

Tammy Quattrochi, aka Mrs. Claus, hugs Heather Owens at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital H-E-B on Tuesday. (Photo S-T/Ron T. Ennis)

Nurse is "Mrs. Claus" to brighten patients' day

by Jan Jarvis jjarvis@star-telegram.com

Mrs. Claus, otherwise known as Tammy Quattrochi, played Santa on Tuesday when she dressed up and delivered gifts to cancer patients at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital H-E-B in Bedford.

Quattrochi, who has worked at the hospital for nine years, was recently named Oncology Nurse of the Year by Cancer Care Serives of Fort Worth. She used most of the \$400 she received in prize money to buy gifts for patients who would be hospitalized during the holidays.

"I didn't want to spend the money on something frivolous," she said. "I wanted to put a smile on people's faces by giving them a present."

Quattrochi distributed blankets, socks, cookies and candy to 13 patients.

Ella Hunt, 80, was thrilled by Quattrochi's generosity. "It was so nice of her to use her own money to buy me a Christmas present," said Hunt, of Hurst.

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Check out the Blogspot at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford http://texashealthheb.blogspot.com/2009/12/bringing-christmas-to-cancer-patients.html