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County Health Department Director

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas)

About My Job:

I have been with DOH-Pinellas since 1984, starting as an OPS pediatrician in the clinics. In 1990 I became the Assistant Director, then the Director in 2006. I will retire in 2015.

About Me:

As a medical student, I wanted to be a missionary. I wanted to go anywhere, except the United States because as the richest country in the world, I thought the United States must have excellent healthcare. Surely, they would have no need for a missionary.

When Kenneth, my husband, came to the U.S. to study, I came with him. Arriving in New York, I was shocked by the disparity in healthcare for the rich and healthcare for the poor. I had always wanted to be a missionary, so I became a missionary in the richest country in the world.

We came to Florida in the early 1980s, when I took a fellowship in pediatric intensive care at Shands Hospital in Gainesville. Before that, we lived in Michigan. I did not like the cold in Michigan, so when we came to Florida I told my husband we either stay here or go back to France! We have been here ever since.

I am married and we have three children and four grandchildren. My hobbies are travelling, ballroom dancing and, recently, babysitting.

My Vision:

1) To see all children reach their maximum health potential so they can live a productive, active and happy life; 2) To stop the number-one public health threat: chronic diseases related to poor lifestyle and behavior of poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, smoking, alcohol; 3) To have health care coverage and access to care for all Americans, including preventive care.

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