

2011 TENET HEROES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

CATHERINE STRAIN, RN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NURSE



“We Care Completely.” Centennial Medical Center’s motto of caring completely is exemplified in Catherine Strain. Catherine realized at the age of 10 that she wanted to be a nurse. “What I love most about nursing is the bedside care, taking care of the patient,” she has said. Those who have worked with Catherine have seen firsthand her deep compassion and genuine empathy toward her patients, saying she has a “sixth sense” that enables her to make her patients instantly feel at ease.



Catherine became an OB/GYN Certified Clinician in 1978. Eight years later, she obtained her Reproductive Endocrine Infertility Nurse Clinician Certification, but Catherine’s nursing focus took on a new life when she encountered a young woman who had been brutally raped and undergone a hysterectomy, bowel resection and bladder resection. The horrific nature of the rape was overwhelming for some of Catherine’s peers, but not for Catherine. She stepped in and took excellent and compassionate care of the patient. After treating the patient, Catherine promised herself that when forensic patients entered the hospital, she would find a way to care for them. Seeing the need to help victims of sexual assault, Catherine obtained her Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) certification and Certified Forensic Nurse licensure. This certification allows Catherine to provide comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors, evaluate and conduct a forensic exam, collect evidence and provide expert courtroom testimony.

“Catherine is very responsive and coordinates efficiently with local law enforcement to get victims quickly to Centennial so she can see them. She provides wonderful, compassionate and professional care to these patients in their time of crisis,” said Bobbi Wieck, program director at the Children’s Advocacy Center in Grayson County.

Being a SANE is a special calling, requiring compassion, sensitivity and special expertise. Catherine is one of only 200 SANEs licensed in Texas, one of eight SANEs that service Collin County, and the only SANE serving Grayson County. In addition to helping local law enforcement agencies, Catherine travels all over the state to assist those needing her expertise.

Catherine has helped female and male sexual assault victims from as young as 7 months to age 82, but her passion is working with children. She is currently developing a program specifically for child victims in Grayson County.

For her genuine concern, passionate care and dedication to caring completely for sexual assault survivors, Catherine’s patients and co-workers consider her an asset to Centennial Medical Center and a Tenet Hero.