

HUNTER
HEALTH

CareConnection

Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

¡Hispanic Heritage Month is here!

From Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, we come together to celebrate the rich history, vibrant cultures, and lasting contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities across the nation.

This celebration began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and grew to a full month in 1988, thanks to President Ronald Reagan. That same year, it was officially signed into law. This year's theme — **“Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future”** — reminds us of the powerful legacy we share and the bright future we can build together.

Our Facilities and Safety Coordinator, Aerial Wedel, shares:

“For me, Hispanic Heritage Month is pure joy — a chance to recognize the creativity, resilience, and traditions that have enriched our lives in countless ways. It’s about coming together to honor the past, celebrate the present, and dream big for the future.”

Here in Wichita, you can join the festivities at local events throughout the month and show your support by visiting Latino-owned shops, markets, bakeries, and restaurants.

Let’s honor, uplift, and celebrate — together. ¡Vamos a celebrar!



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OUR TEAM'S BEST DAY AT HUNTER HEALTH

At a quarterly staff meeting, we asked our team members to share one of their favorite memories of working at Hunter Health. Here are some more:

“My best day at Hunter Health was getting to help establish a partnership between Hunter Health’s dental department and KU Medicine’s HIV Ryan White program to help serve more patients with HIV by providing them with quality dental care.”

“My best day at Hunter Health was witnessing a mom make the decision to pursue sobriety for the sake of her newborn daughter.”

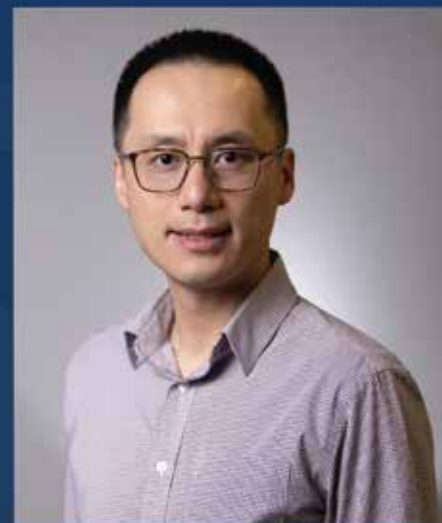
“Any day that laughs and memories are created with co-workers is a good day.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DR. SON NGUYEN, DO

Who Am I? — Kansas has always been a place I call home. I was born in Garden City but have lived in Wichita for most of my life. I enjoy the outdoors and a nice run. I am a huge fan of Jayhawk basketball and football — Rock Chalk! I love spending my free time with my wife and three kids.

Healthcare Specialty — Family Medicine

Why Hunter Health? — I have always wanted to give back to my community and provide them with the best care. Practicing medicine is a privilege and I look forward to establishing a solid and trusting foundation with patients. I hope to empower patients in their healthcare decision-making through education and quality care. It is an honor to provide care to all members of our community.



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MISSION MINUTE

Recently, our dental team faced a challenging situation with a patient in significant pain. She had already undergone multiple rounds of antibiotics but couldn't afford further treatment. When she called in for another prescription, her call was forwarded to our Care Team.

Our team, with empathy and urgency, collaborated to understand the patient's barriers to care. Together, they sprang into action — securing an earlier appointment, arranging free transportation, and setting up a payment plan to ensure the patient could receive the treatment she needed.

With thorough communication and problem-solving, our Care Team helped turn the situation around. **Their dedication not only relieved the patient's pain but also reaffirmed Hunter Health's mission to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community.**

Follow us. Did you know we are also on TikTok and Instagram? These pages are a great way for us to connect with our community and share more about the work we do at Hunter Health.

WELCOMING THE AUTUMN EQUINOX

As the days and nights come into balance, the **Autumn Equinox on September 22** invited us to pause, reflect, and bring balance into our own lives—body, mind, and spirit. It was a gentle reminder to nurture ourselves as we enter the cooler months ahead.

Caring for Your Health: Seasonal changes can challenge the immune system. Staying current on flu shots and preventive care helps protect you and your loved ones.

Caring for Your Mind: Shifts in season can also affect how we feel emotionally. Our behavioral health team is here to support you in finding steadiness and peace through life's transitions.

Caring for Community: Fall is a season of gathering and gratitude. Consult our online Community Calendar to seek out upcoming events centered on connection, health, and wellness.

As you savor the crisp air and autumn colors, remember that balance also means tending to your health. May this season bring harmony, resilience, and well-being.



NATIONAL IT PROFESSIONALS DAY

September 16 was **National IT Professionals Day**, a chance to celebrate the people who keep our technology running smoothly and securely. At Hunter Health, that meant giving a big shoutout to our **IT Manager, Aaron DeHaven**.

Aaron is the problem-solver behind the scenes — making sure our systems stay secure, our team stays connected, and our patients get the best possible care without tech getting in the way. His dedication, patience, and expertise make a difference every single day.

Thank you, Aaron, for all you do to keep Hunter Health moving forward!



STAFFER WINS RIVERFEST PHOTO AWARDS

We're proud to see our staff pursue their passions! Our very own **Facilities and Security Manager Curtis Kirkpatrick** competed in the Riverfest 2025 Photography Contest, where photographers from all ages were tasked with capturing exciting moments during Riverfest 2025.

With five categories, there were 20 winners overall.
Here's what Curtis won:

Category: **Faces & Fireworks** – First place

Category: **Sundown Parade** – Second place

Category: **This is Riverfest** – Honorable mention

Congratulations Curtis!



OUT *and* ABOUT

Here are some of our recent community outreach highlights:

Oaklawn's recent **National Night Out** was packed with community fun — free haircuts, hot dogs, music, vendors, raffle prizes, and even fireworks! We joined in by sharing information on the services we offer and then played plinko with attendees.

We were again honored to join the **Native American Community Resource Coalition** in sharing free groceries with families in need. This event was about more than food — it was about giving with open hearts and honoring the strength of our community. Thank you to every volunteer whose kindness and energy made it possible!

Our **Dental Outreach Team** completed their first on-site service at Comfort Care, providing cleanings and preventative education to residents. This outreach effort served 17 residents — a huge step in bringing preventative dental services directly to where patients are. This milestone represents a big win for our dental program and the continued growth of outreach services across our community.





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SEPTEMBER 2025

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BUILDING TRUST IN HEALTH CARE: ONE VISIT AT A TIME

We know going to the doctor can be tough. Whether it's been a few years or a few decades, you're not alone — and we're here for you. Meet Patty Ringer, one of our compassionate nurse practitioners at our HumanKind location. With a heart for helping others, she's here to make your visit feel safe, welcoming, and judgment-free. **Just scan the QR code to watch the video:**



NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK VIDEOS

You can see all of our excellent National Health Center week videos by our multimedia storyteller Brennan Barger in one place.

Just scan the QR code:



Please visit our website at hunterhealth.org and check out everything it has to offer. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and working with you to make a difference in the community.