Sparrow News

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SSSSShhhh! Be respectful, keep voices down for a healing environment

Sparrow/CMN dancers bring courage, grace to “Nutcracker” production

The beauty of the “Nutcracker” ballet will be matched by the grace and courage of six physically challenged young dancers from the Sparrow Children’s Center and Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) during performances over Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 25-27, at the Wharton Center.

The youngsters will perform alongside members of the Children’s Ballet Theatre of Michigan in the fifth collaboration between the dance company and CMN. The guest dancers – who have received treatment at Sparrow or are currently receiving care – bring a joy and enthusiasm that inspires their fellow performers and audience members, says Nadine Methner, Pediatrics Speech and Language Pathologist at Sparrow. Sparrow is a CMN hospital.

Methner is a volunteer for CMN and coordinates the “Nutcracker” collaboration.

“We’re trying to give kids who wouldn’t typically perform with the ballet theatre the chance to get up on stage,” Methner says.

“It’s a chance to show off what they’ve done at Sparrow and look at the good that comes from CMN and the pediatric programs at Sparrow.”

Tickets start at $10 and are available through SPA, at a discount for Associates, or at 1-800-WHARTON. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 26, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27.

Sparrow nationally recognized at Studer conference

Sparrow’s quality initiatives were a star of the show at the recent What’s Right in Healthcare Conference in Chicago.

Sparrow received an armful of awards from the Studer Group, the worldwide healthcare consulting firm that sponsors the event.

The Emergency Department was given an Excellence in Patient Care “Special Category” award, based on outstanding performance. The ED also received the previously announced award as Healthcare Organization of the Month for October.

“We are thrilled by the Crystal Flame award because of the benefits to our Patients,” said Sparrow President and CEO Dennis Swan. “Sparrow’s vision is to earn national recognition for quality and the Patient experience. We are making progress toward achieving this high aspiration because of what Physicians, Nurses, Staff and Volunteers are doing every day.

“The Studer Award is reflective of our increasing positive momentum.”

There was more, though. Sparrow earned an Excellence in Patient Care “HCAHPS” award based on a high score in the category of “Yes, Patients Were Given Information About What To Do During Their Recovery.” Plus, Studer founder Quint Studer even cited Sparrow’s quality efforts in his conference keynote address.

Christine Jodoin (right), Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing, along with Studer Coaches (from left) Dr. Dan Smith and Mitch Hagins, shows off two of Sparrow’s awards.
Help local children through Sparrow’s Operation Santa Program

This holiday season, Sparrow will continue its involvement with the Operation Santa Program by partnering with Bingham Elementary School to provide lower income families with Christmas presents.

Sparrow sponsored presents for 141 children at Bingham last year and is looking to increase that number to cover all 218 students from kindergarten through 5th grade.

Karen Edgar, Bingham Elementary Instructional Assistant and Operation Santa coordinator, said she has truly appreciated Sparrow’s involvement over the years and is looking forward to continuing this strong partnership:

“When the kids receive their gifts, you can see the exuberance and gratitude in the smiles of both the children and their families. Without the help of organizations like Sparrow, many of these children would not have the luxury of receiving presents during the holidays,” Edgar said.

To participate or find out more information about Operation Santa, contact Cathy Potter at 517.384.2758 or cathy.potter@sparrow.org. Any gift is greatly appreciated!

Associates’ giving makes huge impact at Sparrow Foundation

With the help of our Associates, the Sparrow Foundation was able to invest more than $2.8 million in grants and awards back to Sparrow last year.

If you have been considering giving to the Foundation, now is the time. Your donation is tax-deductible and your department could be eligible to win a year-end prize.

The impact of our internal giving campaign, Everyday Heroes, is widely felt throughout Sparrow.

“When we can say to a person and their family that we have wonderful people that want to help pay for your hospice care not covered by your insurance, it takes away their anxiety and fear. A donation to Hospice is a final gift of love and compassion,” said Michelle Wiseman, Director of Sparrow’s Hospice & Palliative Care Services.

Besides Hospice, the Foundation has provided grants and awards to Pediatrics, Oncology, Cardiac Services, Respiratory, the SANE program, and more. You can see the impact in the beautiful plants of the rooftop garden for hospice patients and their families, infant car seats given to new parents by our Trauma Center, and through the Care for the Caregivers program.

Care for the Caregivers helps fellow Associates who have experienced a major loss, catastrophe, illness, or medical condition adversely affecting their – or their dependents’ – well-being. Since 1991, gifts to the fund have helped support more than 1,456 requests, representing $830,425 in caring aide to Associates.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact sparrowfoundation.org or call 517.364.5680.

Get more content online

For more Sparrow News content, visit sparrow.org/mysparrowassociates. Scroll down to “Sparrow news” and click on “Additional online content.” You’ll see stories and photos on:

- Sparrow EMR validation sessions
- Wound Clinic opens
- Care for Caregivers book sale
Conversion to Microsoft Outlook e-mail system starts Nov. 28

The system-wide conversion from the Novell GroupWise e-mail system to Microsoft Exchange Outlook begins Nov. 28.

The conversion will occur several departments at a time and end on Dec. 13. It will affect all e-mail residing in your GroupWise inbox, as well as appointments, tasks, notes and contacts (personal address books).

The upgrade brings a number of positive changes to Sparrow, including a much-needed increase in individual mailbox storage capacity and the ability to easily sync with software and applications used throughout the system.

Information regarding the e-mail system, dates specific departments will be converted, and how to get training are available at the following Intranet URL address: http://outlookinfo.

iSparrow EMR Phase 2 takes another major step

Hundreds of Sparrow leaders, physicians and staff are participating in “validation sessions,” another key step in iSparrow EMR (Electronic Medical Record) Phase 2.

Sessions were held Oct. 25-27 and continue Nov. 8-10 and Dec. 6-8.

iSparrow system validation involves department leaders, physicians, subject matter experts, and project team members reviewing the recommended EMR system and providing feedback to Epic, our partner and EMR vendor.

The inpatient phase of iSparrow EMR will be launched at Sparrow Hospital, Sparrow Specialty Hospital, Sparrow Clinton and Sparrow Ionia. iSparrow will be live by the end of 2012.

“The October validation event was a crucial step towards easing the transition from paper to electronic medical records in the hospital setting,” said Michael Zaroukian, MD, PhD, EMR Project Medical Director.

“Each session allowed us to share proposed EMR workflows with experienced Sparrow caregivers and get their input as to which standardized workflows will best support them in delivering the very best care to every patient, every time. Their feedback was extremely valuable.”
Cancer Center among only five U.S. hospitals in clinical drug trial for rare disease

Did you know Sparrow has one of the largest clinical trial programs in Michigan?

In fact, Sparrow Cancer Center is one of only five U.S. hospitals taking part in an international clinical drug trial for a rare, debilitating disease that causes abnormal cell overgrowth in the lymph nodes.

The study is open to individuals over 18 who have been diagnosed with non-HIV related multicentric Castleman’s Disease (MCD). Patients with MCD suffer from fatigue, fever, and anemia, and are considered to be at higher risk for cancer of the lymphatic tissue.

“It is a rare disease. When it happens we do not have many choices in treatment because there are so few studies,” said Gordan Srkalovic, MD, PhD, Sparrow Cancer Center Director of Clinical Trials.

For more information, visit CastlemansResearch.com.