According to Wikipedia, a “Super Hero” is a character possessing extraordinary or superhuman powers and dedicated to helping others. At Sparrow, we introduce our first class of “Super Heroes,” 12 people nominated and selected by their peers for their extraordinary, upbeat attitudes and superhuman willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in health care. Sparrow’s first class of Super Heroes were first introduced at Sparrow Day at the Ballpark on Aug. 29 at Lansing’s Cooley Law School Stadium. The Sparrow News congratulates these outstanding Sparrow team members and is honored to feature them in this issue.

Introducing:

Sparrow Super Heroes

Jerry Ritz, RN, Sparrow Ionia Hospital
Deb Parsons, Team Advisor, Forensic Pathology
Suzie Jordon, Scrub Tech, Labor & Delivery
Lou Wagner, Medical Assistant, Sparrow Medical Group
Monica Phelps, PCT, Inpatient Rehab
Unity Wiles, RN, Orthopedics/Neuro Surgery
Jan LaGrow, Volunteer, Sparrow Specialty Hospital
Julie Lorenzen, Medical Transcriptionist, Health Information Management
Kathleen Johnson, PCT, Outpatient Services Sparrow Clinton Hospital
Dr. Susan Caldwell, Physician, Sparrow Medical Group
Shawn Rottiers, Supervisor, Associate Health & Wellness
Samuel “Carl” Sims, Psych Tech Lead, Behavioral Health

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Narasimha Gundamraj, MD, has joined the Sparrow Medical Staff as a staff physician in the Pain Management Center. A graduate of Andhra Medical College in India, he completed his residency training at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Most recently he served on the faculty of the University of Southern California.

Joe Douglas has been elected president of UAW Local 4911 which represents approximately 2,400 Sparrow service, technical and skilled maintenance associates. Most recently, Joe served as an EMT in Sparrow Hospital’s Emergency Room.

Mike King has been selected to serve on the Sparrow Health System Board of Directors. Mike serves as Vice President/General Manager of WILX TV-10, and recently served as a member of the Sparrow Foundation Board.

Wally Wozniak and Jolene Jacobs were featured in the May/June edition of Profiles in Diversity Journal. Wally, who serves as executive director of support services at Sparrow Hospital, and Jolene, who serves as human resources director of Sparrow Clinton Hospital and Sparrow Ionia Hospital, were highlighted as managers who have successfully leveraged the diversity of their teams in order to best achieve business goals and objectives.

We say goodbye to Pat Feehery, RN, and Carl Laing, who retired after 33 and 29 years respectively. Pat has served in many nursing roles, most recently as a member of Sparrow’s electronic medical record implementation team. Carl, who began his career at St. Lawrence Hospital served in the Engineering Department. On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News offers our best wishes to Pat and Carl for a long and happy retirement.

Sparrow hosts Haitian hospital leader. From left, Sparrow Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs Larry Rawsthorne, MD, Sparrow pediatric pulmonologist Marie Gregoire-Bottex, MD, MSU Research Associate Dr. Erve Bottex, Director of MSU’s Institute of International Health, and assistant dean in the College of Osteopathic Medicine Dr. Reza Nassiri, Director of Justinien Hospital, Cap Haitien Dr. Jean Garcia Coq, State of Michigan Regulation Specialist, OFIS J.R. Beauboeuf and Sparrow Human Resources Vice President Tom Ostrander met in July to continue planning for a sustained medical presence in Haiti. In February, Sparrow and Michigan State University joined forces to provide medical relief and establish a long-term partnership in the earthquake-torn nation.

Carson City Community Walk
Carson City Hospital is organizing a Community Walk on, Monday, Sept. 6, at West Park in Carson City beginning at 9 a.m. as part of the Labor Day Community Walks that are held throughout the state in conjunction with the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Walk. There is no charge to attend the walk, and no pre-registration is required.

“A physically active community means a healthier community,” said Bruce Traverse, president and CEO of Carson City Hospital. “We hope everyone takes advantage of the wonderful opportunity to enjoy Carson City’s beautiful West Park while walking your way to fitness and health.”

Helping Bingham Elementary
Sparrow Hospital’s longtime neighbor, Bingham Elementary School is seeking supplies for the 2010-11 school year. The school, founded in 1890, is conducting their annual school supply drive and is accepting the following items: Notebook paper, pencils, pens, fine point red and black pens, crayons, two-pocket folders, children’s safety scissors; Elmer’s Glue, glue sticks and markers.

You can drop off donations at the Sparrow Hospital Service Excellence Department, Admitting Department on the St. Lawrence campus and Audit & Compliance Services in the Medical Arts Building.
Protect yourself, your family and your patients – get a flu shot

As health care workers, we share one of the proudest traditions of all professions – we put our patients’ interests ahead of our own. We’re nearing flu season, and the Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone – especially health care workers – get their seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it becomes available. For Sparrow associates, volunteers and physicians that’s in October, when Occupational Health will offer free flu vaccination clinics.

Vaccination before December is best, since this timing ensures that protective antibodies are in place before flu activity is typically at its highest. Over the course of the flu season, many different influenza viruses can circulate at different times and in different places. As long as flu viruses are still spreading in the community, vaccination can provide protective benefit.

So, do your part to protect yourself, your family and your patients – get your flu shot. Look for the free flu shot clinic schedule in the September issue of the Sparrow News.
Harvest time. The Allen Street Farmer’s Market offers fresh fruits, flowers, vegetables, baked goods and other scrumptious products from local vendors. The market has visited Sparrow three times this summer, and is scheduled for one more visit on Sept. 22, from 2:30 – 7 p.m. It will set up shop in the parking lot across Jerome Street from Sparrow Hospital’s Jerome Street entrance. Enjoy!

« Celebrating life. The smile and the twinkle in her eye tells the story of breast cancer survivor Leslie Algren as she enjoys the Sparrow-sponsored 16th Annual National Cancer Survivor’s Day celebration on July 18 at Lansing’s Hawk Island Park. More than 500 people attended this year’s event, which featured food, music, awards and loads of fun. Supplying some of the entertainment was Sparrow Cancer Center Medical Director (and Elvis impersonator) James Herman, MD, and his backup singers, the “Hermanettes” (inset photo) who added their lively brand of Rock ‘n Roll to the weekend festivities.