



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Toniann Richard, 816.249.1529, Toniann@hccnetwork.org

New Live Well Family Nurse Practitioner Aims to Treat Patients Like Family

Stephanie Hutchison Joins the Live Well Center Team in November

Stephanie Hutchison, FNP, a board-certified family nurse practitioner, had many influences that led her to the medical field. Hutchison's grandmother was her first influence. Her grandmother was a nurse's aide in a nearby nursing home. She has faint memories of her grandmother putting on her white uniform, accompanied with a white cap. "I always saw that vision and had that in the back of my head as I was growing up," Hutchison said. She would hear stories of the love her grandmother shared with her patients.

Later, a family practice physician in Cole Camp, Mo., where Hutchison is originally from, became her mentor. He allowed her to come into the clinic and shadow him. While she was in high school, she worked at the nursing home in Cole Camp, where her mentor would see patients. This allowed her to follow him, ask lots of questions, and gain firsthand experience. "He was a big influence on my decision to go to college and get into the medical field."

Hutchison began her studies at State Fair Community College in Sedalia. She graduated as a licensed practical nurse, then became a registered nurse. Later, she met a nurse practitioner at a clinic and fell in love with the role. "It was very exciting," she explained. Conversations with this nurse practitioner led Hutchison to decide to go to graduate school.

At the Live Well Community Health Center in Concordia, Hutchison treats men, women, and children of all ages. This includes well-woman exams, well child visits, physicals, and primary care exams, among other services. She enjoys caring for patients of all ages but is especially interested in the health of women and children. "Women are often the caregivers and the glue that holds families together, yet they work. It is a very dynamic role to be a woman these days."

Their needs and symptoms differ from men, which is why she believes preventive care is very important for women. Preventive services and regular screenings save lives. Statistics from the Maurer Foundation show when breast cancer is caught in the earliest stages, the five-year survival rate is 98 percent. As a mother and grandmother, Hutchison can personally relate to the women she sees. She believes women often gravitate to female providers because they relate to what they're going through.

-more-

Hutchison is also passionate about children's health. She is a huge advocate for preventive care for children. Encouraging families to lead a healthy lifestyle is an important part of keeping children well. Healthy children are more resistant to illnesses, including viral infections, she says. Hutchison also believes it is important to make sure their growth, development, and overall health is on track. Clinical appointments are possible teaching moments for the parents. For this reason, Hutchison makes it a point to listen to parents and answer their questions.

Patients motivate Hutchison. She said one of the greatest rewards is when patients ask to meet with her specifically. "It's very humbling to me. They ask to see me, and put their trust in me as their provider." Hutchison wants patients to know she treats them the way she wants to be treated. She aims to take care of patients as if they are family. During appointments, she wants to have an open, honest conversation while also receiving their input. "I can listen and respect them, and I don't judge them."

Hutchison is now accepting patients. Live Well Community Health Center, which has clinics in Buckner, Carrollton, Concordia, and Waverly, is owned and operated by the Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri. The Live Well Centers accept Medicaid, Medicare, and all major insurance plans. A sliding fee scale is available for those who qualify. Anyone looking to apply for insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace may call Iva Eggert or Shelly Harden at 660.259.2440.

To make an appointment at the Live Well Center in Concordia, call 660.463.0234. Visit HCCNetwork.org for more information about health services offered.

-HCC-