

# THE Importance of Caring

OCTOBER 2020

## my journey into nursing



**Michelle Paczosa, RN, BSN**  
 ICU/ACU REGISTERED NURSE,  
 CHARGE NURSE AND HOUSE SUPERVISOR

As a mother of 6-year-old triplets – Oliver, Noah and Elliot – Michelle Paczosa, RN, BSN, is used to multitasking and juggling multiple roles.

She does the same thing in Columbus Community Hospital's intensive and acute care units where she works as a registered nurse, charge nurse and house supervisor.

Paczosa has been a house supervisor for about three years and she serves in this role on weekends and once a week. On the nights when she is not acting as house supervisor, Paczosa is a charge nurse, a position she has held for about eight years. A few shifts a month, Paczosa also works as a registered nurse on the ICU/ACU floor – something she has done for about 10 years.

As house supervisor, Paczosa is in charge of bed control on the night shift; contacting other physicians, based on patients' needs; helping other nurses and responding to traumas in the emergency department. In her role as charge nurse, Paczosa places patients for admissions, dismissals, and transfers to and from other departments; acts as a resource for other nurses and helps with patient care. As a registered nurse, Paczosa cares for medical/surgical patients, including children and adults, as well as very sick patients who need intensive care.

Paczosa loves this work because it provides her with plenty of variety.

**"I love the challenge that health care provides me. Every day is different and I am constantly learning new things,"** she said. **"I love how health care, nursing in particular, allows you to explore various**

**areas within the hospital and community itself. Being able to connect with your patients and help them feel better is the cherry on top of it all."**

It was this desire to help people, that led Paczosa to nursing.

**"I have always wanted to help people in every job I have ever held. From babysitting during high school, to customer service at an area pizza place, to my other various positions in the health care field, helping people is what my calling has been,"** she said.

Thanks to this desire to help others, Paczosa started her health care career immediately after high school. She works as a certified nursing assistant at a local nursing home and then worked as a medication aide at an area assisted living home before receiving her bachelor of science in nursing from Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD.

While she was a student at Mount Marty, Paczosa did a rotation in CCH's emergency department.

**"I knew immediately that I wanted to work at CCH,"** she said.

Unfortunately, there were no positions available at the hospital at the time so Paczosa started her nursing career at a small critical access hospital in a nearby town until she was able to get a staff registered nurse position at CCH about 10 years ago. Through the years, Paczosa has been able to move up the ladder into the positions she holds today.

**"When I first began my nursing career, if someone would have told me I would eventually be a house supervisor I probably would have said 'Yeah right.' But now I don't know why I would have said that,"** she said. **"I love the work that I do and felt that it was a natural progression of my career and an expansion of the challenges I face."**

Just as Paczosa has adapted to new nursing positions over the years, she's also grown to love working on the night shift.

**"Night shift may not be seen as a desirable shift, but it works for me and my family and it truly takes special person to stay up all night caring for our patients, and my coworkers are simply the best around,"** she said. **"Nursing has allowed me to be flexible in my duties as a mother and wife and couldn't possibly imagine working as anything else, anywhere else."**

Paczosa said CCH has been very supportive of her ongoing nursing education and her career progression. The hospital's education department offers many opportunities for her to meet education requirements and offers additional opportunities for learning and growth. Plus, the teamwork environment at CCH means she always feels supported by the hospital and her coworkers.

**"The hospital and people I work with are like a second family to me,"** she said.

This teamwork approach to health care is particularly important now as CCH and hospitals across the world confront the COVID-19 pandemic. That's why, now more than ever, Paczosa encourages people to consider the health care field.

**"Currently with our health care crisis and pandemic it is even more apparent that we need more people to pursue the health care field,"** she said. **"Whether it is in food service, housekeeping, radiology, nursing or any other of the patient care departments, there is a wealth of variety to choose from. If you at first don't like the area you are in, try a different area until you find what is right for you."**

For more information on Paczosa or CCH's ICU or ACU, visit [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org).