



# HILLCREEK

REHABILITATION AND CARE



## *Meet Denis*

### RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

My passion for healthcare and especially for Respiratory Care, comes from my father.

From the moment he was diagnosed with very aggressive form of laryngeal cancer, I have always tried to be involved with his care in order to create a better, more positive experience for him.

After the war ravaged my home country Bosnia and Herzegovina, I moved to Louisville in 2001 with my parents. I held various entry level jobs while studying English at local community college. After completing three levels of English as a Second Language program, I started working as a Nursing Assistant at the local hospital. Few years later, I studied for a AAS degree in 'Advanced Respiratory Care' at Jefferson Community College, and I graduated in 2010.

Working with patients as a Respiratory Therapist in the Emergency Room, ICU, CCU and Open-Heart Unit for several years, helped me discover my True North. Since that moment I have known that I am on an endless journey to becoming a 'Servant Leader'.

In 2015, I graduated with BS in Health Science and the 'University Recognition Award for Academic Excellence' award, from Northern Kentucky University. This was also the year I started teaching Respiratory Therapy related classes at Sullivan University.

I enjoy guiding students through the process of detailed assessment, analyzing clinical data, utilizing critical thinking skills and finally determining the right treatment plan for the patient.

I believe being a Respiratory Therapist is one of the most rewarding experiences anyone can have. To see several different skills and multiple pieces of data and assessments slowly develop into a successful treatment of the patient condition, improvement in their daily living and quality of their life, is almost magical!

The simple act of caring for someone, physically and emotionally, brings me endless satisfaction.