



A Message from **Vinson Yates**

PRESIDENT OF OHIOHEALTH MANSFIELD HOSPITAL
AND OHIOHEALTH SHELBY HOSPITAL

It was a blessing to celebrate National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week last week. We didn't get a chance to celebrate last year, since we were in the throes of caring for COVID-19 patients and anticipating our first surge. When I look back at how many lives we've touched and how much sacrifice we've made through three COVID surges in the last 12+ months, I couldn't be more proud to be part of the OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital and OhioHealth Shelby Hospital. This pandemic has reminded us of the importance of our local hospitals within the communities we serve.

In 1921, National Hospital Day was first celebrated in the United States and Canada on May 12. In reference to the inaugural Hospital Day, the Canadian Medical Association Journal's May 1921 editorial stated, "Education is needed so that all may understand and realize the importance of the splendid work that is being done in our hospitals. The care of the sick, the prevention and spread of disease is as vital to a nation as the education of children...." At that time, the nations were overcoming the influenza pandemic of 1918-20 and a diphtheria epidemic, which peaked in 1921.

It's not a coincidence that our hospitals' centennials align with those points in time – Mansfield Hospital began in 1918 and Shelby Hospital in 1921. Today, our hospitals still play a critical part in the community. Just last month we began celebrating Shelby Hospital's 100th anniversary and encourage you to watch [our anniversary video](#).

Generations upon generations count on our hospitals for care. We are thankful for the community choosing our hospitals and trusting in the care that our associates and providers provide today and will provide well into the future. This past year our hospitals once again rose to the occasion to take care of the community, and we are very appreciative for the recent recognitions:

- Mansfield Hospital was one of seven OhioHealth Hospitals to receive an **"A rating" from Leapfrog**, which assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety. The Leapfrog Group President and CEO said, "An 'A' safety grade is an elite designation that your community should be proud of. The past year has been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but these hospitals show us it is possible to keep a laser focus on patients and their safety, no matter what it takes." (Shelby Hospital does not receive a rating due to its critical access status.)
- **Dr. Uchenna Ezike**, an infectious disease specialist on the medical staff of Mansfield Hospital, recently accepted the **American Red Cross (East Central Ohio Chapter) Power of the Hero Award** for his work with COVID-19 patients. He went up and beyond to provide excellent and

compassionate care. Dr. Ezike stayed current with the latest treatments and precautions, and calmly worked with multi-disciplinary clinical teams to bring the best possible care to our patients.

- On Arbor Day, the **City of Mansfield Shade Tree Commission** recognized **first responders and other healthcare workers** (see photo)

with the planting of an Ivory Silk Lilac tree on the Mansfield Hospital campus. Our emergency department team and Mansfield Fire Department were on hand for the ceremony. Trees are a perfect symbolism for our hospitals and healthcare teams. Over

time, trees represent life and create deep roots for stability. Trees are resilient to weather sunshine and storms. We are very appreciative for the recognition from the City of Mansfield.



Just because our COVID inpatient numbers are down, it doesn't mean we rest on our laurels. We continue to make efforts to support and engage with the community:

- As part of Shelby Hospital's 100-year anniversary, OhioHealth has committed **\$100,000 to Shelby's downtown revitalization** project in order to add improvements to the pavilion that houses the Shelby Farmers Market.
- During Nurses Week, Mansfield Hospital and Shelby Hospital Nursing Congress collected items for **17 Sunshine Baskets**, to brighten the day of healthcare heroes at local skilled nursing facilities.
- Mansfield Hospital's surgical technologist Jessica Gillam lead a **community clean up initiative**. More than 30 OhioHealth associates and providers joined a Girl Scout Troop from Mansfield St. Mary's and students from St. Peter's High School to collect trash on streets near the Mansfield Hospital campus. **The group collected 100-plus bags full of trash!**
- In total, local OhioHealth COVID-19 vaccine clinics have provided **close to 16,000 doses** since January 19, when we began providing vaccines to those 80 years and older. Most vaccines were administered at the **mega clinic in the OhioHealth Ontario Health and Fitness Center**. OhioHealth Wellness on Wheels recently partnered with The Friendly House (as pictured) to provide **COVID-19 vaccines in the underserved North End community** of Mansfield. We're currently providing the Pfizer vaccine to ages 12 years and up. ([This short video talks about what parents should consider](#) for this age group.)



As you can see, Mansfield and Shelby hospitals continue to do important work to improve the health of the communities we serve. OhioHealth's Core Values of Stewardship, Compassion, Integrity, Inclusion and Excellence continue to shine through the work we do.

We look forward to continuing to partner with many of you to improve the health of the community as a whole.

Vinson