

Lifelines

September 2012



Mary Serra, RCP

Mary Serra, RCP, Customer Service Award Winner

Many patients with chronic respiratory illness live with high levels of anxiety. When they are in respiratory crisis, that anxiety increases

tenfold. As a respiratory therapist, Mary Serra often cares for these patients at their most vulnerable moments, as they struggle for breath in the ICU. At these critical times, say her colleagues, her skill, calm and compassion are outstanding.

“Due to Mary’s unsurpassed clinical skills and calm demeanor, I always feel that both I and my patients are in the best of hands when she is by our side, regardless of how critical the situation may be,” writes a co-worker. “What impresses me most about her is the heartfelt concern she has for the patients under her care. With kindness and compassion, she clearly demonstrates to her patients that she can see they are truly afraid and in need of understanding, empathy and encouragement. It is absolutely remarkable to witness.”

Serra joined the team at Newport Hospital in 1996, and quickly became invaluable. In her nomination for this month’s customer service award, several colleagues mention Serra’s habit of staying at a patient’s bedside after she has provided treatment, just to talk and offer reassurance. Others cite her calm at critical moments, so valuable to other clinicians working to save a patient’s life.

“Recently, I was involved in a code and watched as Mary worked with great skill to keep her patient alive,” writes a co-worker. “Her confidence and demeanor were contagious, making all those around her feel comfortable. Mary is a standout!”

A reception in Serra’s honor was held on September 19 in the MacLaurin Living Room.

New Grant Funds Mental Health Services for Kids

Newport Hospital and Bradley Hospital recently received grants totaling \$250,000 from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, a Rhode Island-based grant making organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the unique characteristics of Newport County and improving the quality of life for its residents. The grants were for children’s mental health services and interventional radiology.

Recognizing a greater need for pediatric mental health care in the local community, Newport Hospital has been partnering with Bradley Hospital to enhance outpatient child mental health services in Newport County. The goal of the partnership is to eventually offer a full range of outpatient programs for children in Newport County, so they can receive the treatment they need close to home and possibly avoid the need for hospitalization. Newport also worked with Bradley Hospital over the past year to improve services for children who arrive at the Newport ER in psychiatric crisis.

Bradley Hospital was awarded \$150,000 by the foundation, which will allow Bradley to bring a child psychiatrist, psychologist and assorted outpatient services to Newport Hospital this fall as an extension of Bradley’s services.

Newport Hospital was awarded \$100,000 by the foundation and these funds will be used to support the hospital’s interventional radiology program. Together, the grants from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation create services in Newport County that will benefit countless children and adults in the community.





Kids, pets, amateurs and serious runners—all were welcome at the second annual Newport Hospital 5K road race, held Sunday, Sept. 9.

Road to Wellness

On Sunday, September 9, 176 runners and walkers – including 56 Lifespan employees – participated in the second annual Newport Hospital 5K, with the top finisher running it in 18.39 minutes. The weather was overcast and damp at first but cleared for a beautiful day.

The Middletown YMCA wellness director helped coordinate, and Newport Hospital's Lori Allan was the race director. The Y also offered an eight-week "train for your first 5K" program, which trained and educated 14 people new to running/walking for fitness and fun.

Awards, medals, and 20 raffle prizes were given after the race. The event is sponsored by the Frederick

Henry Prince Memorial Fund as a way to encourage Newport County children and families to become more physically active.

Forty-four children participated in the kids' one-mile fun run. Each received a medal and a coupon for an ice cream cone at the popular Frosty Freez in Middletown.

Lori Allan thanks the Lifespan Runners Club, the many Newport Hospital and YMCA volunteers who made the race a success, Chris Ottiano, MD and Chip Piermont for driving the pace car, and Nassif Fruit, Crystal Spring Water, Bagel Boys, Power Bar and Del's Lemonade.