



Nita O'Laughlin is approaching year 41 at ORHC as a Central Sterile Technician.

When Nita arrives in the morning she begins testing all the equipment to make sure it's functioning properly. She pulls cases for the operating room and gathers what they need for that day. Nita processes and sterilizes the instruments after procedures, puts the instruments and cases away properly, and gathers cases for the next day. "You can't be afraid of blood, or other fluids. That sort of stuff has never really bothered me," Nita explained. "I enjoy that my job is ever learning. There is a never a dull moment."

Nita also deals with getting instruments and supplies ordered, and instruments and cases organized for new physicians. "I take pride in making sure everything is clean, so that the patients can be on the road to recovery without any infections!" Nita said.

Working in Central Sterile requires working at a fast pace, while staying organized and precise. "It can get very busy, which comes with a lot of multi-tasking," explained Nita. Nita also interacts a great deal with the doctors. "I make sure the doctors have the specific tools they need."

Although mostly working behind scenes, Nita greatly impacts the patients we serve. "I think about the patient even though we don't necessarily get to see them. I think about every patient as one of my family members in that OR. It makes me a very conscientious worker."

"Nita is very passionate about her work. She gives 100% all day long and for however long it takes to get the job done," said Keitha Cutsforth Director of Surgical Services. "Nita as well as all of the CS staff, have extreme attention to details when cleaning and processing instruments to ensure sterility. Their details directly affect positive surgery outcomes for low post-operative infection rates."

ORHC thanks and recognizes Nita's lifelong role in the heart of the hospital.