

## Sunshine from Freddie the Janitor

Hospitals are filled with important and necessary people who save and change lives every day. But it's not always the doctors and nurses who find their way into that role.



One of those people, according to WSM television in Nashville, is Freddie Wiggins. When he signed up as a janitor at St. Thomas Hospital in 1980, they gave him a mop and said he should do his best to keep the place clean.

Now, 37 years and many mops later, what he has been picking up is the mood of the people he sees every day. Freddie Wiggins is the sunshine of St. Thomas. "I make them happy; they make me happy," he said.

His way is to soothe the patients, staff and visitors on their cloudy day. The mop is just a prop.

"Good morning, young lady. Find everything okay? Have a blessed day. Good morning. Thank you" – these are some of the things Wiggins tells people he bumps into.

The hospital considers Wiggins their ambassador, assigned to the first floor and often the first face visitors will see. "He's never in a bad mood, always the same every day," said Judy Kendall, a nurse at St. Thomas. "I'd love to just have a piece of his positivity."

Wiggins explains it this way: "When you say 'young lady, young man,' people say, 'Thank you. I haven't heard that in a long time.' They don't remember what you say. They don't remember what you do, but they always remember by the way you make them feel."

People ask him why he doesn't serve as a Walmart greeter. "I'm a people person greeter. Everyone is important. I try to put everyone on the same pedestal 'cause nobody's different. We're all on the same path."



Freddie the janitor proves that every person in Life Care and Century Park – no matter what his or her job – can influence for good every person encountered, putting a smile on every face.

There is power in that positivity.

*The light of the eyes rejoices the heart (Proverbs 15:30 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter