Be Well at Sparrow web portal launches, helps Caregivers get on the path to wellness

Know how many calories are in that tuna fish sandwich you had for lunch? Are you burning enough calories on your evening walk? Let Be Well at Sparrow guide you on the path to wellness.

This easy-to-use, comprehensive and confidential online health management system allows users to track their weight and food intake, log physical activity, customize a wellness plan, challenge fellow Caregivers, and much more.

“Caregivers are so dedicated to ensuring our Patients receive quality, compassionate care that they often neglect taking care of themselves,” said Sabarras George, Executive Director of Strategic Wellness. “This new program makes getting healthy easy and fun.”

Caregivers can also win prizes such as iPads, iPods, Kindles, gift cards, and more for participating. Log on to sparrowbewell.com to sign up.

Telethon celebrates 25 years of “miracles” for CMNH

A total of $20 million raised over the past 25 years has helped to make Sparrow into a world-class Children’s Center.

Nearly $1 million was raised this past year for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, culminating with the annual Children’s Center Telethon that aired locally on WILX-TV 10.

“The generosity of our community is always humbling,” said Stella Cash, Sparrow Vice President of Development and Strategic Partnerships. “Because we’ve been able to raise more than $20 million, our local children have access to some of the best equipment, treatments, and Caregivers in the world.”

The two-day telethon featured News 10 anchors and reporters and also included Michigan State University Head Football Coach Mark Dantonio and U.S. Olympic Gymnast and Gold Medalist Jordyn Wieber.
Patrick Brillantes has been selected to receive the American College of Healthcare Executives 2013 Michigan Regent’s Award for Early Careerist. Brillantes was given the award based on his contributions to healthcare and leadership skills. Congratulations, Patrick!

Shari Heydenburg has been promoted to Director, Respiratory Therapy and Pulmonary Diagnostics. She will be responsible for Respiratory Therapy, Sleep Lab, Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Diagnostics. Heydenburg began her career at Sparrow in 1993.

Karen Kent-VanGorder, MD, will serve as Sparrow’s Executive Medical Director of Physician Performance. The newly created position expands her current role to include the oversight of the Medical Staff clinical quality processes, quality improvement, and data analysis that is essential to Physician performance improvement.

Amy Parkinson is Sparrow’s new Home Care Director. She will fill the vacancy left by Sue Powell’s retirement. Parkinson comes to Sparrow from Allegiance Health and has worked in the Home Care industry for 16 years.

Kris Tennant has been named Director, Rehabilitative Services. She began her career with Sparrow in 2006 as Manager of various Rehab Outpatient sites. As Director, Tennant will work with her leadership team in the areas of Occupational/Associate Health, Pediatric Rehab, Pain Management, Inpatient Rehab (6 Foster) and Outpatient and Inpatient Rehab Therapy.

New campaign features inspiring Patient story

Sparrow is launching a new campaign to promote the Sparrow Way and our efforts to change healthcare for the better. The first focus of the campaign is our membership in the prestigious Mayo Clinic Care Network, and features the story of Pat Brogan, a Patient who has been impacted by this membership.

The campaign will be featured on TV, digital media, and billboards throughout mid-Michigan. Watch Pat’s inspiring story of overcoming cancer and learn more about the Mayo Clinic Care Network at sparrow.org/mayo or visit sparrowtv.org and click on “Patient stories.”

Sparrow Caregivers can now use a new neonatal transport incubator to transport our smallest, most fragile Patients to Sparrow from other facilities thanks to the support of partners in the community.

The transport incubator, purchased with funds from KIA of Lansing, Auto-Owners Insurance and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Out-State Michigan, is a specially equipped incubator that is used in ambulances to help safely transport critically ill newborns from community hospitals to Sparrow and occasionally from Sparrow to other specialty facilities.

The transport incubator was unveiled during the Sparrow Children’s Center Telethon, which was held May 31 and June 1 on WILX-TV 10.

Sparrow Foundation Board member Todd Granger and wife Gillian recently toured the Inpatient Oncology Unit (5th floor of Sparrow Tower) after making a generous contribution to help Sparrow continue its state-of-the-art cancer care. Joining the tour were (from left) Lisa Palmer, Assistant Department Manager, holding daughter Isabella; Gillian Granger; Todd Granger; and Amy Brown, Interim Department Manager.

RN Caregiver Spotlight: Melissa Hinkle

Sparrow is celebrating nurses and all of the work they do to help ensure quality, Patient-centered care. The new RN Caregiver Spotlight features one nurse each month who has been honored locally or by peers.

The first recipient is Melissa Hinkle of Sparrow’s Critical Care Transport team. Hinkle helped pioneer the project to ensure iSparrow EMR could be used in ambulances.

Sparrow was the nation’s first health system to use real-time charting through iSparrow EMR during the transport of a Patient.

“The Critical Care Transport team has done amazing work,” Hinkle said. “I’m just one member of that team. Being able to chart in real-time while we’re transporting Patients helps us to diagnose and treat them in a faster and more accurate manner, leading to better outcomes.”
New uniform colors coming to Caregivers near you

Responding to Caregiver feedback, we’re adding two new colors, royal blue and pewter, and removing khaki from our Caregiver uniform color palate. Unit-based Caregivers such as Patient Care Technicians, Dialysis technicians, and medical assistants will move to royal blue, and our EMTs and Paramedics in the ED, as well as in-patient lab, will now sport pewter.

The transition to the new colors is underway. We are updating our Patient room posters, admission packets, tray liners and elevator posters to reflect the new colors our Patients will see around the health system.

Sparrow’s systemwide standard uniform policy plays an important role in improving Patient satisfaction by making it easier for them to identify the roles different Caregivers play in their care.

All affected Caregivers will be fully transitioned to their new colors by Sept. 1. If you have any questions, contact Teresa Verscheure at 517.364.5840 or teresa.verscheure@sparrow.org

Michigan Mile brings fun, fitness for kids

Despite some dark clouds, more than 2,500 kids took to their feet to participate in the 2013 Sparrow Michigan Mile at Cooley Law School Stadium on June 1.

The day was filled with so many inspiring stories. Oscar Gonzalez, 12, an autistic student at Wexford Elementary in Lansing, participated in the Michigan Mile after hitting his goal to walk 20 miles in the Feelin’ Good Mileage Club. Hailei Hawley, in the 5-6 year old group, did her mile by wheelchair due to a broken leg. And Daneel Proshlyakov, a 10-year-old with cerebral palsy, crossed the finish line with a great big smile.

Kids run based on age groups with all kids getting a T-shirt and finishers a shiny gold medal. The race is how many kids cap off their efforts in the Feelin’ Good Mileage Club program, a school-based program that encourages kids to get active during designated recess or lunch periods in April and May.

And they’re off! With a motorcycle escort leading the way, area kids ran a one mile course that started inside Cooley Law School Stadium, circled the block, and finished back in the stadium to the roaring sound of their parents cheering from the stands.

Farmers’ market season kicks off at Sparrow

Farmers’ markets are a great community resource for fresh, local food and Sparrow supports efforts to expand access to these markets.

The Allen Street Farmers Market satellite market at Sparrow opens this month. Visitors can stop by to pick up items including fresh produce, honey, flowers and more. The Sparrow Market is open from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, and Oct. 2.

Also, the Sparrow St. Lawrence Campus is home to the Westside Farmers’ Market from 3:30-7 p.m. every Monday until Oct. 14. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the fresh produce available to Sparrow Caregivers and the public!
Caregivers honored during Service Recognition Banquet

Caregivers who have served 20 to 45 years at Sparrow celebrated during the Service Recognition Banquet on June 12.

Sparrow’s success is due to the outstanding care and service that all of our Caregivers provide our Patients and their families.

These dedicated Caregivers allow us to hold our organization to the highest standards in health care, and we thank them for their commitment to Sparrow.

When Bunny Rainsberger (right) became a nurse in the Sparrow RNICU, Richard Nixon was in his first term in office and the Vietnam War was still raging. She was honored for 40 years of service to Sparrow. Bunny is shown with fellow RNICU Nurse Laura Sargent.

Dapper Dads gala raises $118k for women’s health

A simple strut down the runway by 31 local “Dapper Dads” helped to raise $118,000 for women’s health during the annual Dapper Dads fashion show.

The dads solicited votes and donations for the Sparrow Foundation’s Women Working Wonders (W3), which raises money and awareness for women’s health in mid-Michigan.

The fashion show took place June 6 at Kositchek’s in Lansing.

MSUFCU President Patrick McPharlin walks the runway to help raise money for Women Working Wonders (W3) and women’s health.

Wharton »
Center Public Relations Manager Bob Hoffman shows off his new look during the fashion show at Kositchek’s in Lansing.