

Finding Meaning

Several months ago I (Sue Mills, APRN) was paging through the daily newspaper and came upon an article about the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing. What really caught my eye was the picture it included; I



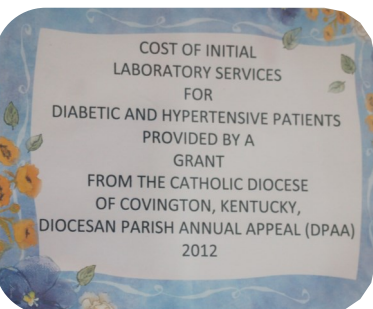
Wednesday Clinic Staff. Left to Right: Clinic Director, Sheila Carroll, APRN, Sue Mills, APRN Joan McDonald, RN, Jen Sandmann

recognized Sheila Carroll, an acquaintance of mine from long ago. I was immediately interested in what the article had to say, because Sheila is very highly regarded in the nursing community, and I knew that if she was involved, this had to be good!

The concept of a clinic that was founded to serve the uninsured and staffed by nurse practitioners was very appealing to me. I had been praying and searching for some way to utilize the knowledge and skills God had given me in service such as this. I didn't call right away – I had to pray a lot! I was so full of fear that I might not be able to learn this type of practice. But God kept nudging me, and after about two weeks I contacted Sheila and in short order had arrived for my first day.

And I was “hooked”! For a long time I had been looking for an opportunity to do “real nursing”, and I had found it! I found these patients to be so grateful for the smallest thing I did or said; I saw the hope, the “light” come on in the eyes of those I was privileged to serve. And I keep coming back.

As we are expanding our clinic, Center for Hope & Healing Director, Sheila Carroll moves in to a new, larger office



I am so very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to use the knowledge and skills God has given me to serve His people. The Rose Garden has given me a purpose that had been missing in my life.

Ten Star Rating

As far as Marvin Mukes is concerned, the uninsured can't put a price tag on the healthcare provided at the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing. “If you could give (the clinic) stars, it wouldn't be five stars. I'd give them 10,” he said. “I will get my insurance card soon, but I'd like to stay here.”

Marvin Mukes is a patient who was terrified when doctors informed him a few months ago that he had diabetes. “I cried,” admits the 54-year-old husband, father and grandfather who lives in Newport. “I don't have insurance. I didn't want to die.”



Theresa Furnish, APRN and Sue Mills, APRN prepare to test Marvin Mukes' glucose level

Although Mr. Mukes was used to suffering from an unhealthy heart, several of his relatives had died from diabetic complications. One relative had a leg amputated.

“I knew something was wrong with me one day at church,” Mr. Mukes said. “I stood up to talk and when I sat back

down, I couldn't see the pastor's face. The minister was standing right in front of me, but he was blurry. I told my significant other (Barbara) I needed to get to the emergency room.”

Barbara drove Mr. Mukes to St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Ft. Thomas, where he was told his blood glucose level was extremely high. Doctors prescribed Insulin and medicine to control his blood sugar level. The unemployed man worried how he would be able to afford the medicine and the price of monitoring his blood glucose level.

“A woman named Cathy Sherron, RN (Mission volunteer and Nurse Navigator for St.



Elizabeth Healthcare Regional Diabetes Center) made me promise before I was dismissed from the hospital to come to the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing,” Mukes said. “I kept my promise.”

“I don't want to leave this place, even when I get my insurance card. I told the nurse practitioner here to give me a call and I'll be down to take out the trash or anything,” said Mr. Mukes. Becoming very emotional, “I didn't know people could care like this for people..” he says, wiping the tears as they flow down his face. “I love this place.”