

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010

# pulse



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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

## **Annual meeting set for Apr. 21**

The LMH Association owns the hospital and has since the non-profit group formed on Dec. 7, 1945. Membership is open to anyone for a one-time, lifetime fee of \$100. In addition to becoming an owner of LMH, the rights of membership include the employee-discount rate at West Fitness and a 20-percent discount in the hospital dining rooms. More than 1,400 staff, physicians and community members are current members. Association members participate in the annual election of board members who represent the membership on the LMH Board of Directors. Association members need to advise Community Development when they change addresses so they can continue to receive their annual ballots. Members are also invited to attend an annual meeting where election results are announced and a state-of-the-hospital report is offered by LMH President and CEO Joe Harrington. The association is not a fund-raising group; their sole purpose is to own and direct the hospital. Employees, physicians, volunteers and community members interested in joining can check out the LMH web site, [www.lodihealth.org](http://www.lodihealth.org), for an application. For paper applications, call or stop by the LMH Community Development Department. Employees can join via payroll deduction. This year's meeting will be held at Wine & Roses Country Inn, on Wed., Apr. 21, 6p. Tickets go on sale Mar. 8, at \$35 per member, and \$45 for non-members, through Apr. 9. Mary Hicks in Community Development will sell tickets, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

## **Outreach clinic named for stellar doc**

The newly named Walter E. Reiss Outreach Clinic opened for business on Feb. 22, at a new location, 300 W. Oak St., in the Lodi office of the San Joaquin County Department of Public Health. The San Joaquin County Department of Public Health Services has joined LMH in a collaborative relationship to better serve the needs of the community; especially the uninsured population. Previously located at the Salvation Army, since 1996, the clinic continues to see the uninsured and is staffed by local community providers. Deb McCarthy, RN, continues as the clinic manager, and Catherine Hernandez is the medical-office coordinator. Many thanks to the local Salvation Army for their years of providing space and resources to see patients in need. Congratulations to a great team who made this move a reality, (Pam Schneider, ext. 7450).

## **Tell your story**



Join LMH staff, physicians and volunteers as they share a brief overview of their roles at LMH and their life outside LMH. Take a look at their posted profiles in the corridor just to the south of the South Wing lobby. For those interested in participating and completing a profile to be posted in the corridor, contact Mary Hicks in Community Development, ext. 5170, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

## **ICU zaps VAP**

Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) has a mortality rate of 24-50 percent. In 2008, eight LMH ICU patients developed VAP, which gave LMH a rate of 11.1 VAPs per 1,000 ventilator days. ICU performed root-cause analyses on three of the cases and made practice changes to zap the VAP rate to zero. LMH was already doing a lot of things right – using CASS (continuous aspiration of subglottic secretions) endotracheal tubes; addressing the bundles recommended by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement for ventilator patients at daily multidisciplinary rounds with an intensivist; and doing frequent mouth care with SAGE oral kits. In conjunction with John Connolly, MD, and the LMH Respiratory Therapy Department, ICU conducted an intensive-education campaign on keeping every ventilator patient's head elevated to 30 degrees; changed to a new type of respiratory-heat circuit; developed a process where we discuss proactively tracheating patients who cannot be extubated quickly; and raised awareness of the huge mortality rate of VAPs. Dr. Connolly and ICU educator Maureen McCaffrey are part of the review process to ensure we take the clinical picture of the patient into account, and we discuss VAP concurrently during daily multidisciplinary rounds. From October 2008 to December 2009, ICU had zero VAPs. Congratulations to ICU on a phenomenal job at zapping VAPs, (Becky Sanders, ext. 7592).

## Additional art is up in South Wing



*"Pines and Rocks" by Claire Oak*

An additional 26 pieces of original artwork were installed last week in the new South Wing, including some new artists' work. The new art is now available for sponsorship. Take a look at the beautiful art, and contact Carol

Farron or Mary Hicks in Community Development, ext. 5170, if you have questions or are interested in sponsoring a piece, (*Mary Hicks, ext. 5170*).

## Celebrate social-work month



*Graffigna*



*Popowski*



*Seefried*



*Denham*



*Martinez*



*Siddle*

March is National Social Work Month, and LMH has a very active social-work team. Coverage is provided M-F, from 8a-6p, in all areas, including ICU, PTU, OB, PRU, TCU, home health and the ED. Coverage is also provided for high-risk patients at the LMH OB clinics in Lodi and Galt. The social workers spend their time problem solving to assist with patient/family coping, difficult decisions and accessing resources so patients can function at home. Thanks to all LMH staff for being so supportive in working with the social workers. If you see

them, please thank Sharon Graffigna, Becky Popowski, Erica Seefried, Emily Denham, Sue Ann Martinez and Kathryn Siddle for all they do, (*Valerie Cronin, ext. 7480*).

## Vendor-payment system pays off

The LMH Finance Department is pleased to announce a new vendor-payment process that earns revenue for LMH. Beginning in October, 2009, accounts payable began processing selected vendors using Control Pay Advanced through Commerce Bank. This new Visa operation pays vendors electronically without the need of printing a paper check, while at the same time earning a rebate. The procedure is running smoothly, yielding \$10,309.76 in revenue to date, (*Diane Wilbur, ext. 7318*).

## Don't miss Wellness Day

Just a reminder that Wellness Day 2010 is set for Tues., Mar. 9, 7:30a-1p, in the Healing Garden, weather permitting. If rain is expected, Wellness Day will be held in the third-floor atrium in the South Wing. Hope to see you there, (*Chad Edwards, ext. 7137*).

## Gift shop offers new items



The gift shop now offers a selection of locally crafted jewelry. It is handmade and of amazing quality. There is a wide selection of necklaces, earrings and bracelets from which to choose, but quantities are limited. Those looking for a piece of jewelry for a special occasion should stop by soon to see what the gift shop has to offer, (*Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616*).

## Show LMH's spear-it

LMH seeks volunteers to work the deep-fry booth at the Asparagus Festival on Apr. 23, 24 and 25. Available shifts are Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8:30a-2:30p, or 2:30-7:30p. The shift for Friday is 2:30-7:30p. Stockton Delta Rotary will donate funds to LMH for each volunteer who works. Please stop by HR by Mar. 26 to volunteer for a day of fun, (*Judi Simon, ext. 7443*).

## "Walk" set for May

This year's Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation's "Walk for the Health of It" will be held on Sat., May 8, at 9a, at LMH. The "walk" features a 5K timed walk, a 5K timed run, a one-mile student "fun run," a one-mile walk and roll (for wheelchairs and those with strollers) and a 5-K poker walk. Other activities include a health fair, refreshments and plenty of local entertainment. The "walk" seeks local entertainment to amuse walkers along the 5K-walk route. We are looking for dance groups, jugglers, singers, musicians, etc., to perform from 9-10:30a. Those interested should call Donna Shaw, 339-7582. More than \$1 million have been raised in the foundation's 20-year history to provide funds for equipment and services at LMH, including fetal monitors and infant warmers for OB, x-ray units for diagnostic imaging, treadmills and equipment for the West Fitness Center and support for over 25 departments. We have also provided scholarships for seniors at Adult Cay Care and support for the LMH Outreach Clinic (now the Walter E. Reiss Outreach Clinic). For more information about the "walk," visit the foundation's website, [www.lmhfoundation.org](http://www.lmhfoundation.org), (*Donna Shaw, ext. 7582*).

## Camp kids help Haiti

The children at Camp Hutchins raised \$232 by donating their loose change and pennies to the Red Cross for the people of Haiti. The children were very proud of their contribution to help these people in need. Many thanks to all the parents for their encouragement and donations, as well, (*Jillian DeGagne, 334-2267*).

## Check out electronic-bulletin board

Those who haven't had a chance to visit LMH's employee electronic bulletin board are encouraged to do so at [www.lmhemployees.org](http://www.lmhemployees.org). It's updated regularly. Submit items to [moderator@lodihealth.org](mailto:moderator@lodihealth.org).