Community marks Sparrow Grand Ledge opening

Despite record-breaking winter weather, more than 100 people turned out for the grand opening of Sparrow Grand Ledge, a new multi-service facility located at 1015 Charlevoix Drive, just off the corner of M-43 and M-100.

At nearly 12,000 square feet, the new facility offers an Urgent Care, Outpatient Physical Rehabilitation, Laboratory, Pharmacy and Medical Supply in one convenient location to better support the needs of Grand Ledge and surrounding communities.

The Urgent Care opened to the public on Jan. 25, and Pharmacy Plus, Laboratory and Outpatient Physical Rehabilitation services followed on Jan. 27.

The $5-million facility is one of many Sparrow projects that over the last three years have reinvested more than $250 million back into our community to help transform healthcare and deliver the best possible care when and where our Patients need it most.

State of Nursing celebrates unique workforce

The annual State of Nursing event celebrated Sparrow’s diverse workforce, reflected on accomplishments in 2013, and looked toward new goals in 2014. Nurses also honored Steve Dexter, BSN, RN, as Preceptor of the Year while Mother/Baby and the Emergency Department were recognized with Nursing Excellence Awards.

This year’s theme was, “Sparrow, where every Nurse is unique.” The hall was decorated with snowflakes to symbolize the individuality of each Sparrow Nurse.
Sparrow hosts Black History 101 Mobile Museum focusing on history of Nobel Peace Prize

Sparrow Caregivers, Patients and visitors visited the Black History 101 Mobile Museum on display Feb. 4, as part of Black History Month celebrations.

The Black History 101 Mobile Museum is curated by Michigan native Khalid el-Hakim, and its Peacemakers exhibit highlights the 15 people of African descent who have received the Nobel Peace Prize. The event was hosted by Sparrow’s Diversity and Inclusion Department.

The exhibit included more than 150 original artifacts and was in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

For more information about the Black History 101 Mobile Museum, visit www.blackhistory101-mobilemuseum.com.

Caregivers, community provide treats to young Patients

Young Sparrow Patients have a special treat in store for them after a visit to the Pediatric Treatment Room. After going through pokes and other treatments, kids will be able to choose a toy thanks to the generosity of two Sparrow Caregivers and the High 5ive Foundation, created by former MSU and current Arizona Cardinals quarterback Drew Stanton.

Sparrow Caregivers Steve Martin, M.D., a Pediatric Intensivist, and Health Unit Coordinator Todd Daniels, donated their time and materials to build the treasure chest which now sits outside the treatment room. The High 5ive Foundation provided a grant to purchase the toys, which include selections for kids of all ages.

Projects like this are part of Sparrow’s efforts to provide quality, compassionate care to kids in our region.

Caregivers using new techniques to promote quiet for Patients

Sparrow’s Quiet at Night Committee is using innovative techniques to promote a quiet atmosphere for Patients and Caregivers.

It’s part of a hospital effort that began two years ago with our Quiet for You campaign.

As evidence of the Quiet at Night Committee’s work, our Cardiac Stepdown Unit on 4 South has improved its Patient survey scores on noise by more than 20 percent thanks to such easy steps as shutting doors to Patient rooms.

“Our Caregivers are very vigilant about maintaining a healing atmosphere for our Patients and promoting a soothing, relaxed environment is part of that,” said Nate Kovalchik, Manager of 4 South and a Quiet at Night Committee member.

Also as part of the effort, during admission every hospital Patient is given earplugs and headphones to promote quiet. It’s a symbol of Sparrow’s Radical Loving Care.

Caregivers win prizes for focusing on health over the holidays

It was an extra healthy holiday season for Sparrow Caregivers thanks to the Maintain Don’t Gain program that ran from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.

The program encouraged Caregivers to make healthy choices in order to maintain their weight. Participants who successfully kept off the holiday pounds were eligible for grand prize drawings and many more were eligible for Gold and Silver level prizes, which included free massages, dinner and movie packages, and gift cards.

Stay tuned to Be Well at Sparrow for more opportunities to participate in Wellness events and challenges!

Grand Prize drawing winners:
$500 Eastwood Shopping Spree: Nicole Werner, PHP
51” Flat Screen TV: Janice Swihart, IT
1 Year MAC Membership: Sheila Crawford, HR
Sparrow receives national recognition for success of its EMR adoption

Sparrow has achieved national recognition for the success of its Electronic Medical Record adoption.

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Analytics has granted Stage 6 status to Sparrow’s EMR adoption, a distinction held by only 15 percent of U.S. hospitals and health systems. HIMSS Analytics is the authoritative source on EMR adoption trends. With a few more steps, Sparrow will be able to achieve the final stage (Stage 7) of EMR adoption.

Being one of the first hospitals in Michigan to achieve this level of recognition by HIMSS is a testament to our Physicians and Caregivers who use our electronic medical record and their dedication to providing the best care for our Patients.

This is yet another recognition for Sparrow IT and IT Leadership for the leading technology deployed here for the benefit of our Patients.

Breast health, survivorship celebrated at 2nd Annual Breastival

Dozens of breast cancer survivors, family, and friends attended the 2nd Annual Breastival celebration this month.

The expo-like event included information booths, door prizes, presentations from Sparrow Physicians, and more.

The event, hosted by the Women’s Information Network and Support (WINS), celebrates survivorship and provides tools to help Patients during recovery.

Tell us about Physicians who inspire you for Doctors’ Day

In honor of next month’s Doctors’ Day, Caregivers are invited to share the names of Physicians who inspire them and why by visiting Sparrow.org/InspiredByPhysicians and entering a personalized message.

The messages will be displayed during Doctors’ Day celebrations and will be used to thank Sparrow Physicians throughout the year.

National Doctors’ Day is celebrated on March 30, and Sparrow will once again show appreciation to our Physicians for their commitment and tireless dedication to caring for our Patients each and every day.

RN Caregiver Spotlight: Patty Pavona

For more than three decades, Patty Pavona, BSN, RN, has been caring for some of Sparrow's tiniest and most vulnerable Patients in the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU). Her team-focused approach to the job has earned her recognition as this month’s RN Caregiver Spotlight.

Sparrow’s RN Caregiver Spotlight recognizes one Nurse each month and highlights his/her accomplishments. Pavona was a leader during the launch of our iSparrow Electronic Medical Record, is a member of the RNICU task force, and recently volunteered to be a Sparrow ambassador for Nurse Magnet recertification.

“I love working with our Patients, the parents, and the Caregivers in the RNICU,” Pavona said. “It’s such a rewarding experience to see these babies grow and head home with their families, happy and healthy.”
Advanced ablation helps Patient get back to work and life

Stomach pain brought Dennis Lundquist, 52, of Lansing, to the Sparrow Emergency Department, but while Physicians were treating his pain they discovered he was also suffering from an irregular heartbeat, or atrial fibrillation.

“It must have been fate,” says Lundquist, referring to David Rhine, M.D., the cardiac physician on call that night. Dr. Rhine, of the Sparrow Thoracic and Cardiovascular Institute, specializes in treating atrial fibrillation, or afib.

“I was tired and had spells when my heart would race, but I didn’t put the two together. Looking back, I probably had a year or more of symptoms.”

Lundquist ultimately underwent advanced ablation, a minimally invasive procedure where a catheter is fed through a vein to the heart where it cauterizes the short-circuiting areas causing the fibrillation.

“Advanced ablation is an effective tool to treat Patients who do not respond to arrhythmia medications, avoids open heart surgery or lifelong dependence on a pacemaker, and offers an improved quality of life,” said Dr. Rhine.

And, Sparrow is one of only three Michigan hospitals offering Stereotaxis – the most advanced and safest cardiac catheterization technology available – for use in high-risk cases.