



Christine Spinos

Title: Director of Acute Care.

Education: BSN.

Where do you work?

Chan Soon Shiong Medical Center at Windber.

Department: Acute Care.

Years of service: 25 at CSSMCW, 44 as an RN.

Area of expertise: Critical Care.

What are your thoughts/concerns about working through the COVID-19 crisis?

When we graduate from nursing school, we pledge to devote ourselves to the welfare of those committed to our care. None of us thought we would be caring for patients during a worldwide pan-

dem. Caring for these patients has become a great challenge for the nursing and medical staffs, as well as all on the front lines of this pandemic.

As challenging a task as it is, we are proud and humbled – and not a little gratified – to see patients recover and leave the hospital to return to their families. Fortunately, one challenge with which we do not have is the lack of personal protective equipment. Because this virus is highly contagious, patients cannot see and visit with family or friends, so in addition to caring for our patients, we are their only link to the outside world.

We keep the patients' family informed as to their condition, but very often we are at the bedside of the patients to give comfort and reassurance, especially for those patients who are losing the battle with COVID-19. The gratifying side is seeing these patients improve and knowing that we helped to return the patients to health and see the smiles on their faces when they're reunited with their loved ones. I would per-



sonally like to thank the nursing staff, the respiratory therapists, and all of our front-line staff at CSSMCW for the care they give to our patients.

Community of residence: Windber.

Health Care Heroes is a project of The Tribune-Democrat and local medical centers to spotlight individuals working in health-related fields.