ENGAGING POSITIVE CANCER EXPERIENCES

“It’s the best place to work.”
- Eva Burgan

These are words that Eva Burgan, RN, OCN, truly means. Before she began at the HRH Cancer Center in Avon, Eva used to work there on her days off because she enjoyed it so much. She even left her hard-earned Director of Nursing position to accept a part-time role at the Cancer Center because it was the only one available. According to Eva, HRH is “the ideal place to work.”

What makes HRH Cancer Center an ideal place to work? Eva says it’s her colleagues and their intentional commitment to engage patients and make each person’s experience positive. “We all try to remember we are treating a person, not a diagnosis.”

Eva recalls her first real experience with cancer as the defining moment that drove her to pursue a full-time career as an oncology nurse. “I had an end stage cancer patient who was in agony. We had worked with the doctor through the night to get the patient comfortable and were able to make his death more peaceful which really helped the family. The privilege of being a part of that totally changed me.”

Eva’s commitment to cancer patients extends beyond the Cancer Center. She co-facilitates or is a committee member of several local cancer support groups and fundraisers including the Hendricks County Cancer Connection, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Relay For Life, and Ronald Reagan Parkway. She also enjoys volunteering as a nurse. “I had an end stage cancer patient who was in agony. We had worked with the doctor through the night to get the patient comfortable and were able to make his death more peaceful which really helped the family. The privilege of being a part of that totally changed me.”

Eva plans to continue her volunteer activities, but says she will be slowing down to spend more time with her family, especially her 3-year-old grandson, 18-month-old granddaughter and a third grandchild expected in September. She also loves to run and does this with an amazing group of fellow HRH associates. “We travel all over doing races. It is a release from a sometimes difficult work day or week.”

Advancements in cancer treatments are helping more patients survive longer, but a great deal of work remains. Eva says the lost battles make her appreciate her life so much more. “It is such a privilege to be a small part of their journey. This is where I’m supposed to be.”

Collaboration Leads to Successful Groundbreaking

Hendricks Regional Health is one step closer to significantly expanding services in Brownsburg. On April 11, hospital leaders broke ground on the new Brownsburg Medical Center to be built on the northwest corner of Interstate 74 and Ronald Reagan Parkway, near exit 68. The intent of the new center is creating ease of access with more emphasis on the continuum of care for families, in particular for women, as well as providing care for emergent services.

“Hendricks Regional Health is focused on responsible growth to meet the ever changing needs of the community that we have been entrusted to serve,” Kevin Speer, HRH President and CEO, said.

Kevin ranked the HRH Board of Directors, County Commissioners, the Town of Brownsburg and the Brownsburg Town Council for making it possible for HRH to build the new medical center at the site. Gary Everling, HRH Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, thought the location would be a great move for HRH to provide service for the northern portions of Brownsburg and approached the board in October 2013 with the concept of having a medical facility at the location.

“Research is indicating that HRH is a preferred provider of healthcare in the Brownsburg area,” Terry Dillon, Chairman of the HRH Board of Trustees, said. “It’s our mission to provide access and quality healthcare to the Brownsburg community and businesses.”

HRH used focus groups and market research to provide direction for the hospital’s needed services. Many of the focus groups were specifically for women as they are, quite often, the drivers of healthcare decisions nationally. Many in the focus groups identified the land the facility will be built on as a preferred location.

The 100,000 square-foot facility will include an emergency department and immediate care center; lab and radiology services; a comprehensive women’s center; physical therapy; cardiac rehabilitation; physician offices; a retail pharmacy; and a specialty clinic. It will cost an estimated $52 million to construct and is planned to create more than 110 jobs once completed. It is expected to open in the fourth quarter of 2017 and will coincide with the extension of Ronald Reagan Parkway from US 136 to County Road 300 North.

The existing Hendricks Regional Health medical office building, located at 1411 South Green Street in Brownsburg, will remain open to serve the south side of Brownsburg and northwest side of Avon.

“We hope it will be an innovative facility and serve Brownsburg and the surrounding area for many years to come,” Terry said.
If you like treats, Gary Everling is definitely someone you should get to know. HRH’s Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer has a serious sweet tooth, and often begins meetings or greets others by sharing treats like M&Ms. Other things you may not know about Gary include he met his wife on a blind date; he sings in a quartet with friends he’ve known for more than 25 years; he teaches collegiate marketing; he’s an avid Disney fan; and he says the single most important thing he’s ever worked on or will work on in his career is The Hendricks Way initiative.

Yes, the man who orchestrates multi-million dollar deals, believes competition is good for business, and says being the deal-maker is the best part of his job, is convinced The Hendricks Way is the key to our success. “You can have the best plans in place with a lot of phenomenal strategic initiatives, but if you don’t have the right culture to maintain and deliver on it, those other things don’t matter.” One of the most common questions Gary hears is, “What is business development in healthcare all about?” He describes his role as an offensive coordinator, helping Kevin determine how to position HRH for future success. “At the highest level, we have to set a vision and put plans in place to achieve that vision. We must know how to position the organization for success in the future and execute on those strategic initiatives.” At HRH, success is defined as maintaining our status as a thriving, independent healthcare system. Kevin shared how much he relies on Gary for creating both strategy and relationships. “One of the keys to our success as an organization is building relationships within our market, and Gary does this with a true spirit of collaboration and integrity,” Kevin said. “From the moment he walks into a room, he earns the respect of others because it is clear he comes from a place of mutual partnership. Simply put, he is gifted with a vision that will carry Hendricks Regional Health into the future, but he combines it with his steadfast resolve to always do the right thing for all those involved. Gary is also very community-minded, and involved in many different organizations. There is no one else I would rather have at my side as our Chief Strategy Officer, and I am grateful for his leadership, friendship and support.”

Everling points to the hospital’s unique partnership with DePauw University and the under-construction Brownsburg Medical Center as some of his greatest professional accomplishments. But to find the accomplishment for which he is most proud, you have to look outside the hospital. He and wife Jackie are celebrating 24 years of marriage. Their son, Jayce, graduates from Covenant Christian High School in a few weeks. This fall, Jayce is headed to IU Kelley School of Business.

Everling is emphatic about the role respect plays in a successful organization. “When people are happy at work, patients and guests will see that and will feel like they received great care. Those people then come back. They advocate for HRH. That is how we as an organization will thrive. We’re on the right path.”