

A message from Frank V. Sacco, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer

Good day,

Our LifeSaver Award Program is another example of Memorial Healthcare System's commitment to Patient First care. The program honors special individuals who go above-and-beyond their responsibilities to help ensure patient safety.

This week I'm sharing with you the story of Nekita, who exemplifies what it means to be a true LifeSaver and inspires us all with her Patient First focus.

Thank you,



The Memorial Hospital Miramar Emergency Department was very busy with patients when a new patient arrived. Nekita Saunders, a patient care associate, was already juggling several patients waiting for triage, but as she glanced at the new patient, Nekita had a "gut feeling" something was seriously wrong.

Nekita immediately took the patient to a triage room for an EKG, which revealed "tombstone" ST elevations (acute injury to the heart muscle). The clinical manager was helping another critical patient, so Nekita showed the EKG to the emergency department physician, who immediately began treatment of the patient. A Code Heart was initiated and the patient was transferred to the Memorial Hospital West Cardiac Catheterization Lab where a team was waiting to perform a balloon angioplasty.

Nekita's instincts, quick thinking and putting this Patient First saved a mother's life.

Nekita's dedication to her patients and profession continues. She recently completed studies to become a licensed practical nurse, and this January, she plans to begin nursing school at Nova Southeastern University – on recommendation of the Dean of Nursing at Nova. Unbeknownst to Nekita, the Dean was treated in the Memorial Hospital Miramar Emergency Department and was very impressed by Nekita's care.

Whether you give or receive Patient First care, the results can make a positive difference.

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