

# THE Importance of Caring

MAY 2020

## my journey into health care



### Cris Hoelscher, PT

#### WIGGLES & GIGGLES THERAPY FOR KIDS™

Cris Hoelscher was one semester away from finishing her degree in agribusiness with a job all lined up when she realized that wasn't what she wanted to do.

**"I loved two things – kids and working out – so a friend recommended I consider pediatric physical therapy,"** she said. **"The rest is history."**

Her new career decided, Hoelscher went on to get a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master's degree in physical therapy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She then worked as an educational and home therapy-based physical therapist in Bellevue and the surrounding area for five years.

Hoelscher moved to the Columbus area and joined Columbus Community Hospital's Wiggles & Giggles Therapy for Kids™ in August 2004. She's been with Wiggles ever since.

**"This position was my dream job and I will always believe the sudden opening for a PT at Wiggles within a month of my applying was divine intervention,"** she said.

The pediatric occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech/language pathologists at Wiggles & Giggles Therapy for Kids™ provide medically-based therapy that maximizes each child's potential through play.

They treat a wide variety of diagnoses, syndromes and developmental disorders, and work closely with patients and the patients' families to create individualized treatment protocols that ensure the best possible outcomes.

As a physical therapist at Wiggles, Hoelscher provides therapy to help children with incoordination or motor planning deficits, developmental delays, abnormal gait patterns, orthopedic injuries, as well as other injuries or diagnoses. Her patients are as young as 1 month to as old as 17 years.

Hoelscher works on Tuesday afternoons and all day on Thursdays. On a typical full day, which lasts from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., she treats seven to ten patients. She spends the rest of her day doing documentation, researching treatment ideas and diagnoses, and collaborating with the other physical therapists to make sure patients get the best treatment possible.

Throughout her career at Wiggles, Hoelscher's schedule has fluctuated greatly as her family has grown and as she needed more free time to be there for her parents.

**"The Wiggles staff, and Columbus Community Hospital in general, has worked with me to balance my personal and professional life,"** she said. **"They also value ongoing professional training and education which is so vital in this field."**

Thanks, in part, to the support she receives from her fellow Wiggles staff and from CCH, Hoelscher is very happy in her chosen career. She encourages other people to look into the health care field too, even if – like her – they started out with something completely different in mind.

**"The opportunities in health care are limitless,"** she said. **"Within PT alone you can travel or work with one company your whole career, work part-time or full-time, and work with patients from newborn to end of life. It's so conducive to family life. And helping people when they're most in need – there's no better job."**

**For more information on Hoelscher and Wiggles & Giggles Therapy for Kids™, visit [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org).**