

Most Popular

---

**1.** Missing Houston tiger is a 9-month-old male named India, lawyer says

**2.** Vehicle pulled from small lake in Pearland believed to belong to missing...

**3.** Revamped farmers market opens, with aspirations to be Pike Place

SUBURBS // **TOMBALL/MAGNOLIA**

## TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries honors heroes with Nurses Week celebration

Alvaro Montano, Staff writer

Updated: May 11, 2021 1:50 p.m.



1 of 5



TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries celebrated Nurses Week

TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries celebrated Nurses Week, May 6-12, by decorating their locations, passing out treats, fun tumblers, decorated cookies, and sharing words of thanks for the blessing that their nurses are. Pictured is RN Yessica Avila waving.  
Courtesy of TOMAGWA

TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries is tremendously grateful for its nurses who TOMAGWA’s Senior Development Director Katina Mein said calls “superheroes in scrubs.”

TOMAGWA is a full-time, Christian-based, comprehensive family practice center that is a medical home to most of its patients, providing a wide range of non-emergency medical care, Mein said. Services offered include medical, diagnostic, laboratory, pharmacy, vision, dental, and case management.

**Tomball, Magnolia school notebook: LSC-Tomball set for virtual commencement**

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Article continues below this ad

The nurses at TOMAGWA, Mein said, are the backbone of their clinics.

TOMAGWA celebrated National Nurses Week, May 6-12, by decorating their locations, passing out treats, fun tumblers and decorated cookies, and running a digital campaign on its media platforms to highlight their work and share words of thanks for their nurses.

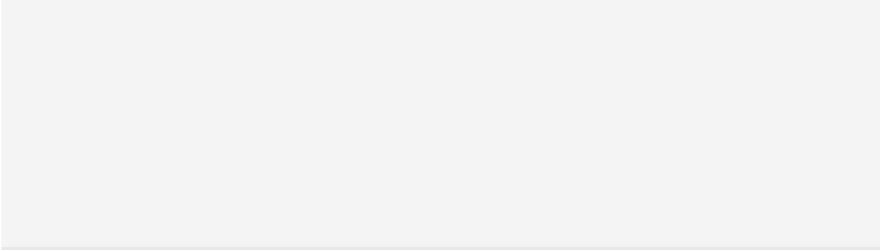
“Nurses Week encourages us to take a moment and reflect on the incredible accomplishments of our nurses, their sacrifices, and astounding resilience, for the benefit of others,” Mein said. “It’s important to remind ourselves that our nurses are the hands and feet of TOMAGWA’s mission, and there are not enough ‘thank you’s to adequately honor their work.”

**On [HoustonChronicle.com](#):** [City of Tomball celebrates National Day of Prayer](#)

Even amid a challenging year due to COVID-19, Mein said their efforts led to patients receiving over 25,000 services.

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Article continues below this ad



“Their passion and willingness to put our patients first, allows TOMAGWA to not only care for patients’ medical needs, but their spiritual needs as well,” Mein said. “Our nurses’ dedication to our mission is inspiring. ...We are so proud of their work and tenacity to answer the growing healthcare needs of our community.”

Mein said TOMAGWA’s CEO, Timika Simmons, constantly reminds them that “our front line is our only line.” With that, Mein said the organization is still operating under strict COVID-19 protocols, because TOMAGWA is the only medical home for patients in the 600-square-mile area that they serve.

Aside from the main clinic at the Ryan Paul Whitaker Memorial Medical Center, there are also locations at Magnolia Landmark Building in Magnolia and at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Waller.

“As a result of our strict adherence to ‘doing no harm,’ TOMAGWA can proudly say that our clinics have not been the source of any COVID-19 infections involving our staff or the community that we serve,” Mein said.

## **A challenging year**

Mein said TOMAGWA has been blessed with strong leadership who stands on

its founding principles of navigating their mission, while exemplifying ingenuity and compassion amid COVID-19.

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Article continues below this ad

“From switching to online operations and telemedicine within hours on March 16, 2020, trailblazing in our field, to making welfare checks, prescription home deliveries, providing popup tent services, and being a beacon of reassurance to the families of TOMAGWA, our team members have endured the relentless waves of uncertainty with grace,” Mein said.

The ability to provide care for patients that the staff of TOMAGWA was not able to see in person is no small feat, Mein said, and yet they never fell shy of that mission.

“What health care looked like was completely flipped upside down, many of our staff were furloughed out of financial challenges, TOMAGWA was

overwhelmed with the influx of need, and yet we clung to our faith, trusted in the path that we were on, and were vigilant and creative in service delivery, with our mission at the helm,” Mein said.

Born out of an overwhelming need in their community that faced increased food insecurity during this past year, Mein said the ministry has partnered with the American Heart Association, the Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum, Trinity Klein Lutheran, and CVS, to create a food pharmacy for hypertensive and diabetic patients.

Mein said TOMAGWA not only weathered a challenging year but tapped into unknown resilience that helped the organization thrive.

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Article continues below this ad



---

home for those most in need, while financial support understandably waned in the face of economic uncertainty,” Mein said. “Our staff, especially our nurses, continuously pivoted their thinking and care to support our patients, keeping their health our main focus, above all else.”

Mein said TOMAGWA looks forward to Nurses Week every year, and the opportunity to pause and pay appreciation to the heroes of the organization, who have impacted countless lives, in immeasurable ways. She said health care is a demanding field, that focuses on those that they have the privilege to serve.

“A week like Nurses Week provides us with the opportunity to shower our superheroes in scrubs with appreciation,” Mein said.

Volunteer nurses have a special place in the hearts of those at TOMAGWA, Mein said, who offer to help purely out of the love and compassion that they have for patients and families.

“They gift TOMAGWA their talents and allow us to meet the growing need in our community during financially challenging times,” Mein said. “Their , is a blessing to be able to witness, and a constant reminder of how and why TOMAGWA is here.”

*alvaro.montano@chron.com*

---