Mac chef and Sparrow Hospital dietitian team up to offer nutritional smoothies

Sparrow MAC restaurant manager David Schoon knew his customers were craving a nutritionally superior smoothie to support their workouts and help get the results they want.

So he set out to create a nutritional beverage based on scientific research and enlisted the help of Christa Byrd, Sparrow Hospital Room Service Supervisor and registered dietitian with a background in personal training.

Bryd used her expertise to recommend ingredients with the best antioxidant qualities, energy supply, recovery benefits and muscle building power. Schoon tapped his culinary skills to find the perfect balance of ingredients for superior flavor.

The result was four new MAC smoothies that offer antioxidant and immune support, pre-workout energy, post-workout recovery and muscle mass building meal replacement. In addition, three of the four drinks are gluten-free and all can be made with or without protein powder.

“Smoothies help support the goals we hear about most from group fitness instructors, personal trainers, coaches and members,” Schoon said.

Sparrow staff attends American Chopper bike unveiling

Sparrow Caregivers were on hand for the reveal of a custom-theme motorbike built by Paul Teutul Jr., star of The Discovery Channel’s popular “American Chopper: Senior vs. Junior” television show.

Joanna Costigan, RN, and Courtney Grove, RN, who work in Sparrow’s Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU), traveled to the invite-only event in Grand Rapids. Teutul and cast unveiled the “street legal” bike set to be auctioned off via an online raffle to benefit the March of Dimes.

The unveiling wrapped filming for two upcoming episodes that are expected to include footage shot last November inside Sparrow’s RNICU. The episodes are scheduled to air March 12 and March 19.

Back in November, Sparrow Hospital visitors and staff were starstruck when the cast strolled through the hospital lobby and visited with Patients in the RNICU as cameras rolled.

The bike was commissioned by Lamar Construction of Grand Rapids.
Help Sparrow recognize our inspiring Physicians

National Doctors’ Day is celebrated on March 30 as a day to recognize the contributions of Physicians to individual lives and communities.

Sparrow will once again show appreciation for our Physicians whose commitment and tireless dedication is one reason Sparrow was recently named one of the best-performing health systems in the nation by Thomson Reuters and Modern Healthcare.

We invite you to use this opportunity to share the names of Physicians who inspire you and why by visiting www.sparrow.org/inspiredbyphysicians and entering a personalized message. The messages will be used in various forms of print material to celebrate Doctors’ Day and thank Sparrow Physicians.

Caregivers donate winnings to Sparrow Foundation

The Sparrow Foundation was the recipient of an unexpected gift from Caregivers who attended the Health Care Information and Management System Society (HIMSS) convention in Las Vegas.

Patrick Hale, Sparrow Chief Technology Officer, and Karthik Ramachandran, Sparrow Director of Technical Services and Enterprise Architecture, were both picked to participate in a “Chips for Charity” event sponsored by Voalte, a company that provides software to healthcare organizations.

They were given $500 in chips to play at a Craps table and walked away with about $3,000 in winnings for the charity of their choice.

“We are thrilled and grateful they selected the Sparrow Foundation to receive this generous donation,” said Major Gifts Administrator Patricia Warner.

2012 Annual Sparrow Gala a night to remember

Guests at the recent 2012 Annual Sparrow Gala were treated to an evening of dancing, casino-style gaming, and a wide array of elegant dining selections at the University Club of MSU. All proceeds from the Gala will directly benefit the Sparrow Cancer Center and its Patients.

During the Sparrow Gala, Gala Co-Chairs and guests posed for a group photo. Front row starting from left: Terri Meunier, D.O., Michelle Evans, Karen Grannemann, MaryLee Davis, Ph.D., Stella Cash, Debby Harrison, Lexcie Blockett, Patty Lloyd-Barnas. Back row starting from left: Joseph Meunier, D.O., Luciano DiCarlo, D.O., Norm Grannemann, Mark Rinella, Ph.D., Jerry Cash, Mike Harrison, Charles Blockett, John Barnas.

Alan Henry is the new Plant Operations Manager at Sparrow Clinton Hospital in St. Johns. Henry holds a Bachelor of Science degree in building construction management from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in business administration from University of Michigan. He comes to Sparrow from McLaren of Greater Lansing, where he served as director of facilities for the past six years. Henry has more than 20 years of experience in the areas of facility and construction management, as well as expertise in LEED “green” construction and commercial and real estate development.

Marti Samsel, Sparrow Director of Patient and Guest Services is the incoming President-Elect for the Society for Healthcare Consumer Advocacy (SHCA) of the American Hospital Association. She begins her term in April. The SHCA is dedicated to advancement and education in patient advocacy with a primary focus on hospitals in United States but also includes international members. Membership is geared toward patient representatives, guest relations professionals, physicians, nurses, social workers, and others currently employed in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, home health agencies, long-term care facilities and other health-related organizations.

Michael Zaroukian, Sparrow Vice President and Chief Medical Information Officer, has accepted reappointment as chair of the Medical Informatics Committee of the American College of Physicians (ACP) Board of Regents. Dr. Zaroukian’s term begins in April. The committees of ACP assist in developing policies and programs that benefit the public, the profession of medicine, and ACP membership. Committee appointments are recommended by ACP officers each year, based on a careful review of each committee’s mission and the expertise available throughout the membership.

Kira Carter-Robertson, President and CEO of Sparrow Specialty Hospital, has received the 2012 Athena Young Professional Leadership Award from the Lansing/East Lansing chapter of the Links, Inc. The award goes to a woman younger than 40 who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in her business or profession, provides valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in her community and clearly serves as a role model for young women both personally and professionally. Carter-Robertson has served as president and CEO of Sparrow Specialty Hospital since 2006, and has been a part of Sparrow’s team since 2000.

Wally Wozniak, Sparrow Executive Director of Support Services, will oversee and assume responsibility on an interim basis for departments that previously reported to Ira Ginsberg, who is retiring. Management oversight will include Biomed Engineering, Emergency Preparedness, Engineering, Environmental Services, Facility Development, Food and Nutrition, Security and Parking, and Volunteer Services.

SPHN wins the 2011 Sparrow Foundation ‘Everyday Hero’ Department Prize

SPHN Caregivers have won a prize for their 100 percent support of the Sparrow Foundation’s 2011 “Everyday Hero” Family Campaign. “We are grateful for the generosity of each Caregiver who helps to care for our community by giving to the Sparrow Foundation,” said Development Director Michelle Reynaert.

Reynaert said all departments that achieved 100 percent participation were entered to win a prize; SPHN was randomly selected from the “small department” category. The winning department gets a breakfast, lunch or ice cream sundae party. The 2012 campaign is underway; visit www.sparrowfoundation.org to find out how you can get involved.

Sparrow thanks Ira Ginsburg for his 47 years of service

A large number of Caregivers and friends attended a recent retirement reception for Ira Ginsburg, retiring Sparrow Senior Vice President of Operations.

Ginsburg has served Sparrow Health System in many capacities and since 1998 has been responsible for the planning and development of all of the facilities within the Health System. He was instrumental in the development of the $160-million, 450,000 square foot Sparrow Tower, which opened in 2008.

Ginsburg’s impact will be felt long after his retirement. He has overseen the current Master Facility Planning process, which is intended to ensure our facilities align with our vision of being recognized as a national leader in quality and Patient experience.

Sparrow enrolls first patient in medical trial for heart monitoring device

Sparrow recently enrolled a Patient in the largest medical device trial to date for a device that monitors the heartbeats of high-risk individuals to detect heart attacks.

Sparrow is one of 200 centers nationwide participating in the trial for the Fortify® ST implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) system, sponsored by St. Jude Medical. The small device monitors and transmits information about heart activity of Patients with coronary artery disease and a high risk of experiencing a life-threatening or potentially fatal coronary event. This is the first trial to study the device’s use in the U.S. In all, more than 5,000 Patients will participate.
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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.

New online scrub ordering system for Caregivers

Caregivers are now able to order new color-grouped scrubs online at a 10 percent discounted rate from official vendor Custom Embroidery Plus and pay for them with a hassle-free payroll deduction. The system is convenient for busy Caregivers because they will be able to pick up orders at SPA at the main campus, or have them sent out for delivery to Sparrow Clinton Hospital and Sparrow Ionia Hospital. A link to the website has been posted at www.sparrow.org/spa-for-associates.

The system allows Caregivers to easily order the standard color scrubs they began wearing in January. The new color-grouped system is intended to improve Patient satisfaction and address Patient care problems more quickly by allowing Patients and visitors to easily distinguish nurses, PCT’s and other Caregivers at a glance.

By making this change Sparrow joins hospitals nationwide—such as the Cleveland Clinic and University of Michigan Health System—that have switched to standard color uniforms in an effort to improve Patient satisfaction.

Sparrow shuttle buses get new look

Caregivers may have noticed a fresh new look to the four buses that shuttle employees between the main campus and other locations and parking lots. The buses were recently updated as part of Sparrow’s ongoing effort to communicate our friendly and approachable new brand. The Marketing Department has been working with facilities to also update signs.

Shuttle bus driver Teresa Drake said she likes the new modern design. “It’s so 2012!” she said.

« Sparrow driver Teresa Drake shows off the new design of her shuttle bus.