

# Bonnie Wold Is Our Champion

By Gwen Schuller-Bebus, M.S., R.N.; Christine Milbrath, Ed.D., R.N.; and Therese Krug, B.S., R.T.(R), Contributing Writers

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare is a renowned 60-bed hospital in St. Paul, Minn., that provides medical treatment for children and adults with disabilities and chronic conditions.

Almost two years ago, Gillette Children's hired a new imaging department manager. The department had been without a permanent manager for eight months and as Bonnie Wold, R.T.(R), quickly learned, there were many issues she needed to address. Her top priority was assessing the needs of the department to improve imaging services for patients.

Ms. Wold developed and implemented a training program to help bring DXA technology and services into the specialty pediatric environment. She coordinated plans with the DXA vendor, developed practice protocols with Kevin Sheridan, M.D., obtained training for technologists and provided the proper environment for our special-needs patients.

In addition to upgrading imaging services, Ms. Wold assessed the needs and updated the plans for neurodiagnostic services. As a result, Gillette Children's expanded its service. Her biggest challenge lay ahead of her.

Gillette did not provide any advanced imaging services for its patients. Instead, they were referred to other facilities for CT, MR and ultrasound exams or fluoroscopy studies.



Staff at the Advanced Imaging Center are, standing from left, Jim Singh, Trupti Bhakti, Steve Spielman, Bonnie Wold and Briana Meyer. Sitting in front are Martin McLean and Melissa Pettyjohn.

Ms. Wold led the team in assessing patient needs, developing a business plan and designing an advanced imaging service.

The physicians and patients were excited to be part of the planning and were looking forward to the improvements in the imaging department. The current PACS and RIS systems, however, were inadequate to handle these services. A staffing and service model would have to be collaboratively developed to incorporate sedation and anesthesia for patients with disabilities, new staff members would need to be recruited and construction and equipment selection would have to be timed perfectly. Under Ms. Wold's leadership, all of these tasks as well as many more were completed within a nine-month timeframe.

This June, the Advanced Imaging Center for Gillette Children's began seeing patients.

The center's staff helped develop a new technology, positive distraction. Staff worked with architects and multimedia companies to integrate visual, sound and light displays. The young patients choose the imagery prior to their CT or fluoroscopy exam. The images project on screens on the ceiling above the CT gantry and on the wall in the fluoroscopy room. We have seen the anxiety level of many of our young patients decrease.

It is clear that the Advanced Imaging Center is an overwhelming success. One physician stopped Ms. Wold in the hallway and said simply, "Thank you for helping bring this technology to Gillette." One patient's mother was overheard saying, "For the very first time I actually took a nap while my son had his MR performed because I knew he was in good hands here."

Thank you, Bonnie Wold, for your extraordinary efforts.