

“Thank a Lifesaver” Initiative as it Relates to Wellbeing

Authors: Jennifer Goebel, D.O and Jessica Sidle, PA-C

Background

- Huntington Hospital has been instrumental in developing initiatives to improve the wellbeing of its staff and improve patient satisfaction.
- The "Thank a Lifesaver" project is an initiative designed to allow healthcare professionals and community members to meet patients whose lives were saved in the Emergency Department (ED).

Objectives

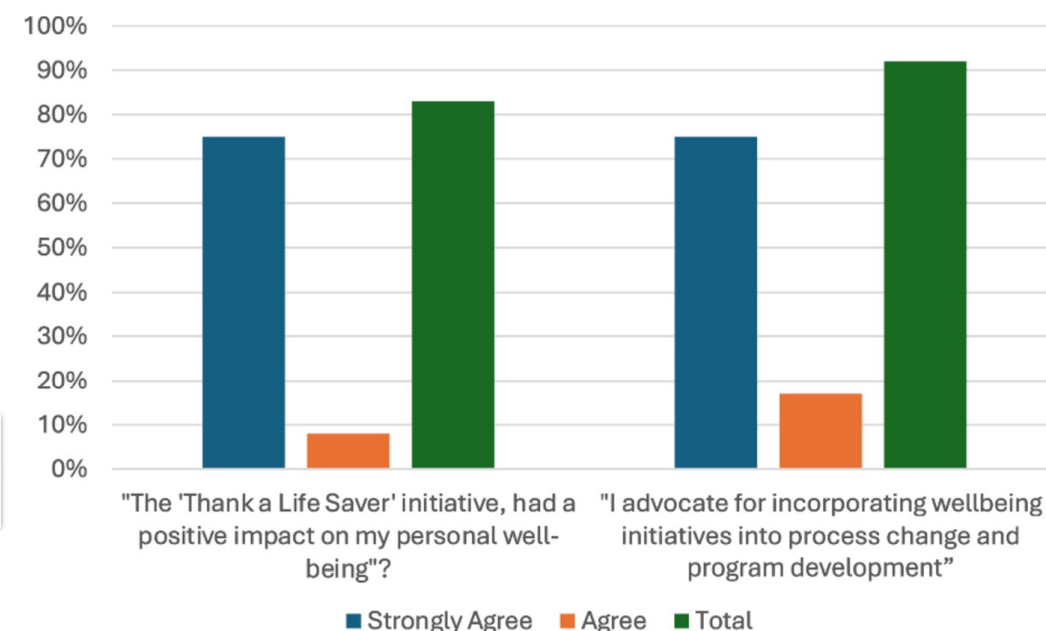
- Provide staff with the opportunity to see the profound impact of their work by fostering emotional connections between healthcare teams and patients.
- Allow patients to express gratitude.
- Help alleviate stress, reduce burnout, and enhance staff morale by demonstrating the tangible outcomes of their efforts.

Methods

A 2-question survey was circulated after the event.

- How likely are you to agree with the following statement: "The 'Thank a Life Saver' initiative, sponsored by the Wellness Committee, had a positive impact on my personal well-being"?
- The purpose of the initiative was for the wellbeing of our staff. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "I advocate for incorporating wellbeing initiatives into process change and program development."

Results/Outcomes



Testimonials

The testimonials were heartfelt and positive.

“Incredibly inspiring event, truly filled my heart with joy to hear her story and how everyone in her life and in the hospital helped to save her life.”

“Exceptional care and collaboration amongst all disciplines to care for them.”

“It was an amazing story.”

“This event validate(d) the reason why I went into healthcare.”

Conclusions

- The "Thank a Lifesaver" project is a powerful initiative that can significantly improve both staff and patient wellbeing.
- These events help bridge the emotional gap between staff and patients, allowing staff to see the impact of their work.

Importance of the “Thank a LifeSaver” Initiative for Physician Assistants

- Enhancing Professional Satisfaction:** Witnessing the tangible impact of their efforts through patient gratitude strengthens the PAs' sense of purpose and validates their choice to work in healthcare, leading to improved job satisfaction.
- Team Cohesion and Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** These events celebrate the collaborative efforts of the entire healthcare team, including PAs. They encourage stronger bonds among team members, improving communication and teamwork.
- Advocacy for Wellbeing Initiatives:** The success of this project highlights the importance of institutional support for wellbeing initiatives, empowering PAs to advocate for similar programs in their workplaces.
- Fostering a Culture of Gratitude:** By highlighting gratitude as a cornerstone of healthcare interactions, the project encourages PAs to incorporate this culture into their practice, improving relationships with patients and colleagues.