

## My Turn

### Happy holidays at Holy Cross Hospital

Barbara L. Hawthorne

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I want to extend my appreciation to all of the hospital staff that shared both Christmas and New Year's with me as a patient at the Holy Cross Hospital. I met numerous staff members during my stay, who helped me regain my health in order to begin the New Year, 2016.

Specifically, I would like to share my appreciation for each staff member's professionalism, attentiveness, positive attitudes, caring and thoughtful demeanors and listening ears! Certainly, a staff that reflects these characteristics is reflective of the administration and should be applauded by all community members. I have spent time in hospitals before; however, I have never experienced the thoughtfulness and care that I did at Holy Cross.

I would like to specifically thank the following staff members: Dr. Yong, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Gutierrez, Dr. Bjorkman, Dr. Moore, Dr. O'Hara; all RNs, night and day including Adam, Melissa, Jennifer, Julie and Chelsea and the caring RN in ICU; CNAs Rosia, Tyler, Kathleen, Robert and others; CT Scan, X-ray, and Ultrasound Technicians, all of whom warned me of the "speed humps" in the hallways; the two wonderful food technicians that helped me create some wonderful new dishes; Cecelia and Victoria, phlebotomists who visited early each morning at 3:30 a.m. — I never felt a thing!; and Maria and her cohort who kept my room in order! There were many others who I have forgotten names, that I also wish to thank.

I sincerely believe that having the Holy Cross Hospital and its skillful staff in town is extremely important; not only for local people and their families who need medical assistance in a timely manner; but as a foundation for the Taos economy. Tourism is Taos' main industry, and without health care, many tourists — or potential residents — are not going to consider visiting or moving here. We need their contributions to our economy and their satisfaction at our community's amenities. I hope in the future that each of us will consider the benefits of having the hospital local; and will support its continued presence and availability for years into the future.

Thank you staff members for sacrificing your holidays to help others and me during the holiday season!

*Barbara L. Hawthorne, Ph.D., is a resident of Taos.*