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The Beat: March 2008

CentraCare Health

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March 2008

Do you have an idea for the *Beat*?

Contact Chris Nelson
in Communications by calling
(320) 229-5199, ext. 71384,
or e-mail nelsonc@centracare.com

Campaign offers opportunity to help others

Dear Friends:

Health care is known as the “caring profession.” All of us from CentraCare have the satisfaction of knowing that the work we do helps those who are sick or dying, or who are experiencing the joy of childbirth.

Whether you are a caregiver at the patient’s bedside, work in the lab or pharmacy, or clean or repair the facility, you make a difference. Whether you write patient education materials, ensure accurate bills or are one of our volunteers, your work makes a difference in the lives of our patients and visitors. Making that sort of difference provides a great deal of satisfaction.

During the month of April, you will have a different, yet equally important opportunity to help others – through the 2008 Employee Campaign conducted by CentraCare Health Foundation. The generosity of employees, grateful patients and community benefactors ensures services that we otherwise could not afford to provide. At a time when government is looking at balancing budgets at the expense of health care, philanthropy is even more important.

This year’s Employee Campaign theme, “Small change, BIG change,” accurately captures the importance of every gift. Those who can give only a few dollars per pay period are just as important as the community benefactors who give millions of dollars. Consider the power of nearly 6,300 employees across the health system. Together, we can make a tremendous difference.

Your participation in last year’s campaign was phenomenal. System employees gave a total of \$360,000, a 78 percent increase from 2006! This year, we are striving to raise \$364,000. I know we can do it.

Throughout the month of April, you will have the opportunity to hear and read incredible stories of the compassionate care we provide. When these stories touch your heart, please respond with generosity. Please make a gift.

Your small change can make a BIG change.

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, M.D.
President/CEO, CentraCare Health System



Foundation awards \$32,001 in health-related grants

The CentraCare Health Foundation approved six grants for a total of \$32,001 in January. Each year, the CentraCare Health Foundation averages more than \$200,000 in health-related grants. The Foundation's grants support projects that promote health education, conduct research and provide services or programs that improve health and health care for residents of our 13-county region.

Heart Center patient featured in *Star Tribune*

In the March 10 edition of the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, a Central Minnesota Heart Center patient was featured as one of the first 50 patients in the United States to be implanted with a wireless heart-monitoring device developed by Transoma Medical, Inc. David Benditt, M.D., a cardiologist from the Heart Center and the University of Minnesota, performed the procedure at the Central Minnesota Heart Center.

Radiation department receives accreditation

The Coborn Cancer Center Radiation Department is only the second radiation department in Minnesota to achieve a voluntary three-year accreditation from The American College of Radiology. For more information or physician referral, call Derek Peterson, Radiation Oncology Department director, at (320) 229-4901.

Long Prairie Bariatric Surgery Center accredited

Long Prairie Memorial Hospital (LPMH) received accreditation of its Bariatric Surgery Center by the Bariatric Surgery Center Network Accreditation Program of the American College of Surgeons. The weight loss surgery, laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding (Lap Band® System), is performed by George M.A. Fortier IV, M.D. Call (320) 732-7003 for more information.

Earth Day Half Marathon

Presented by Central Minnesota Heart Center April 18 and 19 at St. Cloud State University. Call (320) 308-3325 or visit www.earthdayhalfmarathon.org.

American Heart Walk

Presented by Central Minnesota Heart Center April 12 at CentraCare Health Plaza in St. Cloud and April 26 at Voyager School in Alexandria. Call (763) 689-2906 or email natalie.carlberg@heart.org to join.

CentraCare dialysis

The opening of CentraCare Kidney Program-Cambridge Dialysis was March 24 with 15 dialysis stations. An open house is planned from 2-6 p.m. April 23 at 520 11th Ave. S.W. in Cambridge.

2008 Arthritis Walk

The Arthritis Walk, featuring a three-mile and one-mile course, will be May 3, at CentraCare Health Plaza. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the walk will start at 9 a.m. Please contact the Arthritis Foundation at (800) 333-1380 for more information or go to www.arthritis.org to register. Sponsored in part by CentraCare Health System.

St. Benedict's Senior Community receives award

Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance (MHHA) presented an Excellence in Practice Award to St. Benedict's Senior Community (SBSC) in St. Cloud for the Whitney WithOut Walls (WWOW) program at the 2008 MHHA Institute for Older Adult Services. WWOW began offering programs and services at Benet Place, a HUD-funded SBSC housing site for low-income seniors. Programs are open to the public.

Correction:

In the March/April 2008 *Spotlight on Health* publication, Dr. Rachel Schuneman's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of board-certified dermatologists included in a story about skin cancer. We extend our apologies to Dr. Schuneman.

St. Cloud Hospital receives 100 Top Hospital award

St. Cloud Hospital is one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® for 2007. The recognition comes from Thomson Healthcare, a leading provider of information and solutions to improve the cost and quality of health care. In the Top 100 program's 15 years, St. Cloud Hospital has been recognized six times in the "teaching hospitals" category — in 1993, 1994, 1999, 2005, 2006, and 2007. The only other Minnesota hospital named to the top 100 list is Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, in the "small community hospitals" category.

Alumni scholarship offered

A St. Cloud Hospital Nursing Alumni Scholarship is being offered to a graduate or a family member of a graduate of the St. Cloud Hospital School of Nursing, who is seeking a specialty degree within the field of nursing. The application deadline for scholarships is May 16. For more information, call 240-2810 or visit www.centracare.com/foundation/index.htm.

Women's Health 101

CentraCare Health System presents the seventh annual Women's Health 101 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. April 5, at the CentraCare Health Plaza. (Registration in River entrance.) No pre-registration necessary. For more information, check out www.centracare.com or call (320) 229-4980.

Spring Fling

The fifth annual Spring Fling will be 5:30 p.m. May 2 at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn & Suites. The event features dinner and dancing to the music of The Sizzlin' Swing Big Band. This year's proceeds will help support Pastoral Care, two new outdoor gardens and bringing nature indoors. Tickets are available at St. Benedict's Senior Community, St. Cloud Hospital Gift Gallery or online at www.centracare.com. Call 240-2810 for details.