



Press Release
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Knox County Hospital and Munday Nursing Center Celebrated

Knox County Hospital District observes National Hospital and Skilled Nursing Care Week (May 12-18, 2024).

KNOX CITY, Texas (May 3, 2024) — Knox County Hospital District (KCHD) is celebrating National Hospital and Skilled Nursing Care Week (May 12-18). This celebration recognizes the importance of our area's hospitals and skilled nursing facilities and acknowledges and appreciates the healthcare service providers and staff who strive to support the well-being of their neighbors and residents.

“Rural communities across America often do not have access to local healthcare, whether it be a hospital, clinic, or even a skilled nursing facility,” says Stephen Kuehler, CEO of KCHD. That is why we are so fortunate here in Knox County, and both National Hospital Week and National Skilled Nursing Care Week are so important—to celebrate our local facilities and the people who make the services offered possible.”

National Hospital Week is an annual celebration in the United States that honors the more than 5,000 hospitals providing healthcare services nationwide. In addition to promoting health and wellness, these hospitals offer more than 16 million jobs, providing a vital economic lifeline for many communities.

During this special week, hospitals recognize and celebrate the contributions of healthcare professionals, administrators, and volunteers and the services they offer. The event began in 1921 as an initiative of a magazine editor who aimed to educate the public about hospitals' important work.

Knox County is incredibly fortunate to have access to a hospital, as nearly 30 percent of the counties in Texas lack access to a local hospital. Despite the challenges, our healthcare system has shown remarkable resilience. While hospital closures are not unique to Texas, the state has been particularly hit hard by them. It is estimated that 24 rural hospitals across the state have shuttered since 2005, the highest number nationwide. This underscores the importance of our celebration and the need for continued support.

Despite the statistics, Kuehler remains confident in KCHD's ability to continue serving the community for generations. He points out that the hospital district grows each year with new providers, programs, and services based on community needs. This is while other communities see reduced services – or even complete closure.

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Similarly, National Skilled Nursing Care Week (NSNCW) was established by the American Health Care Association in 1967 and always begins on Mother's Day yearly. The celebration recognizes and honors the vital role of skilled nursing care centers and nursing home facilities in providing quality care for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Formerly known as National Nursing Home Week, NSNCW typically recognizes the dedication and hard work of skilled nursing facility staff, including nurses, therapists, administrators, and support staff.

In Knox County, Munday Nursing Center has been serving the greater Knox County region for more than 50 years. It provides residents with 24-hour nursing care and assistance with meals, medications, and other activities of daily living. The facility, operated by KCHD, has achieved a five-star quality rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Kuehler underscores that Knox County is fortunate to have such a solid healthcare base. With a local critical access hospital, medical clinics, pharmacy, home health, EMS, medical supply store, and nursing center, comprehensive healthcare resources are available close to home.

KCHD is not only a vital healthcare provider in the community, but it is also a significant contributor to the local economy. With more than 150 employees working across its various facilities, KCHD is one of the biggest employers in the county. By offering critical services to safeguard the health and well-being of the community, KCHD plays a significant role in ensuring the safety of its residents while also driving economic growth.

"Our hospital and skilled nursing centers are incredible resources for our community," Kuehler notes. Thanks to the countless individuals who make these facilities possible, we are so lucky to be in a community with access to local healthcare and an amazing team caring for each other."

To learn more about local healthcare programs and services in Knox County, please visit www.knoxhospital.org.

About Knox County Hospital District

Founded in 1926, Knox County Hospital District provides healthcare for residents of Knox County and surrounding areas. The district offers a wealth of medical services, including 24-hour emergency care, advanced radiology services, a clinical laboratory, home health, physical therapy, long-term care, patient education, and more. For additional information, please call 940-657-3535 or visit www.knoxhospital.org.

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