Caregivers gear up for Operation Santa 2013

Sparrow Caregivers are once again generously donating holiday gifts to 180 students at Fairview Elementary in Lansing as part of Operation Santa. The annual program provides gifts for local kids in need.

Caregivers can donate individually or as a department. Contact Wendi Ooten in the Marketing Department at wendi.ooten@sparrow.org to sponsor a child. Gift drop-off will be Monday, Dec. 9, through Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Marketing Department at 703 Michigan Avenue.

Thanks for your support this year and Happy Holidays!

Fairview Elementary students had a special visitor last year during Operation Santa.

About 250 people danced the night away while supporting Sparrow during the Sparrow Hospital Guild’s 88th Annual Charity Ball at the University Club of MSU. This year’s event raised about $86,000; Charity Ball supporters have assisted the Sparrow Hospital Guild in donating more than $1 million to Sparrow and its special projects over the years.

The 2013 Sparrow Annual Report, featuring videos of Patients and Caregivers who are changing lives, is now available at SparrowAnnualReport.org.

This year’s Annual Report highlights some of our Patients whose lives have been touched by the care they’ve received and the Caregivers who provided it to them. At Sparrow, our Patient-centered approach is fundamentally transforming the way health care is provided in our community.
More than 100 Nurses attend Sparrow’s 4th Annual Nursing Research Symposium

Sparrow recently hosted its 4th Annual Nursing Research Symposium with more than 130 Nurses in attendance from across the state.

The symposium focused on using evidence-based practices to improve quality of care and Patient outcomes and featured noted keynote speakers Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP/PMHNP, FNAP, FAAN, and Ellen Fineout-Overholt, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN.

“This year’s symposium was a tremendous success,” said Elizabeth Henry, Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer. “It is very rewarding to host an event where Nurses can learn and collaborate with their colleagues from across our state.”

See more photos from the Symposium in our online newsroom at Sparrow.org/News.

RN Caregiver Spotlight: Meseret Hailu

Even as a young girl growing up in Ethiopia, Meseret Hailu knew she wanted to be a Nurse. She’s always loved taking care of people in their time of need.

It’s that commitment to Nursing excellence that earned Hailu recognition as this month’s RN Caregiver Spotlight of the month. Sparrow’s RN Caregiver Spotlight recognizes one Nurse each month and honors his/her accomplishments.

“Nursing was something I was so passionate about from a very early age,” said Hailu, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.M.L., a Nurse Manager in Sparrow’s Neurosciences Center. “My father was a Nurse and a pharmacist and always had medical books lying around. I couldn’t stop reading them.”

Hailu is well-respected throughout mid-Michigan. Earlier this year, she was named “Nurse of the Year” by the Greater Flint Black Nurses Association.
Expressions of the Season celebrates Sparrow’s diversity

Across Sparrow, we want to extend a message of thanks and peace to our Caregivers during this holiday season. Expressions of the Season allows us to take the time to learn, explore, and enjoy the abundant array of holidays celebrated this time of year.

“We wanted to ensure that we captured the diversity of our Caregivers and Patients,” said Jackie Thomas-Hall, Director, Diversity and Inclusion and Pastoral Care. “It’s important for them to see that we recognize who we are and some of their culture as it relates to celebrations.”

Banners and posters are visible throughout Sparrow to help celebrate.

Sparrow makes huge strides in recycling efforts

Sparrow continues to expand its environmental-friendly practices and recycling is one way.

Did you know that 90 percent of the materials from the demolition of the former Bingham Elementary School were recycled? That totals 4,640 cubic yards of debris and includes concrete, brick, masonry, asphalt, steel and metals.

“This is part of an ongoing effort at Sparrow and we are always striving to get better,” said Reza Tavakoli, Director of Environmental Services.

Pediatric Patients set to perform "The Nutcracker"

Former Sparrow pediatric Patients are ready to dance to the tunes of Tchaikovsky in the 33rd annual Children’s Ballet Theatre of Michigan’s (CBT) production of “The Nutcracker.”

It’s all happening at MSU’s Wharton Center Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Pediatric Patients have danced in the production, giving special emotional impact to “The Nutcracker.”

Show times include Friday, Nov. 29, and Saturday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale online at whartoncenter.com or by calling 1.800.Wharton.

Special Microsoft offer for Caregivers

Sparrow Caregivers are now eligible to purchase a licensed copy of Microsoft® Office Professional Plus 2013 for your home computer for as little as $9.95 – a savings of close to $400!

This includes Word, Excel PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Access, Publisher and more, and will work on Windows 7 and Windows 8 operating systems. It does not, however, work with XP or Vista. Mac versions are also available.

All Caregivers were recently sent an email with instructions on how to order online through Microsoft. Please contact Penny Daniels, IT Communications Lead, at penny.daniels@sparrow.org or 517.802.2624 if you have any questions or cannot locate the order instructions.
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Got a story you’d like to share? E-mail your news tip to us at sparrownews@sparrow.org and we may include it in future editions.

iPads keep an eye on Sparrow’s tiniest Patients

When Melissa Shiffer’s newborn son was unexpectedly taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, all she could think was “here we go again,” remembering her 36-hour separation from her newborn daughter years earlier.

But seven years of technology advances and an innovative approach to Patient care meant she was able to watch her son get his measurements taken and she was able to talk with nurses about his care from several floors away.

Through grant funding, the NICU has purchased iPads allowing new parents to face time with their baby when circumstances prevent them from being bedside. NICU nurses place an iPad face down on the top of the incubator and are then able to talk to the parents – whether they are on a different floor or at another hospital miles away.

“It was as if we were sitting right there with him. It meant so much to be able to experience this, and really cemented our faith and appreciation for the Sparrow NICU,” Shiffer said.

According to Kathy Marble, NICU Department Manager, “This really impacts the Patient experience. It is such an emotional experience to watch a mom bond with their newborn child through the use of this technology.”

MAC Lifeguards receive lifesaving recognition

Three Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club Lifeguards were recognized and presented with awards by Meridian Township Fire Department and the American Red Cross for their actions in rescuing a 5-year-old boy from a pool this summer.

Theresa Bodwin of Okemos, Robert Murphy of Lansing, and Jane Wallenwine of Stockbridge were honored for their quick actions, CPR, and use of an Automatic External Defibrillator, which played a key role in the boy’s recovery.

Attending the ceremony were (from left) Sabarras George, Executive Director Strategic Wellness, Vicki Hamilton-Allen of the American Red Cross, Lifeguards Robert Murphy, Jane Wallenwine and Theresa Bodwin, and Meridian Township EMS Chief Bill Priese.