

Montgomery Family Trust Scholarship paying dividends to local community

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

"Healthy communities build a healthy nation. I strongly believe, nurses are

capable of revolutionizing the health care industry," stated Palacios area resident, Sanjay Abeyadeera as she was seeking a Montgomery Family Trust Scholarship several

years ago. Last Tuesday, she was at the Trull Foundation offices to share her story of receiving the scholarship and subsequently her Master's Degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner in May 2017.

In attendance were Charles Alcorn, Director of Advancement at the University of Houston and U of H College of Nursing Dean, Kathryn Tart, who were meeting with Colleen Clayborn of the Montgomery Family Trust to discuss how Mrs. Hazel Montgomery's generous scholarship is having an immediate impact on the quality of healthcare in Palacios as a result of the training Sanjay received at UH College of Nursing.

Sanjay, who is from Sri Lanka, stated that, after arriving in the U.S. in 1990, she completed her BSN in 1997 with a passion for community health nursing. She has worked in acute care and long-term care for the past 14 years with a focus on health

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SANJAY Abeyadeera recently completed her Master's Degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Houston with help from the Montgomery Family Trust Scholarship. (Beacon Photo by Alan Schulman)

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promotion and disease prevention, and now, after receiving her MSN from U of H Sugarland, would like to work with local physicians for several years to gain experience. After that she envisions herself educating patients and raising the level of healthcare awareness in the area. As for her work up to this point Ms. Abeyadeera stated, "I know for a fact, in my experience, I have influenced in a positive way, my patients, families, and even community leaders."

The University of Houston College of Nursing was founded in 2006 and boasts some pretty impressive statistics for student outcomes. Located primarily on the UH Sugarland campus, graduates had a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam for the second consecutive year, putting the College in the top 5% in the nation. Also, the pass rate on the national certification exam by Family Nurse Practitioner graduates was 100% for two consecutive years, and gradu-

ates of the MSN program have a 100% employment rate.

The University of Houston College of Nursing is seeking to transform itself and healthcare at an unprecedented rate, and to that end is offering scholarships to students in the area with the hope of elevating healthcare in our region and beyond through graduates like Sanjay Abeyadeera.