

# THE Importance of Caring

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## my journey into health care



**Kaylen Biltoft, BS, RT (R)(CT)(T)(ARRT)**  
 DOSIMETRIST/RADIATION THERAPIST

When Kaylen Biltoft first graduated from high school, she set her sights on becoming a computer programmer. However, her career path soon shifted when a family member's personal experience sparked a passion for treating others the way she wanted her family treated.

On Jan. 2, 1999, Biltoft's younger sister was diagnosed with a rare malignant brain tumor.

Around the time Biltoft had realized she did not want to be a computer programmer, her sister's cancer recurred. She decided to move back home to help her family and took classes for general studies at Central Community College in Grand Island, Nebraska.

**"During my sister's treatment, I saw, learned and experienced so much that shaped the future of my life,"** she said. **"It was then I decided radiation therapy was the path I wanted to pursue."**

She worked in admissions at St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island to gain the necessary observation hours to apply for radiologic technology school. After earning the required observation

hours, she applied to Clarkson College in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 2007, Biltoft earned her Associate of Science in radiologic technology and Bachelor of Science in medical imaging from Clarkson College. She worked as a radiology student with Columbus Community Hospital during her clinical rotation.

After graduation, Biltoft worked as a CT/radiologic technologist at Chase County Community Hospital in Imperial, Nebraska, and later at Decatur Health Systems in Oberlin, Kansas.

In 2009, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to earn her post-baccalaureate certificate in radiation therapy. While earning her certification, she trained at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center in Glendale, Arizona, Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center and Barrow's Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona.

Since obtaining her certification in radiation therapy, Biltoft has worked at Columbus Cancer Care.

**"I have been a radiation therapist at Columbus Cancer Care since January 2011 when Dr. Keit first opened the doors, and I have been the dosimetrist for the past six years,"** she said.

**"I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of people's stories, seeing my patients and their caregivers daily and helping them through a scary period in their lives."**

As a dosimetrist, Biltoft carefully creates the best treatment plan for the patient given the anatomy, tumor location and dose prescription. After the plan has been reviewed and approved, she works as a radiation therapist to deliver a high dose of radiation to the tumor while sparing the healthy organs and surrounding tissue.

**"We utilize state-of-the-art TomoTherapy to ensure we are treating the exact location of the area needing treatment,"** she said. **"I know if I do a good job designing and executing the prescribed plan, then my patients can experience fewer side effects in the short and long term. I enjoy the challenge!"**

Her sister's journey and the people she impacted throughout her life are a daily inspiration for Biltoft. She never stops chasing her dreams, no matter what happens in life.

**For more information on CCH's cancer care services, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**