

# The Passit

## EF4 Survivors!

Dr. Dustin Gentry to join staff of Winston Medical Center! Dr. Gentry will be serving patients at the Winston Medical Clinic and Winston Medical Center. Please welcome Dr. Gentry to Winston Medical Center!  
(See page 4 for more info.)



It isn't everyday that hospital and nursing home employees can say that they have survived an EF4 tornado! The night of the tornado, the staff of Winston Medical Center defined the terms **TEAM** and **RESILIENCE**.

Our Medical Center Campus was destroyed and many of our employees lost homes, cars and jobs.

One thing that we haven't lost is the love for our facility and employees who are dedicated to WMC.

Those employees who are displaced continue to pray and hope to return to work as quickly as possible.

Those employees who remained at work pray for their co-workers and want to get them back as quickly as possible.

In the middle of destruction, chaos, hurt and fear we have all did the ulti-



mate...we survived the EF4 tornado and have become stronger! We will continue to grow stronger and move forward. Things will be different for a long time. The uncertainty of where we will be next is unknown. Will our building be repaired? Will we rebuild a new hospital? All those things will soon come to light and tomorrow, wherever we may be...it is certain that we will be there stronger and more than ever

ready to serve our community! The employees of Winston Medical Center were strong enough to survive the monstrous EF4 and they are strong enough to stand firm while we continue to rebuild and move forward! Together, we at WMC, will continue to rebuild, grow and move forward to better opportunities! To all the staff at WMC, **YOU ARE SURVIVORS! YOU ARE HEROS! YOU ARE THE BEST!**

## Norman Regional Donates \$48000 to WMC

Two hospitals came together to support each other as Norman Regional Health System presented a check for \$48,000 to Winston Medical Center. All of the donated funds will go toward providing assistance for employees of Winston Medical Center who were affected by a recent tornado.

Norman Regional Health System President and CEO David Whitaker along with Anne Clouse, executive director of the Norman Regional Health Foundation, and Jim Wade, foundation board member, all paid it forward to the disaster-stricken community last week. Paul Black, Winston Medical Center CFO, Will Hill, the mayor of Louisville, hospital employees and hospital board members all attended the check presentation.



After the May 20, 2013 tornado devastated Moore Medical Center many Norman Regional Health System employees were affected and had to deal with losing homes, the uncertainty of the future, and what would happen to their careers. Whitaker said this experience of loss compelled Norman Regional

**KEEP YOUR  
HEAD UP.  
GOD GIVES  
HIS HARDEST  
BATTLES TO  
HIS STRONGEST  
SOLDIERS**

-Katie Schubert

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## Norman Regional (Continued)

“A little bit more than a year ago, we lived through what those folks in Louisville, Mississippi are living through now,” Whitaker said. “When I got a notice from the American Hospital Association about the line of storms on April 28, it kind of dawned on me that it’s been a year and we’re well into our healing process. It really was time to pay back those favors and pay it forward.”

Winston Medical Center’s hospital was a total loss in the disaster and its nursing home also suffered damage. Employees are currently working out of a temporary, modular hospital. Whitaker said a food truck had been converted to a state-approved hospital kitchen and that the nursing home was expected to open 60 beds by September 1.

Whitaker got in touch with Black only a few days after Winston Medical Center was hit by a tornado, so that he could offer support and advice on what to expect in the recovery and rebuild of the hospital.

“We’ve had numerous conversations on what to expect.” Whitaker said. “Helping employees deal with issues, that’s the most difficult part of all this — buildings can be rebuilt; insurance companies are just that companies, but with employees, it’s hard,” Whitaker said.

Whitaker said he never doubted Norman Regional’s employees would respond to such a cause. Clouse added that Norman Regional has a strong philanthropic culture.

“When you look at all the things our employees support. They support the Foundation, the United Way, they support so many other organizations such as American Heart Association or American Cancer Society. When we looked at our overall giving last year, our employees gave over \$300,000 to the Norman community, so it doesn’t surprise me that once again they’d be so generous especially for something that hits so close to home,” she said.

The Norman Regional Health Foundation donated \$20,000; the Norman Regional Auxiliary Volunteer Group donated \$4,000; and Norman Regional Health System employees donated \$24,000 to Winston Medical Center. Clouse said that when raising money for Winston Medical Center was decided on as the hospital’s big pay it forward project, an email was sent to all 2,800 employees and within minutes employees were walking into the foundation office ready to give.

During the check presentation Black said a few words, but became choked up and had to turn the floor over to Whitaker. A banner hung behind the two hospital administrators that read “Stronger Together #MooreStrong #WinstonStrong.” When the oversized check was presented, all of Winston Medical Center’s employees were surprised as no one except Black knew the total beforehand. Whitaker said being at Winston Medical Center was an emotional experience that provided him closure.

“It kind of came full circle. Some of those same feelings that tug at your heart I experienced again speaking with those employees (at Winston Medical Center),” he said.

Clouse said going to Winston Medical Center was a moving experience she was happy to have been a part of.

“They really rolled out the red carpet for us.” Clouse said. “After David presented the check, it seemed like every employee had to hug us and thank us. They would come up to us in tears and say ‘please go back to your employees and tell them how grateful we are.’”

“They wanted to tell us their stories and it was therapeutic for them because we’d been through the same thing, and we were sharing stories about those days after the tornado and recovery. I think it was also important in our healing process to pay it forward.” The hospital also sent another banner to Mississippi that was signed by Norman Regional employees during National Hospital Week. Whitaker said that Norman Regional received similar banners from across the country after the May 20 tornado. Winston Medical Center employees took time during their work day to read messages of hope and inspiration on the banner.

*Article was written by Katherine Parker with the Norman Transcript*



# Human Resources News!

Congratulations to the following employees on being named Heartbeats. These employees received “Thump It Up” cards for going above and beyond to take care of our patients, residents and families. This is catch up time, so we have a lot of employees to recognize.

**November....some how we skipped November last edition and went right to December!**

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Marlin Thomas   | Linda Dalton     |
| Geneva Lawrence | Tiffany Hardin   |
| Erica Childress | Marnesha Hardin  |
| Dottie Strait   | Kerius Yarbrough |
| Ashley Triplett | Kelly Smith      |
| Jan Wells       | Stephanie Black  |
| Sandra Carter   | Chandra Thames   |
| Earlene Crowson |                  |

**January**

- Tiffany Hardin
- Elizabeth Thompson
- Wilma Harrington

**February**

- Debbie Smith

**March**

- Brandy Young

**The winners of the gift certificates to Lake Tiak-O'Khata are:**

- Marlin Thomas
  - Wilma Harrington
  - Debbie Smith
  - Brandy Young
- Please see Michelle Nowell to pick up your gift certificates.

**Winners of gift cards during the recent Open Enrollment Raffle are:**

- Reba Collier
  - Emmanuel Echols
  - Tasha Hannah
  - Beverly Mays
  - Sharon Mays
  - Elaine Montgomery
  - Kimberly Moore
  - Kimberly Moody
  - Tracy Ragan
  - Dorothy Smith
  - Amy Wilkes
- Shoneylisa Haynes was the winner of the TV.

## VERY IMPORTANT HR NEWS!!!

As you all know, the Executive Committee of WMC was very gracious to pay each employee’s insurance premiums until July 31, 2014. This has been a tremendous help to all of us, and I can’t thank them enough.

For those employees who are still working, please remember beginning with the first pay payroll in August your insurance premiums will be deducted from your payroll. Please look over your check stub carefully as this will be the first payroll which includes the changes you may have made during open enrollment.

For those employees who are not working, your last day of coverage for your insurance policies will be July 31, 2014. Within the first 10 days of August you will receive COBRA information from Conexis. Conexis administers our COBRA plan for Blue Cross, Always Care Vision and Always Care Dental. Please read the information carefully and respond if you wish to continue your coverage through the COBRA plan. If you have coverage through Colonial, there are a couple of different options for you. Please call Nancy Hollingsworth, our Colonial representative, at (601) 862-7818 if you wish to continue your Colonial policies.

As always, if you have questions, please call me at (662) 779-5102. If I am unavailable, please leave a message and I will get back with you.



Thanks to Colonial Life Insurance and Insurance Associates of Magee for donating these items!



### Dustin Gentry, MD to join staff of Winston Medical Center

Winston Medical Center is proud to announce that Dustin Gentry, M.D. will be joining the medical staff of Winston Medical Center this August. He will treat patients of all ages in the clinic, hospital, and the nursing home both at Winston Medical Center and Winston Medical Clinic – Main Campus.

Doctor Gentry is no stranger to Winston County as he was born at Winston Medical Center and raised in Kosciusko, Mississippi. His parents are Doug and Lenita Gentry. He is the grandson of the late Wallace Gentry and Jean Gentry, the owners of Gentry's Big Star that operated in Louisville for many years. His maternal grandparents are Leo and the late Ruth Cremeen of Noxapater, Mississippi. Dr. Gentry is engaged to Miss Dawn Golden of Chandler, Texas with plans to marry on July 5, 2014.

Dr. Gentry is a 2003 graduate of Kosciusko High School. In 2007, he graduated from Mississippi State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and in 2011 he was awarded a Doctorate of Medicine from The University of Mississippi Medical Center.

For the last 3 years Dr. Gentry has been busy finishing post-graduate training in family medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT) as well as a Masters of Business Administration at the University of Texas at Tyler. Dr. Gentry's training at UTHSCT included adult intensive care, hospital medicine (children and adult), pediatrics (including newborns), sports medicine, preventive medicine, emergency medicine, women's health, and clinic-based medicine.

Dr. Gentry is certified by the American Heart Association in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiopulmonary Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support as well as Advanced Trauma Life Support by the American College of Surgeons. He has worked independently for the last 2 years in East Texas Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers and finds that type of work especially rewarding.



Many are probably wondering what is next for Winston Medical Center. There are a lot of uncertainties right now. However, one thing that is certain is that we are going to continue to move forward and we will be back in full force as quickly as possible.

Our Board and Administration are continuing to work with MEMA, FEMA and our insurance company to iron out details. Employees will be made aware of all the important information as it becomes available.

To assure you, we will squash all the rumors that we will not reopen. Winston Medical Center is open at our temporary location. We continue to provide acute, skilled, observation care as well as emergency and outpatient services. We have plans to open a bigger and better facility to serve the residents of Winston County.



Administration, Payroll, Human Resources, Marketing, Health Information and Business Offices are located in the Administrative Offices at 826 South Church Avenue. Our hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.



Winston Medical Center Nursing Home continues to be repaired and progress is moving quickly! We are excited to see the day to day changes that are taking place in the nursing home. Residents and families are eagerly waiting to return by the September 1st date.

We appreciate you for your continued patience.