Coming soon:
Sparrow News direct to your email inbox

Our Caregivers are doing inspiring things every day as we work to improve healthcare for the better. Now you can get the latest news on these efforts—and more—delivered direct to your inbox each month.

The April Sparrow News will be our first digital-only edition, as Sparrow shifts away from paper-based communications. This is our last print issue of the Sparrow News.

All Sparrow Caregivers will automatically receive the digital Sparrow News at their Sparrow email addresses, but retirees and members of the community can sign up by visiting Sparrow.org/News/E-Newsletter.

Patrick P. Gribben, Jr. posthumously honored with Founders’ Award

The late community leader Patrick P. Gribben, Jr. was recognized posthumously with Sparrow’s highest honor, the 2014 Sparrow Founders’ Award.

Gribben served as CEO of Delta Dental for 25 years, and was a member of the Sparrow Board of Directors and the Physicians Health Plan Board. He died in 2013 and was awarded Board Member Emeritus status posthumously.

“Patrick’s service had a great impact on Sparrow and PHP’s reputation for service and quality,” said Dennis Swan, President and CEO, Sparrow Health System. “We are enormously proud to honor such an outstanding business leader who gave so much to others over his lifetime.”

The Founders’ Day celebration marks Sparrow’s 118th year of service to the mid-Michigan community. Sparrow was founded in 1896 by a group of 114 female volunteers as the Lansing Women’s Hospital.

Dawn Gribben (center) accepted the 2014 Sparrow Founders’ Award on behalf of her late husband, Patrick P. Gribben, Jr. She and other members of their family were on hand to celebrate his memory during Founders’ Day on March 18.
Better breathing, better living through Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week

Caregivers celebrated Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week, March 9-15, with a variety of activities aimed to recognize the essential component it plays in medical therapy for Patients with chronic lung disease.

This highly trained team of respiratory therapists provides individualized programs incorporating progressive exercise training, education and emotional support to return a person to their highest functional capacity and improve their quality of life.

Cancer Center begins region's only GU Clinic, GU Nurse Navigator

Sparrow Cancer Center continues to innovate with the region's only Genitourinary Oncology Clinic, providing comprehensive care for Patients with urologic cancers of the prostate, testicles, penis, kidneys, ureters and bladder.

As with other Sparrow multidisciplinary clinics, the GU clinic's aim is to gather multiple opinions from varied clinical specialists and offer innovative, state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic strategies specific to each Patient's diagnosis.

Patients referred to the clinic are also assisted and guided through the process by a designated GU Nurse Navigator, another only-at-Sparrow aspect of the program. The navigator serves as a single point of contact for Patients during pre-visit preparations, clinic day, and follow-up needs.

It resembles the very successful Breast Nurse Navigator approach that the Cancer Center has used in recent years to help guide breast Patients through their health care needs.

For more information, call the Cancer Center at 517.364.2890.

Sparrow Specialty Hospital celebrates 10th anniversary and a new look

Sparrow Specialty Hospital (SSH) celebrated a newly renovated facility and 10 years of providing long-term acute care for our community with a brief ceremony and Open House on March 6.

The 36 bed, 10,000 sq. ft. facility began renovations last fall and the transformation has received a warm welcome from Caregivers, Patients and their families, and the community.

In the past 10 years, more than 3,000 Patients have continued their healing process at SSH through a multidisciplinary team approach of Caregivers specially trained to meet their complex needs.

The improvements at SSH are just one of many Sparrow projects that have resulted in more than $250 million reinvested back into our community over the last three years.

To learn more about this project, see some amazing before and after shots, and find out about other projects underway, visit BuildingSparrow.org.

« (From left) Sparrow Specialty Hospital Director of Clinical Services Tina Gross; SSH President & CEO, Kira Carter-Robertson; Paul Entler, D.O. SSH Medical Director, and Dorothy E. Maxwell, SSH Board Chair were on-hand for the Open House on March 6.
Working as a preceptor to his peers, Sparrow Neuroscience Nurse Chris Kettler, R.N., has become an inspiration. His dedication to teaching and improving Patient care has earned him RN Caregiver Spotlight honors. Kettler has been with Sparrow for three years and has taken it upon himself to be a leader in his unit. He was also the runner-up for the prestigious Preceptor of the Year award.

“It’s nice to be recognized, but it’s even better to know we’re making a difference in Patients’ lives through the care we provide,” Kettler said. “I’m thrilled to be working with such a talented team and such an eager group of nursing residents.”

Sparrow working toward Baby-Friendly designation

Sparrow is working to transform maternity care services as part of the World Health Organization/United Nations Children’s Fund Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. Once completed, this designation will mean Sparrow has comprehensively implemented proven methods to offer an optimal level of care for infant feeding and mother-baby bonding.

If you’re interested in learning more about this initiative, visit BabyFriendlyUSA.org.

Family-activated ‘Condition Help’ kicks off to enhance Patient safety

To continue Sparrow’s commitment to keeping our Patients safe, we have launched a new family-activated rapid response system, Condition Help, to use if loved ones notice a sudden change in a Patient’s condition and the health care team has not recognized the concern.

“Sparrow is committed to providing Patients and their families with the very best care,” said Toni Beymer, Sparrow’s Director of Critical Care. “While our Caregivers are among some of the best in the world, we encourage families and Patients to use Condition Help if there is a sudden or drastic change in condition which would require immediate attention.”

To activate the system, users simply dial 1.2.3 from any Sparrow phone. The operator will immediately activate a team of medical professionals who will arrive in the room to assess the situation.

Dapper Dads debuts for 2014

Your favorite Dapper Dads are back! The 2014 Dapper Dads Challenge kicked off March 13 with the unveiling of this year’s contestants at Kositchek’s in Lansing.

Dapper Dads, in its fifth year, is hosted by the Women Working Wonders and has raised more $500,000 for the physical and psychological health of women in mid-Michigan. The challenge concludes with the Dapper Dads Fashion Show on June 5, and the top vote-getters will be featured in the 2015 Dapper Dads calendar.

Lansing’s leading men need your votes! Visit SparrowFoundation.org/DapperDads today to cast your vote while supporting women’s health initiatives on a local level.

PEOPLE NEWS

Stephenie Brummette, MSN, R.N., has been named Sparrow’s Department Manager for the Mother/Baby Unit, where she will lead her team in providing excellent care to new mothers and babies. Brummette previously served for 13 years as the Assistant Department Manager of the unit.

Mark your calendars!

Care for the Caregivers Variety Show
Saturday, March 29 | 7-9 p.m. | Hannah Community Center, East Lansing
Cost: Adults $7, Children 10 & under $3. Proceeds to benefit Sparrow Care for the Caregivers Annual Fund.

National Volunteer Week
April 6-13
Thank you Volunteers for your dedicated service to Sparrow! Volunteers can enjoy a 10 percent discount from the Sparrow Hospital and St Lawrence Gift Shops throughout the week by showing their badge.

Sparrow Derby Day Party
Saturday, May 3 | 4:30 p.m. | Lou & Harry’s Sports Bar and Grill, East Lansing
Join us for this fun-filled fundraising event to benefit Sparrow Patients.
Cost: $35. Call 517.364.5680 or visit SparrowFoundation.org/DerbyDay for info and to register in advance.

RN Caregiver Spotlight: Chris Kettler

Working as a preceptor to his peers, Sparrow Neuroscience Nurse Chris Kettler, R.N., has become an inspiration. His dedication to teaching and improving Patient care has earned him RN Caregiver Spotlight honors.

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

Kettler has been with Sparrow for three years and has taken it upon himself to be a leader in his unit. He was also the runner-up for the prestigious Preceptor of the Year award.

“It’s nice to be recognized, but it’s even better to know we’re making a difference in Patients’ lives through the care we provide,” Kettler said. “I’m thrilled to be working with such a talented team and such an eager group of nursing residents.”
IT “Survivors” rise to challenge and recognize achievements of Caregivers

It’s hard to top the “Oscars” but Sparrow IT did just that with its recent “Survivor”-themed 2014 kick-off event at the Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club.

Dozens of colorfully dressed IT Caregivers gathered to recognize their accomplishments and focus on teamwork, collaboration and communication around the theme of “Survivors: IT Super Heroes Unite.” Twenty one IT teams were randomly selected and were tasked to complete a team challenge, such as building a car or airplane.

Individual awards were given to Brooke Cross (best team player); Chris Love (rising star); Zelijko Jurkovic (quality and patient safety); Amanda Pifer (best motivator-innovator); Adam Santorilla (customer service star); and Bryan Schur (fan favorite).

It wasn’t easy but the festivities rivaled last year’s elaborate IT Oscars ceremony at the MAC.

“This annual event gives us an opportunity to bring all the IT teams together to reflect on our successes, share the strategic direction for the future, and recognize our Caregivers for providing outstanding service to Sparrow,” said Tom Bres, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer.

New Sparrow Pyramid promotes Caregiver role in putting Patients' needs first

The Sparrow Pyramid, which helps guide our systemwide adoption of the Sparrow Way, has undergone a recent refresh.

The new Sparrow Pyramid puts an emphasis on the role of Caregivers in providing Radical Loving Care (RLC) and the key role they play in ensuring our Patients’ needs always come first.

In partnership with our Caregivers and Physicians, the Sparrow Way is our commitment to ensuring that the Patient care delivered at Sparrow adheres to Patient-centered, evidence-based best practices.