

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

pulse



www.lodihealth.org
www.lmhemployees.org

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Visitor restrictions enacted

Due to the H1N1 virus and the great harm it can cause patients, staff and visitors, this week LMH will begin enforcing stronger visitor restrictions. Children 16 and under will not be allowed in the hospital. Other hospitals joining this effort include St. Joes, Dameron, SJ County General and Doctors Hospital in Manteca. Patients will only be allowed two visitors at time. Each visitor must wash or gel their hands upon entering the hospital and upon entering and exiting a patient's room. Visitors who are feeling ill or who are pregnant will be asked not to visit the hospital. LMH recognizes the value loved ones play in the healing process, but due to the severity of H1N1, these restrictions will be in place until the end of the flu season, which may be as far away as April or May. Exceptions will be made for end-of-life circumstances, and visitors will be asked to check with the patient's nurse for approval. The best thing all community members can do to protect themselves is to seek the vaccine. Stork tours and big brother, big sister classes have been cancelled indefinitely. The hospital's junior-volunteer program, which includes 100 local students, has been put on hiatus, as has the ROP program. As a result, the Nov. 12 junior-volunteer orientation has been cancelled. LMH also postponed its intentions of a South Wing community celebration and open house planned for the end of January. That may take place in May in conjunction with the foundation's "Walk for the Health of It." Stay tuned for greater specifics on LMH visitor restrictions, *(Mark Sey, ext. 7428)*.

Daisy Award goes to Mary



Night-shift third-floor med/surg charge nurse Mary Bender, RN, was honored last week as LMH's most recent recipient of the Daisy Award. Daisy Awardees are nominated by their peers, and here's what some of Mary's peers had to say about her: Her spirit and smile are infectious. Mary is always ready to

assist any nurse, always putting patient care and safety first. Mary makes herself available during high census and staffing shortages. Mary is kind, especially in teaching and assisting new nurses. No matter what the task or challenge offered, Mary steps up to the plate and addresses whatever needs addressing. As a med/surg charge nurse, she does what needs to be done with smile on her face and gentleness in her nature and touch. Congratulations, Mary, *(Glenda Concepcion, ext. 7519)*.

Key's in hand?

If you've been counting days on the SWING calendar, today is the expected date for the big key turn over. What that means is that the contractors have finished the construction and finish work, and it's all in LMH's hands so the stocking and readying can begin for a Dec. 21 start date. Stay tuned for more, but bless each and everyone on the construction team for all the heart and respect they put into each step of the construction. Our neighbors very much appreciated them, too, *(Joe Harrington, ext. 7560)*.

H1N1 vaccine arrives

Last Friday LMH received its first shipment of H1N1 vaccine for employees. Times and locations to get the vaccine will be available shortly, *(Sandy Atwater, ext. 7555)*.

Best Places results are in

Thanks to all employees who completed the Best Places to Work employee survey earlier this year. The results are in to this national survey, where LMH rated among the top 100 places to work in 2008. While LMH did not make the top 100 in this last survey, we placed in the average range. The findings indicated the most improvement that was needed was in the pay and benefits arenas. This was, unfortunately, no surprise, based on the financial-action plan the hospital put into place this summer because of the impact on LMH from the economic downturn. LMH has been working on a new plan for pay and benefits and hopes to roll that out shortly. LMH will also look at opportunities for improvement in other areas of the employee-survey findings following the enactment to the pay and benefits plan. Directors, managers and supervisors will be sharing the employee-survey results with their staffs. Thanks, again, to those who took the survey. And, once again, LMH rated highest in the pride our staffers take in working here, *(Joe Harrington, ext. 7560)*.

TCU awarded best practice again

The LMH Transitional Care Unit is the proud recipient of a 2009 Best Practice Award from the California Hospital Association for its submission, "Got Wounds... We've Got the Fix!" This award was given to TCU for its standardized, check-box, easy-to-use physician wound-care orders – developed to assist physicians in writing complete orders with clear instructions for nursing treatment follow-through. Of more than 30 best-practice submissions, only three projects were selected to receive awards. This is TCU's sixth best-practice award since 2004, *(Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181)*.

Wound center observes 1,000 "dives"



Front row, L-R, Susan Williams, Gloria Cazares, Craig Becker, Robin Ingersoll; back row, L-R, Mia Washington, Susan Goad, Juana Cabrera, Harvey Hashimoto, MD, and medical director.

The Lodi Memorial Hospital Wound Treatment Center is pleased to announce the celebration of successfully completing 1,000 hyperbaric treatments (dives) on Thurs., Oct. 29. Introduced in the mid-1960s, hyperbaric-oxygen (HBO) chambers have evolved to treat patients suffering from diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, infections, compromised skin grafts and flaps and wounds that haven't healed within 30 days. Weighing more than one ton each, the HBO chambers resemble a reclining bed encased in a clear acrylic shell, nearly a yard in diameter. HBO is a medical treatment that increases the amount of oxygen in the patient's blood by surrounding them with 100-percent oxygen at higher-than-normal atmospheric pressure in sessions or "dives." Increasing the amount of oxygen in the patient's blood allows red blood cells to pass more easily through the plasma into the wounds to heal them from the inside out. Every wound has its unique set of circumstances. The Wound Treatment Center is staffed with a team of doctors, nurses and staff all dedicated to healing chronic wounds. It is located at 2415 W. Vine St., Ste. 106, and staff can be reached at 333-3066, (Susan Goad, ext. 2902).

Staff offered Thanksgiving feast

Complimentary breakfast, lunch or dinner will be offered to those staff who work the Thanksgiving holiday. A traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served during lunch and dinner. Hours are 6-10a, breakfast, 11a-2p, lunch, and 4-9p, dinner (extended for the night shift). Guests may also attend for \$7.50 for adults and \$3.75 for children, (Becky Olvera, ext. 7597).

Save these dates

- Tues., Dec. 8 – Employee Holiday Breakfast, 6:30-9:30a, main-campus dining room, and 7-9a at the West-campus dining room.
- Wed., Dec. 9 – Physicians' Holiday Breakfast, 7-9a, main-campus dining room.
- Fri., Jan. 22 – Employee Awards Dinner, 5:30-11p, Hutchins Street Square.

See's sells at LMH

See's Candies will be at LMH selling at discount prices on Fri., Dec. 4, from 11a-4p, in Classroom A. Those LMHers who wish to purchase candy prior to that date can stop by the discount store, 1108 E. Hammer Ln., Stockton. Staff must show their LMH employee IDs to receive a discount, (Tina Vincelet, ext. 7386).

Do good this holiday season

Local community organizations are seeking the help of LMH employees interested in participating in upcoming holiday drives. Please see the LMH employee-electronic-bulletin board (EEBB), www.lmhemployees.org, for details on these opportunities. Information is placed under "Events," then "Stuff Going on at LMH." As more requests are submitted by organizations, they will be added to the EEBB. By making a donation this holiday season, you can make a wish come true for a disadvantaged Lodi-area child or help other needy community members. Thank you for your support, (Mary Hicks, ext. 7970).

TCU collects coats for kids

"Pay it forward" with TCU by participating in its annual News 10 Coats for Kids drive. From now until Dec. 15, TCU will collect new and gently used coats. Collection boxes have been set up in the lobbies of both campuses. Coats collected are distributed in Lodi through the Salvation Army. While kids' coats are particularly needed, adult coats are also welcome. With the downturn in the economy, this has been a difficult year for many families. Join TCU in helping to keep Lodi warm this winter, (Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181).

Put old cell phones to back into use

If you're like most people, you probably have at least one old cell phone laying around the house collecting dust. If you do, please consider donating that old cell phone to the San Joaquin County Human Services Agency. The agency will convert them to FREE 9-1-1 Safety Cell Phones for victims of abuse and for seniors. The Safety Cell Phone program rejuvenates old cell phones to place them back into service for 9-1-1 emergency calls only. They will replace dead batteries, provide lost electrical chargers or whatever is necessary to get your old phone functional for a senior or victim of abuse. Please bring your old cell phone, charger, etc., to the Administration Office any time over the next three weeks, and LMH will get them to the Human Services Agency on your behalf. If the old phone has a memory card, please remove the card before donating your phone. Old phones can be lifesavers for senior or victims of abuse. Please donate yours today, (Mark Sey, ext. 7439).

Way to go, Mari



Congratulations to Mari Hermann, RN, BSN, from Utilization Management, who recently completed her bachelor's degree at University of Phoenix. Mari's commitment to nursing excellence is demonstrated by her efforts to continue her education. Way to go, Mari, (Mary Lou Jenkins, ext. 7615).