

HEROES *of the*

Anyone who has had surgery or taken their kids to the emergency room knows how big of an impact a nurse can make. They work long shifts and deal with messy situations with grace. These Katy nurses give everything it takes to provide the best service for their patients, while making a difference in people's lives.

*Written by Lacey Kupfer Wulf
Photography by Reinaldo Medina
and Anetrius Wallace*



**Kelsey Fay,
BSN, RN**

**Clint Westaway,
MSN, CRNA**

**Mindy Westaway,
RN**

HOSPITAL

Six local nurses give insight on what it's like to be a nurse and how their jobs are more than what meets the eye



**Robbie Collins,
BSN, RN**



**Brian Quinn,
BSN, RN**



**Melissa Liendro,
BSN, RN**



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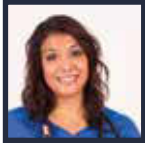
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Patients Need You

Melissa Liendro Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Before she became the clinical coordinator for Ambulatory Care at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital in 2006, Melissa Liendro worked for three years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she grew close to her patients and their families. "You become a family member to the mom and dad. They rely on you," she says. "A lot of parents send cards and pictures. I love that. Those babies aren't babies now." Liendro has enjoyed easing her patients' and their families' minds in situations where they have little control. "I can give them a little bit of comfort by telling them we have the best care. That patient is going through some of the worst times of their life, but you feel like you're a support. They need you," she says.



Always There for Patients

Brian Quinn Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

As a young teenager, Brian Quinn knew he wanted to help the sick when his grandmother, who was a nurse, died of cancer. After he suffered from seizures and a brain aneurysm, which left him temporarily paralyzed, his nurses encouraged Quinn and convinced him that he could recover. Quinn says, "It took me about a year, but I was able to pull through. I kept what the nurses said in the back of my mind." Because of his remarkable nurses, he pursued nursing and now follows

their example in treating his patients. Quinn says, "If I can help not just physically but also as a person who can talk to the [patients], I can help in more than just one way." In his experience he says, "Sometimes you just have to be there for them and listen to them. Sometimes we can't fix the problem." This year Quinn has been nominated for a Daisy Award which is given to exceptional nurses.



Worth the Journey

Robbie Collins Resolutions Hospice

Not all nurses could do what Robbie Collins does. Collins has worked in hospice care for 18 out of his total 21 years as a nurse. In his work he has learned from inspiring people, including veterans who fought at Normandy and served in General Patton's army during WWII, just to name a couple. Collins says, "I'm enamored with that generation." Many of his patients have fought against their illnesses for years, and he helps reduce their pain physically and emotionally. Regardless of the reason for being in hospice, Collins says, "If you give someone the power to die on their own terms, it matters. You help the family through a difficult journey. You help [the patient and family] realize that it was a journey worth taking."



All in the Family

Kelsey Fay Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

With four aunts who are nurses, Kelsey Fay seemed destined to follow in their footsteps. "I grew up with women who would go to work to

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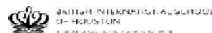
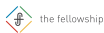
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help people and make their lives better," she says. In August 2015, Fay graduated from Chamberlain College of Nursing in Houston. Now she is gaining knowledge at Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital by seeing a variety of patients and observing and learning from her co-workers. In nine months, she has assisted with three code-blue instances - when a patient is non-responsive, has no pulse, has low blood pressure, and needs resuscitation. "Almost all the nurses on the floor came to help. It's incredible to see how everyone dials in and focuses on the patient to bring them back." All three of the code-blues were resuscitated and taken to the ICU.



A Labor of Love

Mindy Westaway Houston Methodist Hospital

Clint Westaway MD Anderson Cancer Center

Clint and Mindy Westaway share not only their five children, but also their love of nursing. Clint has worked as a nurse anesthetist for six years, and currently helps administer anesthesia during surgeries at MD Anderson Downtown. Before their third child arrived, Mindy worked in an ICU unit. Even though Mindy stays at home now with their children, her nursing skills still come in handy at home. She says, "It's awesome as a mom to understand how the body works." But the Westaways also use their skills to serve others. "Some of our other favorite parts of being nurses are that we get to be medical staff at community events like marathons," Mindy says. "We want to do the MS 150 and Operation Smiles someday. Nursing really is a labor of love." KM

LACEY KUPFER WULF had four emergency surgeries, and her twin boys stayed in the NICU for a month after birth. She is grateful to her kind, fun nurses.



We appreciate all the Katy nurses and celebrate their hard work and loving care.

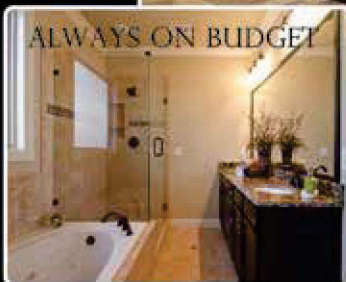
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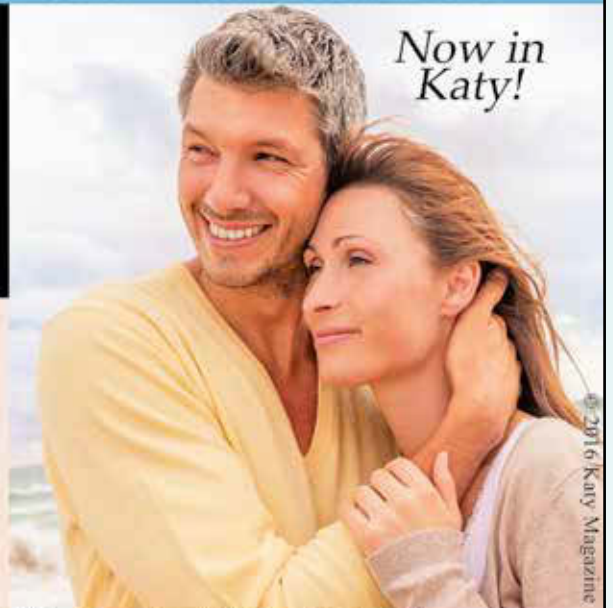
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