Elizabeth Henry is honored and thanked

Retiring Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Elizabeth Henry was recognized and thanked during recent celebrations held in her honor. Elizabeth is retiring in January after serving at Sparrow since 2000, and she was honored at a special Nursing Leadership meeting and at a tea this month.

During the events, Sparrow Nurses and Leaders got the chance to speak about the great impact Elizabeth has had on them and thank her for her contributions to nursing at Sparrow. Under her strong leadership, Sparrow has achieved many great accomplishments, including earning recognition as a Magnet Hospital by the American Nurses Credential Center.

Operation Santa helps to provide gifts for more than 200 local elementary students

Two trucks full of toys for more than 200 good girls and boys at Fairview Elementary School in Lansing. It’s all part of Sparrow’s annual Operation Santa program.

Sparrow Caregivers donated all kinds of gifts from board games to dolls, hats and mittens to bicycles. The donations go to help families in need during the holidays.

"We can’t thank Sparrow enough for the generosity of everyone who donated," said Janice Marchal, principal at Fairview Elementary. "Many of the parents of kids at our school worry about buying Christmas gifts for their kids. For some it’s either toys or paying the electric bill. Operation Santa takes the worry out of it and allows everyone to enjoy Christmas."
People News

Mary Lou Wesley is Sparrow’s new Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. She began on Dec. 9, and comes to Sparrow after serving in a similar capacity at Wellstar Health System in Marietta, Ga. She also held the position of Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Nursing Services at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System in Ann Arbor for eight years.

Piper Probst has been appointed Director of Practice, Research, and Outcomes (PRO). She has served as a Principal Trainer for the EpicCare Inpatient EMR in Sparrow’s IT Department since 2011.

Three community leaders, Price Dobernick, of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 333, Gary Hubbard, DDS, and Ryan Vartoogian of Spartan Internet Consulting have been named to the Sparrow Foundation Board of Directors. The Board of Directors governs the Foundation, setting policies and directing activities of the organization.

Sparrow Physicians Michael H. Zaroukian, M.D., PhD, FACP, FHMSS, and Ved Gossain, M.D., FRCP© FACP, FACP, have been elected Masters of the American College of Physicians. This select honor is bestowed on internal medicine specialists to recognize the excellence and significance of their contributions to the field of medicine.

Surgical Services Manager Mary Pride accepted the award on behalf of her department, and said the department is thankful to have the opportunity to give back to our community.

Sparrow Caregivers recognized for contributions to Michigan Harvest Gathering food drive

Caregivers from Sparrow’s Surgical Services Department were honored with Michigan Harvest Gathering’s Four Seasons Award for their extraordinary efforts to feed Michigan’s hungry.

The Four Seasons Award is given to individuals or organizations who have shown a steadfast commitment to support Michigan families through all the seasons. The Michigan Harvest Gathering is an annual statewide campaign that raises food and funds for Michigan’s emergency food response.

Sparrow Caregivers provide big support to the annual campaign, with Sparrow Surgical Services leading the pack. Last year, the department’s Caregivers, Physicians, Staff and family members began pooling their resources, and in 2013 they were able to donate enough money for 10,000 meals. Overall, Caregivers throughout the health system donated more than 3.5 tons of food and more than $3,000 to Michigan Harvest Gathering this year.

Sparrow Cancer Center receives national certification

The Sparrow Cancer Center has received a three-year renewal on its Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) Certification, recognizing a continued commitment to delivering the highest quality of cancer care.

To receive QOPI certification, a practice must undergo a thorough on-site review, including how policies are translated into practice, evaluation of working knowledge of safety standards, and proof of ongoing engagement with staff on safety and quality.

QOPI Certification is a national designation given through the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the world’s leading professional organization representing Physicians who care for people with cancer.

RN Caregiver Spotlight: Sue Sugden

For more than three decades, Sparrow Nurse Sue Sugden, FNP, ACHPN, has been providing compassionate care to both Patients and their families. This month, she’s being honored for her service and dedication to Nursing in Sparrow’s RN Caregiver Spotlight.

Sparrow’s RN Caregiver Spotlight recognizes one Nurse each month and highlights his/her accomplishments.

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“Palliative Care is about helping Patients and families during long-term illness,” Sugden said. “We manage symptoms and help Patients talk about their goals for care. The work helps us to form a unique bond of trust with our Patients.”

Sparrow Physician participates in lifesaving research for firefighters, fire victims

Firefighters in the Lansing area are protecting themselves from cyanide gas thanks to the research of Sparrow Emergency Department Physician John Dery, D.O., FACEP, FACOEP.

Dr. Dery, in partnership with Delta Township Fire Department, has been researching the impacts of cyanide gas on the body and measuring levels of the gas present at the scene of a fire. Cyanide gas is released in a fire and continues to be present long after the blaze is extinguished.

This research is being used to help firefighters determine the best time to remove their safety gear following a fire. Dr. Dery’s research is also leading to the use of CyanoKit, a medication used for cyanide poisoning, for smoke inhalation victims.

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Pediatric Rehab Patients celebrate with Santa

The halls were decked and smiles could be seen on each face at the annual holiday party for Sparrow Pediatric Rehab Patients and their families. The party included music, craft projects, coloring and delicious treats. Each of the more than 80 children received a gift from Santa Claus!

Infusion Center expansion offers Patients a comfortable, healing environment

The Sparrow Intravenous Specialty Infusion Center just completed an expansion of its facility to better meet the needs of Patients and their families. Four new rooms were added to increase capacity and allow for more convenient treatment scheduling.

Sparrow’s IV Specialty Infusion Center is staffed with certified infusion, oncology, and vascular access Nurses, and skilled Patient Care Technicians, treating Patients suffering from conditions such as cystic fibrosis, Lyme disease, staph infections and more.

IV therapy, however, often involves lengthy treatments. To make the time more pleasant, all rooms are equipped with the latest recliners, cable television, DVD players, and a library of movies.

Nurses honored with DAISY Award

Sparrow recently honored two Nurses for excellence in Patient Care. Heather Wiedenhoeft, RN, of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, and Cathy Dunn, RN, of the IV Specialty Department were presented the DAISY Award.

Wiedenhoeft was nominated by former Patients and peers for her compassionate care. Dunn was nominated by peers for her impressive ability to calm a Patient while an IV was inserted.

Sparrow’s efforts to support organ donation recognized in Rose Bowl parade

The Michigan State University Spartans won’t be the only ones representing mid-Michigan at the 100th annual Rose Bowl on Jan. 1. Through the American Hospital Association and Gift of Life Michigan, Sparrow President and CEO Dennis Swan had the opportunity to dedicate a rose that will be part of the Donate Life float in the 2014 Rose Parade.

As one of Michigan’s leading hospitals for organ donation, the Sparrow rose will join thousands of others bearing personal messages of love, hope and remembrance by donors, recipients, and their families, and from organizations who acknowledge the generosity of donors and honor their decision to offer the gift of life to others.

Sparrow President and CEO Dennis Swan signs and dedicates a rose that will be placed in the “Dedication Garden” on the Donate Life “Light Up the World” float in Pasadena on Jan. 1.

Pediatric Rehab Patients celebrate with Santa

Patient Shna Saeid visits with Santa during the holiday party.

Lyla Smith colors with her dad, Matt, while members of the Potterville Girls’ Varsity basketball team help out.

Dunn (center) poses with Sparrow Nursing leaders after being honored.

Wiedenhoeft (right) is presented the DAISY Award by Elizabeth Henry, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer.
James Olson, M.D., to take reins as Chief of Medical Staff in January

James Olson, M.D., will begin a two-year term as Chief of Medical Staff in January. Dr. Olson replaces John Armstrong, M.D., who has served in the position for the previous two years. Dr. Olson has been a member of the Sparrow medical staff since 1986. He is a physician champion for the iSparrow EMR and associate director of the Sparrow/Michigan State University Family Medicine residency program. He is past vice-chair of the Family Medicine Department and past director of Sparrow Mason Urgent Care.

Over the past two years, Dr. Armstrong has led efforts to improve communications with Physicians, develop and ratify the Sparrow Promise, and many other initiatives. We thank him for his contributions to Sparrow.

MySparrow reaches milestone of more than 20,000 users

MySparrow has reached a significant milestone in just three years since its inception. The online health management system that allows Patients to take an active role in their care, recently surpassed 20,000 users. Through MySparrow and the MySparrow Mobile App, Patients can access medical records, send messages to their doctor, schedule appointments, request prescription renewals and more.

Logon to Sparrow.org/MySparrow to learn more and to watch Mason resident Randy Carlson’s story about how the tool allowed him to more closely monitor his health.