East Bay
Rehabilitation Center

Nate Gittner

Administrator

"Nate Gittner's heart is one of a leader and evidenced through service to others."

To Administrator Nate Gittner, exceptional patient care experience is about making a human connection. It's being mindful of each patient, creating an atmosphere of respect and courtesy, listening and responding to concerns, and providing clear communication about the delivery of care.

What's more, he works to reinforce standards that all staff can acknowledge and recognize. By putting everyone on the same page of what constitutes as exceptional care, patient satisfaction can soar.

A bachelor's degree in health administration from the University of Central Florida and serving as an assistant administrator, gave him business fundamentals. However, most of his working values come from his parents and grandparents. Growing up the son of an Air Force Chaplin, and being taught the basic lessons of "doing right" by your fellow man, Nate feels blessed.

Being surrounded by military life, church, and family, Nate would see the value in dedication. "My grandparents were married just shy of 75 years," he says. "I hope to follow in their footsteps."

Through selfless examples of his elders, those early experiences prepared his heart for people, opened his ears for concerns, and improved his ability to serve others.

One of his earliest job duties was working to assist certified nursing assistants in a hospital's intensive care area. "This is where I learned that no task is beneath me, and I became better able to approach human vulnerability and frailty," says Nate.

As he walks the halls of East Bay, he's sensitive to the needs of caretakers and nursing assistants. "I am here to see that no staff member is lacking in supplies or support so that their only job concern is patient comfort and security…and I want to ensure that we have a home-like environment that is seen and heard."

Being others-focused instead of self-focused, Nate has a wide breadth of view. At home and at church, lessons about living in a selfless manner shaped him.

Throughout high school and college, Nate was rescuing people as a trained and certified Ocean Rescue Lifeguard and would patrol beach areas and bring others out of dangerous situations. Even though he would save hundreds of people from hazards, he put himself in harm's way and tore his shoulder's labrum tendon during training for a life-saving mission. The injury required surgery and rehab. Instead of having regrets, he moves forward to serve.

Wanting to be of service, Nate became Florida's Young Adult advisory for the Presbyterian Church, which builds community and trains delegates for work ahead. He and his wife also led worship service for two years at his father's place of ministry in Port Orange, Florida.

Regarding his career, his background, education, and experience, Nate makes for an exceptional leader and one who serves from the heart.