

Kathi Wasilewski says nursing job is rewarding

Career ER nurse enjoys helping

By Abbey Doyle
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ANDERSON — Kathi Wasilewski has been in nursing for more than 30 years.

Now Emergency Department director at Saint John's Medical Center, Wasilewski has spent nearly her entire career in the emergency room.

"Most emergency room nurses, myself included, are drawn to the fast-paced challenging environment," she said. "That's what I loved about being an ER nurse. I rarely work at the bedside any longer, but I do have the opportunity to work with others who make the care the very best for our patients."

Wasilewski said she grew up with a lot of nurses around her. She said she noticed they all loved what they did. It seemed like going to work was a privilege to them, and they enjoyed being able to provide care and comfort to people in their time of need.

"That's what attracted me to the profession," Wasilewski said. "I wanted to be able to do that too."

She was hired as an emergency room staff nurse at Saint John's when she first started her career and then took a job as an educator for the Emergency Department and the

emergency medical services coordinator, which she did for 10 years. In 2006, Wasilewski took a job as the ED manager and the following year took the job as the director.

Although she enjoys her role as ED director, she said she does miss bedside nursing.

"One of my major roles is to ensure we provide the best care for the patients on a day-to-day basis," Wasilewski said. And much of that is keeping up with technology, ensuring it is used to enhance patient safety and care."

When she heard about

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being honored as the "Best of Madison County" nurse, Wasilewski said she was very humbled.

"Our Emergency Department staff is amazing," she said. "They really deserve this. They make a difference in the lives of patients every single day. It is such a hard job."

Wasilewski said her role as nurse is a very gratifying one.

"It is a privilege to be able to help the so many different types of patients we have come through the door," she said. "It is a rewarding job and a great place to work. It is such a privilege to work with such great people." ■



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