

Manny Sousa, Customer Service Award Winner

Manny Sousa is the kind of employee who immediately puts patients at ease. A four-year veteran of the transport team, he knows that patients are people, not weight to be transported, and he's never at a loss for a smile or a bit of small talk as he delivers patients to their procedures.



Manny Sousa

"Manny is really wonderful with patients and families—always concerned with their safety and comfort," says his supervisor, Margie Dunbar, RN, director of critical care. "He's also a huge sports fan, and that gives him a way to engage. In fact, the day he won the customer service award was the day the Bruins won the Stanley Cup, and Manny went out at lunch time to get a championship shirt to wear—that created lots of conversations."

Other colleagues cite Sousa's flexibility, willing attitude and good communication with other staff members. "Manny is a great team player," reads his nomination. "He communicates well with secretaries and the nursing staff regarding a patient's test and procedure schedule. His friendly smile and outgoing personality puts the staff and patients at ease."

In addition to his transport duties, Sousa serves on the employee advisory committee, and is always available to help out a colleague. "He'll take on any additional responsibility," says Dunbar. "Manny is just a really nice guy."

A reception in Sousa's honor was held in June in the Hill Courtyard.

Nurses on the Run at Naval Station Newport

For the 85th annual Surface Navy Association 5K by the Bay, Newport Hospital nurses ran together in an all-female, all-nurse



The "Nurses on the Run" team featured RNs from several different Newport Hospital departments.

team called, "Nurses on the Run." Team members were Lori Allan, Emily Balchunas, Jennifer Bodine, Linda Lalli, Cricket Meehan, and Courtney Pacheco, all nurses from several hospital departments.

Hospital Growers Market to Begin

It's been a slow start to the season, but summer is here and soon our gardens will overflow with zucchini and tomatoes and other vegetables from vigorous plants. Watch your email for details and plan to bring your extra fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers to the marketplace outside the cafeteria, which will begin soon. As always, proceeds will benefit the Newport Hospital Employee Fund. Contact Mark Hite with questions; mhite@lifespanspan.org.



Sox or Yankees? Both for Employee Fund

There are many Yankee fans in Red Sox Nation, but it didn't matter when the good-natured rivalry became the fundraising



Red Sox gift pack



Yankees gift pack

theme for the Newport Hospital Employee Fund. During the annual employee barbecue in June, gift packs made up of donated team merchandise were raffled off. Yankee and Red Sox team hats, shirts, jerseys, chairs, books and other items were included, and the resulting raffle raised \$433. Sandy Massa (information services) won the Red Sox gift pack and Pat Paquette (PE&I) won the Yankee pack. Both were designed by Alda Brum (health information services), and the initiative was the brainchild of Mark Hite (also health information services). Also auctioned off was the first pitch at the PawSox game on Newport Hospital night, won by Tim McDowell (mail room).

New Course Prepares Nurses for Boom in Elderly

On January 1, 2011, the first baby boomer turned 65—and there are many more to come. To prepare for the surge in the geriatric population, Newport Hospital is offering a 20-hour course to train nurses to care for the aging baby boomers.

Acute care hospitals are known to pose significant risks for the elderly. Risks include delirium, falls, restraints, drug side effects and deconditioning that result in loss of function and independence. Preparing nurses with evidence-based training to care for this vulnerable population is essential to improving patient outcomes.

The Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN) course is a 20-hour, five-week program, available to nurses at Newport Hospital, as well as Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals, focused on caring for the growing older adult population. At the conclusion of the program, participants will function as a “Geriatric Nurse Champion” to help meet the challenges of caring for older hospitalized patients within their units. The training will also provide a foundation for the ANCC basic level board Certification in Gerontology. A total of 18 nursing contact hours will be awarded for this series.

Classes begin Wednesday, September 14, every other week through to November 9. Interested nurses can register via NetLearning or contact Nicole Piermont at 845-1864.

The program is sponsored by a Lifespan Risk Management Grant.