Connecticut Hospitals Celebrate National Nurses Week

Connecticut hospitals are honoring nurses during National Nurses Week, celebrated each year from May 6 to May 12. Here are some of the ways in which Connecticut hospitals are honoring their nurses.

To mark National Nurses Week, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center created a special newsletter that tells the history of nurses and honors this year’s Nightingale Award winners, and produced a video featuring staff and patients thanking the hospital's nurses. The hospital also sponsored events throughout the week, such as special meals, professional development programs, and a Blessing of the Hands, to honor its nurses. At UConn Health, nurses were honored in a series of videos featuring this year’s Nightingale winners. Lawrence + Memorial Hospital also produced a video to honor nurses, and celebrated Nurses Week with a series of events including a nurse’s tea and a Blessing of the Hands.

For Nurses Week, Day Kimball Healthcare wrote a feature story profiling a number of its nurses as “Champions of the Human Spirit,” a team used at the hospital to describe staff, patients, and community members who inspire people to live healthy, be well, and help others to do the same. The feature story has been shared on the Day Kimball website and its Facebook page.

Eastern Connecticut Health Network's celebration began at the Nightingale Gala at the Connecticut Convention Center on May 5, during which time it honored its Nightingale Award Winners Meghan Baliga, RN, Jennifer Davis, RN, Karen Fiume, RN, Patricia Mencel, RN, and Robert Morehouse, RN. ECHN’s Nursing Leadership Team served pizza to staff at Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital. Finally, the network held the Nightingale Award Winners, Nominees, and Clinical Ladder Nurses Tea today, May 12, at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

In honor of Nurses Week, Hartford HealthCare launched its new, internally produced, podcast focusing on two ED nurses, one at Hartford Hospital, the other from Windham Hospital. The podcast, called Connect to Healthier in Depth, is the first in a series of behind-the-scenes audio peeks at the people and inner workings of Hartford HealthCare (Listen here). Nurses were also treated to elegant breakfasts, ice cream socials, cupcakes, and more. Hartford Hospital kicked off the week with a flag-raising ceremony. Finally, Diane Paradis, RN, of The Hospital of Central Connecticut Family BirthPlace, was honored with the Viola Larson Memorial Award. The annual award recognizes a nurse’s clinical expertise, leadership, professional development, compassion, and respect for patients and coworkers. It is named in honor of a former vice president of nursing at the hospital.

Middlesex Hospital celebrated Nurses Week with a variety of events, including its annual reception on May 5. The highlight of the reception is the presentation of the Professional Nursing Practice Awards, which are based on nominations by clinical nurses in all departments and then reviewed and presented by the Awards and Recognition Committee. During the week, nurses were treated to a breakfast, free hand massages, and a special presentation focusing on enhancing self-care through nutrition. Nurses were also encouraged to submit stories as part of a collection highlighting “Memorable Moments in Nursing” that will be shared in the Nursing Department’s Annual Report.

Nurses Week began at Milford Hospital when three nurses, accompanied by their families and managers, were honored at the Nightingale Dinner in New Haven. Other activities included a “Sweets, Treats and Coffee” event...
Three Saint Mary's Hospital nurses were honored with Nightingale Awards for Excellence at the 2016 Greater Hartford Nightingale. Cardiovascular, Medical Cardiology; Lynn O'Heron, RN, Emergency Department; and Debbie Skipper, RN, PCS, Clinical Resource Coordinator. Finally, on May 12, cake was distributed to all nursing units, and hand massages were offered throughout the week by providers from the Center for Integrative Medicine at Saint Francis.

Saint Mary's Hospital celebrated Nurses Week early this year with a series of events offered May 2 through 6. Activities included ice cream and pizza parties, a complimentary breakfast buffet, and raffles and cupcake deliveries to nurses on all units covering all shifts. Three Saint Mary's Hospital nurses were honored with Nightingale Awards for Excellence at the 2016 Greater Hartford Nightingale Awards Gala on May 5.

At Waterbury Hospital, nursing excellence is being celebrated in many ways — through active engagement in the Annual Nightingale Award for Nursing Excellence, by highlighting and thanking nurses in internal communications, and by showcasing nurses in the newspaper and on social media. This year, Waterbury Hospital had five Nightingale Nominees, whose profiles are available on the hospital's Facebook page.

Across Western Connecticut Health Network, celebrations are under way to honor and recognize exceptional nurses and the incredible care they extend each and every day to patients and their families. Celebrations include the annual Nightingale Awards, the provision of a lunch and learn series, a garden of hope remembrance and retired nurse reception, a BBQ, a Blessing of the Hands, ice cream socials, massages, and more. Additionally, there are posters throughout the hospitals with handwritten notes from nurses sharing inspirational thoughts about their work.

The Yale New Haven Health System celebrated nurses this week at its hospitals with a number of events, including breakfasts, chair massages, ice cream socials, gifts, Blessings of the Hands, and a program on how nurses can advocate for patient safety on a state and national level.

Bridgeport Hospital celebrated Nurses Week with a series of activities and award ceremonies. These included presentation of the Nursing Excellence Award to Kathryn Gazis, BS, RN, Cardiology, and Nurse Manager of the Year Award to Meredith Fiumidinisi, RN, Emergency Department. More than a dozen other awards were given to nurses in specialty areas. The hospital also provided chair massages to nurses, and chaplains rounded on units to conduct Blessings of the Hands. The annual Nurses Week lecture was delivered by Jennifer Jackson, RN, CEO, CHA, and Elizabeth Beaudin, RN, PhD, CHA's Senior Director of Nursing, Health, and Workforce, who discussed how nurses can be advocates for patient safety.

At Greenwich Hospital, Pat Szechtman, RN, received the Helen Meehan Award for Excellence in Nursing, the hospital's top nursing honor, during the annual Ceremony for Excellence in Nursing. Well known by her peers as a "model of hard work and dedication," Ms. Szechtman has taken exceptional care of patients in the Greenwich community for more than 40 years. She has been known to stay at a patient's home for hours to be sure that medications are delivered and administered to dying patients. Also during the ceremony, Herbert Archer, MD, a hospitalist, was honored with the Physician Partner in Care Award for his compassionate bedside manner with patients and their families. Frank Dechane, coordinator of the Sterile Processing Department, received the Partner in Care Award for exceeding standards of excellence in quality and patient safety.

CHA Congratulates Nightingale Winners

The Connecticut Hospital Association congratulates the outstanding nurses across Connecticut who won 2016 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing during celebrations across the state held during National Nurses Week.

Winning nurses have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to community, and have made a significant impact on patients and the nursing profession.

Connecticut Hospitals Celebrate National Hospital Week

National Hospital Week, which was celebrated this week, honors the women and men who support the health and well-being of their communities with compassionate and dedicated care.

Here are some of the ways Connecticut hospitals marked Hospital Week:

National Hospital Week provided the perfect opportunity for Milford Hospital to recognize its entire staff for their service to patients, the community, and each other. A week-long celebration kicked off with the 20th Annual "Live Well" 5K Walk/Run held on Mother's Day. Nearly 400 runners and walkers from the hospital's staff, community, and beyond, braved the cold, wet weather to participate in this event, which raises funds and awareness for health promotion and wellness programs at the hospital. Following the race, a series of daily events observing both Nurses Week and Hospital
Saint Mary's Hospital's celebration of National Hospital Week began May 9 with a two-hour live radio broadcast from the hospital’s Main Lobby. Larry Ditkin, host of WATR radio's “Talk of the Town,” interviewed Saint Mary’s Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Chad Wabble, members of the executive leadership team, physicians, and staff about services and facilities, including a new cardiac electrophysiology lab and new Urgent Care Center. In addition, the hospital invited all staff to attend a special Fellowship Mass in the chapel on May 11 and, that night, Saint Mary’s Spirit of Women network hosted Sparkle 2016, a women’s health event for all ages featuring 30 physicians, 40 community vendors, food, complimentary chair massages, and signature cupcakes. More than 700 women attended. On May 12, staff and physicians were invited to StreetFest 2016, an outdoor festival with food trucks, music, and games. During the festival, the winners of the 2016 ICARE Values Awards were announced. Four individuals and one team are honored annually based on nominations by their peers for living Saint Mary’s Values of Integrity, Caring, Accountability, Respect and Excellence.

Recognizing the hard work, resilience, and dedication of the employees and physicians, the Waterbury Hospital Employee Engagement team scheduled daily, fun events to celebrate and honor the hospital and network staff during National Hospital Week. Each day brought something new and entertaining to thank employees for all that they do. The first day was “Wear Your Tropical Shirt” day, with special treats in the café. This was followed by “Sports Team Tuesday,” with popcorn for all; “Make Your Own Sundae” day (with ice cream for all shifts); “Network with Your Network,” which involved all affiliated organizations coming together; and the all-time employee favorite, “Food Truck Friday.”

Jon Meacham to Give Keynote Address at CHA Annual Meeting

Jon Meacham, Presidential Historian, Pulitzer Prize-winner, and Contributing Editor at TIME, will be the keynote speaker at CHA’s Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016. A regular guest on Morning Joe, he is known as a skilled raconteur with a depth of knowledge about politics, religion, history, and current affairs, sharing insights on how issues and events impact our lives.

His latest Presidential biography, Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush, debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list in November 2015. Mr. Meacham's #1 New York Times bestseller, Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power, was hailed as "masterful and intimate" by Fortune magazine. His other national bestsellers include Franklin and Winston, American Gospel, and American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 2009.

Mr. Meacham is Executive Vice President and Executive Editor at the Random House Publishing Group. He served as Newsweek's Managing Editor and then Editor from 1998 to 2010. He is now a contributing editor at TIME. Named a “Global Leader for Tomorrow” by the World Economic Forum, Mr. Meacham is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a fellow of the Society of American Historians, and chairs the National Advisory Board of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University.

Education Updates

Using High Reliability to Improve the Patients' Experience

Friday, May 20, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Event Registration

Friday, May 20, 2016
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Event Registration

This program focuses on highly reliable staff behaviors that enhance patient satisfaction and HCAHPS scores. Lynn Pierce of HPI, an alumna of Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, FL (home of the 2003 Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award), will be back as the instructor. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Monday, May 23, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside. CHA's Nurse Preceptorship Program has routinely received positive feedback, featuring a curriculum developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing, and designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, and evaluating competence. The Nurse Preceptorship Program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. See the brochure for details.

HRO Cause Analysis - Two-Day Training

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, and Thursday, May 26, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Event Registration

Cause analysis teaches staff how to evaluate events, patterns of events, and causes of events, and then helps staff ascertain how to implement solutions. The sessions are for quality staff, safety staff, risk management staff, and other staff that respond to events. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this training.

HRO Train-the-Trainer
The model for sharing high reliability training with the rest of the staff is Train the Trainer. The training is scripted. It requires an enthusiastic participant who is willing to make time to train others within your organization. Other hospitals in Connecticut have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of their training contingent. Train-the-Trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practices. Medicine, Nursing, Quality, and Radiology continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Rounding to Influence
Friday, June 3, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Event Registration

The program teaches leaders how to go out on the units to coach, mentor, and sustain high reliability habits and practices. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Top Ten Problem Lists and Action Plans
Friday, June 3, 2016
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Event Registration

When issues are identified in Safety Huddle, how do you solve them and maintain the other projects you are doing? Problem Solving with the Top 10 is a tool for prioritizing and implementing projects without losing sight of the core value of safety. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
Friday, June 3, 2016, and Friday, June 10, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

Financial Skills for Managers
Friday, June 10, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to “bottom line” results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare is back by member request to present the program.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.