Dads don dapper duds, draw $125K in donations for women's health

A record-setting $125,000 was raised during the second annual “Dapper Dads Challenge” and fashion show held recently at Kositchek's in Lansing by the Sparrow Foundation's Women Working Wonders (W3) Committee.

More than 400 people attended the fashion show (emceed by MSU women's basketball coach Suzy Merchant), watching 34 area business and professional leaders compete for the title of “Top Model.” The 13 top vote-getters and models will appear in a special “Dapper Dads Calendar” available later this fall through the Sparrow Foundation and online at sparrow.org/dapperdads.

The event aided the Sparrow Foundation’s W3 Committee in its efforts to fund equipment and resources that support women’s health in the region.

Summer fun at the MAC

There’s been lots of laughter, smiles and teamwork during the Michigan Athletic Club Kids Summer Camp 2011. Campers designed cardboard boats to sail across the lap pool during “Set Sail” week, enjoyed a scavenger hunt at the MSU Planetarium and have their pick of any number of sports or arts and crafts. The camp runs until Sept. 2 and rates are daily or weekly. For more information and to register, call 517.364.8888.
Calling all aspiring nurse leaders

Sparrow is now accepting applications for its Aspiring Nurse Leaders program, which resumes this fall, and prepares nurses for potential leadership positions.

The first Aspiring Nurse Leaders program recently concluded, with 22 nurses participating. The program consists of five 6-hour sessions, each held every two weeks. Participants learn about how to screen and interview to hire top performers, patient satisfaction, team building, and much more.

Nurses interested in attending this program need to be nominated by their manager and/or director. Applications are on the Intranet under Nursing and then Nursing Education or Learning and Organizational Development.

Welcome Dr. Collar

Please welcome Alonso Collar, MD, to the Sparrow Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery practice.

Collar, the leading heart and vascular surgeon in the Lansing area since 1986, has also been designated Sparrow’s medical director of cardiovascular surgery.

He is a Mayo Clinic-trained heart and vascular surgeon and graduate of Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine. He joins Ara Pridjian, MD, who has been practicing at Sparrow since 2006.

“Sparrow has been a tremendous asset to our region for many years. They’ve made an enormous commitment to the treatment of cardiovascular disease, the area of medical expertise to which I have dedicated my life,” says Dr. Collar, a native of Cuba who came to the Lansing area when he was 8 years old.

“Together in partnership with Sparrow’s Heart and Vascular Center and Thoracic Cardiovascular Institute we’re going to do some great things relative to the treatment of cardiovascular disease.”

New leaders welcomed

» Don Davis, Jr. has been appointed vice president and chief human resources officer for Sparrow Hospital and Health System. Don succeeds Tom Ostrander, who has become Sparrow’s vice president-professional services.

Don has previously held key positions with such organizations as Ford Motor Company, the University of Michigan and Henry Ford/Health Alliance Plan. He has been serving as our interim vice president since February 2011. Please join us in welcoming Don, who will play a leading role in helping Sparrow remain the region’s Employer of Choice.

» Carol Mahaney, RN, BSN, MBA, is Sparrow’s new director of Women’s and Children’s Services, effective Aug. 8. Mahaney comes to Sparrow from Garden City Hospital where she has served as director of Patient Care Services and Maternal Child and Women’s Services since 2008. The Michigan State University graduate has broad experience as a director and as a manager in pediatrics and mother-baby nursing. She succeeds Connie Shay-Hadley, who has been interim director of Women’s and Children’s Services since December and is returning to her home in the Chicago area.
Stella Cash has been named vice president of development and strategic partnerships for Sparrow Health System. Cash joined Sparrow in June 2010 as administrative director for strategic partnerships and became interim executive director of the Sparrow Foundation in October. This new position integrates both roles. Cash brings a wealth of experience, leadership and enthusiasm to her new role. She has great ability to engage the mid-Michigan community in philanthropy and ongoing partnerships with Sparrow.

Volunteer of the Month

Carol Dunn of East Lansing has been selected July Volunteer of the Month by the Sparrow Women’s Board of Managers and Sparrow Volunteer Services.

Dunn has been volunteering her time at Sparrow for more than 25 years. She sews cloth toys for pediatric patients and makes plaster molds depicting animals, flowers, sports and seasonal items for the children to paint. Her latest hit with patients is children-themed pillow cases that Dunn sews at home.

Husband Bob provides her “muscle,” carrying supplies and projects to the fifth floor pediatrics unit and helping her buy materials.

The Pediatrics Department nominated Dunn because of her tireless efforts to give children joy and comfort during their hospital stay and for taking their minds off their illnesses.

MNA Retirement Choice campaign starts Aug. 1

The Retirement Choice campaign for Michigan Nurses Association members kicks off Aug. 1

This campaign will give active MNA Associates, who made the choice in 2008 to remain in the defined benefit pension plan, the option to continue in the modified pension plan or elect to participate in the Sparrow 401(k) plan, effective Jan. 1, 2012.

This campaign is the result of changes in the formula used in calculating pension benefits, to which Sparrow and the MNA negotiated in 2010. The change already took effect on Jan. 1, 2011, for eligible UAW and non-represented Associates, including leadership, professional, physicians and staff.

The formula change does not affect those MNA Associates who elected to participate in the Sparrow 401(k) plan, effective Jan. 1, 2009.

The enrollment period for the Retirement Choice campaign will run through 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2011. Additional information, including personalized statements and meeting times, are being communicated to affected MNA Associates.

Get more content online

For more Sparrow News content, visit sparrow.org/mysparrowassociates. Scroll down to “Sparrow news” and click on “Additional online content.” You’ll see stories and photos on:

» National Cancer Survivors Day at Hawk Island Park
» Williamston Pharmacy Plus community prescription dropoff
» Food and Nutrition statewide conference held at Sparrow
Tom Auvenshine honored

The late Tom Auvenshine was a special person to many in the mid-Michigan region, including the Sparrow staff who cared for him for three months while he battled cancer. The Auvenshine family has made a generous donation to the Sparrow Foundation and is hosting the “Tee Off For Tom” golf outing on July 30 (bigtee.org/sparrow-foundation.html) to benefit the foundation. Their goal: Impacting the quality of life for patients suffering with cancer.

Tom’s widow, Linda, received a tearful surprise recently when a ceremony was held to dedicate a room for Tom in the inpatient oncology unit on the fifth floor of Sparrow Tower, where he stayed.