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The Weekly Staff News Update: February 5, 2010

Discover More.

Review Our New Employee Handbook

The Human Resources Department is excited to introduce the January 2010 Employee Handbook. For the first time, the Handbook is distributed electronically via HealthStream. You are expected to review the Employee Handbook and provide your electronic signature by **March 19**.

If you do not have access to HealthStream, we can provide your supervisor with hard copies of the Employee Handbook. Once you receive your copy, please complete the "Employee Handbook Acknowledgement Receipt" and return it to your supervisor who will forward it to Human Resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at ext. 7590.

Last Reminder to Complete Your Code of Conduct Review!

The electronic certification on HealthStream, which states that you have received, read and agreed to follow the Code of Conduct, **is required for all employees and must be completed by Wednesday, February 10**. Instructions can be found on the back of the Code of Conduct brochure distributed by your supervisor.

Meet our January Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Benjamin Espiritu, staff RN from PACU, for being selected as the January employee of the month. Benjamin was selected, in part, because he goes beyond the call of duty in managing the affairs of the unit. He maintains exemplary behavior and professionalism at all times and treats his patients and co-workers with understanding of their cultural differences.



Left to right: Rita Connaughton, PACU nurse manager, Benjamin, President & CEO Brian Grissler, and Patrice Kelly, Executive Director, Perioperative Services.

Benjamin always places respect and integrity above everything else: for example, if a colleague forgets to close the curtain around a patient, he will unobtrusively close it. Moreover, Benjamin incorporates empathy in all aspects of patient care and always reassures his patients and provides proper education. He is a reliable and encouraging clinical leader and a cordial and respectful person.

For being named employee of the month, Benjamin will receive \$250, an onsite parking space, a reception in his honor, and an invitation for Benjamin and a guest to the 2010 Dream Ball. In addition, Benjamin's photo will be on display at the hospital, Tully Health Center, and in the local paper.

Reminder: Town Hall Meetings Next Week

Our annual Town Hall Meetings will take place on Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11. President and CEO Brian Grissler will talk about the replacement hospital plans, our accomplishments for the last year and goals for this year.

Boxes are posted around the Hospital Main campus, Tully Health Center, and 1351 Washington Boulevard. Please feel free to drop off your questions that you would like have answered at the meetings.

February 10: 6 – 7:30 pm

February 11: 7:30 – 9 am
10:30 am – 12 noon
2 – 3:30 pm



Dr. David Reed

Lending a Helping Hand to Haiti

Stamford Hospital is working with the Haitian congregation at St. John's Episcopal Church in Stamford, L'Eglise de Epiphane, and Old St. Andrews church in Bloomfield to bring desperately needed medical treatment and supplies to its Good Samaritan School in Carrefour, Haiti. Although the school was heavily damaged, the volunteer team established an emergency clinic in a neighboring guest house. Armed with medical

supplies donated by Stamford Hospital, Dr. David Reed and Ann Giuli, RN, immediately began to see patients young and old.

Following are the excerpts from Dr. Reed's and Ann Giuli's, RN, text and phone messages that portray the situation in Haiti:

"Original site for clinic was structurally unsound...we relocated...set up clinic... first two sessions 135, next day 165. Have gone to tent cities to recruit patients. Local nurses are working with Ann Giuli to see less sick, saving burns, fractures and bad wounds for me. Going through supplies quickly...at airport yesterday scrounging for more supplies..." Dr. Reed.

"A mother came in with a two-week-old baby who was barely alive...our team took the mother and baby to another clinic, run by fire fighters from California. They took the two to the port and got the child to the hospital ship "Comfort." Baby should live." Ann Giuli, RN.

The second team, with Dr. Patricia Jorquera and Anna Caroline, RN, arrived in Carrefour late last week with volunteers from St. John's. The third team is scheduled to depart Stamford on Friday evening, February 5th, to continue the delivery of vital medical treatment. There are plans to rebuild the Good Samaritan School and to establish a permanent health center. Meanwhile, volunteers will continue to be needed to support this effort for the foreseeable future.



Ann Giuli, RN

Heart Health Is Just a Dance Away



As a Spirit of Women member, Stamford Hospital, together with the Fairfield County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, will host the fourth annual "Day of Dance for Cardiovascular Health" to inspire women to dance their way to a healthier heart.

The event will take place on Saturday, February 27, at the Holiday Inn, 700 Main Street in Stamford, from 10:00 am – 3 pm.

During this fun and educational event, women will learn about the steps that they can take to reduce their chances of getting heart disease. Instructors from our Health and Fitness Center, Stamford Performing Arts Center, Maria Fioras Dance Studio, Darien Arts Center and Fred Astaire Dance Studio at Norwalk will conduct free dance classes. Tai Chi and Yoga classes will also be offered. New this year, a dance competition will allow dance enthusiasts to showcase their talents.

"Day of Dance" will also feature free health screenings and presentations on heart disease and prevention. A special guest speaker Ms. Dana Kinsella will talk about her daughter's dramatic heart disease experience. Additionally, our physicians will be available throughout the day to answer the attendees' questions about heart health. Lunch will be served to all registered participants.

To learn more about "Day of Dance," visit www.stamfordhospitalheart.com/preventionwellness/events.aspx.

Meet Infection Prevention Coaches (and Wash Your Hands!)



Infection Prevention Coaches are starting to appear all around the hospital. What is an Infection Prevention Coach? It is a new role for hospital employees to promote hand hygiene and spark a patient safety culture. Our Infection Preventionists provide a training program for those employees who are chosen by

their managers to become Infection Prevention Coaches. Coaches represent multiple departments since patient contact occurs in many different areas of the hospital and in many different ways.

Coaches serve as role models for infection prevention on their units and throughout the Hospital. They coach other members of the patient care team in proper infection prevention activities, particularly hand hygiene and environmental cleaning practices. Their efforts will ultimately promote better patient and staff awareness of safety and you can spot them wearing their yellow "coaching star" lanyards.



Some of the responsibilities of our champions for infection prevention include:

- Educate other unit and hospital staff on infection prevention.
- Develop additional strategies to improve infection prevention activities on the units.
- Provide feedback to their colleagues and each other.

Two Infection Prevention Training programs have already taken place, and the participants are all certified as Coaches in Hand Hygiene, Environment of Care, and promotion of Influenza vaccination. Quarterly training programs are being planned so check with your manager to see if you could be a candidate for a future program if you are interested.



Nominate Our Deserving Physicians and Employees

Do you know an employee or physician who lives our values on a daily basis and promotes the Planetree philosophy of patient-centered care? Please nominate that individual for Employee of the Month or Physician of the Quarter awards. The nomination forms are attached with this week's *Newsline*.

Greening the Hospital: Recycling Batteries

We are proud to announce that we now recycle our batteries as part of the Hospital's effort to "reduce, reuse and recycle." Please collect your used batteries, and when they are ready to be picked up, e-mail Bobby Scinto at bscinto@stamhealth.org.

In addition, we offer you the opportunity to use the batteries that have to be changed on certain nursing units daily but still have plenty of life left. You can take these batteries from the collection bin located in the Facilities Management Department. Many AA and 9 Volt types are available. Just remember to recycle them as well!

Welcome to Our New Employees

Welcome to the new employees who recently joined the staff at Stamford Hospital and completed New Employee Orientation.



Name	Department	Position
Beth Panoff	Preadmission Testing	RN/NP
Arnold Ramjattan	Psychiatric Department	Psychiatric Technician
Marc Roman	Dietary Services	Retail Manager
Dan Sanford	CVOR	Registered Nurse
Phi Tran	Hospitalists	Physician
Eduardo Vazquez	Materials Management	Materials Management Clerk

Time to Check Your Blood Pressure

Blood Pressure Screenings will take place on Tuesday, February 9, from 12 – 1:30 pm in the Library Conference Room. All employees welcome.

Weight Watchers At Work® Meetings Continue

The Weight Watches at Work® Meetings began again at the Tully Health Center! They take place every Monday, from 3 – 4 pm, at the Tully Health Center, Conference Room B. Anyone who is interested in joining this program can contact Donna Saymon at ext. 7185 or Michele Speer at ext. 4910 for more information.

Kudos!

Van Munching: Van Munching is a jewel. The staff — from the cleaning staff to the case manager — are also jewels.

Telemetry: Everyone I came in contact with was very courteous, friendly and professional. Overall, it was a very good experience.

Medicine (Main 3S): I was not sure what to expect but my experience at Stamford Hospital was very positive. Your doctors always took the time to keep me fully informed and answered all my questions. Your nurses and tech staff are caring people.

