Volunteers honored for service to Sparrow

Dozens of volunteers were recently honored for their incredible service to Sparrow during the Sparrow Women’s Hospital Association 115th Annual Meeting.

Volunteers are the heart of Sparrow and are a critical part of our mission of being recognized as a national leader in quality and patient experience. We benefit each year from more than 150,000 collective hours from our volunteers.

A number of milestones were noted at the annual meeting, including several volunteers with at least 50 years of service to Sparrow. That means they have been lending a hand since John F. Kennedy was president, or even before!

Receiving special recognition was Janet Hines, for her 55 years of service to the Sparrow Service Auxiliary. She is a past president and currently an honorary member of the Sparrow Women’s Board of Managers.

Two others were honored for volunteering for a half-century: Toni Chadwell, with the Mary Magdalen League, and Eileen Hatt, with the Sparrow Service Auxiliary.

For a complete list of all volunteers honored, visit sparrow.org/mysparrowassociates. Scroll down to “Sparrow news” and click on “Additional online content.”

Volunteer accomplishments

» The Sparrow Guild made a $100,000 donation toward the renovation of the Oncology waiting room.

» The Mary Magdalen League at St. Lawrence raised $15,000 in special items sales as part of a three-year pledge to provide funding to renovate areas of the substance abuse unit at the campus.

» Volunteers continue to play a key role in our Founders’ Day celebration and Annual Physician Recognition and Hall of Fame program.

» And, this year our volunteers have partnered with all of our internal departments to strategically tackle quality problems, such as cleanliness, with our patient concierge program.

Diversity e-learning course must be completed by Sept. 30

Recognizing and respecting others’ differences and similarities is one of our core values here at Sparrow. And, “Cultural Competency & You” is a new e-learning course offered by Diversity and Inclusion that will help us to work toward this. It’s aimed at increasing cultural awareness; improving how we communicate and interact with people of different cultures; and, ultimately, boosting quality of care.

To access our Learning Management System (LMS), enter your Associate ID, and the word “password” in the login fields. All Associates must complete this training by Sept. 30. Prizes will be offered to the department that finishes training first with 100 percent completion. For your convenience, a link to the LMS has been placed on the Sparrow Intranet home page.
Briefs

News

Chevrolet, TechSmith, Auto-Owners, Option 1 Credit MSUFCU, Foster Swift, Michigan Millers, Bud Kouts Miracle Network (CMN) telethon was $871,286 – well beyond last year’s amount. Thank you to our sponsors: Chevrolet, TechSmith, Auto-Owners, Option 1 Credit Union, Wal-Mart, Meijer, Bravol, Hungry Howie’s Pizza, Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe, US Foods, Coke and Adams Outdoor Advertising. Since 1988, Sparrow Children’s Center, in affiliation with CMN, has partnered with WILX TV -10 to air the telethon, which aids in the advancement of services and care for children in mid-Michigan. One hundred percent of the money raised stays local.

Sparrow, in partnership with MSU, has opened a state-of-the-art Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at our main campus to treat people with neurologic issues. Epilepsy is a brain disorder involving repeated, spontaneous seizures of any type, according to the National Institutes of Health. Seizures are episodes of disturbed brain function that cause changes in attention or behavior. They are caused by abnormal electrical signals in the brain.

New leaders welcomed

Cosmin Dobrescu, MD, joined Sparrow’s Cardiovascular Surgery team in early June. Dobrescu specializes in cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgery. He completed his residency in cardio thoracic surgery at the University of Michigan and has completed additional fellowships in aortic surgery, endovascular surgery and robotic cardiovacular revisionalization. Dobrescu come to us from a private practice in Illinois.

Linda Reetz, BSN & MBA, joined Sparrow’s Emergency Department in May as Director of Emergency Services. Reetz comes to us from Beaumont Health System in metro Detroit, where she was most recently Director of Emergency Services at the Royal Oak main campus.

Kim Ford has been named Director of Patient Support Services. Ford has been an integral part of the Length of Stay team and actively involved with case management redesign.

Ford has been with Sparrow for 20 years and has held a variety of nursing and leadership roles.

Run, run, run!

On Saturday, June 4, nearly 2,300 kids gathered at Cooley Law School Stadium to participate in the annual Kohl’s Michigan Mile presented by Sparrow Health System. The event includes a one-mile course for children 13 and younger and a shorter course – the Kidsprint – for those 6 and younger. The Michigan Mile is the capstone of the Sparrow/Kohl’s sponsored Feelin’ Good Mileage Club, which rewards elementary school students for walking and running. For video and more photos from the event, visit sparrow.org/koHlsmileageclub.

New wound center agreement announced

Sparrow Hospital has signed an agreement to partner with National Healing Corp. of Boca Raton, Fla., to operate our outpatient wound healing program. National Healing provides wound healing management services for hospitals, including hyperbaric oxygen services. Chronic wounds affect 6.5 million patients in the United States. It is a growing medical concern being fueled by an aging population and increasing rates of diabetes, obesity and cancer treatment side-effects.

The company will provide training and monitoring of a new wound center, planned to open later this year at the St. Lawrence campus. The new facility will include the addition of two hyperbaric chambers. The goal is to reduce the time is takes for a wound to heal and offer the latest technologies as Sparrow continues to move forward with its vision of being recognized as a national leader in quality and patient care.

Sparrow’s emergency code changes went into effect on May 16. Bomb threats changed from code orange to CODE YELLOW. Disaster events changed from code green to CODE TRIAGE. And, decontami- nation events changed from code gray to CODE ORANGE. The following codes remain the same: Code Red – Fire; Code Pink – An infant or child has been abducted; Code Weather – Severe snow or ice conditions; Code Silver – An active shooter within the health system; and Tornado Warning – Cloud rotations that may lead to a funnel forming.

News briefs

The Sparrow Women’s Board of Managers and Sparrow Volunteer Services have selected Georgia Brown, of Lansing, as the June volunteer of the month. Brown volunteers with the Mary Magdalen League, which runs the St. Lawrence Gift Shop. Brown has been named Honorary Chair MSU Football Coach Mark Dantonio visited the MSU athletes helping with our phone banks.

We welcome new Sparrow Foundation board member Tim Salisbury, who is Regional President and Commercial Banking Market Manager for PNC Financial Services Group in Mid-Michigan. He is also a board member of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Children’s Leadership Council and the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts. He is active with the Capital Area United Way and the Rotary Club of Lansing and has served on the board for the YMCA of Metro Lansing, as well.

Chief Operating Officer Joe Ruth speaks during the launch of the ‘Healthy Food Hospitals’ Campaign at Sparrow.

For a complete listing of events, please visit sparrow.org. Click on “Events” next to “About Sparrow.”

A telethon triumph!

The total amount raised for the annual Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) telethon was $871,286 – well beyond last year’s amount. Thank you to our sponsors: MSUFCU, Foster Swift, Michigan Mililers, Bud Kouts Chevrolet, TechSmith, Auto-Owners, Option 1 Credit Union, Wal-Mart, Meijer, Bravol, Hungry Howie’s Pizza, Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe, US Foods, Coke and Adams Outdoor Advertising. Since 1988, Sparrow Children’s Center, in affiliation with CMN, has partnered with WILX TV -10 to air the telethon, which aids in the advancement of services and care for children in mid-Michigan. One hundred percent of the money raised stays local.

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For video and more photos from the event, visit sparrow.org/koHlsmileageclub. Scroll down to “Sparrow news” and click on “Additional online content.”

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Group celebrates fundraising efforts for new detection technology

The Mammography and Ultrasound staff recently hosted an open house in the Women’s Imaging Center for the Women Working Wonders (W3) Committee. The committee raised approximately $180,000 toward the purchase of a new stereotactic breast biopsy machine. The machine, which has been in use since February, uses digital x-ray technology to locate small abnormalities that cannot usually be detected during physical examination. The technology, which is complete with a memory foam table, provides for an enhanced patient experience.

Cross-country bikers volunteer at Cancer Center

A group of bicyclists on a cross-country trek for cancer awareness recently volunteered their time in the Sparrow Cancer Center. The four bicyclists helped with materials planned for the July 17 National Cancer Survivors Day activities, slated from 1-4 p.m. in Hawk Island Park, Lansing. The event includes a program at 2 p.m., children’s activities, clowns, and refreshments. The bicyclists are with 4k for Cancer, a nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting communities against cancer. The volunteers, all students or graduates of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., set out from Baltimore on May 29 and plan to ride to San Francisco. They stopped in Michigan for several days on the route.

“Here’s an example of young people giving back in an area where they feel there is a real need. They are doing wonderful work,” said Cancer Center Director Peter Skiles.