

Share Why We Care

Acadia Hospital: *Project Inspiration*



Nancy Burns, Utilization Management

Acadia Values: Honesty, Integrity

In 1992 the behavioral healthcare field in Maine was experiencing something new; the birth of The Acadia Hospital. My employer at that time was experiencing significant issues very much like they are experiencing still today, yet I was hesitant to step outside of my comfort level to leave the known and venture into something that had yet to become solidly established.

Curiosity got the best of me as I wondered what Acadia was all about and I became one of Acadia Hospital's charter employees. We opened with a couple of inpatient units, adult intensive outpatient and lots of energy! My fears were quickly replaced with contagious enthusiasm and excitement. We were a hospital-wide team; we learned, grew

and stumbled together. There was and continues to be a respect that each one of us brings our own skills and can make a positive impact on others' lives, be it patient or peer.

I have been in a few different roles with increasing responsibility in the 20 years that I have shared with Acadia. I am proud to be a part of a team of people that genuinely believe that we provide a valuable service to our community. It is that honesty and integrity that has seen Acadia through some rough spots, and we continue to be open with others and ourselves as we move forward.

We continue to do the right thing even when it's not easy or popular. For example, in the beginning Acadia held Community Meetings with our neighbors. That open dialogue of sharing plans to open Acadia Hospital is just one example of the open, honest relationship with our community. We continue to build on that relationship as clearly demonstrated by our openness in providing education to the community as we evolved to develop the Narcotic Treatment Program.

As we look to the future and face political and regulatory challenges, I believe one can trust that Acadia's staff will continue to provide a caring and supportive environment firmly entrenched in honesty and integrity.

Along the way, I have discovered that Acadia is all about: character, decency, honesty & integrity. This is demonstrated through daily interactions with each other, treating each other as we wish to be treated.

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TOGETHER We're Stronger

