Caregivers celebrate Olympic gold medalist Jordyn Wieber

Jordyn Wieber dazzled the world during the Summer Olympics, and Sparrow Caregivers, including her mother and grandmother, cheered her along every step of the way.

Jordyn’s grandmother, Emiline Reifsnyder, is a Sparrow Gift Shop Volunteer, and her daughter and Jordyn’s mother, Rita Wieber, is an Emergency Department Nurse.

Jordyn won gold in gymnastics as part of Team USA, and Reifsnyder said her fellow volunteers supported her through the entire journey.

“We’re all so proud of Jordyn,” Reifsnyder said. “The support that I’ve gotten here from the Sparrow community has been incredible. The feeling is so hard to describe.”

Sparrow Hospital cleanliness scores up 10 percent

Sparrow Hospital Caregivers have worked together to increase HCAHPS cleanliness scores by an impressive 10 percent since the end of 2011 — something few hospitals are able to achieve.

The increase is the result of hard work by several departments, including Environmental Services and Nursing, said Reza Tavakoli, Environmental Services Director. To achieve this change, EVS Caregivers were retrained and responsibilities were redeployed to ensure cleanliness is always a top priority for anyone who enters a Patient room.

“I am grateful for everyone’s tremendous efforts in this initiative,” said Tavakoli. “Our improvements have been awesome, especially compared to other hospitals.”

HCAHPS scores, or “Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and System” scores, are used to provide information to the public and determine Sparrow’s reimbursement levels from Medicaid and Medicare.
You may now access your Sparrow email on your mobile device

Sparrow is making it easy for you to use your personal mobile devices (smartphones or tablets) to connect to Sparrow email accounts and calendars!

Visit sparrow.org/mobileaccess to request access for your mobile device and get more information on which devices are compatible.

Complete instructions are available on the Sparrow Mobile Access webpage.

For more information, visit sparrow.org/mobileaccess and click on the FAQ or email webteam@sparrow.org

Sparrow Hospital recognized for going green

Sparrow’s efforts to care for Patients while also caring for the environment has earned Green Building certification for Sparrow Hospital.

The certification, from the Society of Environmentally Responsible Facilities, recognizes Sparrow’s commitment to balancing technical and sanitary requirements of its operations with sustainable building systems.

Sparrow earned this certification through green improvements, including energy- and water-efficiencies in the Sparrow Tower, a 98% reduction in mercury use and efforts to reduce regulated medical waste.

Agreement with Mary Free Bed brings rehab care collaboration

Sparrow and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids have formalized an agreement that will strengthen and expand a long-standing practice of working together to provide rehabilitation care to Patients.

The pact provides for the joint creation of Patient care protocols and increased collaboration between the two medical staffs to ensure Patients receive the most appropriate level of rehabilitation services in a timely manner. In addition, the organizations have signed a letter of intent to begin studying a potential joint venture with the goal of opening a new Lansing-based rehabilitation unit to replace and expand the inpatient unit at Sparrow Hospital.

“Sparrow Hospital and Mary Free Bed have worked together to benefit our rehabilitation Patients for years, and we are pleased to formalize this relationship,” said Tom Ostrander, Sparrow Vice President of Professional Services. “This agreement will help us expand our inpatient rehabilitation services to benefit the mid-Michigan region. It continues a long-standing practice of providing exceptional rehabilitation care for Patients.”

Mary Free Bed is the premier provider of hospital-based physical rehabilitation services in Michigan, and Sparrow is the largest provider of inpatient rehabilitation services in the mid-Michigan region.

Open enrollment for Caregivers to begin in early October

Open enrollment is coming soon. This is your chance to enroll and make changes in medical and other benefits and learn about all the changes in store for the coming year. Open enrollment will begin in early October so watch for the latest news and updates.

Don’t miss this opportunity to ensure you and your family are protected. For more information, call 517.364.5333.

Sparrow receives exemplar status in effort to improve joint surgeries

Sparrow has been named an exemplar site for the national Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s Project JOINTS initiative, a program aimed at preventing surgical site infections after hip and knee replacement surgery.

Program participants are dedicated to adopting best practices to help improve Patient care and prevent infections. Sparrow is one of three facilities in Michigan to have earned this recognition.
Community races a great way to support important causes

Two upcoming events will let you have fun with the entire family while supporting important Sparrow services. The Women Working Wonders (W3) 0K/5K/8K will be held on Sept. 9 and Hike for Hospice will be held Oct. 7.

Now in its 10th year, W3 has raised more than $1 million for equipment and resources that have improved the health and psychological well-being of thousands of mid-Michigan women. Hike for Hospice benefits Sparrow Hospice Services and helps to ensure the continued delivery of compassionate hospice care for mid-Michigan families.

These events are fun opportunities to support the communities we serve, and both are official Team Sparrow events. Caregivers can get free Team Sparrow gear by registering at teamsparrow.org and then racing for the health of it!

To register or for more information, visit sparrow.org/sparrowfoundation and click on Events.

Margaret Brooks of Lansing was thrilled when she heard Sparrow was selected to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network. She also has strong ties to Mayo.

Her uncle, Dr. Alfred W. Adson, MD, was an internationally known neurosurgeon who headed neurosurgery at Mayo Clinic in the early 1900s. Dr. Adson died in 1951.

“Every time I hear ‘Mayo,’ I get excited,” said Brooks.

She and her family lived on and took care of her uncle’s farm in Minnesota when he worked at Mayo Clinic. She sometimes visited Mayo Clinic, and she found the facility “thrilling,” she said.

Brooks is a big fan of Sparrow, too. Brooks’ husband, James, was recently treated at Sparrow. Sparrow recently became Michigan’s first member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, which provides Sparrow Physicians access to Mayo Clinic expertise and clinical resources so our Patients will receive some of the most advanced care in the nation right here at Sparrow. To find out more, visit sparrow.org/mayo.
Sports Injury Clinic reopens for community and student athletes

Sparrow’s free Saturday Injury Clinic opened on Aug. 18, just in time for fall sports. The clinic provides services to help keep high school and community athletes healthy, including injury treatment, personalized home treatment plan instructions and referrals to Sparrow orthopedic surgeons as needed.

The clinic is held 9-11:30 a.m. every Saturday until March 9, 2013, (except Nov. 24, Dec. 22 and Dec. 29) at Sparrow Health Science Pavilion, Suite B102 (adjacent to the Michigan Athletic Club), 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. No appointment is necessary and parents and athletes should bring their insurance information to the clinic.

For more information, visit sparrow.org/athletictraining.

Super Heroes recognized at Lansing Lugnuts game

Lansing Lugnuts fans celebrated amazing Sparrow Caregivers while rooting for the home team on Aug. 5.

The Annual Sparrow Day at the Ballpark was a chance to honor Sparrow Super Heroes nominated by their peers for extraordinary caring and devotion to their jobs. The Lugnuts weren’t able to come away with a win, but that didn’t detract from the day of fun and activities, including face painting, inflatables, a petting zoo and field day events.

Those honored were Cindy Artibee, Executive Assistant for the Sparrow Foundation; Amanda Greenhoe, Patient Care Technician at Sparrow Ionia Hospital; Layna Korcal, Nurse Coordinator at the Myelodysplasia and Cleft Palate Clinics; Holly Marsh, Administrative Secretary for Forensic Pathology; Maryanne Marvin, Sparrow Gift Shop Volunteer; Laurie Shively, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist; Angela Smith, Occupational Therapist at Sparrow Specialty Hospital; Dr. Julia Spalding, MD, of Sparrow Medical Group Eastside Family Practice; and James Wilson, Safety Sitter at Sparrow Main and St. Lawrence Emergency Departments.