

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Working parents at Children's care for kids from sun-up to sun-down.



▶ Margaret Harrison loves Children's so much that she inspired her own children to follow in her footsteps and become Children's employees.

With Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June, the summertime is perfect for honoring parents. And Children's wants to honor working parents with programs like our Working Mother and Working Father of the year awards.

To our patients and families, Children's employees are miracle workers, but many of them are only halfway through their duties as caregivers when they end a shift at Children's. Working parents make up nearly 64 percent of the Children's careforce. And our hats are off to working parents, like Margaret Harrison and Glenn Pacifico, who find time to do it all.

Dedicated to work and home

For 23 years, Harrison was a Day Surgery Nurse at Scottish Rite. Using education assistance, Harrison completed her BSN in nursing and is now a Clinical Patient Safety Coordinator. But Harrison is more than just degrees and clinical work. She is a mother of three, two daughters and a son, two of which followed in her footsteps and now work at Children's.

"I can say without a doubt that my mother believes in Children's with her whole heart, and she strives

to bring the best people to work alongside her," said Amy Rawls, Orthopedic Technician and Harrison's daughter. "She deserves all the recognition we can send her way. She's a wonderful mother, and Children's employee. She's why I'm a Children's employee, too."

Harrison's daughter, inspired by her mother's ability to balance her home-life with her work-life, found a way to honor her through the Mother of the Year awards. And it is because of her mother's dedication to her work and her family that Rawls knew Children's was also the place for her. It was Harrison's enthusiasm for her job and her career that inspired Rawls to go back to school and pursue a career in nursing.

Even though Harrison is far from a new mom, with her youngest daughter now in college, she can relate to any parent who's juggling work and parenting. She is now adjusting to being an empty nester and a grandmother. She enjoys spending time with her two grandchildren and has started taking ballroom dancing classes with her husband. She has also completed the IronGirl triathlon twice with her daughters.

"Working and being a parent is a delicate balance, but with the help of my husband, I have three amazing children," said Harrison. "There were days that I struggled, like any parent, but I'm so thankful that Children's made it possible to have a career that I love while still having time for my family. I have room in my life to love my job and my family and that's something a lot of people can't say."

From computers to blood pressure cuffs

Pacifico is a husband, father of two and a registered nurse. But life hasn't always looked like it does now. Before working the night shift at Scottish Rite's TICU, Pacifico was a full-time computer professional. Finding himself with little time for his family and even less time for himself, he knew something had to change.

Pacifico went back to school and completed his nursing degree so he could join the Children's family. His new compact schedule of three night shifts a week, allows him to act as a part-time, stay-at-home Dad to his two children, Mia and Alexandra, ages 5 and 8.

Although working nights has its own challenges, Pacifico believes that having extra time during the day allows him to be a more involved father. While most working parents are absent from field trips and day-time activities, Pacifico is free to be a chaperone and man the bake sale table at his girls' school. He now has more time for his entire family and even made room in his schedule to reach a personal fitness goal.

Pacifico's family is so active, that he recently took advantage of the Strong4Life Program and lost 50 pounds so he could keep up with them. "I can state with confidence that we can thank Strong4Life for getting the entire family healthy," said Pacifico. "Losing the weight has made me a better dad and husband."

"I couldn't be a great dad, husband and employee without a little help. We all know that life throws things at you that you don't expect, but if you have the right support system in place, you can get through anything," said Pacifico. "I'm so grateful that I have so many people, from my co-workers to my entire family, standing behind me. I wouldn't be a good parent without them."

Pacifico turned his life upside down to make sure that his family was healthy and happy. He changed his career path and his habits and made more time for what's important. His motivation to change along with a little help from Children's makes Pacifico a super parent. 🍌

Do you know someone who should be considered for the Working Mother or Working Father of the year awards? Submit application requests to worklifebalance@choa.org by July 31.

