

# I stand with WISHARD

*KARI GABEHART, RN, NP*  
Clinical Nurse Educator for the  
Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center

*Kari Gabehart, RN, NP, Clinical Nurse Educator for the Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center, began her nursing career as a student nurse at Wishard in 1994. She finds the atmosphere extremely beneficial to her professionally and believes she has become a better nurse - and a better person - because of Wishard.*

Working day in and day out with critically injured burn patients, Kari is an advocate for patients and their families. She makes sure they understand every step of the often lengthy rehabilitation process and answers any questions that arise during treatment. Kari also represents the burn team at health fairs, schools and community events to teach prevention of burn injuries to children all over the city. In addition, she attends to professional education needs in the area by teaching burn curricula at local nursing schools as well as paramedic programs.

Staff turnover in the Burn Center is very low because of the camaraderie that is felt among the team and with patients. As she was beginning her nursing career, Kari was taken under the wing of the staff and now does the same with new nurses. She coordinates orientation programs for the Burn Center's new staff members and assists them in their professional growth and development. She likes being able to give back.

The Burn Center at Wishard is crucial to not only Marion County but also to Indiana and the region as a whole. As the larger of only two adult burn cen-

ters in the state, it has served the entire central and southern half of Indiana since 1977. The Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center was rebuilt in 2003 to become a state-of-the-art facility to better care for its patients.

"Without the Burn Center, outcomes in burn care in Indiana would be devastating," she says.

Being a nurse at the Burn Center does not give instant gratification because of the long-term, extensive care required for most patients, but the connection that is made with all of the patients and their families makes it "beyond rewarding." Additionally, 90 percent of patients are eventually able to return home.

"There is nothing like seeing a patient who you have cared for over a long period of time come back walking and talking. That's why it's great to be a burn nurse," says Kari.

By *Serving, Teaching, Advocating, Nurturing and Dedicating* herself to patient care, Kari Gabehart stands with Wishard. ●

## INSIDE WISHARD

The Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center at Wishard is regarded as one of the finest and most progressive burn centers in the United States. The \$16-million facility utilizes the most advanced medical techniques and equipment available in the treatment of burns. It was the first burn center in the state and is the only adult burn center that serves Central and Southern Indiana.