

# River Park nurses unite to create scholarship



The newly formed Nurse Council at River Park Hospital is working to fund a scholarship program for aspiring nurses in the area. The members are, front row, from left, Heather George and Patty Roberts. Back row, Janis Darnaby, Aimee

Posthumus, Kayla Greer, Felicia Young, Georgie Day, Ann Lyle and Helen Owens. Not pictured are Bruce Carr, Sandra England, Leigh Ann Steiner, Kirstie Dixon, Christie Colwell, April Fernandez, Ashley Moore and Lisa Wilder.

Nurses helping nurses is the aim of a new organization at River Park Hospital. The recently formed Nurse Council at the local facility has announced plans to fund a scholarship specifically for nursing students in 2009. The organization is committed to helping others develop professionally and become part of the work force at River Park Hospital.

This is the first scholarship funded at River Park internally by the nursing staff. Other scholarship awards given by the hospital have typically been funded as part of its support of charitable organizations or as work force development.

Janis Darnaby, chief nursing officer at River Park, was truly touched by the team's efforts and their motivation for developing the scholarship.

"Many nurses struggle financially while attending school," Darnaby said. "The Nurse Council remembers that they had similar struggles while seeking an education. Nursing students often balance part-time jobs and full-time parenting responsibilities during their education. They seek out

nursing careers because they have a passion for caring for others and advancing themselves professionally."

One of the ways the Nurse Council plans to reach its fundraising goals is by selling cakes at the Autumn Street Fair. Their goal will be to sell 100 cakes the day of the fair for \$10 each. Members are asking for support from the community, their former patients and their co-workers. Their booth will be located on the corner of Main Street and Court Square.

The Nurse Council will also pro-

vide guidance and strategic leadership for nursing at River Park Hospital. Their goal is to elevate the entire nursing team by strengthening leadership and empowering others to develop and execute their professional skills.

River Park Hospital is a 125-bed full-service hospital, which provides a comprehensive range of medical services and high quality care. River Park is Joint Commission accredited which demonstrates a commitment to meet the highest national standards for quality and safety.

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