Photo finish: Gaining a fresh perspective

For more than 24 years, Deborah Milburn, CMPE, administrator, Dublin Primary Care, Colorado Springs, Colo., has managed medical practices. She spends her days managing office staff, and she chronicles her free time with photographs.

“I’ve always been the one to take the Christmas, Easter pictures and baby pictures,” Milburn explains. “I’ve always enjoyed capturing the history and the moment.”

That enjoyment bloomed into a hobby and a passion about 10 years ago when she got her first digital camera. Milburn is still the go-to family photographer and now enjoys travel photography as well. “When we go places, I’m just trying to tell the story of what we’re experiencing.”

Telling stories through pictures has kept Milburn’s interest in photography strong. “The camera can capture a lot,” she says. “You really start to be more aware of the lighting,” she adds. Explaining that our eye sees things one way and the camera shows it another way, Milburn says, “Once you’ve been taking pictures long enough, you begin to understand what the camera will do, so you start to look at things differently.”

Travel photography offers variety, and although Milburn says some of her favorite places to shoot are national parks, she has gained an appreciation for photographing everyday subjects, like street scenes and portraits.

“It’s fun to capture someone’s true essence,” she explains. “Not just that canned smile, but you see that little giggle and the light in their eye, and when someone else sees that shot, they say, ‘Oh, that is that person!’”

To capture that true essence, though, requires patience. “The only way to facilitate that, in my opinion, is in quantity,” she says. “So when we go out, some of the time you get the ‘cheese’ smile, and then they finally get bored with it, and that’s when you’re going to get your better pictures.”

With two growing grandchildren, Milburn has regular subjects, and she has gotten an increasing number of requests from friends to take family photos.

Photography has provided a creative outlet that offsets her work in clinical management. “It gives you a little bit more of an observant eye, so you might be able to pick up on things that you might otherwise have blown by,” she notes. “I watch people — I think that’s fun — and you can catch their expressions. And their expressions will tell you honestly what their words won’t.”

By Amber Taufen, MA

FEATURED MEMBER
Deborah Milburn, CMPE, administrator, Dublin Primary Care, Colorado Springs, Colo.

©2013 MGMA-ACMPE. All rights reserved.