

LIGHT BEARERS



Peggy Lyons, director of payroll and 40-year veteran of Methodist Family Health

Lyons Leaves Legacy of Love at Methodist Family Health

On May 25, Peggy Lyons will retire after 40 years of working for Methodist Family Health. The youngest of seven children, Peggy is mom to three boys, grandmother to six and great grandmother to two. When not serving as the director of payroll at Methodist Family Health, Peggy stays busy keeping up with family and caring for her 97-year-old mom, whom she says is “still in charge of all of us.”

Before Peggy leaves for her next adventure, we asked her what it was like working for Methodist Family Health. Here is what she said:

Q: What makes a professional want to stay with one employer for 40 years?

A: Knowing Methodist Family Health cares so much about the youth in their care and will do all they can to help them have a better life. Being just a small part of this is a humbling experience.

Q: When you started at Methodist Family Health, where were you located and what was your position?

A: I started on August 8, 1977 at the Fillmore Campus as the front desk receptionist then moved to the Aldersgate office in 2004.

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5th Annual Southern Silks Rides to the Rescue of Arkansas Children and Families

Methodist Family Health saddled up its stable of stick ponies May 5 and raised funds to rebuild the lives of Arkansas children and families. The organization’s signature fundraiser, Southern Silks, raised \$143,000, and the special appeal for Arkansas CARES kitchens raised \$25,000, the most raised to date for both.

Each year, Arkansans help Methodist Family Health celebrate the running of the Kentucky Derby with this post-race, Derby Day-soiree that includes faux horse races where guests are the jockeys. Prizes are awarded for each race, and guests enjoy a Kentucky Derby-inspired dinner and libations, live and silent auctions, a hat contest, and much more.

Led by Casey Finch, owner of The Full Moon Gift Boutique in Little Rock, and Matt Finch, president of Gill Ragon Owen Attorneys, this year’s Southern Silks incorporated more Derby-inspired touches. The food included Kentucky hot browns and lush desserts, fascinators and fedoras could be seen on most of the heads – and tables – at the event. Opportunities to contribute to Methodist Family Health’s mission of rebuilding the lives of Arkansas children and families included a wine pull, live and silent auctions, and a special appeal to refurbish the kitchens of the Arkansas CARES cottages at the Fillmore campus in Little Rock.

“We raised enough money to complete the renovations and replace the appliances in all three of the kitchens Arkansas CARES uses,” said Casey Finch. “This program is so important to the mental and physical health of moms and their kids in this state. Women who are struggling with both substance abuse and mental health issues can enter the Arkansas CARES program and keep their children with them. They learn together as a family to work as a team, to face challenges together and to become stronger.”





Dear Friend:

One word I can think to describe 2018 so far is progress. Methodist Family Health has achieved success throughout our continuum of care in every community we serve in Arkansas.

This includes construction on the new psychiatric residential treatment center at our Fillmore campus in Little Rock, which we anticipate will open at the end of August.

We have also increased our efforts at broadening awareness of who we are and what we do throughout the state. We'll launch a new website this month, which will be easier to use and showcase our mission in a more personal way. Our presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube has grown as well, and we are reaching and interacting with clients, donors, referral sources and staff in innovative ways.

May means graduation, and nothing gives a better sense of hope for the future than witnessing someone accomplish a hard-earned goal. Two of the resources we have to support clients who want to set and achieve these educational and training goals are the Methodist Family Health Foundation scholarships and Arkansas CARES program. A client – former or present – who has spent one night in any of our residential treatment centers, group homes or Arkansas CARES is eligible for the scholarship, which means obtaining job skills for a career that provides stability for the rest of that person's life. Arkansas CARES helps moms with substance abuse and mental health issues prioritize their lives so they can set positive examples for their children. This can mean studying for and obtaining a GED and going on to college, technical school or other training.

As I look toward the rest of the summer, I see even more success on the horizon for our kids, families, staff and supporters. Thank you for making this success reality.

Sincerely,
Andy Altom
CEO



BRIGHT NIGHT

Join Methodist Family Health and bring your friends for a glowing-good time. From 5-9 p.m. at Big Rock Mini-Golf and Fun Park on Friday, August 3, kids and families can play mini golf, bumper boats, arcade games, go-karts, lazer frenzy, batting cages, an amazing aerial maze and much more!

Tickets are \$30 each and include the ticket holder's choice of four activities at Big Rock, great food and glow-in-the-dark prizes. Proceeds help rebuild the lives of Arkansas children and families who are abused, abandoned, neglected and dealing with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues.

For tickets or more information, contact Cathey Henry at 501-906-4201, e-mail chenry@methodistfamily.org or visit MethodistFamily.org.



Craig Gammon Speaks to Midtown Little Rock Rotary Club



On Monday, April 30, 2018, Craig Gammon, administrator of Methodist Children's Home, spoke about Methodist Family Health to the Midtown Little Rock Rotary Club. The members asked questions and offered stories of family members who had lived at Methodist Children's Home. Methodist Family Health is telling its history and raising awareness of its continuum of care to civic, church and community groups throughout the state. If you would like someone from Methodist Family Health to present to your organization, please contact Kelli Reep at 501-906-4210 or e-mail kreep@methodistfamily.org.

Generous Contributors Make 2018 Get Up & Give Lenten Collection a Success

More than \$15,000 and half of a warehouse of items were donated in this year's Get Up & Give Lenten collection project. Churches, organizations and individuals across Arkansas gave personal hygiene items, clothes, shoes, school supplies, bedding, funds and other necessities to the Methodist Counseling Clinic in their communities. Items will be distributed to all of Methodist Family Health's locations for use by our clients and their families.



Amy Shores, center, is surrounded by family as she accepts the award for Youth Director of the Year.

Amy Shores Honored as Youth Director of the Year

The Marshall T. Steel Center at Hendrix College in Conway honored three extraordinary church and community leaders at the 33rd Annual Steel-Hendrix Award banquet on Monday, March 12, 2018 in Worsham Performance Hall in the Student Life and Technology Center. Amy Shores, director of pastoral care at Methodist Family Health, was recognized as youth director of the year.



SENTINEL

Sentinel Expands to Quarterly Delivery

You may have noticed a more streamlined version of the Sentinel in your mailbox. This is the second issue of our revamped newsletter, which you'll receive four times a year instead of twice. We hope you like the new format and more timely information.

LIGHT BEARERS

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Q: What has been the highlight of your time with Methodist Family Health?

A: Working for a company with such a great mission.

Q: What changes have you seen in your 40-year career that have transformed Methodist Family Health the most?

A: When I first started, there was the Methodist Children's Home Little Rock campus, some outlying group homes and foster care. We have grown to include so many more specialized areas and make a difference in so many more areas of care that help with the overall treatment of youth.

Q: What will you miss about working?

A: I will miss working for a company that I can be proud to be a part of and all of my awesome friends. Methodist Family Health has become an extension of my family over the past 40 years, and I will miss everyone so very much!

Q: What advice would you give someone joining Methodist Family Health?

A: Have respect and empathy for the clients and their families. Show up on time and be willing to give the best effort you can to your job.

Methodist Family Health

SENTINEL

a publication of the Methodist Family Health Foundation

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Photos: Kelly Quinn and Methodist Family Health staff

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- Methodist Children's Home
- Methodist Behavioral Hospital
- Methodist Counseling Clinics
- Arkansas CARES

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