

THE Importance of Caring

SEPTEMBER 2020

my journey into nursing



DiAnn Rohwer, BSN
 NIGHT HOUSE SUPERVISOR

DiAnn Rohwer's mother was a surgical nurse who enjoyed her job and encouraged all her children to pursue a career in medicine.

Though Rohwer would eventually find a career in nursing at Columbus Community Hospital, in college, she had a different job in mind.

"After completing a bachelor's degree in religion, the plan was to attend seminary," Rohwer said. **"But life has a way of changing your career paths."**

When the nursing shortage hit in the 1980s, along with the AIDS crisis, Rohwer decided to pursue a medical career after all. She entered Creighton University's accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program.

Since then, Rohwer's nursing career has allowed to practice in a variety of specialties in hospitals and health care organizations across the country.

Rohwer's first nursing job was an oncology position at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Though she was interested in the work, Rohwer knew she wanted to raise her children in Nebraska, so she accepted a staff nurse position at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Rohwer credits her experience at UNMC with her decision to work in other areas of nursing, including cardiology, rehab, hospice and behavioral health.

As she explored these nursing fields, Rohwer worked in a variety of health care settings – and she realized where she wanted to work.

"After years of working in both large and small hospitals, I became a strong believer in community-owned health care facilities," she said. **"I wanted to find a position where there would be diversity and CCH has been a good fit."**

Rohwer became a night house supervisor at CCH in spring 2018. In this position, she responds to the needs of patients and staff, works with admissions and surgery scheduling, mixes medications, handles communication between departments, helps with patients, and more.

Though this job affords her great variety, there is one part of the work Rohwer always likes best.

"I find the most satisfying part of the position is assisting at the bedside, getting to know the patients and their families," she said. **"While technology has provided needed benefits to medicine, I find that**

those tasks and relationships that occur while giving hands-on care provide the greatest job satisfaction."

This has been a difficult year for nurses and all health care providers, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Rohwer is happy to be a nurse and happy to work at CCH, in particular.

She said throughout the pandemic, CCH staff have been having frequent discussions on the best way to manage the situation and protect patients, staff and the community. Though there are sometimes differences of opinion during these discussions, Rohwer said there is one area where there is universal agreement.

"These exchanges end with the same strong opinion – we are all extremely fortunate to be working in the environment CCH provides," she said.

For more information on Rohwer and how CCH is handling the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.columbushosp.org.