

I am a UPMC nurse because ...

Reflections from Nurses Week 2010



Mary Gancia

*Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because it’s a very  
challenging and rewarding job.”



Toni Chianese  
*UPMC McKeesport*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because somebody has to take care of people who need us. It has changed my life for the better and I hope I can change other people’s lives for the better also.”



Brenda Acri

*Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC*

“I am a UPMC nurse for all of the ‘Emmas’ and ‘Maggies’ in the world, my nieces who were born premature. They are five now and are doing wonderful; that is why I am a nurse at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, in honor of Emma and Maggie.”



Michael Moeslein  
*UPMC Shadyside*

“UPMC is very unique in its innovations and that’s why I wanted to become part of the team. Currently on my floor we have Smart Rooms. These innovations and more make this one of the best hospital systems to work for. I am a former travel nurse, and this is the best health system I’ve ever worked in. That’s why I’m a nurse here.”



Rita Grafton

*Lawrenceville Family Health Center affiliated with  
UPMC St. Margaret*

“I love being a UPMC nurse. One reason is because I had the opportunity to work with Somalian refugees who came to our clinic. Working at the Lawrenceville Family Health Clinic is an opportunity to learn and to use that learning to better myself, which I feel I have done since working with the refugees.”



Jackie Drahos  
*UPMC St. Margaret*

“I continue to stay in nursing because I want to make the whole profession a better place for younger nurses and older nurses. I want nurses to be recognized as being intelligent and caring.”



Joyce Doody  
*UPMC Presbyterian*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because there’s no other place to be.”



Susan Gubash, Michelle Regas, and Katherine Kline  
*Lawrenceville Family Health Center, affiliated with  
UPMC St. Margaret*

“We are proud to be nurses here because it’s a wonderful place to work and they give us great opportunities. We provide excellent care for our patients and our communities.”



Jackie Rizzo  
*UPMC McKeesport*

“I’m a nurse at UPMC because I believe that one person can make a difference and I want to be that person.”



Caitlin Fisher and Jennifer Dulaney  
*UPMC Shadyside*

“We are UPMC nurses because we love our patients and our coworkers.”



Ana Marie Santelli  
*UPMC Vital Staffing*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because I truly believe in giving patients the treatment that I would give my loved ones, my friends, and my family. I want to treat everyone the same way I would want to be treated myself.”



Timothy Herzer  
*UPMC Shadyside*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because, when I was a mechanic/machinist, I realized I wasn’t getting out of life what I needed so I made a decision to go to nursing school. Fifteen years later, I’m a clinician of the Surgical ICU and into the second phase of my nursing career.”



Mary Joos  
*UPMC Mercy*

“I continue to be a UPMC nurse at Mercy hospital because it’s a very fulfilling experience for me. I’m a SWAT nurse there and it’s a great position to be able to take care of patients, interact with fellow employees and visitors, and assist coworkers. It’s a great place to work and I really like being there.”



Joseph Rapp

*UPMC Hillman Cancer Center*

“I’m a nurse at UPMC because the support you get from the nursing staff is incredible. I don’t think you’ll find a finer bunch of nurses support-wise, from the nursing recruiters to the nursing directors to the unit directors at the hospital.”



Michaelle Callihan Hernon

*UPMC Passavant*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because no matter what I need I can find support for it at UPMC. Whether it was support as a graduate RN in the emergency room or the support of my doctoral project as a nurse practitioner, I never have to look far.”



Renee Patton

*Mercy Hospital School of Nursing*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because I enjoy working at a facility that has world-renowned excellence.”



Mayra Toney

*Mercy Hospital School of Nursing*

“I am a UPMC nurse because I just like being a nurse. One of the best things about being a UPMC nurse is that I get to teach at one of the best hospitals in the city, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. Doing so enables me to mold future nurses, which is a wonderful thing to do.”



Marilyn Clougherty

*Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because I love teaching. I love that UPMC has provided me with the opportunity to give kids with diabetes and their parents the skills they need to have successful, healthy lives.”



Virginia Piano  
*UPMC Mercy*

“What I like best about being a nurse is giving to other people. I really believe it’s a vocation you are called to do. I love being a nurse and I love my patients.”



Sandy Rader  
*CNO of UPMC Shadyside*

“I am a UPMC nurse because of our passion for quality and innovation. I was most proud of them as UPMC Shadyside received their Magnet designation earlier this year.”



Mary Beth Pais  
*UPMC Presbyterian*

“I’ve been a nurse at UPMC for the past 37 years. I’ve stayed a nurse at UPMC because of the incredible people that I meet on a daily basis.

From the patients and their families to the staff, to the physicians and all support staff. They make me proud to be a UPMC nurse.”



Shelley Watters  
*UPMC Shadyside*

“I’m a UPMC nurse because of all the opportunities it has allowed me to have in my profession and in my career. I can’t think of anywhere else in Western Pennsylvania I’d like to work.”

Thank you to all the participants of this project and all UPMC nurses who are committed to providing excellent patient care and teaching future nurses.

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