

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

pulse



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

A warm thank you to all

When Joe Harrington hired me over two years ago to come to LMH as the chief-nursing officer, I thought I had landed the job of a lifetime. Two years later I know I was right! Lodi Memorial Hospital is one of the finest hospitals I've ever worked in. I have enjoyed the collaborative spirit and the strong commitment to service excellence and quality patient care. I am very proud of the many achievements we have accomplished together and am so excited for all of you as you continue down the road to the new South Wing. I want to thank each and every one of you who have offered your support to me in my role over the past couple of years. I will be relocating to Willcox, AZ, to be closer to my mother and have accepted a job as the chief-nursing officer at the Northern Cochise Community Hospital there. It has been such a privilege to work here. Keep up the outstanding work that you do everyday, and, remember, it is ALL about the patient. That is why we do this work. And, as you keep going down your own personal and professional paths, please remember to keep "Paying it Forward." We all have so much to be grateful for, and it's so easy to do. You will never quit reaping the benefits. So until our paths cross again, please take good care of yourselves and this hospital. Lots of good luck to you all, I will miss you very much, (*Judy Begley, ext. 7507*).

Patient safety, comfort enhanced

On June 24 LMH received 43 new, Hill-Rom Versacare beds and four Hill-Rom Total Care Sport Beds. This Versacare-bed purchase completes a three-year capital commitment to provide the safest beds for all LMH patients. These beds help minimize patient falls, have advanced bed-exiting-alarm capability and turn-assist functionality to help save staff's backs. The beds were delivered to enthusiastic staff in med-surg, TCU and PRU-care areas. The Total Care Sport beds were delivered to ICU. In addition to the features of the Versacare beds, they possess enhanced technology to provide continuous, lateral-rotation therapy and vibration and percussion therapies to aid in the prevention and treatment of pulmonary complications associated with immobility. They also possess full-chair egress and head-of-bed alarms to assist compliance with pneumonia protocols. Thank you all on making the bed deployment an easy task. And, once again, thanks to LMH for this safety commitment during challenging financial times, (*Mark Sey, ext. 7439*).

Dress code updated

With temperatures soaring over 100 degrees, the dress-code policy has been updated. All clothing worn by hospital employees must be neat, clean, pressed and appropriate for professional work. Professional attire now includes ankle and mid-calf business pants. Tank tops may be worn under sweaters and/or jackets only. Hosiery does not have to be worn with pants; however, hosiery must be worn at all times with skirts and dresses. Those with questions should contact the human-resources department, (*Judi Simon, ext. 7443*).

NFS pays it forward

The LMH Nutrition and Food Services Department has stepped in to help the LOEL Center by providing hot lunches for the senior-nutrition program. The center lost their contracted service that provided meals for them. So far LMH has provided 150 meals for seniors who eat at the LOEL Center daily, (*Becky Olvera, ext. 7597*).

ADC and Camp Hutchins shine

The LMH Adult-Day-Care program received in June the Compliance-Monitoring Report from the Department of Aging. The report found the programmatic and fiscal responsibilities in full compliance – with no recommendations. On June 5, the Department of Social Services, Community-Care Licensing, made a surprise visit to Camp Hutchins. After four hours going through the program and records, they could not find one single thing out of order and gave Camp Hutchins an "A." Job well done, team, (*Terri Whitmire, 369-4443*).

LMH welcomes Debbie George



The hospital's community-development department welcomes new staffer Debbie George who will serve as the department's assistant. Debbie comes to LMH after many years in the real-estate industry. The slump in that market prompted her to come over to the hospital side. Debbie has a soft spot in her heart for LMH as her husband, Bill, was an inpatient at east and an outpatient at west. Debbie was very impressed with the care he received. He's now the picture of health, and in their spare time the Wallace residents ride their Harleys, (*Carol Farron, ext. 7535*).

Foundation debuts website

Those who haven't yet had a chance to check out the LMH Foundation's new website, www.lmhfoundation.org, are encouraged to do so. Donations to the foundation can now be made on-line. There are photos of the South-Wing topping-out ceremony and last year's Summer Fest. The site also features a "Walk" video (see if you can spot other employees), a list of participating Summer Fest restaurants/caterers and links to their websites, along with Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi link and Delta Radiology links, (*Donna Shaw, ext. 7582*).

Notary service offered

For many years now, LMH has offered courtesy, notary service to staff, physicians, volunteers and patients. Before a document can be notarized, the signer must have in his or her possession a current picture ID, such as a driver's license, passport or student ID. The document must also be completed, as the notary is unable to complete or advise on the content of the document. LMH notaries include Joanne Augusto in administration, Linda Brown in the medical-staff office, Liz Cochrane in finance and Mary Villarín, also in the medical-staff office. It's best to call in advance to make an appointment with any of these four if notary services are needed, (*Mary Villarín, ext. 7559*).

IRS increases mileage rates

The Internal Revenue Service has increased the optional standard-mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. The rate increases to 58.5 cents a mile for business miles driven from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2008. The six-month rate for computing deductible medical or moving expenses also increased to 27 cents a mile. The rate for providing services for charitable organizations remains at 14 cents per mile, (*Cindy Butler, ext. 7513*).

LMH fires up for picnic

The LMH annual employee picnic will be held Sat., Aug. 9, from 11a-4p, at Jessie's Grove Winery, 1973 W. Turner Rd., Lodi. Steak, chicken and hot dogs will be served. There will be BINGO, lots of games and fun for everyone, as well as live entertainment from our favorite band, Moment's Notice. Please sign up to attend in the human-resources department by Aug. 1, (*Judi Simon, ext. 7443*).

Giants/Pads play for LMH

Don't miss out on tickets to see the San Francisco Giants play the San Diego Padres on Sat., Aug. 23, at AT&T Park in San Francisco. The game starts at 12:55p. The cost is \$60 per ticket, which includes a ticket to the game, a bus ride and a wonderful tail-gate lunch of sausages by Darrell and Mark. The bus leaves LMH at 7:45a and departs the ball park after the game. Tickets can be paid for in the human-resources department. Don't delay – only 50 tickets are available, (*Mark Wallace, ext. 7444*).

Med/surg gets new clinical educator

Please welcome Cindy DeChance as the new med/surg clinical educator. Cindy has been working in the OPSU department and has transitioned to her new position as of June 23. She will assist with education and teaching needs for the med/surg-nursing staff, (*Donna Schulz, 642-4985*).

TCU welcomes RN

Manuel Parlan, RN, has joined the transitional-care unit on day shift. Manny comes with many years of nursing experience in a variety of specialties, including sub-acute care. We're glad to have him as a part of the LMH family, (*Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181*).

Two-west CNA gets special spot

The awardee for two weeks of reserved parking is CNA Olivia Dazielle from 2 West. She received several recommendations from her peers and is very deserving of this awarded parking spot. Olivia is an outstanding CNA who places patient care and satisfaction at the top of her priorities. She is always willing to help her peers. She is a valuable asset to med-surg, (*Bob Turner, ext. 7962*).

Congratulations, Elema

Congratulations to Elema Did, RN, in the transitional-care unit, who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Nathmael Liben Kabede, on May 29. He weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well. Nathmael joins father Alex and big brother labsera. We wish them all the best, (*Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181*).

Way to go, Kristine

Congratulations to TCU's Kristine Bongar for successfully passing the pharmacy-technician-certification board in June. Great job, Kristine, (*Cindy Dennis, ext. 3168*).

Many thanks to all

I would like to personally thank the LMH Care Club and TCU staff for all the support in getting my son home from the army to attend my father's funeral, as his death was not anticipated and was a shock to our family. Your cards, caring thoughts, donations and love that were given will remain in our hearts forever. Thank you, all, for being so special, (*Cindy Dennis, ext. 3168*).

How to submit to/find "Pulse"

All medical staff, hospital staff and volunteers are welcomed to submit items for "Pulse." Items should be between 50-150 words and pertain to LMH news, milestones or events. Direct items via in-house mail to the Community Development Department or via email to Lori Horan or Carol Farron. "Pulse" is published every other Monday, and items for the newsletter should be received by 8a the preceding Friday. "Pulse" can be accessed electronically via the LMH network (L:\NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS\Internal\PULSE) or on the LMH website, www.lodihealth.org, (*Carol Farron, ext. 7535*).