Evergreen Rehab Grows in Missouri

We are pleased to announce that as of March 1st, we are now providing rehab and therapy services at three new Willow Health Care facilities in the Missouri area:

- Brooke Haven Healthcare in West Plains, MO
- Mountain View Healthcare in Mountain View, MO
- Willow Care Nursing Home in Willow Springs, MO

These facilities employ a full team of rehab professionals including Physical Therapists (PTs), Occupational Therapists (OTs), Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) and Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs). We are thankful to be a part of the rehabilitation and therapy programs at Brooke Haven, Mountain View and Willow Care, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of providing unparalleled patient care, high quality therapy jobs and rock solid fiscal stability to the patients, therapists and providers of the West Plains, Mountain View and Willow Springs areas.
The crew at Ashland celebrates Occupational Therapy Month!

Evergreen Rehab celebrates Occupational Therapy Month

Check out the [Evergreen Rehab blog](#) for all the great posts from OT Month!
Evergreen Clinical Team Invited to Speak at AANAC

Evergreen Rehab is pleased to announce that two prominent members of the Evergreen Rehab corporate clinical team presented at the 2014 American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination (AANAC) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Liz Barlow, RN, CRRN, C-NE, RAC-CT and Vice President of Clinical Services, and Renee Kinder, M.S. CCC-SLP, RAC-CT and Clinical Specialist did a great job of explaining updates for the therapy industry in 2014. Evergreen Rehab is very proud that they were able to share their clinical expertise and rehab knowledge in this forum with a wide variety of clinicians. Liz and Renee's presentation did a great job of bridging the interdisciplinary team (IDT) gap and ensuring the presentation was relevant for therapists (PTs, OTs, and SLPs), MDS nurses, facility administrators, directors of nursing (DONs), and members of corporate clinical teams alike.

Liz and Renee presented at 9:45 AM on Friday, April 11th. Their topic was entitled “Alphabet Soup: Deciphering the 2014 Changes to Therapy”:

[Confused by the therapy lingo, such as MMR, MPPR, KX, and G-Codes? Let us help you navigate through the “Alphabet Soup” of therapy lingo and answer your questions about recent updates. We will describe the definitions of Group, Concurrent, and Co-Treatment so that you can return to your facility with a glossary of commonly used therapy definitions (max, mod, min) and definitions in Section G.]

Way to go, Liz and Renee!

Welcome to the Evergreen Family
A warm welcome to our newest employees!


(APRIL) David Barnes, Elaine Bedonia, Brittany Bryant, Donald Chapa, Susanne Coetzee, Robin Deo, Christopher Fleming, Courtney Green, Rebecca Hafford, Terone Hawks, Robin Himes, Holly Lewis, Michael Lopez, Dena Owen, Kirsten Patrick, Denise Roberts, Gloria Sims, Tim Slattery, David Townsend, Stella Tuckus, Forrest Waide, Maureen Weddle, and Yvette Williams.
Employee Spotlight: David Ramsdale, OTR/L

1. What initially sparked your interest regarding the field of occupational therapy?

I became interested in occupational therapy when I met my ex-wife and found out that what she was doing is what I had done in undergrad at USC in the Exercise Science Motor Development program. At the time, I was working in a tire factory 8 hours a day lifting tire rims non-stop with a college degree. I decided to better myself and enrolled at the University of St. Augustine in the MOTR program. That was over 14 years ago!

2. What is your personal Evergreen Rehab story? How did you join the team?

I joined the Evergreen team in December 2011 at JF Hawkins in Newberry, SC. As a rehab professional, I have never been happier with a rehab company. From the rehab director, Mrs. Marrie, who I totally adore and love, to all the Evergreen corporate staff (Stephanie, Barbara, Katie and Shawn) I have met - they all embody the compassion and comfort that helps us all to truly be the best clinicians we possibly can be.

3. What kinds of unique experiences have you encountered as a therapist?

There have been so many unique experiences in my 14 years as a MSOTR/L that it's hard for me to pick. I would say that all the unique experiences that I have encountered have made me into the person and professional that I am today.

4. Is there a specific disease process and or impairment that particularly interests you, and why?

I am really interested in all the disease processes I encounter in the geriatric population. Really, from A to Z, each disease process and patient brings its own experience and learning process, no matter how long you've been doing this.

5. What makes working in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) rewarding?

I absolutely love working in a SNF/long term care. It is all I have ever done and all I ever see myself doing. I love coming to work at JF Hawkins everyday and I love all the patients here. There is nothing I would not do for the patients here. I believe in giving every patient a chance. In regard to evaluating patients to get on caseload, I have always had this philosophy: if that was my mother or father in that situation, would I evaluate them to put them on caseload? Then when the time comes to discharge the patient, I ask myself again: if this was my mother or father, would I continue to treat them with skilled intervention or put them on a program?

In skilled nursing long term care, I really believe in the holistic approach and doing all that I can to make the patient able to return to their prior level of function (PLOF), have the highest quality of life possible, and be as independent as they can be. I really believe in the little things. For the last few years, I've given the men (who ask for them) haircuts. At times, I give four a day out of my own time. I also bring food to the residents from out of the facility, out of my own pocket, to brighten up their day any way that I can. I truly believe in this type of environment that these little gestures have a large impact.

6. What are some lessons that your patients have taught you?

Over the years my patients have taught me so much. They have taught me how to be a great listener. They have taught me patience. They have taught me what is really important in life. I think about this all the time. Most of us spend our lives trying to gain material worth, even though at the end of the day all that is important is family, and all you ever need in life can fit in the size of a ALF room.

7. Is there any other information you would like to share about yourself?

I was born in Kent, England. My parents are both English and moved us to the United States in 1980. I am a first generation American citizen. My parents both worked until they were 75, and they've always shown me what work ethic is all about. My mom worked as a nurse midwife until the age of 75. She would work four days on, four days off, even at 75. She would get up at 6 AM, come back at 10 PM, and do that four days in a row - at 75. My dad worked in the steel business until he was 75, and he had over 50 years in that industry. I have three sisters. One graduated from Harvard law school and has her own practice. Another one has a masters in international business, and my youngest sister is a nurse anesthetist in the Air Force. I have two beautiful amazing daughters. Harper is 7 and Emerson is 5. They mean everything to me and there is not one thing I would not do for them. They will always be my greatest accomplishment.
Employee Spotlight: Donya Hogston, MHS, CLT, OT/L

1. What initially sparked your interest regarding the field of occupational therapy?

While in high school I completed skills assessment testing and the results indicated an aptitude for the medical field. In addition, I completed a health science class with observation in a local hospital which included nursing, physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT). I ended up choosing OT as the occupational therapist I observed worked with children, which I found interesting at the time.

I earned my BS in occupational therapy at Eastern Michigan University in 1988 and later returned to school over a decade later to earn my MHS in occupational therapy from the University of Indianapolis.

2. What is your personal Evergreen Rehab story? How did you join the team?

I spent my initial four years as an occupational therapist managing an outpatient clinic and an industrial rehab program. I then switched gears and spent 2 years as an area manager for therapy departments in 11 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). Since 1994, I have been working as the rehab director at Whitehouse Country Manor.

3. What kinds of unique experiences have you encountered as a therapist?

My four years in outpatient therapy provided many unique experiences. Part of my practice involved assisting physicians with deciding an individual’s potential to return to work, their disability impairments and a patient’s symptom magnification. I frequently received subpoenas to testify in court or give video-taped depositions. While stressful, I enjoyed the clinical challenge of testifying.

4. Is there a specific disease process and or impairment that particularly interests you, and why?

Whitehouse is not the typical skilled nursing facility (SNF). We specialize in providing care for patients with behavioral issues resulting from a variety of conditions including mental illness, brain injuries, mental retardation, and degenerative brain disorders. Many of our residents have significant histories of substance abuse, criminal incarcerations and living on the street. I have found that occupational therapy can be very instrumental in improving these patients’ physical, functional, cognitive, social and emotional well-being.

I particularly enjoy working with residents following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). They can be very compromised and require multiple treatment modality options. I especially like focusing on improving their IADLs and cognitive abilities.

5. What makes working in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) rewarding?

I find working in SNFs to be very rewarding and challenging. I enjoy the variety between the short term and long term residents. The challenging parts have been managing reimbursement changes throughout the years, being audit ready on all of our documentation, and keeping the customers, therapy staff, patients and patients’ families happy. Evergreen Rehab does a wonderful job assisting with ongoing documentation training in order to stay up-to-date with all of the latest Medicare changes.

6. What are some lessons that your patients have taught you?

Working in Skilled Nursing has allowed me to treat patients at an advanced age. They have taught me that growing old gracefully involves staying engaged throughout your elder years. Remaining as mentally, functionally, socially and physically active as you can be makes the best transition.
Beth and Chris Davis adopted Leah Elisabeth on March 25, 2014. Leah is 4 years old and has been with them for 2.5 years. Since Leah is too young to really understand adoption she says “we got married together”. (pictured above)

One of Church Hill’s COTAs became a first time grandmother on April 23rd. Her name is Helen Smith and her precious grandson is Liam Patrick. He was born weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. (not pictured)

Dana Kessler, PT and Rehab Director at Willow Wood Nursing Center, celebrated the birth of her grandson, Matthew Bentley Adelman. Matthew was born Feb 26, 2014, 7 lbs. 13 oz. and 20.5 inches. (pictured below)

Pine Meadows’ Melissa Hazelwood celebrated her wedding anniversary with husband Bo Hazelwood on April 4th. (not pictured)

Congratulations all!
Happy Anniversary
to the following employees who have been a part of the Evergreen Team for a year or longer.

Thanks for your dedication and service!

Celebrating 5 years or longer: (FEBRUARY) Katie Ballard and Heidi Schneider-Stinson - 5 years. Craig Hubbuch and Julie Thompson - 7 years. Roxanne Dye, Juanita Gleason, and Leslie Shipley - 9 years. Jon Honkanen - 12 years. (MARCH) Kimberly Hanson, Manjiri Karle, Diane Killough, and Lori White - 5 years. Sarah Mohnen, Michele Pichette, and Jason Sydnor - 6 years. James Connelly - 8 years. Kimberly Anderson and Barbara Reed - 12 years. (APRIL) Carra Allen, Patricia Erhard, and Lyle Johnson - 5 years. Melissa Bruce - 6 years. Alison Connors and Ann Decker - 7 years. Mike Goodpaster - 11 years.


Celebrating 3 years: (FEBRUARY) Christy Cottrell, Jennifer Henley, Neha Jani, Jenny Strange, Sidhartha Sorker, JiSu Sung, and Adel Timm. (MARCH) Michael Beard, Kim Crockett, Melvin Gadson, Alison Kendrick, Guillaume Pierre-Paul, Mary Simmons, Sherry Smith, and Jay Tesa. (APRIL) Lydia Akins, Cassandra Briggs, Stephanie Brumfield, Curtis Manning, Doressa Markwell, Patrick Mompont, Charles Richardson, Christina Schmitt, Sammie Regina Smith.


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Evergreen Apparel - Available Online
Evergreen Rehabilitation apparel is now available at our online store! If you're looking for additional wardrobe options at work, we are now collaborating with EmbroidMe to provide you with Evergreen Rehabilitation branded attire. All you have to do is place your order through the online store and we'll deduct the amount of your purchase from your paycheck (the following pay period). It's that easy!
Visit our online store today at: http://evergreenrehab.promoshop.com

Evergreen Employee Discounts!
Evergreen employees that have AT&T Mobile service can now take advantage of a group discount benefit! All you need to do is bring in proof of employment to a local AT&T retail location along with the discount code #2690473 to receive an 8% discount on your phone bill. If you have any questions please call AT&T Customer Care at (866) 662-4548.

Another benefit that our employees can tap into is from Enterprise Rental Car. Evergreen Rehabilitation has a corporate account with Enterprise. When renting from them all you need to do is present them with the Evergreen Corporate Account #58B3653.