

LEADERSHIP IS NEXT

— **Mike Packnett**
PARKVIEW HEALTH



SOMETIMES FIRST JOBS LEAD TO LONG-TERM CAREERS, OTHER TIMES THEY ARE A LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME. LEARNING THAT LASTS A LIFETIME DESCRIBES THE PATH MIKE PACKNETT FOLLOWED BEFORE RETIRING AT THE END OF 2022 AS PARKVIEW HEALTH'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. HE SERVED IN THE POSITION MORE THAN 16 YEARS AND TODAY REMAINS COMMITTED TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY.



"In high school I worked as a housekeeper in my local Oklahoma hospital. I was a maintenance man in college," says Mike Packnett, who will be inducted into the Greater Fort Wayne Business Hall of Fame this year. "Those roles were especially helpful in building my understanding of people and the importance of everyone in the workplace and community."

After earning his degree in finance, Packnett took a job in the oil and gas industry. Ten years later, his move into health care occurred when he took a job in the finance department within the Sisters of Mercy health care system in St. Louis. "Through my first positions with the Sisters of Mercy system, I learned how important it was to hear each person and really listen to their ideas," he says. "It's the people around us who know what's happening and can show us opportunities for improvement."

With a Masters in Health Care Administration, he advanced into administration, then into his first CEO position at a hospital in Arkansas. "When I also discovered the theory of 'servant leadership' – the idea that as a leader, one is chief among equals, servant leadership and health care administration became the focus of everything I wanted to do," Packnett says.

In 2006, Packnett accepted the role of CEO at Parkview Health. "When I joined Parkview Health, my goal was to make everyone, in every position, feel part of the Parkview mission," he says. "I also wanted the system to further its ability to support the economic health of the community, which correlates to advancing personal health and well-being."

By the time he retired, Packnett's commitment to those goals had helped grow the system to more than 1,000 providers and 14,000 employees across 16 counties. Growth included opening Parkview Regional Medical Center and building the Parkview Cancer Institute. He says it was a privilege to bring out the greatness in others and watch every team member succeed. "I stayed at Parkview because of the people and relationships I developed," Packnett says. "It has been a great journey to bring people together to build the culture at Parkview and to accomplish so much within the community, as well."

Packnett has been actively involved with a variety of community and regional economic development organizations, too. He has served on the boards of Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, Northeast Indiana Regional Chamber, Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., Allen County-Fort Wayne Capital Improvement Board, State Chamber of Commerce, National Parks Foundation and Orlando Health.

Today he is also serving on the Love Fort Wayne board, a nonprofit organization bringing people together. One of its programs, School Connect, links several of Fort Wayne Community Schools with business, nonprofits and churches. "I believe in community revitalization and growth through strategic doing. And the most important aspect of that is how as a team working together within both the workplace and the community we can make a difference," Packnett says. "We can set our goals a little higher, encourage our emerging young leaders, and continue to impact the many lives in our 800,000 person region."

