

Associate News

A number of CNAs from the CCC were honored at Lifespan's 25th annual Tribute to Nursing Assistants Recognition Luncheon, held on June 14 at the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport: **Theresa Barnhardt** and **Jody Gerace** of the Gardens, **Elizabeth Buchholz** and **Kelly Evans** of Rosewood, **Jennifer Martin** and **Stephanie Vitalone** of Lakeview, and **Patti Forjone** of Recreation Therapy. They were joined at the luncheon by **JeanAnn Kubishin** and **Kathy Vaughn** of CCC Administration.

Mary Allhusen of Cardiac Rehab is one of only two recipients of a national award presented by Mended Hearts Inc. Mary was nominated for the Sydney & Helen Shuman Nurse Recognition Award by the Mended Hearts chapter president in Rochester, in recognition of her work not only with



Thompson's Mended Hearts satellite but of her support of the annual Rose Walk and programs like Eastview Mall Walkers. The award, which was created "to show appreciation to the nurses who make a positive difference by their skill, care and presence," is expected to be presented to Mary at the Sept. 13 meeting of Thompson's Mended Hearts group.

Bruce Gage and **Angela Rockwell (now Angela Gage)**, both of the Lab, were married June 9 at the United Methodist Church in Rushville. The couple held their reception at the new King's Catering Party House in Hopewell immediately afterward, with many fellow Lab Associates in attendance.



Sarah Woodworth of Social Work/Case Management recently passed her licensing exam and is now a Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW). Sarah also recently gave birth to a daughter. Paulina Marie was born March 6 at Thompson.



On June 21 at the United Way of Ontario County's Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront, **Kathy Perry-Ernisse** of Strategic Planning was presented with the organization's R. Randall Farnsworth Award, for going above and beyond in her coordination of Thompson's annual United Way campaign. The one-month campaign raised more than \$44,000, which was a 142-percent increase over 2011 and garnered Thompson its own award, as a Cornerstone Account.

Flower Power

Thompson's Rose Walk, held June 16 at Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park, brought out a number of Associates. They included, at right, RN **Patty Trickey** of the ED and her daughter RN Naomi Thompson, formerly of the ED. Also on hand were, at left, RN **Neil Langholz** of the ICU and **Marie Rusaw** of



Cardiac Rehab and Respiratory Therapy, shown holding Neil's daughter Norah. Rose Walk raised approximately \$22,000 for our Fralick Cardiac Rehabilitation and Fitness Center, which helps patients regain and maintain physical health after a cardiac event.



Tee Time

Kelli Furnare of Diagnostic Imaging was among the Associates who took part in the annual Margery Pawluk Golf Tournament in Naples. Pictured, from left to right, are Tina Karol, Jan Reich, Kelli and husband Chris Furnare. The tournament raises money for the Margery Pawluk Cancer Patient Needs Fund at the Sands Cancer Center.



Extra! Extra!

A new cafeteria means a new place to get your monthly copy of *Topics*: A bin containing the latest issue is located in the seating area, over the counter with the microwaves.

New bins have also recently been installed in the CCC: One is just inside the Pines entrance and the other is near the Kronos clock opposite the cashier's office.

In addition, *Topics* is distributed to departments throughout the health system via the mailroom and available on the intranet (under the "Information" column).

Reason to Ride

At Lock's Stock & Barrel in Bristol, **Wendy Ubbink** of Recreation Therapy jots down the score of a participant during the Canandaigua Moose Riders' second annual Reason to Ride Dice Run, held June 9 to raise money for the Sharon M. Pepper Wish Upon a Star Program at the CCC. Despite less-than-ideal weather, the event raised an estimated \$1,500 for the program, which grants the wishes of CCC residents. Later that day, in fact, Wendy changed clothes and helped grant the wish of Lakeview resident Jayne Gage, taking her to the wedding and reception of son Bruce Gage and Angela Rockwell Gage, both of the Lab (see Associate News).



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350 Parrish Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424
www.ThompsonHealth.com

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New CEO Fueled by Positive Energy, Appreciation for Others

The day after **Michael F. Stapleton, Jr.** was named Thompson's new president and CEO, he had a near death experience.

After coaching one of his children's baseball games, he was stung by a bee and went into anaphylactic shock that came on suddenly, rendering him unable to breathe or swallow.

The EpiPen® (epinephrine injector) that he carries with him was not enough. Thanks to two other parents – an anesthetist and a paramedic – as well as a dose of Benadryl and a second EpiPen® quickly located after an announcement, he was transported to the Emergency Department at Strong Memorial Hospital. Just two days later, he was marching with other Thompson Associates in the Memorial Day parade.

"It certainly was an anxiety-filled day for my entire family," he says, noting that his best friend died following a bee sting six years ago. "I'm thankful that I had so many people there helping me."

The help he has received from other people, both in his life and in his career, is not lost on Michael as he assumes his new role, leading the health system and its nearly 1,400 Associates.

In fact, he is quick to acknowledge the mentorship of former President/CEO Linda Farchione and also the striking nature of their similarities: They both come from a



New President/CEO Michael F. Stapleton, Jr. goes over construction plans with Senior VP of Support Services Chris Mahan during a recent meeting. Seeing through the completion of Project Excel is among the many tasks at hand for Stapleton in his new role.

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Revved Up

Stacey Scott, lifestyle coordinator at Clark Meadows, drove her father's 1933 Ford coupe to work July 12 so that it could be featured in the first Senior Car Classic hosted by Thompson's senior communities. **Darcy Cafiero**, resident services manager at Ferris Hills, said a total of 26 classic car owners took part in the show, which brought residents, staff and members of the wider community out on a hot day. The event also featured Elvis tribute artist Harv Evans, backed by **Rich Ord** of Cardiology on bass.



Thompson, URMCAffiliation 'A Natural Fit'

It's official: Following a formal June 21 signing of the agreement, Thompson Health and the University of Rochester Medical Center are affiliated.

"Thompson Health is unquestionably one of the most progressive, well-run and medically robust health systems in our region, so it is a natural fit with the URMCA's family of providers," said URMCA CEO Bradford C. Berk, M.D., Ph.D.

Officials from both health systems view the affiliation as an extension of successful partnerships that already existed in many specialties, including cardiology, neurosurgery, oncology, imaging and more. They say the transition enables them to now identify and pursue opportunities for additional services at Thompson, such as pulmonology, nephrology/inpatient dialysis, and additional neurosurgery/pain management.

This means that hundreds of Ontario County residents who otherwise would be admitted to Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital each year will be able to receive the health care they need much closer to home. This also frees up specialty and sub-specialty care beds – only available at Strong – for patients throughout upstate New York.

Key elements of the affiliation agreement include:

- **The parent corporation "Thompson Health" remains intact** and will continue to oversee and govern Thompson's subsidiary corporations.

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New CEO Fueled by Positive Energy continued

psychiatric background, they are big believers in recognizing others for a job well done, and they share a passion for quality and customer service.

Michael, who joined Thompson as its Executive VP and COO on March 28, 2011, says being able to work with Linda for 15 months was “awesome.”

“A fundamental element of her leadership is the power of positive energy,” he says, adding that the CARES values Linda cultivated are fully in alignment with his own personal values.

This unique corporate culture is among the many strengths that Michael sees at Thompson. Others include a “top-notch” medical staff, a supportive community, excellent facilities and Associates who most recently demonstrated their commitment to patient care with the transition to electronic medical records (EMR).

“The positive energy that flowed through this process was just phenomenal,” he told a reporter in the days after McKesson went “live.” “This has been a great change, and those who have maintained a positive attitude have had an easier transition.”

An admirer of the leadership style of retired four-star general and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Michael believes that “the frontline soldier is always right.”

“They’re the ones you need to empower,” says Michael, who rounds on a daily basis and who started out “as frontline as you can get,” as a psychiatric technician in the ED at Strong. While there, he followed the advice of a mentor and pursued his nursing degree.

“Nursing is a challenging, difficult job,” he says, “but it’s such a privilege to come into work every day because you have the

A unique corporate culture is among the many strengths that Michael sees at Thompson.

potential to make a difference in another human being’s life.”

Married for 17 years, Michael is a father of five. His three boys and two girls range in age from 14 to 7, with the youngest “by far the best thing that ever happened to our family.”

“She just amazes us every day. Her will to succeed makes her an awesome role model for everybody who sees her,” he says of Erin, who has Down’s Syndrome.

Coaching his kids in baseball and basketball, as well as just playing with them in the back yard, are among Michael’s favorite things to do. Working with pediatric cancer patients – in addition to patients in the ED and burn trauma unit – forever put things into perspective for Michael, who “feels very blessed” when he’s with his family.

As president and CEO, Michael says his first priority is to see through four major transformations that are already underway:

- Program development as a result of the recent affiliation with URM
- The continued refinement of Thompson’s EMR processes
- The completion of the \$43.5 million Project Excel expansion/renovation
- The expansion that may soon come to the CCC as a result of the recent awarding of the \$15 million HEAL grant from New York State

“The people we serve are going to be able to access even more services right here in our community,” he says. “I can’t imagine a more exciting time to be here.”

Patients Saddle Up for a Smoother Recovery

Farmington Rehab recently acquired a new piece of rehabilitative equipment that can help jockeys, competitive equestrians and those recovering from an equine-related injury get back in the saddle.

Called the Equicizer, this non-motorized, mechanical horse simulates a real horse’s movement. Through its patented spring-designed mechanism – controlled by the user’s level of effort and

fitness – riders can rehabilitate, improve body posture and positioning, exercise and practice their technique in a safe, controlled environment.

“Often, our patients come to us with injuries that require them to regain strength and flexibility in order to return to the saddle. Conventional exercises used in rehabilitative therapy assist in this, but do not always recondition the areas of the body that are essential to riding,” says **Farley Wagner**, PT. “By rehabilitating on the Equicizer, however, patients can recondition these essential areas through simulated riding practices, increasing strength and confidence while decreasing the time it takes to return to riding.”

The Equicizer isn’t just for equestrians, though. In addition to mountain bikers and motocross enthusiasts, it can also benefit those with neurological or vestibular conditions. Through exercises performed using the Equicizer, those who experience balance problems or dizziness can improve their sense of balance and flexibility while gaining confidence.

For more information about the Equicizer, call Farley at 585-924-4449.



CCC to Host Carnival Aug. 2

On Thursday, Aug. 2, the CCC will once again host a summer carnival for residents, family members, Associates, children and grandchildren.

The carnival will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. in Hudson Park, the area in front of the CCC. It will once again feature a bounce house, petting zoo, games with prizes, a clown, balloons, sno-cones, cotton candy and music from Paul Killion. Also, a hot dog and beverage will be available for a \$2 donation.

To Market, To Market

Thompson’s seasonal Farmers Markets kicked off July 16 and continue on Monday, Aug. 20 and Monday, Sept. 17, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. in the front parking lot of the CCC.

These markets, featuring fresh produce vendors, are open to Associates, residents, patients, family members and the general public.

Also this year, a fresh produce truck from Fisher Hill Farms is on campus every Monday through Oct. 1 (except Labor Day). The truck parks to the left of the front hospital entrance from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call **Randy Jacque** at ext. 6589.



Maggie Brewer, a Thompson volunteer who owns *The Mustard Seed ‘N’ More*, was one of the vendors at the July 16 Farmers’ Market in front of the CCC and served up a sample to resident **Mary Malcolm**. Mary was accompanied by **Michele Conover** of Recreation Therapy, right.

Getting to Know You...

Associates at the Thompson Medical Center in Farmington are taking part in a project designed to help them get to know each other better.

“Getting to know each other better helps us work better together,” says **Bob Carlson**, program manager of Urgent Care/HealthWorks.

Profile posters of both the leadership team and other Associates are on display in the break room, providing information such as daily job duties, education, background and favorite things.

Rumor Has It...

With so many changes occurring simultaneously in the health system, Thompson wants to ensure that the correct information is being communicated.

If you hear a rumor and want the skinny on what’s *really* happening, just call the rumor hotline at ext. 6471. Senior VP of Support Services **Chris Mahan** will answer the call and provide the information you’re seeking. All callers can remain anonymous.

Thompson, URM Affiliation continued

Thompson Health continues to operate under the guidance and leadership of its existing board of directors, comprising members of the local community. Thompson will add new representatives from URM to the existing board. URM will also appoint representatives from Thompson to its existing board.

The Thompson Health parent corporation retains its own local president/CEO.

“It’s really about maximizing the strengths of each institution and preserving what they do best,” Berk said. “Together, we will seek a balance between local autonomy and a strategically coordinated approach that’s essential within an integrated health system.”



From left to right during the signing of the official Thompson/URM agreement are **Dr. Bradford Berk**, president and senior VP of health sciences for the URM; **Robert Latella**, board chairman for the URM; **Linda Farchione**, former president and CEO of Thompson; **Bill Kenyon**, board chairman for Thompson; and **Joel Seligman**, president of the U of R.

“Am I Blue?” That Depends...

It’s been six months since the new policy regarding hospital uniforms took effect, and while the majority of Associates have fully adapted, the Professional Work Life Council believes a few gentle reminders may be in order.

According to the policy, RNs and LPNs in the ED, ICU, medical-surgical units, Birthing Center and all surgical service departments are to wear

ceil blue (sky blue), navy blue and/or white.

Nursing assistants and patient care techs on those units are to wear sage green or hunter green.

The policy states that the designated colors also apply to warm-up jackets, which must be solid colors (no patterns), although holiday-themed warm-up jackets (not scrub tops) may be worn on the day of the holiday itself.

Sweaters and lab coats may be necessary for warmth but those, too, must go along with the designated colors. In addition, no isolation or surgical gowns are to be worn for other than the intended purpose.

“This policy allows our patients and their families to instantly identify the role of their caregivers. They don’t have to keep asking staff who they are, and it provides a sense of safety and security,” says Director **Deb Jones** of 2 West, The Birthing Center and APU.

Those with questions about the policy are asked to consult the intranet (Policy HR.03.004.04 under Policies & Procedures in the Legal and Regulatory Affairs section), or to speak with their directors.



Wearing designated colors to reflect their units and roles are, from left to right, **Jennifer Michaud** of 2 West, **Christine Lyon** and **Mark Marchase** of the ED, **Jennifer Pesta** of 3 East, **Heidi Marshall** of 3 West, **Stephanie Friel** of 3 East and **Lisa Maier** of 3 East.