Teaching the next generation of caregivers

Inside Sparrow Hospital’s high-tech intensive care unit, pulmonologist John Armstrong, MD, passes along his extensive knowledge of medicine to an eager group of resident physicians in much the same way it was conveyed to him when he was a young resident – through group conversations.

Sparrow is a major teaching hospital where for more than a century medical knowledge has been passed on from one person to another – and from one generation to another. Sparrow’s formal affiliation with Michigan State University’s human health colleges and partnerships with many other colleges and universities guarantee that hands-on medical education is occurring within the walls of the hospital nearly every minute of every day.

“Students and faculty physicians, nurses and, most importantly, our patients benefit from an emphasis on medical education at Sparrow,” Dr. Armstrong said. “It keeps us at the forefront of medical advances and helps us provide the highest levels of patient care.”

In addition to providing the world’s most advanced medical care, major teaching hospitals like Sparrow are a vital part of America’s safety net, providing care to millions of the nation’s uninsured and a disproportionate share of care to patients who are severely ill or have rare conditions. It is more difficult to be a teaching hospital. It demands more from leadership, more from a medical staff, and more from the support staff.

At Sparrow, it is part of who we are. Teaching the next generation of caregivers is not only part of Sparrow’s long heritage, but a key to our future.
Retirement choice deadline nears

The 2010 Healthy Retirement Choice Campaign is drawing to a close and all eligible associates are asked to make an active election by completing the Decision Form and returning it to Human Resources not later than Friday, Aug. 20.

Choice eligible associates are provided the opportunity to choose between the modified Defined Benefit Plan or the Sparrow Retirement Savings Plan 401(k). Over the last several weeks, you should have received multiple communications including important information regarding your retirement benefits. Please review the materials sent to you and if you have any questions, please contact the Compensation and Benefits Hotline at 364.5333.

Occupational Health Services team earns national acclaim

Sparrow's Occupational Health Services (OHS) has been recognized as one of the top ten providers in the nation by Rockville, Md.-based Corporate Health Resources Inc. (CHR). CHR has more than 10,000 providers in its network of occupational health clinics and collection sites. Sparrow OHS was cited for their excellence in six quality indicators. Some of the members of the OHS team include, front row from left, Tara Nye, Deborah Ginsburg, Sue Stock, Sandy Kurzer, Shirley Allred. Back row, from left, Sarah Sudhoff, Judy Nowicki, Lauri Poole, Ann Rogers, Dr. Tom Keaveney, Melissa Hulbert-Chapman, Eva York.

Jim Tellner has been selected by Sparrow’s Women’s Board of Managers as July’s Volunteer of the Month. For 13 years Jim has been a member of the McAuley League, which runs the Thrifty Sparrow Resale Shop, located on the St. Lawrence Campus. For the past 10 years Jim has served as president of this group.

people news

Julie Dodds, MD, » received the inaugural Stephen J. Snyder Excellence in Teaching Award from the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA). Dr. Dodds, an orthopedic surgeon, currently serves as chair of the AANA Research Committee. She received the award in May at the AANA’s annual meeting in Hollywood, Fla.

Jim Tellner

Resale staff. Ready to assist » customers and help the community through their volunteer work at the Thrifty Sparrow Resale Shop are, from left to right, Jean Walworth, Jackie Underwood, Ann Feldpausch, James Tellner, Barbara Hagerman, Margaret Debo and Dorothy Schneider.

Fight clutter, help others, through Thrifty Sparrow Resale Shop

Ready to fight your closet clutter? Consider a donation to the Sparrow Thrifty Resale Shop on the St. Lawrence campus. Donations not only help you, but others as well.

The Resale Shop accepts gently used clothing, toys and household items. Proceeds from the sales benefit Sparrow Hospice. The Resale Shop also partners with EVE (End Violent Encounters) a Lansing-based shelter to assist women and children impacted by domestic abuse.

EVE’s clients can receive vouchers to purchase clothing or household items from the Resale Shop.

The McAuley League is the volunteer group that organizes and maintains the Resale Shop. Resale shop hours are Mondays 8 a.m.-noon, the first and third Wednesday of each month from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For information about the Resale Shop, call 364.7185 during store hours.

To learn more about EVE, call 372.5976 ext. 15 or visit their website at eveinc.org. If you know someone in need of help, call the crisis line at 372.5572.

brief mentions

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Retirees honored

We say goodbye to many longtime Sparrow family members who retired within the past month. They include:

- **Bobbi Cardinel-Dymond**, RN, who served for 44 years, most recently as a staff nurse in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department;
- **Evelyn Bochenek**, RN, who retired after 41 years of service. Evelyn served in a variety of nursing and nursing leadership roles during her remarkable career, most recently as director of surgical services. This year she was honored with the Sparrow Nursing Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Robert Perro**, who served for 37 years in the Food and Nutrition Department;
- **Meredith Bradley**, RN, who served for 29 years, most recently in the Palliative Care Department; and
- **Rose Seavolt**, RN, who served for 27 years, most recently as a case manager in the Emergency Department. On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News offers our best wishes to Bobbi, Evelyn, Robert, Meredith and Rose for long and happy retirements.

Let your voice be heard

The 2010 Sparrow Associate Engagement Survey has begun, and all associates are urged to participate. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete and is accessible via the Internet or Sparrow Intranet, Aug. 9-23. The survey is administered by an outside vendor and all responses will remain completely anonymous. Web-based survey responses cannot be traced back to an individual. Workgroups receive a password tied to their primary department. Open comments are encouraged and are reported exactly as you write them. If you have questions, you may contact your leader or the LOD team at 364.7284.

With deepest regrets, we announce the death of Carla Smith on June 24 at age 50, Sandy Shuler on June 28 at age 54, Kari Dingey on July 4 at age 52 and Mavis Roberts on July 18 at age 85.

Carla served since 1995 in the Environmental Services Department. Sandy served since 1981 in the Mother Baby Center’s Birth Records Office. Kari served since 1981 in the Environmental Services Department. Sandy served since 1981 in the Mother Baby Center’s Birth Records Office. Kari served since 1983 in Pharmacy Department. Mavis, also known as “Butterfly the Clown,” was for many years a regular contributor at Sparrow special events, performing with her late husband and former Sparrow associate Russell Roberts (aka “Zippi the Clown”). On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News offers our condolences to the family and friends of Carla, Sandy, Kari and Mavis.
From one champion to another. From left, Sparrow executives Stella Cash and Ira Ginsburg flank patient Skyler Hill, who got an unexpected surprise when he arrived for an outpatient visit to the Sparrow Cancer Center in June. Hill, who is an avid Michigan State Spartan basketball fan, was presented with a 2010 Big Ten Championship cap, signed by Spartan Basketball Coach Tom Izzo. Cash and Ginsburg coordinated the cap presentation with Coach Izzo, who extended his best wishes to Hill for a full recovery.

Keeping Sparrow Safe:
Always wear your ID badge

Sparrow ID badges instantly tell our patients and guests that you work for Sparrow. Sparrow ID badges state who you are and what department you work for. They also help control access to secure areas while restricting others from entering those areas. Wearing an identification card with your picture and credentials displayed helps makes everyone feel a little more comfortable.

So, always wear your ID badge at work. Wear it in a prominent area above your waist where others can easily see it — and don’t obscure it with stickers or pins. Do your part to help keep Sparrow safe.