

National Rural Health Day



Community Star



NAME:

Mercy Health Love
County

LOCATION:

Marietta, Oklahoma

SUBMITTED BY:

Oklahoma Office of
Rural Health



Mercy Health/Love County Hospital and Clinic is a critical-access hospital serving Marietta and Love County in south-central Oklahoma. The hospital in Marietta has been quite nimble the past 25 years in recognizing and responding where the community's vital interests are concerned. Mr. Richard Barker, FACHE, is the state's longest-serving administrator. Barbara Sessions explains, "Our hospital is county-owned and attracts more citizen participants to the triennial health needs assessment than most any other rural hospital. These citizens advocate that the hospital be a leader in health, emergency, and social services to the community."

Marietta has worked to build a "health campus" to benefit the community and Love County, Oklahoma. The hospital put up a 2,200 square foot Social Services building one block south of the hospital's main entrance so that some important community organizations could remain in Marietta serving patients and the public. The new Social Service Building now houses the Love County Senior Program, Department of Human Services, and Love County System of Care. Community members believe the hospital is absolutely demonstrating their motto, 'small town hospital with the big heart,' by making a place for these vital services within the community.

Mercy Health Love County is an important Community Star to be honored on National Rural Health Day.