

The Madonna Independent, an employee newsletter of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, is published every other Friday by the Marketing and Public Relations department. To submit a story idea, news item, announcement or recognition information, contact Tami Rudder, editor, at 402-413-4292 or trudder@madonna.org.

All story ideas, news items, announcements or recognition information must be submitted the Friday before the Independent is printed.

The Independent can be viewed online at www.Madonna.org

Let's dance!
Stroke Camp
fundraiser
March 28th



PAGE TWO

New
technology
room now
open.



PAGE TWO

Clinicians featured in national publications

Two Madonna
staff were
recently

published in
professional
journals. Physical
Therapist Sara Bills
was featured in
the March issue of

Physical Therapy in Motion. Bills shared the story of Caleb, a former Madonna patient who sustained severe burns and bilateral below-knee amputations. "Power Surge: Never Underestimate the Impact of Positive Energy" recounts Caleb's recovery and Bills' gratification in helping him reclaim his active lifestyle. Bills has provided physical therapy evaluation and treatment in various programs at Madonna and is the Burn Program Leader. She is also a faculty member of the University of Nebraska Medical Center physical therapy program.

Physical Therapist
Kate Collins' story,
*"Recent Technologies
and Updates for
Power and Manual
Wheelchairs,"* was

published in the
March issue of *Rehab
Management*. Collins
explained how the ever-evolving updates
in the mobility arena allow clinicians to
provide options to clients for an active,
independent life. Collins specializes
in seating, positioning and mobility,
including manual and power chairs,
pressure mapping, power assist mobility,
and custom seating. She sees patients of
all ages across the continuum of care.



Sara Bills



Kate Collins

UNL honor student plans return to classroom following traumatic brain injury

Mitchell Higgins is proud of his academic achievements, which earned him prestigious scholarships to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). He thrives on challenge and enjoys the environment of academia. Mitchell, a sophomore majoring in business management, is planning a return campus after surviving a traumatic brain injury last winter.

On Jan. 8, Mitchell and his friends were on their way to a ski vacation in Colorado. Only an hour into the trip, the driver lost control of the car on Interstate 80 near York, Neb. Mitchell watched helplessly as the car skidded on an icy patch of road across the median and was hit by an oncoming vehicle. Mitchell's brain shook inside his skull and, at that moment, Mitchell became one of the 2.4 million people who sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the U.S. each year.*

Doctors at York General Hospital stabilized Mitchell and he spent two days in a coma at BryanMedical Center in Lincoln, Neb. When he transferred to Madonna, the 20-year-old honor student's academic curriculum was replaced with intense physical, occupational and speech therapy. "There were days where I was crabby, to say the least, and my therapists were so patient," said Mitchell.

The self-professed overachiever pushed himself every day. Teachers in the Therapeutic Learning Center used games and story problems to help Mitchell regain his cognition skills. His speech language therapists restored the college student's confidence with challenging, higher level, executive tasks.

In five weeks, Mitch graduated to Madonna's Rehabilitation Day Program (RDP). "Seeing other people dealing with hard situations was good for me," said Mitchell. "I formed real friendships in that program." Mitchell volunteered in the Purchasing Department as part of Madonna's Work Re-entry Program where his analytical skills were stretched with counting and sorting tasks.

Two months after the accident, Mitchell headed home to Loup City, Neb. Graduating from the RDP was bittersweet. "It's almost like walking out of high school for the last time," said Mitchell. He's smiling, confident and planning to return to UNL next fall. "I knew Madonna was a great place – it was the BEST place for me."



During his recovery from a traumatic brain injury, Mitchell Higgins appreciated the loving support of his parents, Mark and Deb Higgins. Mitchell, an honor student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, also appreciated the cards and visits from college friends and those from his hometown of Loup City, Neb.

*Source: www.biausa.org

New Technology Room opens



The Technology Room is a newly renovated space that formerly housed the Therapeutic Learning Center. Patients with vision and neurological deficits have ample space to use a variety of technology.

Patients are enjoying therapy in newly renovated space that once housed the Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC). The TLC moved to the lower level and the expansion of their former space allows patients with vision and neurological deficits more room for using various technologies.

The Interactive Rehabilitation and Exercise System (IREX) is a touch-free, motion-activated device for virtual reality physical therapy, occupational therapy, multisensory stimulation and immersive play. It allows patients, regardless of their age, ability or condition, to have fun and practice skills in simulated activities, such as sky diving, scuba and race car driving. Capable of measuring range of motion and other data points from the human body, the IREX allows therapists to program specific therapy routines for their patients to help achieve maximal recovery. Madonna is the only hospital in the region using the IREX.

The Interactive Driving Simulator is a software program that mimics characteristics of an actual vehicle including a steering wheel, accelerator and brake pedal. The software offers complex, unpredictable traffic situations to challenge patients.

Clinicians have easy access to all equipment to treat vision deficits. The technology includes: visual perceptual assessments, the Wayne's Saccadic Fixator, the clear fixator, computers with visual perceptual testing and activity programs, vectograms and red/green filter activities.

Dr. Tanner Gates, neuro optometrist, has an exam room allowing for frequent interdisciplinary care and consultation. "Having the treatment space and technology together allows the patient and clinician to participate in effective vision rehabilitation," said Brooke Murtaugh, occupational therapist and vision program leader.

The Indy gets a makeover

Beginning July 4, *The Independent* newsletter will be shifting to a quarterly publication. The new design will be a magazine format focusing on Madonna's core business lines through compelling patient stories and all our wonderful programs. Printed copies will be mailed out to an established list, available on stands located throughout the hospital and posted on the Madonna website.

Most employee news will be communicated through Madonna's intranet site. News will be updated as needed. A semi-weekly bulletin will be printed and delivered to all units & departments.

We're excited about *The Independent's* new image and can't wait to share it with you! Watch for more information in upcoming issues of *The Independent*.

Let's dance! Stroke camp fundraiser March 28



Friday, March 28
7-10 p.m.
Auld Pavilion in
Antelope Park
1650 Memorial Dr.
\$12/single
\$20/couple
\$5/kids under 12

Kick up your heels to music by The Haze, a legendary Nebraska band, playing rock, country, polka and more! Enjoy appetizers, refreshments and win cool raffle prizes. All proceeds will benefit the Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp on Sept. 26-28.

Volunteer pays it forward

Twenty years ago, Nancy Freye suffered a stroke that changed her life. She relearned to walk and regain her independence at Madonna.



Danna Woolever

In May of 2013, Nancy chose to return to Madonna as a volunteer. "I wanted to give back to the people and place that helped me in such a caring way," said Nancy. She is a volunteer at the information desk and is the first point of contact for visitors.

Nancy is grateful for the care she received and volunteering is her way of paying it forward. "It is amazing what they did for me. Not only what they did, but how. It is a great organization and I am happy to be able to help them," said Nancy, who volunteers on weekends at the hospital. "I love being a volunteer – it's a rewarding experience."

Chair massages now at Main

Beginning Wednesday, March 26th, Massage Therapist Joe Fairbanks will be at main campus from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. providing chair massages. Cost is \$13.50 for employees and \$15 for non-employees. To schedule, please contact Soteria Manager, Cheree Buesing at 402-413-4031 or cbuesing@madonna.org.

> CALENDAR

March 25 Professional Competency

Handwashing/Infection Control, Safe Patient Handling, NORS Accuchek, Restraints, Agee- Call 4401, 4402, 4409 to register

March 27 CPR Certification

Agee
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Call ext. 4401 or 4402 to register

Chapel Services

Catholic Mass is offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 4 p.m., Wednesday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 4:30 p.m. The Worship Service is Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Hymn/Music Program is Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

March 30 Students of Jo T. Karl