

Women in Profile



Mary Mantese,
Chief Nursing Officer
Flagler Hospital

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ary Mantese serves as the Chief Nursing Officer at Flagler Hospital. In this role, Dr. Mantese provides strategic leadership and serves as the senior executive responsible for all nursing and other designated patient care functions within the hospital. Her focus is to ensure the highest quality of nursing care for patients, while maximizing efficiency and always providing a world-class, compassion-driven experience.

Mary is originally from St. Louis, Missouri and has lived in St. Augustine for just over five years. She loves the lifestyle, culture and community of St. Augustine, and is actively working to create a Flagler Hospital Nursing Division outreach program

that will link nurses with community organizations to promote community health awareness, health promotion and volunteerism.

Mary holds a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Master of Science in Nursing from St. Louis University. Outside of nursing, Mary's passions also include theatre, dance, music and traveling. She enjoys spending time with her husband Matt and their dog, who they adopted from Border Collie rescue. *ry*



Stefanie Robinson,
Owner, Flashes of
Brilliance

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tefanie Robinson is a 25 year resident of St. Augustine who is married to John S. Robinson, and together they enjoy a life full of friends, family and faith.

After 30 years with ATT in the international and long distance department, Stefanie retired. However "retired" isn't in her vocabulary.

She and John own several businesses in town. Her most noted business, *Flashes of Brilliance*, has combined her expertise in the jewelry world with fundraising for

nonprofit charities in St. Augustine. She has more than eight years in the marketing and jewelry world and champions the notion of "giving back" to the community. Stefanie's motto is, "Helping individuals and nonprofits with their fundraising through gold buying and by putting "FUN" back into fundraising." One example of success was helping BayView Healthcare's Caribbean Calypso Night raise money for the senior citizens of St. John's County. "It is important to give back, to feel that complete sense of satisfaction is watching the future of nonprofits flourish through our communities effort... And being apart of this ever growing community, I feel it's my honor to help with these charities to a long lasting and dedicated future."

Other specific nonprofits she has dedicated her time are the American Lung Assoc, Relay for Life, San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church, Act4theNations, and The Ponte Vedra Cultural Center where she is the co-chair of one of their large fundraisers, "The Holiday Shoppes."

Stefanie is also the Managing Director of Business Networking International of Northeast Florida. BNI is able to connect business leaders within the community together creating a cohesive commerce environment. This leadership committee has witnessed the growth and potential of several local businesses. She says, "It is within this soft economic times we need to come together as a group and not competitors. We grow together hand over hand continually nourishing our own local economy." *ry*

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Photo by Christine Cousart www.cousartphotography.com

**Erika Cook,
Registered Dietitian
BayView Healthcare**

Erika's interest in nutrition began

17 years ago when she started working in restaurants to earn spending money in college. She developed a passion for how the quality of food affects the body's overall wellness. Igniting her inner fire for food she obtained a culinary certificate from The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. After receiving her culinary degree she was a personal chef for a cancer patient and made the hands-on connection of nutritional care. She has now earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in nutrition from the University of North Florida and is a licensed Registered Dietitian.

Erika learned that a well balanced diet will fundamentally expand ones quality of life. Taking what she learned, Erika and her husband Rob, relocated to St. Augustine

to raise two young daughters. "There is an inner peace in St. Augustine that completes my family. There isn't a town better to find a balance within our quality of life. I love St. Augustine!"

Through her career growth into dietetics, Erika had the opportunity to shine in many different aspects of the community. Her efforts include educating children on how to eat healthy, providing nutrition education in free clinics, and teaching diabetic solutions seminars.

Her first experience with large-scale long-term care was as an intern at BayView Healthcare. It took a very short time for her to help organically install the importance of nutritional lifestyle in long term care and rehab.

Erika is now a full-time registered dietician and is actively involved in various aspects of resident nutrition at BayView Healthcare. She enjoys interacting with residents in order to match their medical dietary needs with their food preferences. Both of Erika's grandmothers lived in skilled nursing facilities and their meals were the highlights of each day. Resident satisfaction is the catalyst on which in she prides herself. Erika has realized that taking the extra time to meet with residents individually results in a better nutritional experience. "Not only is it important that the residents are provided with foods they enjoy but also it is important that all of their nutritional needs are met." *ry*

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