Spartan Band entertained, Sparrow kids to benefit

There were rousing tunes, an inspiring speech by MSU Football Coach Mark Dantonio, and a wonderful setting.

In short, it was a perfect fall afternoon for the Sept. 8 Spartan Marching Band for Kids Concert, benefitting the Sparrow Children’s Children and MSU Marching Band. The band played hours of songs, punctuated by an auction and appearances by MSU President Lou Anna Simon and others.

The event was held in the Okemos backyard of WILX-TV sportscaster (and former Sparrow Founder’s Day Award winner) Tim Staudt and wife Cathy. From all appearances, it was bigger and better than ever.

Open Enrollment begins in October

Caregivers will be able to enroll or make major changes to their benefits when Open Enrollment begins in October.

“We felt it was really important to give Caregivers enough time to compare benefit plans and make a decision that best fits their needs,” said Teresa Verscheure, Executive Director, Human Resources Operations. “We have some exciting additions this year that will really benefit our Caregivers and their families.”

Some of the new offerings include additional options and greater coverage for spousal and dependent life insurance.

For a complete list of benefits being offered this year, visit the Sparrow Intranet and click on Human Resources and then 2013 Open Enrollment.

Hundreds join Women Working Wonders 5k/Ok walk/run

It was ideal race weather – cool and clear – as hundreds of walkers and runners enjoyed the Women Working Wonders (W3) 5K/OK on Sept. 8. The event raises money for the Sparrow Foundation’s W3 committee, funding women’s health initiatives. Besides getting a good workout, participants and friends and family were able to enjoy the “OK” portion – a massage, snacks, health assessments, and demonstrations from Sparrow experts and local health and beauty professionals. Runners/walkers were cheered on by volunteers along the route and at the finishing line received congratulations from MSU Women’s Basketball Coach Suzy Merchant and team members.
Sparrow and Mayo Clinic are teaming up to host a public forum on advances in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer.

The forum will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center and will be moderated by Sparrow’s Breast Health Navigator Sharon Cosgrove. Sparrow and Mayo Clinic Physicians will present and answer questions.

Sparrow is Michigan’s first member in the prestigious Mayo Clinic Care Network—giving our doctors direct access to experts at Mayo Clinic to help us provide some of the most advanced care in the nation, right here in mid-Michigan.

More information about the event will be posted at sparrow.org/events.

Sparrow partners to provide free pap smears, mammograms to uninsured women

Sparrow is once again co-sponsoring Pap-O-Rama, offering free cervical cancer screenings to uninsured women from 21-64 who have not had a pap smear in the last three years.

More than 100 women attended last year’s Pap-O-Rama, sponsored by Alliance Ob/Gyn.

The event is from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Alliance, 1560 Turf Lane, East Lansing. Partners include the Sparrow Ob/Gyn Women’s Center, Women Working Wonders (W3), and CAP-Lab.

In addition, on the same date Sparrow Ramblewood Imaging Center will provide free mammograms to a limited number of uninsured women aged 40-64 who have not had a mammogram in more than 12 months. The service will be provided from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1575 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing.

To make an appointment for either Pap-O-Rama or a mammogram, call 517.364.3685.

Sparrow, Mayo Clinic host public breast cancer forum

RNICU takes on IRON Marble

Caregivers from the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit recently took part in the IRON Marble. The event is hosted at Department Manager Kathy Marble’s home to encourage teamwork and healthy living. Caregivers cheered each other on while they swam 100 meters, biked 12 miles and walked/ran 5K during the event.

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Sparrow, Volunteers of America open new Lansing clinic to serve homeless

Sparrow and Volunteers of America Michigan (VOAMI) have collaborated to open a new medical clinic in Lansing to serve the area’s homeless, the first such project between a health system and VOAMI in Michigan. The clinic will be on-site at VOAMI on North Larch Street in Lansing and each year will serve an estimated 3,400 underserved Patients, many of whom are physically disabled and/or suffer from mental illness.

“We’re very proud to be a part of this project and to take the lead in fundamentally transforming care in Michigan,” said Joe Ruth, Sparrow Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

“Our mission is to improve the health of people in our communities by providing quality, compassionate care and that’s exactly what this clinic will do for thousands of Patients in mid-Michigan.”

Sparrow will provide staff for the clinic, including a Physician and other medical and office personnel. The clinic is scheduled to open in early 2014.

TAVR procedure provides life-changing results for Patient

Raymond Hansen, 90, of Williamston, was one of the first to undergo the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure at Sparrow and he recently shared his experience to help spread the word about how it changed his life.

Before the surgery Hansen was weak, had great difficulty breathing, and could only take a few steps.

His son, Ray Hansen, M.D., of Mid-Michigan Physicians, says that the day after surgery his family found him walking around his hospital room with a big smile.

During the minimally invasive procedure, available only for “inoperable” or “high-risk” Patients, a catheter delivers a replacement prosthetic valve to the heart. Once there, a balloon is inflated which expands the valve and secures it in place.

Learn more about the TAVR procedure and how Physicians at Sparrow Thoracic Cardiovascular Institute are changing lives under Innovating Care at SparrowTV.org.

Caregiver input needed to help design new Michigan Avenue corridor

Want to help improve the Grand River/Michigan Avenue corridor? Don’t miss your chance to meet with design experts and share your ideas for the corridor’s future.

A design session for the Sparrow area of the corridor is scheduled for 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the Allen Market Place at 1619 E Kalamazoo St. in Lansing.

“Sparrow has a unique opportunity to help be a driving force for the surrounding community,” said Lynn Wilson, community planner and local project organizer. “We’re hoping Sparrow Caregivers will come and share their ideas for the future to help develop this corridor in the coming years.”

For more information about the session and others in the area, visit www.migrand-charrette.com.
Caregivers encouraged to get flu vaccines during free clinics at Sparrow

All Sparrow Caregivers are strongly encouraged to get a flu vaccine this year in order to help prevent the spread of influenza throughout the fall and winter.

“It’s really important for everybody who is providing care to Patients, as well as individuals who are doing office work, to get an influenza vaccination,” said Robin Roach, Sparrow’s Director of Infection Prevention and Epidemiology. “We don’t want them spreading the virus to co-workers or Patients.”

Sparrow will offer free flu vaccination clinics to Caregivers. The first begins on Sept. 30. You can find a full list of dates and times by logging on to the Sparrow Intranet and clicking on Occupational Health.

Pair bring gift of song to Oncology Patients

Every Monday evening, Shannon Smith of Lansing and John King of Grand Ledge walk door to door in Sparrow’s 5th floor Oncology Unit and serenade Patients with songs.

The Patients, who are battling cancer, often sing along from their beds, and their expressions are priceless.

“It really makes you feel people care about how you’re doing,” said Patient Karen Cherry, shown here in the photo with Smith and King. The pair specialize in folk songs, Irish classics, and have dozens of other tunes at their disposal.

“We just find it so fulfilling and rewarding,” King said. Unit Manager Lisa Palmer calls the performances “a blessing for our Patients. It’s something you don’t expect. Hearing the music is so relaxing for them.”

MySparrow mobile app featured in new advertising campaign

Randy Carlson was shocked when he found out late last year that he needed open heart surgery at age 41 due to an aortic aneurysm.

During this intense time, he used MySparrow to track appointments, get test results, and connect with his doctor about concerns before and after his surgery.

His story is being featured as part of our multi-year campaign to promote the Sparrow Way and our efforts to change healthcare for the better. With MySparrow and the MySparrow Mobile App, Patients can access medical records, send messages to their doctor, schedule appointments, and request prescription renewals from anywhere.

Visit Sparrow.org/MySparrow to learn more and to watch Randy tell his story.