



For Immediate Release

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Harlingen Medical Center Speech Language Pathologist Improving Lives

Harlingen – Cheri Horkman enjoys improving the lives of others. Whether it is through education or speech therapy, she is busy working with people, making sure they are living better lives.

“My first job was actually teaching high school English,” said Horkman. “I pursued that profession because I wanted to have a positive impact on the lives of young adults and I did that for three years. Then, one day I was introduced to the powerful impact one can have on patients in the healthcare arena and that’s when I knew what my next career move would be.”



Horkman earned a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP), which in order to obtain a person must have a graduate degree from an accredited university, complete 400-hours of supervised clinical practicum, complete a 36-week full-time postgraduate clinical fellowship, and successfully complete an exam in speech-language pathology administered by the Educational Testing Service.

“My work right now is still very much related to teaching, because in addition to providing patients with therapy for swallowing problems, I also educate them, and those that care for them, on how to live with swallowing problems and in some cases how to overcome swallowing problems,” said Horkman.

Horkman is now helping improve lives by working with patients at Harlingen Medical Center (HMC). She is the hospital’s lead speech-language pathologist. In addition to working with patients who have swallowing problems, she works with patients who cannot produce speech sounds or cannot produce them clearly, and those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem-solving disorders.

Horkman is scheduled to bring her expertise to the community when she offers an educational presentation on “Swallowing Problems: What You Need to Know” during the next Harlingen Medical Center Doc Talks Lecture, September 9, 2010. The lecture is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the HMC Medical Office Building Conference Room, located at 5505 S. Expressway 77 in Harlingen.

“Dysphagia, which is also known as ‘swallowing problems,’ is when someone has difficulty moving food or liquids through the mouth or throat and downward to the stomach, and it is very common in older adults and some children,” said Horkman. “It can seriously affect someone’s life. It can even be life-threatening, which is why it is important for someone who suffers from this disorder to work with a speech-language pathologist.”

In her effort to educate others, Horkman will offer a thorough PowerPoint presentation at the Doc Talks Lecture and will discuss the health-related issues that can cause dysphagia, indicators of the disorder, what one needs to do once dysphagia has been diagnosed, how to live with and possibly overcome the disorder, and she will include prevention information.

“My work is very rewarding to me because I actually get to physically help people improve their quality of life and their lives, overall. My work is very satisfying to me and I am grateful that Harlingen Medical Center gives me the opportunity to do that everyday,” said Horkman.

Doc Talks Lecture
Cheri Horkman, MA
Speech Language Pathologist
Speech Problems
HMC MOB Conference Room
5505 S. Expressway 77
Harlingen, TX 78550
September 9, 2010
RSVP at (956) 365-1888

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***Harlingen Medical Center** is redefining the way healthcare is delivered throughout the Rio Grande Valley! HMC is a general acute care hospital led by physicians specializing in bariatric, cardiac surgery, cardiology, emergency, gastroenterology, internal medicine, neurology, obstetric and gynecology, orthopaedic, orthopaedic surgery, pediatric, vascular & endovascular surgery, and wound healing care.*

***Harlingen Medical Center** is leading the way in promoting the best in patient care, striving to achieve better outcomes, and making available advanced treatment options. Our **mission** is to improve clinical outcomes for cardiac patients through a physician, patient focused approach.*