



Thursday, December 16,
2010

Connecticut Hospitals Celebrate the Season

As 2010 ends, Connecticut's hospitals find myriad ways to celebrate the season and provide care to their communities. Here is a sampling of some of the activities.

Bridgeport Hospital: Holiday music, colorful banners contributed by area schools and religious organizations, and reflections on the holidays by children marked Bridgeport Hospital's annual Gift of Light celebration on Dec. 2. Among the musical performers pictured here are the Caring Carolers employee choir, led by Sandi Dorsey from Patient Care Services, and the Hall School choir, led by music teacher Kathy Masulli. Preschoolers from the hospital's Childport daycare center also sang at the event. Gift of Light contributions support the hospital's Department of Spiritual Care Pet Therapy Program. (Pictured: Pet Therapy dogs Kelly, left, with Chaplain Alan Kendrix, and Milo with volunteer Suzanne Wagner.)



Danbury Hospital For the fourth year in a row, Danbury Hospital employees collected new hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for homeless adults in greater Danbury and New Milford.

The items were distributed at a health fair for the homeless, which offered everything from flu shots to vision, blood pressure, and other screenings, all free of charge. In addition, through a generous donation by the 2010 Danbury Hospital/Danbury Office of Physician Services Family Campaign, 70 Automated External Defibrillators were purchased and made available at no cost to eligible organizations. The initiative seeks to improve the chance of survival of sudden cardiac arrest victims.

Day Kimball Hospital: Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut celebrated its annual "Tree of Life" ceremonies on Sunday, December 12. Ceremonies were expanded to ten towns and occur simultaneously; each include the lighting of a holiday tree, a prayer lead by a local prayer leader, reflection, caroling (pictured here in Brooklyn) and a post-ceremony reception with refreshments. The first Tree of Life ceremony was held in December of 1989 raising \$6,500. All proceeds from this event remain local and help to fund alternative therapies, social work, medical supplies not covered by insurance and also to help support the bereavement program. Additional items may be provided to make the patient's end-of-life care more comfortable.



ECHN: (Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital): ECHN participated in the Second Annual Emergency of Hunger Food Drive in November. To make the drive interesting, the towns of Manchester and Vernon competed against each other. Families in need were the real winners. In total, among the two towns and three Stop and Shop locations, as well as fundraising done for the event, 32,574 food items and 1735 turkeys were collected. In addition, on November 18, the ECHN Family Development Center hosted a full Thanksgiving dinner at Manchester Memorial Hospital for families enrolled in the Early Head Start program.

John Dempsey Hospital (UConn Health Center): As part of an annual nationwide Thanksgiving week effort to provide proper footwear and medical foot screening examinations at homeless shelters, dozens of homeless people in central Connecticut are among the thousands in the US to receive a new pair of shoes and access to free foot exams in time for Thanksgiving. Now known as the Conti Project, the exams and shoes are part of a collaboration between the Pennsylvania nonprofit Our Hearts to Your Soles and the Tennessee nonprofits Soles4Souls and Socks2Soles. (Pictured: Vinayak Sathe, MD, provides a free

In This Issue:

Connecticut Hospitals
Celebrate the Season

Two CHA Collaboratives
Wrap Up 2010

Governor-Elect Malloy Taps
Senator Andrew McDonald
for Legal Post

OPM Secretary-Designee Ben
Barnes Names Senior Staff

Senator-Elect Blumenthal
Hires Chief Of Staff

Attorney General-Elect
George Jepsen Names His
Second-in-Command

Upcoming CHA Education
Programs

medical foot screening at the Friendship Service Center of New Britain.)

Again this year, a team from the New England Musculoskeletal Institute led by Michael Aronow, MD, foot and ankle surgeon, and other UCONN staff helped at events at the Friendship Service Center and the Salvation Army, both in New Britain. They fitted 40 people with shoes and socks, provided foot and ankle exams to five patients, and left the shelters with 70 additional pairs of shoes and boots for future use.



Johnson Memorial Medical Center: During the holiday season, Johnson Memorial Medical Center (JMMC) “adopts” individuals or families who cannot afford holiday meals and/or gift-giving. For the 2009 holiday season, Johnson Memorial Hospital’s Patient Accounts team adopted a 45-year-old single mother of four who was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2008. At the time, this community member was working full time, undergoing chemotherapy and dealing with her terminal prognosis. The team received a wish list from the family and provided food for a Christmas dinner and many gifts, and their generosity helped the family enjoy a warm and bright holiday. Departments throughout JMMC have adopted individuals and families for the 2010 holiday season.

MidState Medical Center: Partnering with the United Way of Meriden & Wallingford, MidState hosts a house-wide holiday food drive to benefit local agencies. Throughout the month of November, employees across all areas donated canned goods and other non-perishable food items. More than 30 bags of food were collected this year and distributed to Master’s Manna in Wallingford. In addition, many departments throughout the hospital participate in the United Way’s Adopt-a-Family Program. Nearly 20 departments adopt-a-family each year, and provide for individuals in the family by purchasing items on their wish list.

Saint Mary’s Hospital: Saint Mary’s Hospital has multiple holiday projects. Each November, the staff and physicians create beautiful Thanksgiving baskets for families who receive pediatric healthcare services from Saint Mary’s Children’s Health Center. This year, with the support of 47 departments and individuals, 59 families and more than 300 children received baskets. In addition, through its partnership with Sodexo, Saint Mary’s participated in Helping Hands Across America, a national food drive to feed the hungry in local communities, and donated more than \$800 in food and funding. The Saint Mary’s Hospital Auxiliary sponsors a toy drive to benefit patients of Saint Mary’s Children’s Health Center, and this year it celebrates its 55th drive. For the fifth consecutive year, the Barnes & Noble store in Waterbury has chosen Saint Mary’s Children’s Health Center as the beneficiary of its local book drive.

Hospital of Saint Raphael: Nurturing Families Network, a community service program focusing on new parents in the community, and other departments at Saint Raphael sponsor an annual holiday party featuring donated gifts and an appearance by Santa Claus. Families in need are treated to toys, books and other items donated by Saint Raphael’s employees across the hospital and the Pediatrics Clinic physicians and staff. *(Photo: 2009 Nurturing Families Network Christmas gathering with Santa).*



St. Vincent’s Medical Center: The *Giving Tree* project benefits St. Vincent’s affiliates’ clients, who for the most part have limited resources and/or special mental or physical challenges. Each Christmas employees select a gift tag from the *Giving Tree*, located in the cafeteria. The tags identify a range of gift requests from Medical Center departments and affiliates. Employees purchase sweaters, clothing, and personal supplies for elderly patients of St. Vincent’s Family Health Center and Outreach program, serving the uninsured or underinsured with no primary care doctor, and for clients of St.

Vincent’s Special Needs Center, which provides specialized education, therapies, life skills training and residential services for children and adults with multiple developmental disabilities and complex medical needs.



Center.)

For mothers and babies at the Seton Women’s Center, a private OB/GYN practice model for women of all ages in the community who have no access to resources, employees will generously supply diapers, onesies, infant and maternal supplies. Employees also purchase toys, mittens and hats for our young underserved clients, and for those little ones at the Thomas Merton House, a soup kitchen providing meals to the hungry, working poor, homeless and elderly in the Bridgeport area. *(Pictured, left to right: Nurses Diana McNeil, RN and Donna Caserta, RN select their tags from the Giving Tree at St. Vincent’s Medical*

Yale-New Haven Hospital: Each year, the social workers who work in Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital’s Parenting Support Program sponsor a holiday party for the 75 families who participate in Nurturing Families Home Visiting and Nurturing Connections. These programs are designed to prevent child abuse and neglect with at-risk, first-time parents, who live in the hospital’s neighborhood and inner city New Haven. For the past 10 years, Parenting Support staff members have arranged what has become an enormously popular annual holiday party. To fund it, the Social Work staff calls on members of its Parents Advisory Board, Kohl’s Department Stores, which is a corporate sponsor of the



Children's Hospital, and community resources like Career High School, where this year's party was held. Social Work also arranged for Career High School to entertain the families and worked with Read to Grow, which donated books for the children. A hospital employee played Santa and a community pediatrician photographed each child with Santa so each family will have a picture. A second project at Yale-New Haven is sponsored by the Mutual Respect Committee, the hospital's longest-serving committee, made up of employees who promote outreach to the community and foster mutual respect and support. For many of its 30 plus years, the committee has organized a holiday food drive. Collection boxes are placed around the hospital's growing campus so that employees can easily contribute non-perishable food items through the first week in January. Members regularly collect the food to prepare it for delivery to local food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens. Members of Yale-New Haven Hospital's Mutual Respect Committee start to distribute the food employees contribute even before the holidays.

Two CHA Collaboratives Wrap Up 2010

Two of CHA's Patient Safety Collaboratives met this week for the last time in 2010. Brief updates on their sessions:

Patient Falls with Injury Collaborative: On Tuesday, December 14, CHA's Patient Falls with Injury Collaborative gathered on their quarterly call to review intervention protocols for preventing patient falls. The collaborative participants also discussed the benefits of partnering with their community partners—nursing homes, home healthcare facilities--on falls prevention efforts. Many teams are now focused on fall prevention strategies in their outpatient settings, and working with their community partners in care to enhance patient education.

Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President for Quality and Patient Safety, reviewed intervention protocols for patient falls during the call. In discussing results and instances of variations in results, the teams noted the need to look at whether the interventions are being delivered reliably.

The Falls Collaborative, which has been working together since February 2009, is planning a learning session in the spring, details to be announced soon.

Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative: On Wednesday, December 15, CHA's Readmissions Collaborative reviewed a hospital project team checklist and heard a presentation from Anne Elwell, RN, MPH, Director of Quality Improvement Consulting Services at Qualidigm, CHA's partner in the collaborative, on "Working with Your Community Partners in Care." The checklist outlined where teams should be at this point in the collaborative. Teams should have: formed a hospital team, engaged an executive sponsor, identified their community partners, become familiar with improvement strategies, begun actively testing interventions, been meeting to review project data, been conducting patient interviews, and been communicating the project progress at regular intervals.

Qualidigm is working with 12 of the hospitals in the collaborative focused on community partnership. To assist the teams in identifying and working with their partners in the community (i.e. home-health, skilled nursing facilities, physician practices) Ms. Elwell outlined a successful community partner model. Ms. Elwell talked about the importance of improving care in transitions between settings, which results from improving communication, teamwork, and collaboration. She explained some of the "lessons learned" to date, including the fact that "data is your friend," in terms of seeing results in reducing readmissions. She noted the "tremendous passion" for the collaborative work among the teams and how beneficial it is to share tools and ideas. Ms. Elwell ended her presentation by reminding the participants that "this work is a team sport" and to be successful "must be multi-disciplinary, patient-centric and include community-based strategies."

For more information on CHA's Patient Safety Collaboratives, contact Dr. Hong at hong@chime.org.

Governor-Elect Malloy Taps Senator Andrew McDonald for Legal Post

At a noontime press conference in Stamford today, December 16, Governor-Elect Dan Malloy announced two key appointments to positions in the Governor's office. State Senator Andrew McDonald (D-Stamford), a long time Malloy confidant and co-chairman of the influential Judiciary Committee, will serve as legal counsel. In the redesigned role of General Counsel, Senator McDonald will oversee the legal operations of the Governor's Office, but will also oversee the in-house legal operations of the various departments and agencies of the Executive Branch. He will be the lead legal contact for the Malloy administration with the Attorney General's office. In addition, when requested by the Governor, Senator McDonald will lead any independent legal reviews of Executive Branch operations and will report any findings directly to the Governor.

As a freshman legislator, Senator McDonald, a state Senator representing Stamford and Darien since 2002, was appointed to serve as the co-chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee. Over the years, CHA worked closely with Senator McDonald on a number of proposals to amend and reform the medical malpractice system in the state. Senator McDonald received his bachelor's degree in government from Cornell University and his Doctorate of Law from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Prior to his election to the Connecticut Senate, Senator McDonald served as Director of Legal Affairs and Corporation Counsel for the City of Stamford, was an elected member of the Stamford Board of Finance from 1995-1999, served on the

Stamford Board of Representatives from 1993-1995, and is currently a litigation partner with Pullman & Comley in Stamford. The appointment of Senator McDonald will require a special election to fill his seat in the legislature and will create an opportunity for Senate Leadership to name a new chairman to one of the most powerful and coveted positions in the General Assembly.

Governor-Elect Malloy also announced the appointment of Roy Occhiogrosso, a campaign operative, who will serve as the head of the administration's communications and political operations—a position similar to his role in the gubernatorial campaign. Mr. Occhiogrosso will oversee the Governor's communications office and will provide strategic and tactical counsel to the Governor on communications, media relations, and political matters, as well as other issues facing the Administration, including policy formulation. Mr. Occhiogrosso will also manage special projects as assigned by the Governor.

A partner at Global Strategy Group, Mr. Occhiogrosso has developed and managed successful long-term, complex national public affairs campaigns for organizations such as the American Bar Association and The Physicians' Foundation, and has developed and implemented communications and media relations strategies for high-profile firms and individuals in the legal and financial industries. He earned a B.A. in Political Science and an M.P.A. in Public Administration, both from the University of Connecticut.

OPM Secretary-Designee Ben Barnes Names Senior Staff

Today, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Secretary-Designee Ben Barnes named members of the agency's senior staff: a Deputy Secretary and three Undersecretaries—with Mike Lawlor (D- East Haven) being tapped to serve as Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Policy and Planning. With the naming of Mr. Lawlor, the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee will have two new co-chairmen for the 2011 legislative session. Others chosen to serve at OPM include: Mark Ojakian, who will serve as the Deputy Secretary of OPM; Gian-Carl Casa will serve as Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs; and Anne Foley will serve as Undersecretary for Policy Development and Planning.

State Representative Mike Lawlor has been a member of the General Assembly since 1987 and has been the co-chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee for the last 16 years. Representative Lawlor recently won re-election to his House seat in November, but will step down from his seat before being sworn in for another term. A special election will be held to fill his vacated seat and the House Leadership will pick a replacement for his chairmanship prior to the start of the legislative session on January 5.

Click [here](#) to see the press release announcing the OPM senior staff, including a concise, but thorough overview of the appointees' background and professional experience.

Senator-Elect Blumenthal Hires Chief Of Staff

On Wednesday, December 8, US Senator-Elect Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) hired Laurie Rubiner as his Washington-based Chief of Staff. A healthcare policy expert, Ms. Rubiner's experience bridges service in both government and advocacy.



A Barnard College and Georgetown University Law Center graduate, Ms. Rubiner served as a legislative assistant to former US Senator John Chafee (R-Rhode Island) and was former US Senator Hillary Clinton's (D-New York) legislative director (2005-2007) before joining Ms Clinton's 2008 campaign for President. While with the Clinton campaign, Ms Rubiner helped draft the Clinton policy on healthcare reform. As an advocate, Ms. Rubiner served as vice president for public policy at the National Partnership for Women and Families, directed the health care program for the New America Foundation, a public policy institute in Washington DC, served as the Executive Director of the Malaria No More Policy Center, and most recently, served as an advocate on women's issues for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Attorney General-Elect George Jepsen Names His Second-in-Command

On Friday, December 10, Attorney General-Elect George Jepsen named well known and respected federal prosecutor, Nora Dannehy as Deputy Attorney General. Ms. Dannehy, a career prosecutor, is currently the chief of the financial and fraud and public corruption unit in the US attorney's office in Connecticut and formerly served as the top federal prosecutor in the state. Aside from three years in private practice at the start of her career, Ms. Dannehy has worked for the federal government—including as a clerk to US District Judge T. Emmet Claire and then as a prosecutor.

With nearly 20 years with the U.S. attorney's office, Dannehy oversaw complex corruption cases in Connecticut and was chosen to handle the investigation of then President George W. Bush's former attorney general, Alberto Gonzales in the dismissal of several US attorneys around the country. As second-in command, Dannehy will serve as Attorney General Jepsen's chief administrator, but it is expected that she also will represent the office in sensitive negotiations, taking advantage of her



background in complex litigation.

Ms. Dennehy is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard Law School. Dannehy is married to Leonard Boyle, a deputy chief state's attorney, former federal prosecutor and former commissioner of public safety in Connecticut. They live in Glastonbury.

Upcoming CHA Education Programs

CHA Regulatory Series: Wage and Hour Law Review on Monday, December 20, 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

This practical and informative program, a perennial favorite of members, will clarify the laws and address real or hypothetical participant questions on regulatory interpretation to ensure wage and hour compliance. The program will serve as a refresher for those generally familiar with wage and hour compliance issues — and as an introduction to key issues for those with new responsibilities in this area.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (4.75 contact hours). This activity has met the HR Certification Institute's criteria to be pre-approved for recertification credit (4.75 credit hours).

The program will be presented by Ron Marquis, Assistant Director, Wage and Workplace Standards Division of the Connecticut Department of Labor, and John G. Zandy, partner at Wiggin and Dana and chair of its Labor, Employment and Benefits Department. Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

OPPS Final Rule, Wednesday, January 12, 8:30 a.m.-noon

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2011, defining what CMS will be implementing for OPPS in 2011. The Final Rule documents CMS's final decisions regarding its proposed changes, including composite Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs), drug administration, visits, partial hospitalization, implantable biologicals, physician supervision (more changes), pulmonary rehabilitation, cardiac rehabilitation, reduced payments for therapy services, and new codes for 2011. In addition, the Final Rule continues to address quality reporting of outpatient services.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click here to [register](#).

The Care of Psychiatric Patients in Emergency Settings, Thursday, January 13, either 9 a.m.-noon, or 1:00 p.m.-4 p.m.

Urgent mental health presentations in Emergency Departments nationally have risen dramatically and are a significant percentage of all ED visits. Patients with psychiatric conditions benefit greatly from a well organized and collaborative care environment. Co-sponsored with The William W. Backus Hospital, this conference—offered in one of two sessions—will review the prevalence of psychiatric emergencies, the varied models of delivering urgent psychiatric interventions, and the major goals of emergency psychiatric care. The keynote speaker, Scott Zeller, MD, is the Chief of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Alameda County Medical Center in Oakland, CA, President of the American Association of Emergency Psychiatry, and co-editor of *Emergency Psychiatry: Principles and Practice*.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (2.75 contact hours). The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc. is pending designation of this educational activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Click [here](#) to view the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

Getting to the Heart of Conflict—Skills for Healthy Conflict Management, Tuesday, January 18, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Conflict is inevitable in life—in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work. What is not so clear, is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. Joan Evans will return to CHA to present this full-day, highly interactive program, frequently requested by supervisors and managers attending prior management development programs. Click [here](#) to view the

brochure; click [here](#) to register.

CHA 2011 Healthcare Executive Summit, January 26, 9-3:30 p.m.

We are extremely pleased to announce that James E. Orlikoff, National Advisor on Governance and Leadership to the American Hospital Association and Health Forum, and Senior Consultant to the Center for Healthcare Governance, will join us for CHA's 2011 Healthcare Executive Summit. The Summit will be devoted to presentations on healthcare reform issues and the impact on hospitals and healthcare professionals.

Jamie Orlikoff is a national lecturer, author, and international consultant who has been involved in leadership, quality, and health strategy issues for more than 30 years. The Summit will also include presentations on Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) and clinical integration—including the legal implications of ACOs, and a session on physician-led approaches to managing medical staff quality and financial performance. Click [here](#) to view the brochure; click [here](#) to register.



Update On Hiatus

This is the last edition of Update for 2010.
Our regular schedule will resume on Thursday, January 6, 2010.
Warm wishes for a happy, healthy 2011.