but Benson is shining bright in her role as administrator at Columbus Surgery Center. She has worked in that position for 15 years and has been with the center since the very start.

“I began this journey before the doors were even open,” she said. **“I started shortly after the ground was broken and worked at putting everything together to create the surgery center.”**

The center, located at 3772 43rd Ave., features state-of-the-art equipment for ophthalmology, pain and endoscopy procedures. Columbus Community Hospital recently acquired it on June 1. Even though Benson has only been working with the hospital for a short time, she said it has been beneficial.

“I was excited to work with CCH,” she said. **“It’s given me access to a lot of support that I have not had in the past. It’s allowed the surgery center to grow even stronger than it is already.”**

Benson has been fortunate to have support throughout her journey in health care. She feels like her training started when she was a teenager working as a nurses’ aide and ward secretary at Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk. Benson worked at that hospital throughout high school and on weekends while attending Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska. During that time, she interacted with many health care professionals on staff who helped her develop nursing skills and knowledge.

“Nurses and doctors surrounded me and gave me a lot of opportunities to learn,” Benson said. **“I still give credit to those professionals for where I am today. Every once in a while, I will run into someone from those days, and I make sure to let them know how much I appreciated them taking me under their wing. It gave me a huge jump start when I started the nursing program in 1992.”**

Benson graduated from Midland in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. Even though she said her surgery rotation in college was her least favorite, she couldn’t imagine herself anywhere but at Columbus Surgery Center. She loves being in health care, especially working in administration, where she oversees the day-to-day operation of the business.

“Being an administrator is kind of like being a conductor of a huge orchestra,” she said. **“You have many different parts working together to create something beautiful that flows.”**

For more information about Columbus Surgery Center, visit columbushosp.org.