Transfer Center

Improving Patient Care at MVHS

The TeleTracking system enables staff to see in real time exactly which beds are occupied, available or in the process of being cleaned.  |  Page 3

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Starfish Stories

Starfish Stories are about caregivers, protectors, companions and champions. They acknowledge special, and sometimes life-changing, moments that make a difference for our patients, residents, their families and our coworkers. The following stories are about those individuals and teams who inspire us to always do our best.

Dawn Rich, RN – 2C, SEMC
Kim Hughes, RN – 4A, SEMC
Dawn Rich, RN, and Kim Hughes, RN, cardiac nurses at the St. Elizabeth Campus, were out to lunch at Carmella’s Café in New Hartford when a man eating nearby suddenly collapsed onto the floor. Dawn and Kim didn’t hesitate to rush to his aid. The nurses called 911 and immediately began lifesaving procedures, checking the man’s pulse and putting pressure on the wound he suffered to his head when he fell. Another healthcare worker, an unidentified respiratory therapist, aided them in their efforts.

“We couldn’t just let him lie there,” said Rich. “When you’re at work in the hospital setting, everyone expects you to rush to help an injured person, but in the restaurant setting we surprised people with our actions. People wanted to pay for our lunch, someone bought us gift cards, and someone else wanted to buy us drinks. People thought it was amazing, but to us, it’s just what we do every day.”

Kathy Welch, Care Attendant
Special Care Unit, FSLH
In March, it was the third anniversary of the death of my mother, Teresa Moran.

Through the years, the care and love shown to her by Kathy would blow you away. In the time my mom was at your organization on comfort care, the compassion and professionalism was amazing. When Kathy would enter her room on AC 3, she would always identify herself and explain what she was doing. She is a true angel of mercy. She washed my mom and gave her dignity even in her last moments. I hope you and all of your staff and doctors know how blessed you are to have her as a part of your team. People who shine from within keep all of our lights flickering with appreciation and hope.

Thank you,
Mary Moran Reitz, Ilion

John Fonner, Case Manager
Neuro/Peds, SEMC
John was exceptionally dedicated and devoted to my mother’s care and wellbeing, with unique consideration and empathy for the concerns and challenges my sister and I were faced with every day during our mother’s 11-day hospital stay. John was our "go to person" … the individual who accomplished what others were not able to or unwilling to address and resolve.

John is passionately committed to his profession and his responsibility to his patients and their families. He was a pleasure to work with as we navigated through all that we encountered. St Elizabeth Medical Center is privileged to have John on its staff.

With warmest, heartfelt thanks,
Dyann Scharf, New Hartford
The Mohawk Valley Health System's (MVHS) new Transfer Center is a little like Air Traffic Control at the airport. The Transfer Center team uses TeleTracking to view real-time bed availability. Real-time patient and bed information make “idle” dirty beds an uncommon occurrence.

The TeleTracking system went live at the St. Elizabeth Campus in June 2015, where staff had been previously processing all transfer requests manually. The Transfer Center team, now housed on the third floor of the St. Elizabeth Campus, is able to see this real-time information on its computer monitors. It can then coordinate the transfer of patients to improve overall efficiency, which ensures that patients are placed in the right bed and right location the first time, avoiding transfers outside our community. Centralizing all patient transfers and movement within the system helps to maximize utilization of available services at both campuses.

“The technology in the Transfer Center allows for the viewing of all available beds throughout the system,” said Lissette Grimaldi, RN, MS, assistant vice president of Nursing. “This capability helps facilitate movement of patients from one campus to the other. We aim to retain patients locally, strengthening healthcare services in our community.”

The TeleTracking computer system helps the Transfer Center employees determine which clinical resources are needed to provide appropriate patient care including dietary, medication and physical therapy. It compiles information from each of the inpatient units about bed status and availability, giving the system an accurate understanding of patient status and bed availability. This dramatically reduces patient wait times, decreases Emergency Department overcrowding and improves patient flow.

If a physician needs to admit a patient, he or she can call the Transfer Center and immediately find out if there is space available within the system and where. This increases physician satisfaction and collaboration and also helps open communication between referring and admitting providers.

The Transfer Center also allows MVHS to improve its ability to track data as it relates to patient intake, transfers out, reasons for transfer and providers associated with this movement of patients. Tracking which facilities and providers are referring to MVHS allows us to better understand our patient mix and what services we need to enhance or grow. The data provides an opportunity to develop relationships with facilities and providers who may have the ability to refer to MVHS rather than outside the area.

To reach the Transfer Center, please call 315-624-MVHS or fax 315-801-3252. Questions regarding the Transfer Center should be directed to Lissette Grimaldi, RN, MS or Lisa Rocci, RN, lead supervisor of the Transfer Center.
The St. Elizabeth Family Medicine Residency Program has been helping to reduce the area’s shortage of physicians by recruiting Family Medicine doctors to this region. As of June 2015, 257 physicians have completed the nationally accredited, three-year, postdoctoral training program since it began in 1975-76.

St. Elizabeth Medical Center (SEMC) welcomes 10 doctors to the area annually through the Family Medicine Residency Program. Thirty residents take part, 10 in each year of the program. The physicians train and provide care at the St. Elizabeth Campus, the Sister Rose Vincent Family Medicine Center on Hobart Street, at St. Elizabeth’s Women’s Health Center and at Faxton St. Luke’s Healthcare (FSLH), as affiliates of MVHS.

“The Residency Program was expanded in 1995 when it relocated to its current location on 120 Hobart Street in Utica,” said Residency Program Director, Mark Warfel, DO, FAAFP. “Historically, 50 percent of the program’s graduates have stayed to work in the Upstate New York region to practice, adding to the primary care work force.”

The program is an effective tool to attract and retain family practice physicians to the Greater Utica area. This was the case for William Ryan, Jr., MD, a native of Mechanicville, New York, north of Albany. He met his future wife, Marjorie, at Siena College before earning his medical degree at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. Since her family lived in Whitesboro, it seemed natural to complete his residency at St. Elizabeth.

Although he intended to return to the Albany area after graduation, the opportunity to take over a retiring physician’s practice in New York Mills became available. This included a general Family Medicine office and part-time school physician practice. That was 32 years ago.

“I wanted to be in a small community,” Dr. Ryan said. “I was the school (district) physician on site once a week, and the doctor on the sideline during football games until two years ago.” After nearly a decade in private practice, he joined a SEMC medical office in West Utica for five years and then was a founding physician of Adirondack Community Physicians. He worked there five years before joining FSLH. With a flexible attitude, Dr. Ryan has cared for senior citizens at Sitrin Health Care Center and for people with mental challenges. When Boonville lost its family physician, he and Dr. James Frederick filled in for six months, three days each week, and were joined by Dr. Jianye Teng in a rotation that ended up lasting seven years.

It was in Boonville that Dr. Ryan made some house calls, a tradition he continues from the MVHS Whitesboro Medical Office now, mostly for older patients during the winter if someone can’t get into the office.

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Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) is a minimally invasive procedure for people who have been diagnosed with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis and who may be too ill or too high-risk for open heart surgery. Aortic stenosis is a narrowing of the heart’s aortic valve opening, which does not allow normal blood flow through the heart. It is most often caused by age-related calcification, but can also be caused by a birth defect, rheumatic fever or radiation therapy.

The TAVR procedure allows a new valve to be inserted within the damaged aortic valve, allowing blood to flow through the heart normally. This minimally invasive procedure uses a catheter to replace the aortic valve instead of opening the chest and completely removing the damaged valve. The valve can be placed using several different approaches. The transfemoral approach uses the femoral artery in the patient’s leg, the transapical approach delivers the catheter through the apex of the heart, and the transaortic approach utilizes the ascending aorta to deliver the replacement valve. As of April 14, 2016, eight patients at MVHS were treated with the TAVR surgery.

This groundbreaking procedure opens up treatment options to patients who would not previously have been candidates for open heart surgery. In many cases, the TAVR procedure allows significantly reduced recovery times and a shorter hospital stay than traditional open heart procedures.

The Cardiac Program staff at SEMC has been working for a number of months to bring the procedure to the community. The organization has invested nearly $3 million in the program including a specialized hybrid operating room, specialized equipment and the training of staff. The procedure also involves a team of specialized physicians including cardiac surgeons, cardiologists and anesthesiologists.

In March 2016, MVHS performed the first three successful TAVR surgeries in the Mohawk Valley region. The team involved Dr. Frederick Joyce, a cardiothoracic surgeon at the MVHS Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery Group, and several cardiologists, Dr. Rakesh Bhan, Dr. Hugh MacIsaac and Dr. Michael Sassower of Central New York Cardiology, and Dr. Prasanna Kumar of Slocum-Dickson Medical Group. It also required the collaborative efforts of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab and Cardiac Surgery teams at the St. Elizabeth Campus.

MVHS would like to thank Dr. Joyce, Dr. Bhan, Dr. MacIsaac, Dr. Sassower, Dr. Kumar, the cardiac anesthesiology team and all of the staff members who made these procedures possible. We look forward to using the TAVR procedure to continue to improve the cardiac health of our community.

For more information about this procedure, please contact Thomas Norton, MSHCA, director of MVHS Cardiac Services at 315-801-3329.

St. Elizabeth Family Medicine Residency Program continued

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The Family Medicine Residency Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and by the American Osteopathic Association, and is affiliated with the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine; Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania, and SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse.

Whether resident graduates such as Dr. Ryan remain local or venture across the nation as Jasmine Sulaiman, MD, did after graduating in 1999, they have a big impact on communities. Dr. Sulaiman now supervises four clinics in Texas and was named 2016 Country Doctor of the Year by physician recruiters, Staff Care.

“It was a good choice coming here,” Dr. Ryan reflected. “I’m glad we did. Looking back, I wouldn’t have done anything differently.”

Today, more than 40 physicians who completed the three-year program work at MVHS in the fields of Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine or Hospital Medicine. Others work at various sites throughout the region.
Refer a Friend Program

Seeking referrals from all employees for open nursing positions!

Would you like to receive $500 and 50 Applause points?
Make a referral for a healthcare professional to join our nursing staff at MVHS!

What is the Refer a Friend Program?
The Refer a Friend Program rewards any current MVHS employee who refers an outside candidate who is hired to fill a vacancy in one of the designated positions with MVHS listed below. Refer a Friend incentives apply to referrals for anyone who is hired into a position that works a minimum of 37.5 hours a pay period.

What positions does this apply to?
• Emergency Department RNs
• Emergency Department Nurse Clinician
• Case Manager RN (inpatient setting)
• Med/Surg Nurse Manager
• Dialysis RNs

When do I receive my $500 and 50 Applause points for referring a friend?
$250 and 25 Applause points will be paid out after 90 days of the person’s hire and the remaining $250 and 25 Applause points after one year of their employment.

How do I qualify for the Refer a Friend Program?
The candidate must indicate your name on the employment application when applying for one of the above-designated positions.

Rules for Qualification
1. You must be a current MVHS employee and maintain employment throughout the employment period to be eligible.
2. The Refer a Friend Applause points will not be paid if the new hire previously worked for MVHS in one of the above eligible positions and was terminated less than one year from the date of rehire.
3. Refer a Friend Applause points previously paid cannot be paid again on the same individual for the same position.
4. Excluded from participation are management and supervisory staff and Human Resources Department staff.
5. The program is effective until July 1, 2016.

Please note that the $500 is taxable and will be included in your payroll check.
January 7 of this year marked the opening of a much-needed medical facility to serve thousands of people in Haiti. Ginger Oliver, PT, DPT, PT/OT, Manager IRU and LTC at FSLH, and a team of providers from MVHS opened the Centre Rehabilitation De L’Artibonite in Gonaives, Haiti, a city of 300,000 individuals who, up until the beginning of this year, had no access to rehabilitation care.

Oliver and her colleagues first began traveling to Haiti to provide care in 2012, two years after the devastating earthquake hit the island. Shocked by the lack of care, especially for those with disabilities, Oliver knew they needed to do something different.

After a few years of delivering care from a hospital in Port au Prince, the team decided it was time to open a rehab and wound care clinic of its own with a goal of providing services for those who cannot afford care. Oliver, along with Jacqueline Ruggiero, LPN, of the Dialysis Unit at the Masonic Campus and Mary Walters, RN, of the Special Care Unit at SEMC traveled to Haiti in January to assist with the grand opening of the rehab and wound clinic.

The Haiti Rehab Project (which includes the new clinic) is completely funded by donations, which support the ongoing operations of the clinic to help hundreds of individuals. The clinic acts as a hub to provide community-based rehabilitation to the surrounding remote, mountainous communities. The rehab and nursing staff at MVHS are highly involved with fundraising, which includes several bake sales throughout the year and a 5K race. This year, the team plans a chicken barbeque at the Center for Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Services on May 25 and a wine tasting event at Mohawk Valley Winery on July 8 to raise funds.

Donations from the fundraising efforts will be used to provide rehabilitation and wound care services to those in need, as well as to bring “Team Haiti” to Utica for the 2016 Boilermaker. If funding allows, the Haiti Rehab Project will support two athletes to participate in the wheelchair division (one athlete with a spinal cord injury and one athlete with amputation) and one athlete running with a prosthetic leg after losing his leg in the 2010 earthquake.

Currently, the team is working to develop protocols to improve care. They began integrating video chatting into their practice to assist the more challenging patients in Haiti and provide continuing education programs for clinicians in Haiti.

Oliver credits this project to the tremendous team effort from her colleagues at MVHS and is excited to see what is next for the clinic.
MVHS Sponsors Heart Expo

MVHS sponsored the My Heart. My Life. Expo and a health and wellness assessment booth as part of America’s Greatest Heart Run/Walk on Friday, March 4, 2016, at Utica College.

The health and wellness assessment booth provided free health screenings, which included blood pressure readings by Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) nursing students, cholesterol readings, diabetic risk assessment and stroke risk assessment. Counseling on the results was provided by MVHS physicians. Pulmonary function testing was provided by MVCC students. Approximately 400 people received health screenings at the event.

MVHS also had a booth displaying information about services available, highlighting cardiac surgery services, diabetes education and prevention, and primary care services.

Maternal Child Services Recognized

FSLH Maternity Services - “The Birthplace” - welcomes more than 2,000 newborns into the world every year. FSLH has been recognized as one of the first hospitals to receive the Blue Distinction Center+ for Maternity Care designation. The designation is awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies for delivering quality care and better overall outcomes for specialty care patients.

“At FSLH, we are passionate about providing the highest quality maternity care to our community,” said Laura Bailey, BSN, RN-C, nurse manager of Maternal Child Services at FSLH. “Our work in reducing early elective deliveries and increasing the number of babies that are fed breast milk are evidence of this commitment and we are pleased to be recognized for our efforts. These types of quality measures are important as they help to provide the best possible start for the smallest and youngest members of our community.”

Boilermaker Corporate Cup Registration Set

Employees registered for the Boilermaker 15K race are eligible to compete on the MVHS Corporate Cup team. Prizes will be awarded to finishers in first, second and third place from the registered corporations. Prizes will also be given to the fastest male and fastest female Corporate Cup runners. If you would like to join the team, contact Diane VanPelt at dianevprun55@aol.com to register.

Women’s Health Open House - May 25

National Women’s Health Week is celebrated every year beginning on Mother’s Day, and serves as a reminder to women to make their health a priority. In today’s fast-paced world, it is very difficult for women to take time out of their busy schedules for themselves. This is why we are extending Women’s Health Week, and invite you to join us at our Women’s Health Open House at the Faxton Campus on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. to celebrate women in our area.

Join us to learn more about the services MVHS has available to our community members. Bring a friend and enjoy a free glass of heart-healthy red wine, hors d’oeuvres and door prizes. We will be offering tours of the Faxton Campus, where you can learn more about MVHS programs and services including the Wellness Center, Cancer Center, Breast Care, Primary Care, Integrative Medicine, Nutrition Services, Lymphedema Support, Diabetes Program and more. Please RSVP to 315-624-5321 or cancerinfo@mvhealthsystem.org.
YOU DON’T HAVE TO WEAR A CAPE TO BE A SUPERHERO!

You don’t have to wear a cape to be a superhero!

Join us for breakfast
Sunday, June 5, 2016
Hart’s Hill Inn
135 Clinton Street, Whitesboro, NY
Doors open at 9 a.m. (no earlier please)
Survivor: FREE | Guests: $10

RSVP by Friday, May 13, 2016
Reservations are required and seating is limited. Survivors are encouraged to bring guests.

To RSVP, visit www.faxonstlukes.com/csd, call 315-624-4673 or email cancerinfo@mvhealthsystem.org.

When you RSVP, please provide your name, address, phone number and guest name(s).

Checks for guests ($10 each) should be made payable to:
The Cancer Center

Please mail checks in prior to event to:
The Cancer Center Program Office
Faxton Campus
1676 Sunset Avenue, Utica, NY 13502

A gift basket raffle will be held and all proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will benefit a local charity.

In communities across the United States, cancer survivors will gather to celebrate that more than 14.5 million Americans are alive on this 29th National Cancer Survivors Day.

They will celebrate advances in cancer research and treatment, and recognize those who are dedicated to caring for cancer patients. Perhaps most of all, they will celebrate their personal triumphs over cancer.

Sunday, June 5, 2016

MVHS
Faxton St. Luke’s Healthcare, Utica Memorial Medical Center
National Volunteer Week was celebrated from April 10 to 16 and MVHS used those days to celebrate the many gifts and talents our volunteers share with patients, families and employees on a regular basis. If you haven’t done so already, please take a moment to thank our volunteers for all that they do to support MVHS.

“This year’s theme was ‘Our volunteers are worth their weight in gold,’” said Delta Rubsamen, the new director of Volunteers for FSLH. “As a token of employee thanks, small gold bags filled with gold coin candy were distributed to volunteers during Volunteer Week.” In addition, volunteers had their names entered in a daily drawing for a gift of appreciation.

Volunteers complete assorted tasks at our large and varied organization; some raise money for equipment and other needs, which is a huge benefit to those we serve. All funds raised by the Faxton St. Luke’s Volunteer Association through the gift shops and vendor sales are donated directly back to the organization through the FSLH Foundation. In 2014, in addition to other projects, monies raised were used to purchase new flat-screen TVs for our patients and, in 2015, a patient education system was funded. In 2016, additional TVs will be purchased for the specialty unit on AC 2 at the St. Luke’s Campus. Meanwhile, at SEMC, volunteers presented funds raised to the hospital through the SEMC Guild, which gifted $15,000 last year.

“Our volunteers range from age 14 years to more than 90 years,” said Grace Garro, director of Volunteers for SEMC. “We’re so grateful for the support they provide to more than 60 departments throughout the Faxton, St. Elizabeth, St. Luke’s, and Center for Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Services (CRCCS) Campuses.”

Our volunteers:

• Sort and deliver mail
• Rock babies in the nursery
• Round with patients on a regular basis to see how they are doing and to determine if they can be of assistance in any way – including through the Mended Hearts and Patient Advocate Programs
• Sew heart pillows for patients who have undergone cardiac surgery
• Greet and assist patients in units such as Outpatient Infusion and Emergency Departments
• Staff the gift shops
• Staff information desks, reception desks and surgery waiting rooms
• Work behind the scenes in offices, completing numerous clerical and administrative tasks
• Deliver medications from the Pharmacy
• Provide pastoral support to patients
• Deliver complimentary newspapers to patients and
• Other tasks too numerous to mention.

In 2015, the 597 volunteers across MVHS donated 69,981 hours of their valuable time to help our patients and families. We can never thank them enough, but we can all try.
During Nurses Week, May 6 through 12, 2016, MVHS thanks our nursing staff and caregivers for being the heart and strength of our organization. Events for MVHS nursing staff and caregivers planned throughout the week include:

Carol Ann Small Visits MVHS
Carol Ann Small is a nationally recognized motivational humorist, author and stress and work/life balance expert. In her presentations, she will offer the audience a unique perspective on the benefits of finding humor in the workplace and everyday life. Carol has been featured in Health Magazine, Hartford Business Journal, Boston Globe, Employment Times and Boston Common Magazine.

Thursday, May 12, 2016
BYOB: Beat Your Own Burnout
Community Room at the Center for Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Services
7:30 a.m. – Breakfast
Nursing staff is invited to join us for a free breakfast and some laughs!
Register on NetLearning.

BYOB: Beat Your Own Burnout
Sisters Regina, Johanna and Rose Vincent Conference Rooms at the St. Elizabeth Campus
Noon – Lunch
Nursing staff is invited to join us for a free lunch and some laughs!
Register on NetLearning.

A Prescription for Tickling Your Funny Bone
Radisson Hotel
200 Genesee Street, Utica, NY
4:30 p.m. – Cocktails
5:30 p.m. – Dinner
6:30 p.m. – Scholarship Awards and Nurse & Caregiver of Distinction Awards
7 p.m. – Presentation
• $10 for all nursing staff (MVHS Nurse, Care Attendant, Certified Nursing Assistant, Nurse Tech, OB Tech, OR Tech, Unit Secretary/Ward Clerk, etc.)
• $20 for all others and guests
• Register by Thursday, May 5 at www.jotform.com/mvhealthsystem/nursesweek

Celebrating the Heart and Strength of our Organization During Nurses Week

During National Nurses Week in 2015, MVHS honored 23 employees with Nurse and Caregiver of Distinction awards and scholarship awards. Pictured left: (left to right) Lissette Grimaldi, MS, RN, assistant vice president of Nursing for MVHS, with Caregiver of Distinction award winners Gina Welch, Christina Rios, Leslie Paulson, Russell Milano, Crystal Brown and Luisa Batista.

Left to right: Lissette Grimaldi, MS, RN, assistant vice president of Nursing for MVHS, with Nurse of Distinction award winners Shannon Holtslag, RN, Katherine Dellerba, RN, and Lynn Crowley, RN.

Carol Ann Small is a nationally recognized motivational humorist and author.
New Hospital Concept Moves Forward

Officials from MVHS were elated to learn that the $300 million to help build a new hospital in Oneida County was restored in the New York State (NYS) budget.

“I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to our elected officials,” stated Scott H. Perra, FACHE, president/CEO of MVHS. “This action was accomplished because of the work and incredible support of our legislators and elected officials – Senator Joseph Griffio, Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, Senator David Valesky, and Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente. Our community and MVHS are very fortunate to have government officials who work collaboratively to support the needs of our area.”

The new hospital, which is estimated to cost $575 million, will be located in downtown Utica. The MVHS Board of Directors chose the downtown location as its preferred site to help stimulate and support local economic development for the City of Utica and the surrounding area. The next several months will be very busy as the health system will be working with the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to determine the process by which the funds will be allocated and complete a financial plan for the remaining $275 million that will be needed to complete the project. Once those two steps are finalized the development process will begin.

The new hospital will replace both aging hospitals, Faxton St. Luke’s Healthcare and St. Elizabeth Medical Center. A study will be commissioned to address how best to repurpose the buildings once the new hospital is built, which officials believe will be initiated later this year.

“This is the beginning of a multi-year project,” noted Perra. “If everything moves forward as we hope, we are looking at a completion date of 2021. We need to get our Continued on page 13

Prohibition Party
The SEMC Foundation hosted the Eighth Annual Prohibition Party at F.X. Matt Brewing Company on Friday, April 8, 2016. More than 430 guests enjoyed Saranac beverages, hors d’oeuvres, a 1930s costume contest, a silent auction and music by local musicians, All Tuned Up, Crushing June, Renaissance and The Other Guys.

Pictured right: Jaclyn Maida (left) and Cathy Moylan (right), SEMC employees, enjoy the Prohibition Party.

Foundation News

Stomp Out Cancer Telethon
The FSLH Foundation’s annual Stomp Out Cancer Telethon raised more than $96,500. Funds from this year’s Telethon will help enhance our Imaging Center at MVHS with life-saving 3D mammography technology.

Pictured left: Daniel Foster and his granddaughter, Braelyn Foster (left), present a check for $2,000 on behalf of People Against Cancer to Symeon Tsoupelis (right), Telethon co-host, during the 2016 Stomp Out Cancer Telethon.
Almost everyone who works at SEMC knows who Dr. Albert D’Accurzio is. Whether they had direct interactions with him or not, they saw him in the hospital hallways, heard him speak at events and answer questions about hospital quality in the media. Plus, he worked there more than a quarter of a century.

People may not know that, before joining SEMC as medical director in 1989, Dr. D’Accurzio had a private practice in Internal Medicine in Utica. A diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, during his career he has served as president of the St. Elizabeth Medical Staff, president of the Oneida County Medical Society and chairman of the Department of Medicine at St. Elizabeth and St. Luke’s-Memorial Hospital. He played a key role in the Cardiac Services Task Force, which successfully campaigned for state approval of the local cardiac surgery program that became the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute.

He spent most of his medical career, 25 years, as vice president – medical affairs and chief medical officer at SEMC. He played a vital role in the recruitment and retention of medical staff and was a champion of clinical quality throughout his career. Many people describe him as a very nice guy, one who did a tough job well.

When SEMC and FSLH affiliated under MVHS in 2014, he was named the chief quality officer for the health system. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Mohawk Valley Heart Institute and of Excelus BlueCross BlueShield Utica Regional Advisory Board.

“I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. D’Accurzio my entire career, both clinically and in administration,” said Bob Scholefield, executive vice president/chief operating officer for MVHS. “He has the tremendous quality of being able to see all perspectives of an issue and provide a fair and balanced resolution. He will be remembered fondly and certainly will be missed.”

Michael F. Trevisani, MD, MBA, CPE, FASCRS, FACHE, has been named medical director for both FSLH and SEMC. Previously, Dr. Trevisani served as vice president/chief medical officer for FSLH. Eric Yoss, MD, FCCP, has been named the senior vice president of Quality for MVHS. Previously, Dr. Yoss has served as medical director for various inpatient services at SEMC and at FSLH.

New Hospital Concept Moves Forward continued

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financing in place and continue our work with the DOH. We want to provide opportunities for feedback and input from our hospital family and the community about what they’d like to see in a new hospital. We have to select an architectural firm to begin the design process. We will need that for our submission to the NYSDOH for a Certificate of Need. We have a very long, and, in many areas, complicated, list of things to do.”

Officials released a draft drawing/concept of what the new hospital could look like and where it would be. They cautioned that this is just a concept, not an actual rendering of the new hospital. “We wanted to give our community an idea of where the new hospital would be located so they can begin to imagine how it could become a central hub in our city,” stated Perra.

The draft drawing/concept, along with updates about the new hospital, may found online at www.mvhealthsystem.org.
Employees, patients and visitors at the Faxton, St. Elizabeth and St. Luke’s Campuses are about to see some changes that will support each individual’s desire to lead a healthier lifestyle. Improvements will be instituted throughout the coming year and follow the one-on-one nutrition counseling sessions that many employees took advantage of when they met with a registered dietitian during National Nutrition Month.

Upcoming improvements at MVHS include:

• New cafeteria menus at all campuses that will incorporate more healthy options, specifically designed by our Chef Manager, Jim Hockersmith, and Registered Dietitian, Krista Curtis. These healthier options will make it easier for employees, visitors and patients to enjoy healthy eating.

• It will now be less expensive to eat healthier food! Unlike other local businesses that charge more to buy healthy food...we’re lowering the prices of our healthier food. However, we’ll continue to provide some of our favorite offerings that everyone enjoys, on occasion.

• New healthy food products will be introduced throughout the year in the cafeterias and vending machines.

• Registered dietitian counseling will be offered throughout the year through the Eat Right. Live Right. Program at the Faxton Campus. Employees who have MVHS health insurance can benefit from this often-covered service.

• Educational and motivational presentations will be scheduled throughout the year to help MVHS employees be more informed about healthy living at work and at home and that continue to spark the flame of wellness all year long.

• Coordinated exercise and wellness programs will be available to employees to support their active and healthy-eating lifestyles.

• Big prizes will be presented to employees who participate in a highly engaged way, via featured programs throughout the year that support healthy living.

The new USDA’s Dietary Guidelines for Americans have paved the way for MVHS to adopt changes and support a healthier lifestyle for our employees, patients, families and visitors. Keep an eye out on the Daily Operations email and intranet for upcoming events and the Get Healthy Mohawk Valley rollout that is expected to begin at MVHS in May, 2016.

Vascular Access Nurses Receive Board Certification

Two registered nurses (RN) and vascular access specialists at MVHS have recently received certification within their specialty area. As Vascular Access Board Certified (VA-BC) professionals, these nurses have demonstrated mastery of specialized knowledge by meeting criteria and passing an examination offered by the Vascular Access Certification Corporation, the credentialing arm of the Association for Vascular Access (AVA).

Vascular Access Specialists assess patients, provide vascular insertion services for inpatients and outpatients, and educate staff and patients throughout the organization about best practices in vascular access.

Robyn Foster, RN, VA-BC (not pictured), is a 2002 graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College with her AAS in Nursing. She spent the first 10 years of her career at Faxton St. Luke’s Healthcare as an oncology nurse before transitioning into her current role within the Vascular Access Department, where she has remained for the last four years.

John (Jack) Ward, RN, VA-BC, is a 1994 graduate of St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing where he received his AAS degree. He spent many years employed at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in the Intensive Care Unit before transitioning into his current role within the Vascular Access Department in 2009.

Director of Nursing, Heidi Coluzza, MS, RN, BC, states, “The pursuit of board certification in any nursing specialty is never an easy journey. These nurses have proven to themselves and their peers ... that they have the advanced knowledge and skills to provide superior care and service to our patients and the community.”

Jack Ward, RN, VA-BC
Difference Maker Award Winners

Pictured from left to right, top to bottom:

Debra Graziano  
RN on 3C, SEMC

Donna Nelson  
RN in Maternal Child Services, FSLH

Eric Clark  
PA in Employee Health, FSLH

Hannah Moses  
Care Attendant on SCU, FSLH

James Irvin  
Employee in the Cafeteria, FSLH

Jenni McFadden  
Department Secretary, Infection Prevention, MVHS

Jonathan Cruz  
Assistant for Human Resources, MVHS

Mary Ellen Blumberg  
Instructor for Nursing Administration, SEMC

Meaghan Halliday  
Nurse Tech in Emergency Department, SEMC

Nancy Randall  
Volunteer, FSLH

Nate Dugan  
Care Attendant in Oncology, FSLH

Regina Brown  
Director of Infectious Disease Clinic, SEMC

Sara Herringshaw  
Physical Therapist, FSLH

Sayed Munir  
Care Attendant in Oncology, FSLH

Vincent Semeraro  
Nurse Tech on SCU, SEMC

Julius Solis  
Employee in Nutrition, SEMC

Jonathan Hosford  
LPN on Clark West, FSLH

Clive Young  
Care Attendant on AC West, FSLH

Janice Durso  
Clinical Analyst for IT, MVHS

Visit the MVHS intranet to read about how these individuals make a difference and to nominate a coworker, volunteer or physician for recognition.
Upcoming Events

May 3  
MVHS Job Fair

May 12  
Nurses’ Week Celebrations  
(see page 11 for details)

May 25  
Women’s Health Open House at the Faxton Campus

May 25-27  
Relay for Life Basket Raffle at St. Elizabeth Campus

June 5  
Cancer Survivors Day

June 11  
Relay for Life at MVCC

Staff Announcements

January - February 2016

Medical Staff
Shazia Chaudhry, MD - Family Medicine Physician
Andrea Finocchiaro, DO - Family Medicine Physician
Stephen Levine, DO, FCCP, FAASM - Medical Director of MVHS Sleep Disorders Center
Dr. Anne Mathews - Medical Director of Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit
Daniel Welchons, MD - Urologist with AMP Urology

Managers and Assistant Managers
Dianna Scranton, RN - Nurse Manager of Emergency Services

Jennifer Michel-Farley, RN - Assistant Nurse Manager for St. Luke’s Emergency Department
Stacey Walton, RN, BSN - Assistant Nurse Manager for St. Elizabeth Emergency Department

Visit the MVHS intranet for more details.