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### **43<sup>rd</sup> LVN PROGRAM OFF TO A GREAT START AT HMH**

At the completion of their first “in depth” week of the Joe G. Davis Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Program at Huntsville Memorial Hospital, the 29 members of the 43<sup>rd</sup> class appear to agree on one thing – “it takes timing and sacrifice to come back to school.”

Heather Sneed of Conroe said, “With three daughters of my own, I’m not sure that there will ever be the perfect time to go to school, but right now everything is in line for me to be a part of this program. Healthcare is a family tradition. My Mom and sisters are nurses and I hope one of my daughters will follow in the family tradition after me. This is something I’ve wanted to do for a long, long time, and now the timing is finally right!”

Lance Provost, one of the four men in the class admits that this is a very different path for him, but one for which the Lord opened the door. Having been in the oilfield and still working weekends as a commercial landscaper, he admits that John Fawcett, a graduate of the most recent class, and healthcare issues that have been faced by his son have combined to peak his interest in healthcare as a career. While it will be a bit of a financial struggle to go to school during the week and work on the weekends, Provost is committed to doing just that.

“My heart goes out to children. I have a true desire to help, especially after being with my son while he has participated in his medical treatment,” said Provost. “I’d like to first start with my LVN and then move on to the RN program that Sam Houston will begin next year.”

The Joe G. Davis LVN program runs from December through December and at the end of the year, students enjoy a capping ceremony as they receive their licensure. All students know the date and have it marked in indelible ink on their calendars – December 10 -2010. Applications for the program start being accepted in March for the following school year. The program requires a High School diploma or GED.

Sharon Robinson admits that she's one of the oldest in the class, but is delighted to be doing something she's always wanted to do.

"It's a little intimidating to be in a class with some of these younger students. I can't stay up as late and study as long as they can. But, one advantage to being older is that perhaps I can manage my time more wisely. Regardless of my age, I'm in this class because it's something I've always wanted to do and can't wait until December to put it all to use in a great job," Robinson said.

Sally Nelson, hospital CEO welcomed the students and told them, "This is an excellent program and an awesome institution. You can know that your graduation from our LVN program is a great start into the RN program that Sam Houston State University (SHSU) is beginning in 2011."

In order to start the RN program as planned, SHSU will be holding classes for the first couple of years at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. Following that, the program will move into a health science center on the campus. HMH will continue to retain the LVN program.

One of the youngest class members, Christen Frazier, was born and raised in Huntsville and is "ecstatic" about joining what she calls "the family business." Her mother, dad, grandmother, grandpa, and great grandmother were all nurses and her aunt graduated from the same Huntsville LVN program in 1993.

Two years ago Paula Seale, Huntsville resident, was accepted into the program. At the same time her daughter was accepted into another nursing program. They decided that there was no room for two nursing students in the house at the same time, so mom put her dreams on hold. Now, she is re-enrolled and says that she went to graduation of the prior class in December to know just how she would feel when her year ended.

"I had chills all over!" Seale said. She had been office manager for Huntsville physician Dr. David Ficklen and seeing his passion for the healthcare industry, she just had to wait until the time was right.

She said, "Huntsville Memorial has been our hospital home. My husband has 12 stents and I really felt that I could make a difference by doing something for a place that's done so much for us."

After spending the last nine years managing the front desk in a urology office, Amber Anderson on Onalaska was inspired to take her interest in nursing to the next level. With two children, she made a commitment to wait to work toward her LVN until after the oldest was in school. "I'm set to go now!" she said.

Roxann Langston, program director for the past five years said, “ I came to Huntsville to care for my Mom, and with a background in nursing – and having attended a similar LVN program – I knew I had to give something back. If I can give back half of what I am privileged to enjoy every day, I will feel as if I’ve done my part.”

For more information on the Joe G. David LVN program, please contact the education office at Huntsville Memorial Hospital at 936.291.4545.

## **CUTLINE**

Sally Nelson, CEO at Huntsville Memorial Hospital (center) welcomes the 43<sup>rd</sup> class of the Joe G. Davis LNV program. All 29 members of the class that includes four men were treated to a welcoming reception during their first week of intensive training. With Sally are Paula Seale and Sharon Robinson.

## **About Huntsville Memorial Hospital**

*Since 1927, Huntsville Memorial Hospital has provided benevolent and charitable health care services, setting the standard for quality, proficient health care for the residents of Walker County and the surrounding communities. At Huntsville Memorial, we have great people who are passionate about your health. We have outstanding physicians, motivated leadership, and compassionate staff. We are your friends and neighbors – dedicated to excellence in everything we do – right here at home.*