By Carolyn Lee
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After 13 years as an occupational therapist for Imperial Manor and Chase County Community Hospital (CCCH), Robert Killorin is moving on. His last visit to Imperial was Dec. 31.

Killorin is moving to the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina to be closer to his 90-year old mother, who just retired from the Peace Corps.

He plans to continue as an occupational therapist there.

There are three disciplines for rehabilitation, Killorin said—physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

What he tries to give to his patients, Killorin said, is “I generally try to make them as independent and safe as possible, depending on what level they’re at.”

He uses adaptable machinery or techniques to help them return to the activities of daily living. That includes regaining strength, hand therapy and working with equipment such as wheelchairs.

The Westminster, Colo., resident enjoys his profession. “I love the fact that I can get to know a patient on a personal basis and work to achieve their goals,” he said. “I want them to get better whether they’re going home or moving to a nursing home.”

Just as he plans to continue working, Killorin plans to continue to run in the Senior Olympics. He has qualified for four years, and placed fourth in the nation in the 5K run in Houston in 2011.

Killorin generally spent three days in Imperial.

He is being replaced by Amy Kloess of North Platte. Her first day in Imperial was Monday.