

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into nursing



Nancy Cuba, RN, BSN
 HOUSE SUPERVISOR

Nancy Cuba knew she was destined for a career in nursing since she was a child.

“I knew I wanted to be a nurse since I was 10 years old when my father passed away unexpectedly at home at the age of 48 from a cerebral aneurysm,” she said. **“I knew then I wanted to help people in some way.”**

After high school, Cuba started taking nursing classes through Central Community College’s Platte campus LPN program. However, she quit the program and moved to Grand Island with some girlfriends because at the time she thought that would be more fun.

She eventually returned home and once again enrolled in the LPN program at CCC, which she completed in 1983. Cuba then went on to work at various nursing facilities in Osceola, Genoa and Columbus, and did other side jobs while she earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Lincoln campus in 1992.

“Looking back, no matter what I did, it always came back to caring for others,” Cuba said.

Cuba was hired at Columbus Community Hospital in May 1992 and she’s been with the hospital ever since. She started on the medical floor and eventually transitioned over to the intensive care unit. When the

hospital relocated in 2002, she continued to work in ICU and as a charge nurse. She started working as a house supervisor in 2006 when the hospital implemented a day house supervisor position.

House supervisors’ responsibilities consist of bed management throughout the clinical areas of the hospital and making sure all areas are staffed appropriately. They also help admit and dismiss patients whether that’s from the emergency department or patients coming from outside the hospital, such as clinic transfers or transfers from another facility. They help coordinate surgeries with the surgical team, access ports and give medication if needed in radiology, transport blood products from lab to patient care areas, run for supplies from SPD, and simply assist nursing staff in any way possible.

“We respond to all the traumas in ER and are their second set of hands. We basically assist in all areas of the hospital in their time of need. There are days where you literally move from one crisis to another,” Cuba said.

Cuba described house supervisors as the people’s “go-to person” as they often receive phone calls from community members, volunteers and fellow employees.

“We are their mentors and resource person,” she said.

“House supervisors can wear many hats depending on the day,” Cuba added.

“Things are constantly changing and no two days are the same, that’s why I love this job.”

Though her job comes with challenges, Cuba said she couldn’t imagine doing anything else.

“I love what I do and the people I work side by side with every day, be it weekends or holidays, nurses or other hospital personnel,” she said. **“We are truly one big happy family no matter what department you might work in.”**

Cuba also enjoys her work because it allows her to help people, just as she had wanted to as a child.

“There is nothing more fulfilling to me than seeing a patient at such a vulnerable time in their life get better each day to where they’re ‘themselves’ again and able to go back home,” she said. **“That is just an awesome feeling.”**

For more information on Cuba or nursing opportunities at the hospital, visit www.columbushosp.org.