

# Lifelines

November 2012



Elizabeth Sekscenski

## Elizabeth Sekscenski, Customer Service Award Winner

As the medical staff services coordinator, Liz Sekscenski's job requires a remarkable range of skills. She

provides support to all medical staff members, from the medical executive committee and medical staff officers to department and committee chairs across the hospital. She handles the complex task of credentialing, assisting the ever-increasing number of care providers employed at the hospital, and facilitating privileges for others.

Despite all these competing demands for her attention, co-workers say, she is unfailingly professional, pleasant and effective. "Her dedication and diligent attention to detail ensure that all applications are processed fairly, expeditiously, and flawlessly," writes one colleague. "The manner in which she accomplishes this feat is even more remarkable as it is not dictatorial but rather compassionate and tactful, with an appropriate degree of firmness...the result is the astonishing accomplishment of truly being able to please each customer involved in every step of the process."

Although her job does not include direct contact with patients, Sekscenski does have a major impact on the hospital's ability to provide timely, safe, high-quality care. For example, her nomination for this month's award cites an instance when an urgent inpatient consultation was required from a clinician with highly specialized skills who was not currently credentialed to provide care at Newport Hospital.

"Liz was able to effect temporary privileges for the physician within several hours rather than several days and the

patient received the necessary consult that same day," a colleague writes. "This is but one example of her unwavering commitment to service excellence...and of the outstanding outcomes she produces."

## Hospital Focuses on High-Quality Care

National Healthcare Quality Week recognizes the contributions of health care staff to providing high-quality care. At Newport Hospital, the week was celebrated from October 14 through 20, with events including poster presentations, interactive education, Q&A games, and raffles.



Newport Hospital director of performance evaluation and improvement David Harriman leads a discussion during National Healthcare Quality Week.

## The Joy of Giving

The old adage that it's better to give than to receive certainly holds true for Newport Hospital. In the annual food drive for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Newport, hospital employees gave nearly 2,000 food items – a generous and significant help to the more than 200 families who requested Thanksgiving baskets from the agency this year.





Staff and volunteers bring shopping carts to the courtyard, ready to go

Many thanks to all departments and individuals who donated, to the volunteers who delivered the bags and boxes filled with food, and to the committee members who coordinated the food drive.

## Newport Nursing News

Special thanks to **Lori Allan, RN**, of the birthing center, who directed and coordinated a successful competency week for all RNs and clinical staff.

**Meg Barrett, RN**, of the Behavioral Health Unit, is the autumn 2012 recipient of the DAISY Award, which honors the compassion and care provided by bedside nurses every day. Each quarter, a DAISY recipient is nominated by nursing colleagues who recognize the contributions of a co-worker.

Infection control specialist **Gail Jackson, RN**, and members of a collaborative team received the Barnet Fain Award for their work on reduction of catheter-associated urinary tract infection. They will be honored formally at the Lifespan Annual Meeting on December 10.

The ICU's **Ara Millette, RN**, was voted by faculty of the University of Rhode Island to represent the university in a poster abstract competition at the Eastern Nursing Research Conference, which takes place in Boston in spring of 2013.

Behavioral Health Unit director **Chris Paiva, RN**, is the author of a chapter in the recently published *Inpatient Psychiatric Nursing: Clinical Strategies and Practical Interventions*, which is one of the only available guides to inpatient psych nursing care. It was published by Springer Publishing Company.

## Thanking our Donors

The Newport Hospital Foundation recently held two events to unveil plaques in honor of hospital benefactors.



William Corcoran and Barbara Watterson, trustees of the John Clarke Trust



Donors Peter and Jennifer Capodilupo

In 2010, Peter and Jennifer Capodilupo and the Gudoian family made a significant gift to the hospital specifically to establish the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program. That gift made possible the renovation of a space within the Vanderbilt Rehab outpatient area to accommodate two pulmonary rehab classes; the donation also allowed the purchase of several pieces of new cardiopulmonary exercise equipment.

A plaque to honor and thank the Capodilupos and the Gudoian family was unveiled on November 20 and is in the entrance to the cardiopulmonary exercise room in Vanderbilt Rehab.

John Clarke, one of the founding fathers of Rhode Island and the settlements of Newport and Portsmouth, wrote the 1663 Charter of Rhode Island, the most liberal charter granted by England during the colonial era.

Upon his death in 1676, John Clarke left no descendants, and his will instructed that a trust be created “for the relief of the poor and the bringing up of children unto learning from time to time forever.” It is the oldest charitable trust in the United States. The John Clarke Trust has funded many of Newport Hospital’s capital projects, including the Vision 2001 Campaign, renovation of the inpatient rooms in the Turner Building, the renovation of the pediatric unit, and most recently, the interventional radiology campaign. A plaque in honor of the trust was unveiled on November 15 and will reside in the hospital lobby.