

INTEGRIS Wacky Hospital Bed Races

Submitted by Alex Joseph, Digital Marketing Specialist, OPUBCO



If you were driving down NW Expressway past the [INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center](#) in Oklahoma City last Friday during lunch time (say that five times fast), I'm honestly surprised you didn't crash. Clear as day from the highway, hundreds of [INTEGRIS Health](#) employees were packed into the IBMC east-side parking lot to enjoy an afternoon of Wacky Hospital Bed Races - the first of its kind at INTEGRIS. Though the event was closed to the public, pulling over on the highway and enjoying the event from a distance was definitely on the table.

The lanes were divided on the asphalt course so two teams could race every five minutes. There were four pushers and one rider; 40 teams raced in total, which means at least 200 INTEGRIS Health employees signed up to compete. Since there were so many teams, this was strictly a timed competition; head-to-head competition wasn't necessary - unless, of course, you were one of the two teams representing [INTEGRIS Mental Health](#). These two teams were going so hard at each other that they lost control and collided near the finish line.



Being a part of the event instead of watching from the highway had to be the better option. Not only were you close to the action, you also had your choice of lunch from various OKC food trucks, such as: [Big Truck Tacos](#), [Kona Ice](#), [Crepe Brewers](#), and [Taste of Soul Chicken and Waffle](#). If you were smart you ate early and *then* enjoyed the rest of the festivities. Here's what the Big Truck Tacos line looked like about 30 minutes into the event:



If you were eating your lunch or just looking for a nice spot to sit, tables were lined close to the stage where Good Company set-up shop for two hours. Good Company is a cover band that was playing an array of hits, from Aretha Franklin's "Respect" to "Twist and Shout" - made popular by both The Isley Brothers and The Beatles.



What's that in front of the stage, you ask? Why would we ask that because they are clearly trophies, you say? Well, touche. Three trophies were handed out to the teams with the best time:

- 1) First Place – Rockin' Mop Heads with a time of 24.64 seconds.**
- 2) Second Place – Southside Pushers with a time of 25.20 seconds**
- 3) Third Place – Surgery Speeding Bullets with a time of 25.50 seconds.**

Trophies may be the ultimate sign of victory, but three additional prizes were given out for "Best Costumes," "Best Team Spirit," and "Best Effort." Did I forget to mention that teams were encouraged to dress up for this? Here were a few of my favorites from the day:





The Wacky Hospital Bed Races event was a big success, and not only because of the cool costumes and tasty tacos. This was the grand finale event for INTEGRIS's Internal United Way fundraiser campaign - aptly named the "INTEGRIS Amazing United Race" - and their fundraiser goal was met and exceeded. Hardy Watkins, INTEGRIS Vice President of Marketing and Communications, shared with me that over \$420,000 was raised during their fundraiser campaign. INTEGRIS is a Pacesetter Company for United Way representing its health care sector, so the money raised by INTEGRIS will be coupled with the money raised by approximately 80 other Pacesetter companies across central Oklahoma.

I had a great time, and I assume this is just the beginning; I look forward to what Wacky Hospital Bed Races becomes in the future.

For more pictures and videos from the event, check out this [Flickr](#) album.