

Focus on the Future

Fall 2014

Providing philanthropic support to Midland Memorial Hospital since 1945

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MMH's Commitment to the Future of Nursing

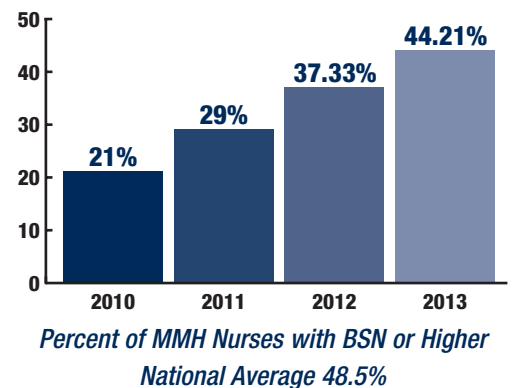
In September 2011, Midland Memorial Hospital announced its commitment to increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020.

By achieving higher levels of education and training, nurses are better prepared to manage chronic illnesses, coordinate and collaborate with a variety of healthcare professionals, and effectively utilize an array of technical tools and information management systems. Education helps to bridge the gap between the increasing demands of healthcare and the quality of patient care.

With the help of Midland Memorial Foundation Nursing Education Scholarships, MMH is becoming closer each year to reaching the important goal of 80 percent BSN prepared nurses. Data cited by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing states that “surgical patients have a substantial survival advantage if treated in hospitals with higher proportions of nurses educated at the baccalaureate or higher degree level.”

MMH is working diligently to reach and exceed the national average of 48.5% for nurses prepared with a BSN or higher.

MMH Nursing Education 2010-2013



Your Support Makes the Difference

MMF provided over \$1,480,000 in scholarships and continuing education from FY2010 through FY2014 to date. Scholarships range from assisting nurses to achieve an Associate degree in nursing all the way to a Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

Currently MMF is providing scholarships for:

- 3 Doctorate of Nursing Practice degrees
- 12 Master of Science in Nursing degrees
- 18 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees
- 6 Associate of Science in Nursing degrees



Nursing Students Embrace Professional Development

“Patients expect flawless care, and rightfully so. Nurses must be engaged in lifelong learning in order to offer high quality compassionate care through evidence-based processes.”

—Robyn Wood, BSN, RN, CMSRN.

Robyn serves as Director of Inpatient Surgical Services and is working toward her master's degree.



If you are interested in supporting the MMF Nursing Education Fund, please contact Tricia Jowell Cobb at (432) 683-7516 or tricia@midland-memorial.com.

Total Joint Center

The Total Joint Center of MMH has seen extraordinary improvements since the implementation of the care coordinator program as well as the practice of same-day-as-surgery physical therapy.

The Total Joint Center offers:

- A mission to provide high-quality, evidence-based care on a consistent basis to all elective total joint patients whose surgeons are part of the Total Joint Center
- Comprehensive education classes for all patients prior to surgery
- Coordination of patient discharge planning
- Physician meetings that standardize effective processes

The Total Joint Center has seen an improvement in patient care and recovery time, with the focused efforts of the TJC team. Surgical volumes have been able to increase to meet the needs of the growing community, and

length of stays has decreased. Patients are at home, healthy, and functioning sooner. The 30-day readmission at MMH is at an all-time low; proving that the TJC initiatives are having a positive effect on patient surgical outcomes.

MMH intends to apply for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Distinction designation, which is a national program that recognizes hospitals that demonstrate expertise in delivering quality specialty care—safely, effectively, and cost-efficiently. This recognition will continue to set MMH apart from other healthcare providers. Midland Memorial Hospital will be the **ONLY** hospital with this recognition in West Texas.

If you are interested in learning more about the Total Joint Center at MMH, call Tricia Jowell Cobb at (432) 683-7516 or email at tricia@midland-memorial.com.



*Make a Difference
in the Lives that Follow*

To leave an enduring gift to Midland Memorial Foundation, please contact Tricia Jowell Cobb, Executive Director, Midland Memorial Foundation, at (432) 683-7516 or tricia@midland-memorial.com.

MMH places 1st in TAHFM Energy Roundup Competition

- Out of 630 hospitals in Texas, 16 are EnergyStar Certified hospitals. EnergyStar hospitals use 35% less energy.
- MMH is on track to be EnergyStar certified within two years.
- From 2011-2013, MMH had a 15% reduction in the hospital's carbon footprint.
- As an energy-efficient facility, MMH reported a CO2 reduction of 3,595 tons and a savings of \$559,920.



Make a Difference in 2014

Charitable actions take on greater importance at the close of another year. Many gifts offer tax benefits in addition to the heartfelt satisfaction that comes from supporting Midland Memorial Foundation today. To learn more, send for our **FREE** guide *Top 5 Year-End Gift Ideas* by returning the enclosed survey.

Why Estate Planning Is for *Everyone*

Estate plans and legacy gifts often seem like the realm of the ultra-wealthy—it's easy to see why Warren Buffett or Bill Gates would need to put together a plan for how they want their billions in assets to be divided up.

It's less clear why the ordinary average person needs an estate plan. After all, it's not like your relatives are going to be fighting it out in courts over your billion-dollar bank accounts, right?

Think again. Whether your net worth is \$100 or \$1 billion, you have an estate. If you have a house, car, or rare stamp collection, you have an estate. If you have a savings account or a 401(k), you have an estate. If you have an opinion about who gets your Great Aunt Nelda's pearl necklace or Grandpa John's antique tools, you have an estate.

The truth is, estate planning is for *everyone*, regardless of age or assets. A well-crafted estate plan

allows you to protect the people and causes you care about most, no matter what.

What if You Don't Have an Estate Plan?

A will is one of the most important documents you'll ever write, so it's no surprise that the consequences of not having one can be steep. Without an estate plan in place, here are just a few of the problems that could arise:

- The state will be in charge of dividing up your assets, including sentimental items or family heirlooms.
- Your heirs may be left holding the bill for significant estate taxes.
- A court will name an executor of your estate, leaving someone you may not have chosen in charge.
- A court will designate a guardian for those under your care, including minor children.
- Your commitment to supporting Midland Memorial Foundation and other charitable organizations will be forgotten.



We're happy to help you start the planning process or answer any questions you have along the way. Feel free to contact Midland Memorial Foundation at (432) 221-1569.

4 Steps to Get You Started

STEP 1: THE BASICS

Figure out what you have and what you want to do with it. Think carefully about family members, friends, and charitable organizations you may wish to include. Then take a rough inventory of your assets—don't forget to determine the value of your property and include all savings and retirement accounts.

STEP 2: CHOOSE A GUARDIAN

You take the security of your family seriously. You do any number of things to protect them—from buying life insurance to wearing your seat

belt. Naming a guardian is a way to extend this care beyond your lifetime. Guardians are of the utmost importance if you have minor children, but if you have a disabled adult child, parent, or spouse who is your dependent, you must also think about who will care for them when you are gone.

STEP 3: CHOOSE AN EXECUTOR

First and foremost, your executor should be someone you trust. This person will have great responsibility in managing your estate, so choose carefully. The executor is responsible for notifying all relevant businesses

and individuals of your death, settling your debts, filing necessary tax returns, and distributing your assets according to the plan you created.

STEP 4: SEE A PROFESSIONAL

After you've spent some time taking stock and making decisions, set up a meeting with an estate planning attorney. You can get things lined up, but you'll need an attorney to create and finalize your will into a legally sound document. If you're not sure whom to call, ask family and friends for recommendations.

Thank You to Our Donors

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Mammogram Fund

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Real-Life Consequences

What Happens When You Leave Your Estate to No One?

Having an estate plan is an important step in ensuring your assets are passed as you intend to the people and causes that are important to you. Even if you do not have living relatives, a plan is your opportunity to designate funds to the areas you choose. So what happens if you leave your estate to no one? Here is a real-life example:

Roman Blum was a mysterious man. No one was sure where exactly in Poland the Holocaust survivor and New York real estate developer was from, nor what his true birth date was. Some claim he had a wife and child who died in the Holocaust, but there is no record of them.

When Blum died in 2012 at age 97, the mystery lived on. Although his estate was valued at nearly \$40 million, he died without a will, making his the

largest unclaimed estate in New York history. Blum, whose ex-wife died in 1992 and who had no children, left behind no heirs.

The state public administrator assigned to the case sold more than \$5 million worth of Blum's personal property, auctioned off personal items, and used Blum's estate to fund a genealogist to search for relatives. So far, they have yet to find an heir.

The state has received hundreds of emails from all over the world from people claiming to be relatives of Blum. In addition, two people have come forward alleging they have valid wills. If the court finds neither of these claims valid and never finds an heir, everything from Blum's estate will pass to the state.

Don't Make the Same Mistake

Contact your estate planning attorney today to create a plan that reflects your wishes.

Did YOU Know?

You can use your estate plan to support the future of Midland Memorial Foundation. Contact Tricia Jowell Cobb at (432) 683-7516 to learn more.

Named Endowment Funds at Midland Memorial Foundation

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For more information about establishing a named endowed fund for you, your family, or a loved one, or to honor a special person, please contact Tricia Jowell Cobb at (432) 683-7516 or tricia@midland-memorial.com.



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MIDLAND MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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