

The Madonna Independent, an employee newspaper 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 486-8606.

April is occupational therapy month



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New pedal car for pediatric unit



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Calling all Madonna volunteers!

VOLUNTEERS
A WORK OF

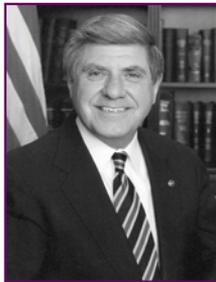


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Sen. Nelson to be honored at Madonna on May 9

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital will host an appreciation event for Sen. Ben Nelson at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9, in the Therapy Gym.

“Senator Nelson is a tremendous champion for rehabilitation hospitals and ensuring access to care,” said Marsha Lommel, president and CEO of Madonna. As chief sponsor of the ‘Preserving Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act,’ which was later renamed the ‘Tim Johnson Inpatient Rehabilitation Preservation Act of 2007’ in recognition of South Dakota Senator Tim Johnson’s outstanding recovery from a brain injury suffered in 2006, Sen. Nelson’s dedicated leadership helped achieve passage of this bill into law in December 2007.



Before this law, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required that a certain percentage of patients must be treated for one of 13 specific conditions in order for a hospital to retain its inpatient rehabilitation status. This was called the “75 Percent Rule.”

This regulation forced rehabilitation hospitals like Madonna to use the 75 Percent Rule to determine whether to admit a patient rather than the patient’s actual medical condition.

Because of the 75 Percent Rule, patients who would have previously been cared for in rehabilitation hospitals were being denied access to inpatient rehabilitative care that was medically necessary and has been proven to lead to superior patient outcomes in a shorter period of time than other settings might accomplish.

With the new law enacted, the percentage is set at 60 percent, allowing greater access to rehabilitation for those who need it most.

Sen. Nelson has also been instrumental in helping our wounded military service men and women gain access to rehabilitation hospital services closer to their hometowns.

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Madonna breathes life into pulmonary patient

It’s spring and Donna Slack is anxious to load up her fifth-wheel camper and get on down the road. “I just love to travel,” said the spry, 75-year-old grandmother from Gothenburg, Neb.

A vacation was the farthest thing from Donna’s mind when she was diagnosed with lung cancer in the fall of 2007. “The doctors gave me six months to a year to live,” said Donna. “It was a frightening time and I was skeptical of the chemotherapy,” she admitted. Her close-knit family, including four adult children and her life partner of 24 years, Denny, encouraged her to give the chemo treatments a try. Donna felt she’d made the right decision when follow-up tests revealed the tumor had shrunk to half its original size. She opted to undergo lung surgery on Dec. 3 when surgeons removed one of her ribs and part of her damaged lung.

In the weeks following the surgery, Donna was heavily sedated and her health deteriorated. Once again, her family conferred and recommended she transfer to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. The Slack family is

no stranger to Madonna. One of Donna’s granddaughters was a patient here ten years ago after she’d suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. “My family remembered the wonderful care she received at Madonna,” said Donna.

Two days after Christmas, Donna arrived at Madonna’s LTACH unit. Sheri Struebing, licensed respiratory care practitioner, recalls Donna being admitted in a very weakened

state and dependent on both ventilator and feeding tubes. It didn’t take Donna’s nurses long to get her weaned off the feeding tube. The vent was a different story and presented a challenge for Donna’s respiratory therapy team.

“It was quite a process to wean her off the vent as her anxiety level was extremely high,” said Sheri. As Donna progressed, the nurses and therapists described

her as a woman with pure determination. Donna loves to walk and her respiratory staff placed the vent on a cart to keep her mobile. She never lost sight of her goals to walk and breathe on her own again.

(continued on page 3)



Donna Slack is breathing easier thanks to her Madonna team including (L to R) licensed respiratory care practitioners Sheri Struebing and Pam Daly, and physical therapist Jenna Woodford.

LB765 approved by Governor

Thanks to the outpouring of support from Madonna employees, patients, former patients, community leaders and many others, LB 765 passed in the Nebraska Legislature with outstanding support: 44 senators voting affirmative, 4 negative and 1 excused and not voting. Governor Heineman signed the bill into law on April 7.

A special thank you is extended to Sen. Tim Gay for sponsoring the bill, Sen. Tony Fulton for prioritizing the bill and Sen. DiAnna Schimek for her advocacy efforts.

The new law clarifies the original intent of the Certificate of Need regulation to protect the quality and affordability of rehabilitation services. The law does not prevent growth of long term care or rehabilitation beds; it simply requires that organizations grow at a moderate pace, or if they desire to grow at a faster rate, verify a market need for the additional beds. This ensures a critical mass of patients to maintain quality and accreditation of specialty rehabilitation programs.

The law will help patients access the accredited programs at Madonna, as well as ensure that quality rehabilitation services remain at hospital units across the state. Thank you all for your enthusiastic support!

Happy occupational therapy month!

- Did you know Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital has 35 inpatient occupational therapists? The team has 307 years of combined therapy experience ranging from three months to 30 years.
- Madonna TherapyPlus has 13 outpatient occupational therapists, including PRN staff. Their experience ranges from 3 months to 20 years for a total of 97 years.
- Madonna therapists work with a wide variety of patients throughout their lifespan in aquatics, inpatient, school-based and orthopedics therapy.

The occupational therapy supervisors, Cory Behrens, Kathy Schmidt and Linda Storz, applaud all the hard-working Madonna occupational therapists and therapy assistants. Their dedication, team work and upbeat attitudes have paved the way for many successes with patients and have not gone unnoticed during a tight staffing year. Here's to another year of positive patient outcomes and clinical innovation!



Madonna's Inpatient Occupational Therapy Team
 (L to R) **Front row:** Linda Storz and Kathy Schmidt.
Row 2: Fara Cox, Brooke Murtaugh, Stacy Reichmuth, Colleen Spellman, Amanda Cool, Amy Schumacher and Mimi Mollner. **Row 3:** Courtney Kossow, Carrie Knight, Kelly Myers, Kristine Bogue, Kortney Kaczmarek, Shannon Eckery, Lindsay Tuxhorn, Sue Houchens and Mary Goggins. **Back row:** Diane Ulmer, Mikayla Humm, Dave Kaminski, Holly Schifsky, Colleen Sankey, Erin Pickus, Jennifer Collins and Lynn Dolezal.



Madonna Outpatient Occupational Therapy Team
 (L to R) **Front row:** Gina Mailander, Heidi Bartlett and Cory Behrens. **Back row** (L to R) Erin Luebbert, Virginia Schweitzer, Lauren Sivula, Caroline Luby and Lisa Andersen. **Not pictured:** April Lieb, Dineen Vlasnik and Michelle Wiggins.

Adaptive sports and recreation for youth

Madonna's Adaptive Sports and Recreation team is helping Lincoln youth with physical disabilities to experience sports and recreation activities in a whole new way, thanks to a grant and sponsorship from Community Health Endowment, CVS/pharmacy, Snitily Carr and All in One Sports Promotions.

Youth sled hockey was held Saturday, March 8, at the Ice Box and power soccer activities were held Saturday, April 5, at Madonna ProActive. Upcoming activities include fishing, horseback riding, two integrated dance workshops and other sled hockey opportunities.

Participation criteria vary from activity to activity. For a complete list of activities or more information about these offerings, contact Ian Thompson, activities coordinator, at 486-7766.

Interested in helping? Here's how you can get involved: The Adaptive Sports and Recreation program is collaborating with Windsong Equitherapy to offer a free pediatric workshop for horseback riding on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m.-Noon. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mandy Merten at ext. 6673 for details.

Injury rate remains low

Madonna's OSHA rate is tracked internally, but in addition, we track the patient handling injury rate. We use the number of OSHA recordable injuries that were due to patient handling.

Historically, Madonna's OSHA recordable injuries are due to patient movement events. Madonna's OSHA patient handling injury rate has been low the last five quarters and is on track with the current quarter to remain low.

Thanks to all the staff for assisting with the various "Safe Patient Movement" project groups. We are seeing the efforts pay off. All the staff should be commended for their work on our safety at Madonna.



Saluting Madonna's 20+ year employees!

(L to R) **Front row:** (seated): Deb Opfer (23), Frannie Littrell (22), Deb Oates (27), Sandy Stutzman (23), Sara Hakel (23) and Carol Ann Trapp (31). **Row 2:** Sister Helen Vigil (42), Mark Hakel (26), Kim Ketterer (22), Mary Kraus (24), Marilyn Baker (28), Myrna Davis (25), Fran Bodfield (31), and Donna Stokes (36). **Row 3:** Sister Barbara Roach (33), Deanie Hauschild (23), Nadine Wiley (31), Rose Burling (29), Jody Luzum (28), Vicki Davis (22), Scott Theobald (30), and Joan Stollar (22). **Row 4:** Linda HIPPIN (21), Betty Rupert (32), Sharon Balters (23), Cathy Hutchison (24) and Mary Goggins (23). **Row 5:** Janice Bennetch (24), Shirley Hadley (30), Starla Schleicher (32), Sue Brandl (36) and Cheri Towle (21). **Not pictured:** Shirley Foster (36), Marsha Lommel and Sister Janice Mayer (33) Donna Barret (32), Margaret Mandigo, Catherine Shattuck and Stavan Starks (30), Bonnie Huff and Doris Lewis (29), Sharon DeVries (28), Soni Muller, Sara Nielsen and Ruby Plager (27), Curt Butler, Kathy Kuehn and Linda Storz (26), Nova Adams, Valori Barnard, Deborah Cole and Jacqueline Klein (25), Jean Augustine, Julie Willnerd, Janelle Hansen, Connie Bergman, Catherine Hutchinson, Mary Krausm Jeannette Quick, Roger Riss, Evelyn Rogers, Bill Shuart and Kay Wheeler (24), Kathleen Arnt, Cheryl Culton, Chris Emerson, Carol Jensen and Sarah Stevicks (23), Linda Devnich, Lori Horner, Helen Iromuanya, Rose Matulka, Sherry Olson, Johnette Pickett, Jeffrey Rowland and Stacey Schild (22), Sue Allen, Linda Davis, Cindy Franz, Shari Luehring, Lana Meyer, Ruth Morrow, Susie Newland, Linda Ohnoutka, Faye Weckle and Victor Witkowicz (21), Tracy Bell, Brenda Florea, Mary Lou Fossberg, Stephanie Franklin, Lana Fry, Denise Gleason, Nancy Hall, Cheryl Jurgens, Linda McCullough, Karen Powell, Nancy Shattuck, Elizabeth Vellek and Glori Wolfe (20).

Campaign update

To date, the Madonna capital campaign has raised \$5,055,660. Be watching for your opportunity to invest in the work of Madonna or call the Foundation at 483-9523 for details.

Employee Focus: *Fun factoids about Tim*



Tim Oldenburg
 Technician 1, ITS Department
 MRH employee for two months

- 1 I love to cook.
- 2 I'm a musician/drummer by heart; I write, compose and perform.
- 3 I love the winter season, having lived in California all my life. My entire family lives in Lincoln, I moved here for them.
- 4 I love working around my new home.
- 5 I love to hunt, fish, camp, karaoke and play poker.

Pediatric unit receives unique donation

“Grandma, look!” said two-and-a-half-year-old Signe Morrow as she pedaled down Madonna’s hallway. Signe uses a new pediatric pedal car during her therapy sessions to work on strengthening her legs after she has bravely fought medulloblastoma, a type of brain tumor.



The Lincoln Central Labor Union and United Way of Lincoln partnered in donating the pedal car to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital’s pediatric unit. Former inpatient of Madonna and president of Lincoln Central Labor Union, Mike Pittz, wanted to give back to the hospital that helped him during his rehabilitation.

“Madonna has done so much for me during my rehabilitation and I wanted show my appreciation,” said Pittz.

The pedal car is being used as a therapy tool to help children gain strength in their legs and overall balance. Modifications were made to the trunk of the car, allowing the therapist to adjust the weight depending on each patient. “This pedal car provides a unique way for children to have fun while working on their therapy,” said Holly Schifsky, Madonna pediatric program manager.

Sen. Nelson event *(continued from page 1)*

As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Personnel, Sen. Nelson is working to ensure that military personnel have the equipment, resources and other benefits they need. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Nelson also has an oversight role over the military budget.

Madonna staff have worked closely with Sen. Nelson and military contacts at Veterans Administration (VA) offices and Department of Defense (DOD) bases to help injured military from the Midwest receive evaluations and treatment at Madonna. In the month of April, Madonna has had 26 referrals from the VA and DOD.

Please join us in the Therapy Gym on May 9 at 3:30 p.m. to applaud Sen. Nelson for his outstanding leadership in ensuring access to rehabilitation care.

Pulmonary patient *(continued from page 1)*

“I told myself to just plant my feet and go!” Donna said confidently.

Sheri explained that initially a trach mask was used at night to ensure Donna’s lungs received adequate humidity levels. The first night she was weaned off the mask, Donna was very restless and didn’t sleep much. “I was scared, but I knew it was a step closer to being independent,” Donna shared. She celebrated being free of the vent and trach mask on March 27.

Donna never rejected an opportunity to try new therapies. Her favorite physical therapy sessions included the NuStep cross trainer and the challenging stair work.

By April 4, Donna was filling out her discharge paperwork. She was excited to get back home to her family, especially her grandchildren. “Thanks to Madonna, I’m walking out of here and will be able to attend their summer activities,” said Donna. Her treadmill and stationary bike are going to get a consistent workout once she’s home. And, of course, Denny has the fifth-wheel gassed up and ready for their next adventure.



**Friday, May 9, 4-8 p.m.
SouthPointe Pavilions**

Activities for Everyone!

- Fire Safety House
- Simulated Rollover Crash
- Bike Helmets for \$12
- Educational Displays
- Hands-on Demos
- Low-Cost Family Meals
- Live Remote with B107.3

Prizes given away throughout the event.

Bring your family and enjoy an evening of fun, food and prizes! Join Safe Kids Lincoln-Lancaster County to learn how to keep your family safe this summer.

RECALL ROUNDUP

McDonalds Restaurants and Safe Kids Lincoln-Lancaster County will provide a \$10 cash reward for the first 50 Recall Roundup items that meet listed criteria. Items sought include: baby walkers, playpens, cribs and baby gates as found on recall list (www.recalls.gov) and car safety seats that are on the recall list, are over nine years old or were purchased second-hand.

Presented by Safe Kids Lincoln-Lancaster County and its members.

VOLUNTEERS

A WORK OF



Calling all Madonna volunteers

You are invited to attend Madonna’s Volunteer Week Thank You Celebration

**Tuesday, April 29, 2008
Madonna Main Campus
5401 South Street
North Commons Area**

Plan to attend either the brunch 9:30-10:30 a.m. OR evening meal at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) Volunteers may invite one guest. Please RSVP your selected time and number attending to the Madonna Volunteer Office at 486-8626, no later than Thursday, April 24.

Wound, ostomy and continence nurses week observed

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses (WOC) Week, celebrated April 13-19, paid tribute to health care professionals who specialize in the care of patients with wounds, ostomies or continence disorders. Madonna recognizes Annielyn Ocampo as the WOC nurse. Annielyn’s primary responsibilities are to coordinate and evaluate patient care, while serving as a resource for all Madonna patients requiring WOC nursing care. Ocampo also serves as program leader for the Long Term Acute Care wound program.



“I have grown professionally as a Wound and Ostomy Specialty Nurse. Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital has supported and encouraged me in my WOC nursing practice. It is a wonderful opportunity to work in a very supportive environment where quality and high standards of care are provided to the patients,” said Annielyn. She is one of five WOC certified nurses in the Lincoln hospital community.

> CALENDAR

- April 19** **Holistic Heathcare**
Sheridan Rooms
Call 6550 to register.
4 CH
- April 24** **CPR**
9:30 a.m.
Agee
Call 6406 or 6550 to register.
Intermediate Excel
9-11 a.m.
Computer Lab
Call 6507 to register.
- April 25** **Outlook Web Access**
9-10 a.m.
Computer Lab
Call 6507 to register.
- April 28** **CPR Recertification**
9:30 a.m. or 5 p.m.
Agee
Call 6406 or 6550 to register.
Marsha University
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Flanagan Room
Call 6406 or 6550 to register.
- April 30** **Supervisor Education wk 1**
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Lau
Marsha University
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Flanagan Room
Call 6406 or 6550 to register.



Madonna coworker Cheryl Wagner grabs her ice cream and strawberries as (L to R) Tammy Mousel, Jody Jinright and Lana Warner help keep the line moving. The April 9 ice cream social was sponsored by the Employee Appreciation Team.

Movie passes to be honored

The Employee Appreciation Team and other Madonna departments have distributed movie passes to employees over the years. The Douglas Theatres have been sold and the new owners will honor the passes through March of 2009. Employees are encouraged to use up any existing passes.

> WAY TO GOs

We are pleased to announce that **Kristy Taylor** has accepted the director of staffing and support services for the nursing department. She has graciously been covering these duties along with her SAR management duties. Kristy will continue to cover both positions as we look for the best applicant to fill the SAR nurse manager slot. Please welcome her to her new position!

—Jackie Anderson
Director of Nursing

Thank you, **Linda Plummer** for taking ownership of the outpatient scheduling and intake processes for our veterans. You showed great initiative in scheduling a large number of individuals in a short amount of time and improved the process along the way. Thanks also to the other **OP schedulers** – you showed great teamwork, taking some of the other calls and activities so that Linda could focus on the VA contract. Great job!

—Karen Divito
Director Rehabilitation Programs

Please welcome **Robyn Sejkora** as interim Program Manager for The Arbors. This will allow **Geri Hepp** to return to her role as St. Anthony program manager. I want to thank **Robyn and Geri** for their leadership and dedication to The Arbors and Madonna.

—Paul Nathenson
Vice President Corporate Planning and Long Term Care

A big “thank you” to **Curt Butler, LeeAnn Maul and Rebecca Wills** for your work in adding Respiratory Therapy medications to the MAR. Your tireless efforts and interdisciplinary collaboration resulted in a smooth transition to this new process. Your dedication is appreciated.

—Patient Care Committee

Congratulations to **Mike Hughes, RN**, for accepting the role as the CARES program leader. He will be a great asset to this program. Way to go, Mike!

—Jennifer Hoebelheinrich
LTACH Nurse Manager

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. The Hymn and Music Program is Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

- April 20** Sheridan Lutheran Praise Team
April 27 Shepherd of the Hills Choir

Do you belong to a group or congregation that hasn't performed at Madonna? We welcome new talent. Contact Steve Werner at ext. 6831 or swerner@madonna.org.

Way to go, **Madonna employees!** More than 300 of you are choosing to better your health by being part of the Lifestyle Challenge. It will be fun to see what you accomplish by May 7. Have fun and enjoy getting out to play a bit more!

—Madonna Fit for Work Staff
& Healthy Habits

All of us in HIM would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to **Charlene Dunbar** for being our manager. You have been a mentor, motivator and most of all, a friend to all of us. Through your leadership and guidance, our department has been recognized as a Q12 World-Class Workgroup. You always lead by example, performing any task that needs to be done, offering advice and support during difficult times, providing answers to the most challenging questions and listening when we need someone to talk to. While you will be greatly missed, we wish you success and fulfillment as you begin the next chapter of your career at the Nebraska Heart Institute Hospital.

—The Health Information
Management staff

“Way to go” to the fabulous **float staff (RN, LPN and NA)** and to the wonderful **Weekend staff**. We have been “challenged” to meet the patient census fluctuations and time and time again these PERFECT people have come to our rescue. You are all so professional, competent and just great to work with. If there is ever anything we can do to make your life easier on our unit, let us know.

—ARU, 3-11 Core Staff

Thank you to the **Web site Task Force** for helping develop our new Madonna Web site. It's a valuable resource for patients and their families, as well as referral sources, clinicians and the general public. Your input and review was outstanding!

—Molly Nance
Director of Strategic Planning and Marketing

A Madonna moment



Sister Valentine McNerney
the first administrator of Madonna Home

It was Sister Valentine's delight to bring joy to others. She could always find an excuse for a party. Sister Valentine loved to plan surprises, cheer others, decorate a feast day table or find a creative way to tackle a challenge. And, oh, how she loved nature! Her unflinching sense of humor and her adaptability to all types of temperaments formed her into an enduring person to the community.