

Winning Nomination For 2016 SA Business Journal Health Care Hero NP Noemi Scott

In 2001, single mother Noemi Scott had a good job, but she wanted more for herself and her daughter. So many nights after work, she would start her part-time job at H-E-B to earn extra money to pay for nursing school.

Today, Noemi Scott is a healthcare provider for WellMed at Great Northwest, one of the company's 25 senior-focused healthcare clinics in the Greater San Antonio area.

Scott's career with WellMed spans 15 years – a remarkable accomplishment in a dynamic, competitive healthcare market. Today, she is a trusted nurse practitioner highly regarded by her patients, her colleagues and WellMed leadership.

Scott worked her way up the ladder from patient care to supervisory positions. She is recognized as an emerging leader in the growing organization of more than 400 employed physicians and mid-level providers, supported by 3,000-plus staff.

Her journey started as a child. Noemi often accompanied her grandmother to doctor's appointments. She witnessed the thinly veiled disdain from nurses attending to her Spanish-speaking grandmother. Noemi knew then that she wanted to help patients in the same situation – those facing a language barrier and lacking financial resource, with little or no formal education.

Scott's first job was as medical assistant to Dr. Carlos Hernandez, now president of WellMed Medical Group, who encouraged her throughout her schooling. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2010 from the **UT Health Science Center at San Antonio** and was promoted to supervisor of WellMed's newly launched cardiology department. During her tenure as clinic supervisor, Scott was instrumental in obtaining accreditation for the nuclear lab and echocardiogram lab – critical steps to improving patient access to much-needed cardiology services.

In 2015, Scott graduated from the UT Health Science Center's Family Nurse Practitioner Program. She made a move yet again, this time to join WellMed at Great Northwest as a healthcare provider.

Today, Scott is beloved by her patients, most of whom are elderly, medically frail, and at or below the poverty level. Some patients from her days as a MA have not forgotten the kindness and respect she showed them, and how she went above and beyond to help them pick up their medications or just listen to their personal problems when they had no one else to turn to. Some call to wish her a happy birthday or just to share updates about their families. Two patients even attended her daughter's high school graduation.

Noemi is also an inspiration to others. She received four emails just this month from MAs and LVNs at WellMed who want to know more about how she grew in her career. She gives them the same advice that she once received as a young woman. "You can come up with a thousand reasons why you can't do something, but it always comes down to, 'How badly do you want it?'"

NP Scott's future plans include pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice. Her daughter is attending college as a biology major, with plans to enter pre-med.

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