

# Employees honored for a combined 325 years of service to the McCarty Center

Forty-three employees of the J. D. McCarty Center were honored in late September during employee appreciation week for a combined 325 years of service to the hospital.

## 30-Years Service

Saundra Myers-Johnson, psych services director  
 Cheryl Sosa, nutrition assistant

## 25-Years Service

Vicki Kuestersteffen, director and CEO

## 20-Years Service

Cindy Curry, outpatient admin assistant  
 Dawn Barnes, human resources management specialist

## 15-Years Service

Tami Minor, human resources admin trainer  
 Mike Powers, QAPI/recreational therapy director

## 10-Years Service

Julia Bennett, direct care specialist  
 Kim Cano, direct care specialist  
 Melissa Hollis, LPN



Cheryl Sosa, right, receives her 30-year service pin from Cerebral Palsy Commissioner Joe Steil. Looking on is Vicki Kuestersteffen, director and CEO of the McCarty Center.

## 10-Years Service Continued

Mike Rawlings, costumer service rep  
 Karen Rieger, Cerebral Palsy Commissioner  
 Cindy Scott, customer service rep  
 Lisa Tyler-Vance, direct care specialist  
 Julie Richards, teacher assistant

## 5-Years Service

Roxy Engel, rehab/safety technician  
 Sharla Bardin, public information manager  
 Jennifer Hendrix, speech-language pathologist  
 Karina Valero, human resources management specialist  
 Adam Eason, direct care specialist  
 Juliann Mann, registered nurse  
 Jill Floyd, assistant director of nursing  
 Leon Bruehl, construction/maintenance technician  
 Timothy Creedon, direct care specialist  
 Dr. Brian Ellis, pediatrician  
 Amber Johns, registered nurse  
 Janet Lassiter, pre-school teacher  
 Penny Newton, registered nurse  
 Laura Wangler, registered nurse  
 Sharon Zerby, nurse manager  
 Lisa Braden, nutrition therapist  
 Jennifer Barrett, catering associate  
 Kasie Hays, catering associate



# 26th annual Lighting Party & Golf Cart Parade attracts a large crowd

## Mandy Haws is Master of Lights for 2016

As guests wondered onto the east patio for the start of the 26th annual Lighting Party and Golf Cart Parade, they were met with Christmas music sung by the Madison Elementary School Choir under the direction of Tara Light. This was the choir's fifth performance at the Lighting Party.

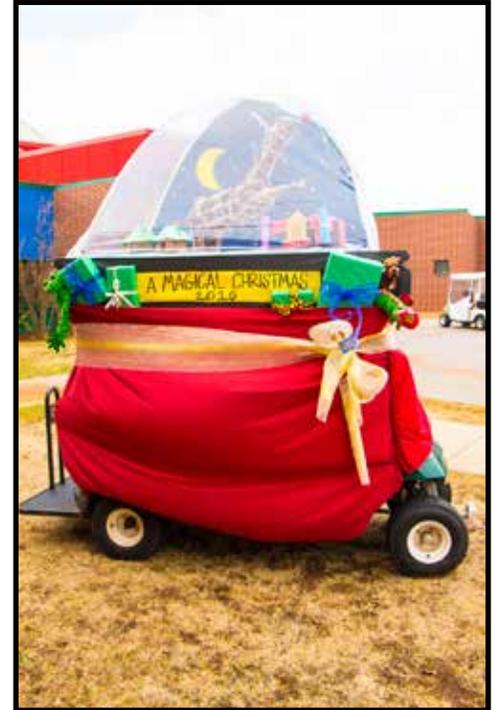
Mandy Haws, manager of the Sooner Bowling Center in Norman, was this year's Master of Lights.

The Master of Lights is a person selected to turn on the Christmas lights at the hospital. When the lights go on, that signals the start of the Golf Cart Parade.



This year's Master of Lights, Mandy Haws, addresses the crowd before stepping to the light switch to turn on the lights of the 30-foot Christmas tree and signal the start of the golf cart parade. Looking on is Greg Gaston, director of marketing for the hospital.

An estimated crowd of 200 hardy people attended this year's event. As often happens at the Lighting Party, it was the first really cold day/night of the year which helped put people in the Christmas spirit.



This year's golf cart parade theme was "A Magical Christmas." The Rehab Department's snow globe float was this year's first place winner.

Leading the golf cart parade for the fifth time was the Noble High School Band under the direction of Fred Queen. The band later entertained partygoers in the conference center while waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.



The Hogwarts Express presented by the combination of the Social Work, Psych and Dietary Departments was the second place winner in this year's parade.



Members of the University of Oklahoma's Ruf-Neks spirit squad came to the Lighting Party to help Santa hand out candy canes to the good little boys and girls. Here they are signaling that Santa Claus is number one.



In third place was hospital unit #5 with a ginger bread house.

**The  
Building  
Block**

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# Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association donates \$58,468 for Camp ClapHans

The Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association presented the McCarty Center with a check for \$58,468 on Tuesday, Dec. 13. The check presentation was the kickoff to OMCA's annual Christmas party for the inpatients. This donation is a new record for OMCA, improving last year's donation by \$5,000.

The check represented the proceeds from OMCA's annual charity golf tournament held in September at the Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.

The donation will be used to help operate Camp ClapHans next summer.

On hand to greet the kids and hand out gifts were Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus who made a special trip down from the North Pole just for OMCA; guiding their sleigh to Norman was Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer; and rounding out the OMCA Christmas dream team was Oklahoma City Thunder's Rumble. The dream team was supported by a large number of OMCA elves.

OMCA receives a wish list for each child and then passes it out among its members. The members' families then go shop for the patients. Many of these same families attend the party as one of the OMCA elves to help hand out the gifts.

Rick Moore, executive director of OMCA, has always told his members "that once you attend this party the first time, you'll never miss another one." And they don't.



Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus made a special trip from the North Pole to hand out gifts at the OMCA annual Christmas party for McCarty Center inpatients.



OMCA members Vickie Moore (left) and Fran Krapff double check Santa's gift list to make sure everything is in order before the party begins. Looking on is Fred Krapff.



Rick Moore (center), OMCA executive director, and Rich Horrocks, OMCA president, present a check for \$58,468 to Bobbie Hunter, director of Camp ClapHans.



The OMCA Christmas party dream team.



Tatiyana looks on as Rumble and Santa Claus pull her gifts from a hand sewn bag from OMCA.



OMCA elves wait patiently to deliver the next bag of gifts when Santa calls a patient's name.



James looks over a truck from Santa Claus.

# Despite Arctic temperatures, 40 et 8 Christmas party was a success

While an arctic front put Oklahoma in the deep freeze for a few days, including the day of the 68th annual 40 et 8 Christmas party and open house, party attendees were warm and toasty inside the hospital's conference center.

Patient families, staff and guests didn't let a little cold weather get in their way of celebrating Christmas at the McCarty Center.

Frank Barry, whose band plays under the moniker of "John the Franklin," started the party with music, combining a mixture of contemporary music and Christmas songs.

Partygoers dined on hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a bountiful selection of Christmas cookies, washed down by what one partygoer described "as the best hot chocolate I've ever tasted," all prepared by the conference center's executive chef, Gaylan Oliver and his staff.

Vicki Kuestersteffen, director and CEO, welcomed everyone to the party and offered a special thanks to the hospital's donors and volunteers for this year.

Cerebral Palsy Commissioner Bill Hart and 40 et 8 member called roll as the 40 et 8 Voitures and Cabanes presented donations to the hospital.

Ronnie and Carolyn Harris were also recognized. Every year, with their family, they attend the party and present a donation as a way of celebrating their wedding anniversary. This year marked their 41st.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of the annual ginger bread man cookie decoration contest. Staff winners were Keturah Knight, 3rd place, Sarah Quinnett, 2nd place, and Randi Wilkie, 1st place.

Patient winners were Noah, 3rd place, Leaim, 2nd place, and Tommy, 1st place.

Other awards were handed out to hospital unit #3 for the best hospital unit decorations. Nursing won 1st place in the door decoration contest.

After the award presentations, Santa Claus and his 40 et 8 elves were called into action to present the kids with their gifts.

At the end of the party, all children in attendance 12 years of age and younger were invited to visit Santa's Workshop to pick out a gift. It is a long-standing tradition of the 40 et 8 that no child leave the party without a gift. So the workshop was established to meet that goal.



Frank Barry sang a combination of contemporary music and Christmas songs to entertain the 40 et 8 partygoers.



Vicki Kuestersteffen, director and CEO, introduces Carolyn and Ronnie Harris. The Harris' make a donation to the hospital to mark their wedding anniversary. This year is their 41st.



Direct Care Specialist Kacey Wolf and her patient enjoy some of the fine food served at the 40 et 8 party.



The cookie table.



Darcie Ware, director of social work, coordinates the patients' wish list and gift acquisition. Here she's checking labels to make sure everything is in order for Santa Claus.

# More 40 et 8 party pics



Retired Cerebral Palsy Commissioner and 40 et 8 member Bill Logan waits for the next patient to make his or her way to Santa Claus to receive gifts.



Tatiana wasn't too sure about the man in the red suit so she visited with him from afar.



Direct Care Specialists Kacey Wolf, left, and Leslie Roberson pose with inpatient Dillon before the party.



Beth Morton, seated, director of physical therapy, and Steffan Spain, speech-language pathologist, help wrap presents in preparation for the 40 et 8 party.



Laiken Knight is a member of Oklahoma City University's Physician Assistant Class of 2018. She volunteered to work in Santa's Workshop again this year. Here she's helping a young fellow make a difficult decision. So many choices!



Santa's Workshop is a busy place after the inpatient party. It is a long-standing tradition of the 40 et 8 that no child leave the party without a gift.



Santa Claus hands a large gift bag to Rachel.

## Oklahoma City University Physician Assistant Class of 2018 present check for Camp ClapHans

On October 22 the OCU PA Class of 2018 hosted Trick or Treatment, a 5k run and 1 mile fun run, to raise money for Camp ClapHans.

During the Lighting Party members of the class presented a check for \$1,000 to Vicki Kuester-Stephens, director and CEO of the McCarty Center.

The class of 2018 is the inaugural class of OCU's physician assistant program.



Oklahoma City University's Physician Assistant Class of 2018 presented a check to the McCarty Center for \$1,000. The money is proceeds from their Trick or Treatment 5k run held in October to support Camp ClapHans. Receiving the check is Vicki Kuester-Stephens, director and CEO. Presenting the check (l-r) are Melissa Zenner, class treasurer, and class members Madison Summers, Sarah Campbell, Shelby Teel and Nicolette Wintersheidt.



Cara Taylor, director of speech-language pathology, watches her son devour his lunch from the kids buffet.

# Bobbie Hunter named director of Camp ClapHans

Camp ClapHans is more than a summer camp. It's a place where kids with special needs can play, get to know their peers and challenge themselves through a variety of programs.

"I want camp to be an encouraging, energetic and positive place for children with developmental disabilities to try new things and make new friends and build their confidence," said Bobbie Hunter, the director of Camp ClapHans.

Hunter was named the director of the camp this fall, which is an outreach program of the J. D. McCarty Center. The camp is for kids with special needs ages 8 to 18 and is located here on the hospital's campus. It features two cabins and an activities building that are located next to an 11-acre lake.

Activities for campers include archery, arts and crafts, camp fires, canoeing, dances, fishing, horseback riding, talent shows and swimming.

Hunter, a Noble resident, has worked for the McCarty Center since 2012, first as a direct care specialist and later as a recreational activities specialist.

"Working at the McCarty Center has been the most amazing experience. I knew when I started working at the center that I was meant to be here," she said. "It's amazing to see the excitement on a child's face when they learn new things and make new friends."

She is also eager to see that



same excitement from the kids who attend Camp ClapHans.

"Everyday kids are learning new skills, making new friends and developing self-confidence," Hunter said.

Hunter said she is thrilled to be leading the camp and is excited about the royalty theme for summer 2017, which will include games and crafts that will be tailored to the theme.

"Every camper will get to experience the 'royal treatment,'" Hunter said. "There is so much to look forward to when I think about camp, but what I am most excited about is getting the opportunity to meet all the campers."

Hunter believes her jobs at the hospital have helped prepare her to oversee the camp program.

"I hope that through my experience working at the McCarty Center I can make Camp ClapHans an event that campers will always remember."

Registration for camp starts Jan. 9 and applications are due March 17. For more information about camp, contact Hunter at 405.307.2865 or email [bhunter@jdmc.org](mailto:bhunter@jdmc.org).

Camp sessions for summer 2017 are June 11-14, June 18-21, June 25-28, July 9-12 and July 23-26.

## EMI hosts fall recital

It was a wild and wonderful night when dancers and volunteers with the Expressive Movement Initiative took the stage on Nov. 17 for a fall recital.

The initiative is a student organization at the University of Oklahoma that aims to introduce the art of movement as an expressive outlet for children with developmental disabilities.

The 2016 recital featured a jungle theme and the event took place at Longfellow Middle School in Norman.

The hospital began hosting the dance classes in 2013 for inpatients and outpatients. The classes were then expanded to include children with special needs from the community.



The fall recital cast.



Tyler (right) breaks it down with his EMI dance instructor during the fall recital at Longfellow Middle School.