



Kristin Matteson

Kristin Matteson, Customer Service Award Winner

Over her 25 years as an occupational therapist at Newport Hospital, Kristin Matteson has had an outside impact on both clients and colleagues.

She is flexible, responsive and compassionate with patients, often

adjusting her schedule to accommodate a patient's needs.

"She is resourceful with her patients and consistently sensitive, making them feel comfortable and very well cared for," reads her nomination for this month's award. "She demonstrates excellent problem-solving skills and forms great relationships, allowing patients to trust her easily."

In addition to her patient load, Matteson is a whirlwind of positive activity. She has taken on the coordination of the physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and cardiac rehab student programs. She coordinates hospital community programs for the Arthritis Foundation, training staff for programs such as PACE, Walk with Ease, and Tai Chi, and is involved in hospital-wide CPR certification as an instructor.

Outside the hospital walls, she is a Special Olympics ski instructor and Special Olympics sailing instructor and an active community volunteer. And with all those myriad responsibilities, when a co-worker was unable to maintain her garden, Matteson stopped by to weed it for her. As a colleague put it, "Kristen does it all from the kindness of her heart."

Newport Lab Feels the Love

The Newport Lab won high praise last month after a one-day survey by a team associated with the College of American Pathologists. The biennial inspection serves to accredit the laboratory and blood gas lab to College of American Pathology standards.

A 15-member team from Southampton Hospital in Long Island spent the day inspecting the Newport facilities. At the end, the inspection team described the blood gas and general laboratory as "remarkable," and cited only very minor deficiencies, since corrected.

The team singled out the leadership in the laboratory, including Dariusz Stachurski, MD, Yassin Hmadeh, MD, and Marilyn McAllister; as well as Kraig Ruth, Marybeth Fransson, Steve Smeal, Joyce Sullivan, Laura Roberts, and others. The team also noted the lab's "spectacular" quality management plan, particularly in the area of anatomic pathology, and the bimonthly administrative/pathology meetings. Lead inspector Deborah August, MD, signed off by saying: "Great lab, you should be proud."

Newport Nursing News

Seven registered nurses—Stephanie Baranosky, Stephanie Ferri, Erin OBrien, Mary Marshall, Faithe Weathers, Brigid Gomes and Linda Roderick Rioux—recently completed the grueling two-day Certified Emergency Nurse review course, and will sit for the exam over the next year to win emergency certification. We wish them all luck.

And congratulations to two new nurses who recently passed their boards. Andrea Bonas, a former student nurse in the emergency department, and Nicole Young, former certified nursing assistant in the emergency department, are both now registered nurses.



Eat Your Veggies



The Newport Hospital partnership with Farm Fresh Rhode Island is off and running, just in time for spring. We have plenty of delicious local produce, but not many subscribers for the veggie box program. Here are the details again:

The boxes cost \$25 and are delivered every two weeks, on a Tuesday, right to the hospital. All produce comes from local farmers, and Farm Fresh Rhode Island provides recipes for every item in the box via an online newsletter. A typical box contains seven to nine different kinds of fruits and vegetables, based on what is currently in season. A summer box might contain fresh corn, tomatoes, peppers, baby radishes, blueberries, zucchini, salad greens, etc., while a winter box might have more root vegetables.

The subscription process has been simplified, so that you need only pay for one month at a time and can cancel at will. And remember that you can split a subscription with a co-worker, each taking some items from the bi-weekly delivery. Here's how it works:

Veggie box customers will be billed monthly. For the biweekly deliveries to Newport Hospital, the cost is \$50 per month, plus an annual \$6 registration fee.

Once you sign up, you will continue to receive two boxes each month. At the end of the month, you'll be billed for the next month's deliveries.

Customers are welcome to cancel their subscription at any time by contacting the Farm Fresh office. Refunds will be given for boxes not yet delivered. Farm Fresh does request as much advance notice as possible, to avoid over-purchasing food from farmers.

For more information, or to sign up, go to www.farmfreshri.org

Save the date

The annual Employee Award Celebration will take place on Thursday evening, May 15, at the Atlantic Beach Club in Middletown. The evening begins at 5 p.m., with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, followed by the award program and music/dancing. The presentation of three special employee awards—Employee of the Year, the Reverend John W. Dorney and the President's Award—is a highlight of this annual event.