



Then and Now

As part of our hospital's 100-year anniversary, we are taking a look at Then and Now by highlighting a hospital associate who has been a valuable part of our history in each issue of The Pulse. It only seems fitting that we highlight a much loved associate during the month of February.

Growing up in a household filled with 10 brothers and seven sisters may be the reason Elmer Jordan can talk to anyone and make them feel like family. Since beginning work as a housekeeper in Environmental Services at MedStar St. Mary's in 1990, Elmer has become well-known throughout the hospital for his kind personality and the pride he takes in his job.

Elmer remembers a time when the team of housekeepers for any given shift consisted of about two or three people. Since the county's population has grown, today it takes about eight to 10 people working together to keep the hospital in tip-top shape for our patients and visitors. That's one thing Elmer loves about the job he calls "the best job (he's) ever had," - working as a team.

"I love helping people out," said Elmer who takes time to ask each patient if they need anything before leaving every room he's cleaned. "I never turn my back on the patients. Anything they need, I'll take care of it or get their nurse or nurse tech." Elmer admits he just genuinely likes working with people. There's one special person at MedStar St. Mary's that Elmer considers his mentor, Ms. Kitty Hammet. Elmer said that since his mother passed away, Kitty has been there for him and she reminds him of his late mother.

When Elmer's not at the hospital, he can be found at his second job at Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home where he works as a mortician. He calls it a privilege to be there for families during such a sad time in their lives. And on days when he's not working, Elmer is busy in his yard. Although he doesn't plan on retiring anytime soon, as a former waterman, he plans to go fishing, and to travel and volunteer at the hospital.

