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The Beat: May 2009

CentraCare Health

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Thank you for great teamwork on H1N1 response



Dear Friends:

The Minnesota Department of Health reports that H1N1 novel influenza now seems to be behaving more like regular, seasonal influenza.

While we breathe a collective sigh of relief, it is important that we remain vigilant. As Minnesota's health commissioner has stated, "Seasonal flu is a major health concern in its own right. It's one of our leading causes of death, year in and year out." In addition, H1N1 has the potential to evolve into a more severe virus now, or to ease off for a few months, then return as a more severe illness in the fall.

For those reasons, a team from across CentraCare Health System will continue to work to ensure we are prepared.

I am very impressed with the great response from CentraCare, public health offices from across the region (especially Stearns County Public Health, with whom we worked most closely), independent clinics, the multi-agency coordination team based in St. Cloud, and the Minnesota Department of Health. I found it extremely reassuring to see how well the emergency response system works.

To the caregivers in all parts of CentraCare Health System, I say "thank you" for the care you provided to those who came to one of our clinics or the emergency rooms with flu-like symptoms and for the compassion with which you treated the "worried well." I also wish to thank the individuals who spent many hours in planning for an outbreak of infectious illness and in responding to the threat of H1N1. It was gratifying to see how very well prepared we were, the degree to which additional specific plans were quickly and thoroughly formulated, and the professional cooperation of many disciplines.

I am proud to lead a health care organization that can so quickly and so well, rise to meet a community need.

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, MD
President, CentraCare Health System

St. Cloud Hospital receives four awards

The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) recognized St. Cloud Hospital with the Best Minnesota Hospital Workplace award (large hospital category); Health Care Career Promotion award (large hospital category); Volunteer of the Year award (Corene Kain); and the Health Resources Services Administration award given by LifeSource, for achieving a 75 percent organ donation rate from potential donors. MHA's annual program recognizes volunteers, medical professionals, trustees and others whose contributions improved health care at Minnesota hospitals.

CentraCare Clinic news

- Employees who are CentraCare patients are reminded to bring their insurance card, photo ID and any co-pays or charges due along to provider visits to reduce the additional costs spent on mailing statements.
- Equipment and furniture from the former CentraCare Clinic – St. Joseph site was donated to a clinic in Africa.
- CentraCare Clinic's team raised more than \$7,000 for the March of Dimes Walk for Babies April 25.
- CentraCare Clinic dermatologists offered 84 free skin cancer screenings May 4 and 5 to raise awareness of malignant melanoma and to urge people to regularly examine their skin for signs of skin cancer.
- CentraCare Clinic had the highest performance for cancer screening out of 48 medical groups in the 2008 Health Care Quality Report produced by MN Community Measurement (MNCM). CentraCare set the benchmark at 86 percent, compared to the statewide average of 59 percent, for appropriate breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening services in patients ages 51-80.
- CentraCare Clinic – Women & Children continues to participate in the Reach out and Read Program for children ages 6 months to 5 years who receive a new, language and age-appropriate book when they come in for well-child visits.

Terry Pladson, MD, receives award

The American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Minnesota Hospital Association recently honored Terry Pladson, MD, president and chief executive officer of CentraCare Health System, with the Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award. The award recognizes hospital and health system leaders who effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect health care's vital role in the community, have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community health care support, and are advocates for the health care system and patients. The award is presented annually to one individual from each state.

Long Prairie golf tournament

The Long Prairie Memorial Foundation 18-hole golf scramble is July 21 at Long Prairie Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward a portable ultrasound machine for Long Prairie Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room. To participate, donate or for more information, call (320) 732-7213.

Employee Campaign exceeds goal, raises \$2.38 million

Through the generosity of 1,647 employees, the CentraCare Health System Employee Campaign exceeded its \$2.2 million goal by raising \$2.38 million to support the five-year Caring for Generations capital campaign. The recognition groups include 85 employees giving 90 minutes per pay period; 99 employees giving 60 minutes per pay period; 307 employees giving 30 minutes per pay period and 1,156 employees giving other pay period/cash gifts. Payroll deduction(s) will occur 7/3/09 through 6/13/14. Contact the foundation, ext. 52810, if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

Spring Fling changes venue

St. Benedict's Senior Community's (SBSC) fund-raising event, Spring Fling, will be from 4:30-9:30 p.m. June 4, on the campus of SBSC. For more information, call (320) 240-2810.

BLEND events

- **Parade of bikes:** People of all ages are invited to participate in an attempt to break the world record for the largest parade of bikes June 27 at Whitney Fields in St. Cloud prior to the Granite City Days parade. This free event is sponsored by BLEND (Better Living: Exercise & Nutrition Daily). For more information or to register or volunteer, visit www.blendcentralmn.org.
- **Night with the River Bats:** Come to BLEND Night with the River Bats June 9. Sign-up for BLEND's e-newsletter at www.blendcentralmn.org for a chance to win a family pack of tickets. There will be several giveaways throughout the game including nine free youth bikes! Tickets can be purchased at www.riverbats.com

Gorecki Guest House open house June 10

Enjoy refreshments and tour through the new St. Cloud Hospital Gorecki Guest House during an employee open house from 3-5 p.m. June 10. The public open house is from 6-8 p.m. The house is scheduled to open June 15 for guests. The new house will have 12 guest rooms, each with private bath and localized thermostats; two kitchens and dining rooms to accommodate family meals; a large living room, library and media room; and is conveniently located across the street from St. Cloud Hospital. For referral information, contact Sally Allen at ext. 51774.

A benefit for Clara's House

Please join us from 5-8 p.m. June 30 downtown at the Paramount Theatre for an evening of entertainment and fun to benefit CentraCare Health Foundation Behavioral Health Greatest Needs Fund, which includes the Therapeutic Arts Program at Clara's House. The event features keynote speaker, Jodie Sweetin, who played Stephanie Tanner on the sitcom *Full House* and is a recovering meth addict. Staff and youth from Clara's House also will speak. For additional information or to reserve your ticket, please call (320) 240-2810.