



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.



Wishing you a
blessed Christmas
and a Happy 2009!



Reflecting back on a year of Madonna memories...

For me, the Madonna highlight of the year was the Goal Awards. I believe that event is a powerful reminder of why Madonna exists and is the leader in the world of rehabilitation.

—**Martha M. Weishahn**
Administrative Assistant

During 2008, Extended Care underwent many changes, one of which was to make our areas more home-like for our residents. Extended Care North/South and St. Anthony's received beautiful wall murals. The lounges were redone with colorful paint and new decorations. Our residents, families and staff have all enjoyed the face lift. It was worth all the efforts. Thank you to those made it possible!

—**Tonia Sohrweid, LPN**
Extended Care North Unit Manager

A great moment in 2008 was when I got back from being gone for a week and had plans to work with Tom Cast walking with a cane. Imagine my surprise when Tom met me walking down the hall by himself...using only a cane! He had made so much progress in that week, which was typical of the way his entire rehab stay had gone. Tom was a huge inspiration with his determination, hard work and positive attitude.

—**Marin Salisbury, PT**
Physical Therapist

This year and especially the last six months, have been extremely busy for Madonna staff members. Our high-patient census, staff shortages and facility construction have kept our days full. I want to thank employees in all areas for their hard work and dedication. More importantly, I want to thank you for the gifts of hope and encouragement you give to each other as well as our patients and their families. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

—**Paul Dongilli**
*Executive Vice President
Chief Operations Officer*

Each year, the Lincoln Fire Department donates \$100 worth of food to lessen the burden for local families during the Christmas holiday. I submitted John Andrew's (Madonna outpatient) name and he was selected to receive a ham and lots of holiday goodies. John was so excited! My husband will be delivering the food to John and his family on Saturday morning.

—**Virginia Schweitzer**
Outpatient Occupational Therapist

During one of our many activities, a female resident paused and said, "Thanks for loving us." The Arbors is such a special place.

—**Michele Roy**
*Activity Coordinator at The Arbors
Madonna's Memory Care Facility*

My favorite memory for 2008 was 6-year-old Ashley. She suffered a brain embolism. Watching her progress each day was inspiring. The best was her last day at Madonna as she ran down the hall and gave me a hug goodbye.

—**John Nelson**
Cafeteria Assistant

Galen Schaaf, a burn patient, completed his programs on two of my units. After 16 months at Madonna, he recently moved to an assisted living facility. Being part of a team that contributed to Galen's progress was a memorable experience in 2008.

—**Shiela Alemzadeh**
Medical Nutrition Therapist

(Continued on page 4)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you and your families. As another year comes to a close, I want to tell you how much I appreciate all that you do for our patients, their families and each other. There are thousands of stories at Madonna of the quiet kindnesses that are not in any job description. I only hear about a few of them, but they sustain me in my often tedious work of contracts and regulations and making ends meet financially. A few recent stories I've heard include:

- The staff who befriended a severely burned patient, collecting everything he needed to furnish an apartment and then moved him into it, which not only helped him in his physical recovery, but also helped him start a new life with friendship that healed his spirit.
- The staff who baked cookies to put in all 17 family houses for the families who will be here through the Christmas season, making these people feel part of our Madonna family and showing that they are supported in their crisis.
- When a little two year old stopped making progress in learning to walk again, the team did not give up. They looked for another way to approach the problem and that effort led to a giant gain in the child's journey to full recovery.

There are little miracles every day that come from someone taking that extra step based on faith, hope and prayer. I see this spirit in the letters of gratitude I receive from patients and families. Sometimes we read about them in the Independent "Way to Go," but more often the reward for going the extra mile is just a heartfelt thanks or a hug or an emailed note of appreciation.

We are blessed at Madonna because we have the spirit and the hope and the creativity to make miracles happen. We can try new things, we can laugh and cry with our patients, share stories with our residents, give our families a hug just because they need it, pray with each other for guidance and go home every day knowing we have made a difference.

So this Christmas season, as we rejoice over the birth of Jesus, remember that "Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me," and know that we are carrying out that mission in every small kindness every day.

—**Marsha Lommel**
President and CEO

A Special Holiday Section of Way to Go!

This special section of “Way to Go” celebrates the dedication, commitment and passion that Madonna employees bring to their jobs. It is apparent how much employees are valued and the many lives they touch every day.

Thank you to all the TherapyPlus staff for another great year. Because of everyone’s dedication, eagerness to learn and hard work we have once again had a very successful year. It is no wonder you continue to be voted the Best Therapy in Lincoln!

—**Lynn Hallowell-Gottsleben**
Director Outpatient Therapy

Thank you to all the LTACH east therapists and nursing staff. We have had a very challenging year with the opportunity to develop new programs and serve a diversity of patients with complicated diagnoses. All of you are great! What an educational experience for all of us.

A special thank you to the case managers and social workers for all the extra work you do. If one of us is gone, the others are there to pick up the load. Each of you are a special part of our team.

—**Sally Allamby**
RN, Case Manager

A big Way to Go to Cheri Towle for accommodating last minute catering and doing it with a smile. I really hate asking for those, but Cheri knows it has to be done and does it very pleasantly. Great customer service—thank you!

—**Stephanie Plummer**
Executive Assistant

A special thank you to Cindy Schumacher for her continued assistance and all the support and help she has provided us this year.

—**Deb Rima and Lynn Hallowell-Gottsleben**
Outpatient Business and Madonna TherapyPlus

At this holiday season, I would like to thank each member of the Education and Staff Development team for their support and flexibility in meeting our goals.

—**Cinda Zimmer**
Nursing Education Coordinator

Wishing a safe, happy holiday season and a Happy New Year to all of the Patient Accounts and Accounting staff. May you find the reason for the season in your hearts!

—**Vicki Davis**
Patient Accounts

A special thank you to Lynn Hallowell-Gottsleben for your support and leadership over the last year.

—**Deb Rima**
Outpatient Business

Thank you to the leadership of Risk Management (Davie Shutzer-Hill) and the hard work of the Employee Safety Committee (Jeff Kubik, Sandy Stutzman, Rose Hurt, Lisa Butler, Dick Druke, Randy Luebbe and Shiela Alemzadeh), the Safe Patient Handling and Movement project teams (Lisa Butler, Tricia Bruha, Michelle Claycomb, Jim Fry, Mark Hakel, Rose Hurt, Jeff Kubik, Mary Lu Long, Michele Ohlmann, Jim Pelton, Stacy Reichmuth, Davie Shutzer-Hill, Sandy Stutzman, Lisa Culbertson, Rose Hurt, Mary Lu Long, Jackie Larson and Rodney Smith) and the Safety Champions (Linda Covert, Jennifer Parker, Jacque Larson, Kara Burbach, Lindsey Regnier, Malia Morgan, Pam Kerns, Paula Hoage and Angie Howard). Thanks to all staff for working together to keep us all safe!

—**Sandy Stutzman**
Employee Health Services

Thank you to Jim Fry and Jody Luzum, Employee Health Staff. As we juggle previous responsibilities and obtain new ones, the ability to work together well and laugh often is wonderful. Looking forward to many years together.

—**Sandy Stutzman**
Employee Health

A special thanks and note of appreciation to the Inpatient Physical Therapists and assistants for your expertise, hard work and dedication exhibited each day.

Your commitment to helping our patients, families, department, and facility to be the best is outstanding. You are the best! Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

—**Michele Ohlmann and Marilyn Dongilli**
Inpatient Physical Therapy

The Outpatient Program would like to thank Linda Sullivan, Michaela Kumke and Sande Dirks for their continued dedication to assist us with the promotion and growth of all TherapyPlus clinics.

—**TherapyPlus Clinic Managers and Supervisors**

Thanks to Madonna Fit for Work nurses— 7323 people across Lincoln and the State of Nebraska will stay healthier during the flu season this year. Eleven nurses did an outstanding job providing those vaccines for 146 different sites. Special thanks go to Jeanne Boller, Sharon DeVries, Sharon Duffy, Karri Harris, Nancy Kissling, Ann Kittell, Connie Mahanes, Soni Muller, Carol Marshall, Lori Rowley and Becky Weber. Customer satisfaction with the professionalism and care shown by our nurses was 4.97 on a 5 point scale proving them to be wonderful ambassadors for Madonna. Special mention goes to Melissa Rose for managing the billing process for all these events. We appreciate you!

—**The Fit for Work Team**

Central Service would like to give Mary Graff in patient services a big thank you for all her hard work. Mary, you are very helpful and pleasant to work with. Thank you, Mary!

—**Otellia Hogan and Kelly Waggoner**

Thank you to Brittany Baack, Michelle Welch, Karen Rehm and Sande Dirks, Fit for Work staff who keep us moving towards our wellness goals in fun and exciting ways.

—**Sandy Stutzman**
Employee Health

Thank you to Nancie Ninneman for all of your help throughout the year with many outpatient printing needs—many of which have been last minute and urgent requests.

—**Deb Rima**
Outpatient Business

Way to Go Amy Hobza and Sandra Slama for your hard work and dedication to learn the new Allscripts referral management system, and train your co-workers. Our department couldn’t have implemented this without you! Thanks for your continued involvement as we continue to learn the system and become proficient in using it!

—**Susan Klanecky**
Director of Admissions and Case Management

A heartfelt thank you to our friends and coworkers: Pat, Marla, Janet, Angela, Cindy, Cathie, Wendy and Tara for being such a wonderful group of individuals and a great HR Team. We are so appreciative that we have the pleasure of coming to work each day knowing that individually and together, you will make it a great work environment. We also want our volunteers, Joan, Susan and Virginia, you are tremendous assets to the HR Team. Additionally, thanks go to Jody and the staffing office for covering the HR phones when we have departmental commitments. It is truly a pleasure working with all of you!

—**Lou Ann Manske and Mark Pankoke**
Human Resources

Way to Go to Kathy Davison for passing the Registry Respiratory Therapy exam. We knew you could do it! Thank you for your good work and dependability on VAU. Congratulations on your accomplishment!

—**Jim Pelton and Joe Rush**

I would like to say thank you to all of the Telecommunications staff for their hard work this past year. You wear many hats for many different tasks throughout Madonna and you do an excellent job. You are a great team to work with and I appreciate each one of you. Thank you!

—**Linda Hippen**
Telecommunications

A Special Holiday Section of Way to Go!

Way to Go Sue Pieschke for such amazing holiday decorations in the laboratory. It gives everyone coming down the hallway on the lower level a warm and homey feeling. Thanks for your creative spirit!

Way to Go Kim Schluckebier for your successful training in Miami on the new laboratory hematology analyzer. Your leadership in training the rest of us is greatly appreciated.

Way to Go Matt Sexton and Julie Fixemer, our two newest medical technologists in the laboratory. Your fresh insights and experience have added great value to the laboratory team. Thank you!

Way to Go to our phlebotomy team in the lab! Sue Pieschke, Anissa Rutt, Jeff Frey, Scott Anderson, Megan Cheney, Maria Pham and Kerri Dufoe. Your skills are unmatched, your dedication appreciated and your customer service top notch. Thanks for pitching in and grabbing the extra hours during our shortage over the holidays and beyond.

—**Patty J. Eschliman**
Madonna Laboratory

Way to Go to the Telecom and the Mailroom staffs for helping this past year with our various mailings. Many thanks also to the Purchasing staff for bending over backwards to deliver our supplies so quickly.

—**Nancie Ninnemann**
Marketing and PR

Way to Go Michelle Vallabhbhai! Thank you for helping me with the pediatric mailing project. Your willingness to always go the “extra mile” is greatly appreciated. You have been instrumental to the scheduling staff. A big thank you!

—**Lenne Anderson**
Outpatient Scheduling

Thank you to Julie White, PT, for your commitment and dedication to ensuring that the Lincoln Surgical Hospital physical therapy staffing is well-covered each week ensuring that patients receive the therapy services that they need in a timely fashion.

—**Deb Rima**
Outpatient Business

To dedicated staff and a great team, Way to Go! Thanks for all you do: Sue Brandl, Caroline Wehrwein, Jim Olson, Terry Monk, Scott Bastin, Deb Anderson, Kathy Wittman, Clay McIlwain, Dave Bitenieks, Dow Cessna, Denise Douglas, Ruth Ann Wilson, Ed Zak, Dana Cranford and Carl Fedon.

—**Michelle Niederhaus**
Transportation

To all the Environmental Services staff, thank you for all you do all year long. Your hard work, dedication and team spirit are a blessing!

—**Lisa Burns**
Environmental Service Manager

Way to Go to the Madonna lab staff for all your help this year with infection prevention. I know you have additional job duties to assist with tracking and surveillance; I really appreciate your help. Thanks also for helping with the MRSA study in October. We couldn't have completed it without you.

Way to Go Sherri Luedke RN supervisor LTACH, Karen Powell RN supervisor Acute, Annette Reith RN charge Lower Level, Tonia Sohrweid ECN manager, Jacque Larson ECS Manager, Deb Kapperman RN VAU, and all the St. Anthony charge nurses for filling out the infection logs. I appreciate the time you spend completing this log in addition to your usual monthly duties.

—**Kristi Felix**
Risk Management

A special thank you to the Main Campus physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, Main Campus aquatics staff, Main Campus therapy support staff, outpatient nursing, outpatient case management, outpatient business staff, clinic managers and supervisors for their dedication to their profession and to Madonna ensuring that no outpatients' needs go unmet. It is a pleasure getting to work with each of you.

—**Lynn Hallowell-Gottsleben**
Director Outpatient Therapy

A special Way to Go for Linda Becker in Physician Services. Thank you for your collaboration with outpatient scheduling to improve communication and physician relations. I greatly appreciate your wisdom, patience and time you've shared. Thank you!

—**Lenne Anderson**
Outpatient Scheduling

I would like to thank the following staff for dedicating many hours organizing the resident “giving tree” and Christmas event: Doris Lewis, Christa Yoakum, Shannon Collins, Angie Howard, Lindsey Regnier, Deb Oates, Beckie Kimes, Diana Kluthe, Melody Gagner, Jodi Blowers, Ruth Florea and Danielle Grotzky.

I also would like to thank the Madonna staff who generously purchased gifts for the residents. I know that many of you adopted more than one resident. I so appreciate your giving spirit!

—**Paul Nathenson**
Vice President Corporate Planning and Long Term Care

Happy Holidays to all the 3-11 staff on Extended Care North! You are a great group to work with. Keep up the great care and team spirit you show.

—**Sharon Stovall**
Extended Care North

To the outpatient occupational therapy and recreation staff—When I reflect back on this past year, I am amazed at the changes and growth the department has undergone. We have seen several new staff join the team. You've hit the ground running and did a fabulous job, not only learning Madonna's intricate system and providing quality patient care, but pushing the rest of the department to try new things and challenge old habits. We have seen experienced staff step up into new leadership roles for program development, provide mentoring and support to those around us and set the bar even higher in advanced clinical skills. To Lisa, Caroline, Erin, Lauren, Heidi, Virginia, Michelle, Gina, Mandy and April, I wish you all the best in 2009, both personally and professionally. Thank you for your commitment, integrity and spirit of teamwork!

Thank you to Lynn, Carol, Lenne, Bob, Jill and Deb – you are a wonderful group to work with and be a part of. I appreciate your help filling in while I was gone on leave this year and all that you do! It is fun to come to work each day and see what we can achieve together as a team. May you have a blessed holiday season – and here's to what we can accomplish next year!

—**Cory Behrens**
Outpatient Occupational Therapy

Way to Go Inpatient Occupational Therapists! We've had another great year thanks to your continued dedication to the people we serve at Madonna. We value your pursuits of excellence in your work and appreciate your flexibility in meeting patient and department needs.

—**Linda Storz & Kathy Schmidt**
Inpatient Occupational Therapy

Thanks all of Long Term Care for a wonderful year and for the excellent care provided to our residents and families. I am proud of all your efforts. Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a happy 2009!

—**Melody Gagner**
Extended Care

Thank you, LTACH manager Jennifer Hoebelheinrich and staff, especially Kelli Anderson, Sandra Fruhwirth, Ev Sufficool, Ruth Morrow and all the nurses and CNAs for being so generous, kind, helpful and understanding to me after my surgery. To all the other staff here at Madonna, God bless you and your family. Madonna is an awesome place to work.

—**Rosie Budhram**
CNA on LTACH

To Kathy Harrington, Mary Frank, Randy Luebbe and Steve Dunse – fantastic job on the holiday decorating at Main Campus and ProActive. Both facilities are beautiful!

—**Tami Rudder**
Marketing and PR

A Special Holiday Section of Way to Go!

Way to Go continued

Way to Go and thanks to all staff members at TherapyPlus ProActive for your hard work over the past year. Thank you for making each day a positive environment for clients and staff. Thanks to each one of you for making 2008 special. Happy holidays!

Thank you to Melissa Glinsmann and Ryan Burger for your outside coverage at other clinics during this busy time of year. We greatly appreciate your help!

—**Shannon Schultz**
TherapyPlus ProActive

Way to Go to the core nurses and unit secretary on 1 Center – you truly work as a team. Even when the going gets tough, you do what it takes to get the job done. Your dedication to providing quality care is always present. You each bring many talents to the team and I am thankful for each and every one of you!

—**Beth Danek**
Acute Rehab

Thank you outpatient speech staff: Gail Finsand, Karen Stokely, Karen Kenyon, Ashley Hobelman and Carrie Childers for all your hard work in 2008. Your willingness to continue to learn and make use of new, innovative techniques has made Madonna a leader in patient care.

Way to Go Nova Adams, Jacque McCullough, Dustin Wardyn and Judy Faubel. It's been a successful year for the Therapeutic Learning Center. Your expertise and teamwork has made a difference in the lives of your students. Thank you for all you do.

—**Carol Jensen**
Outpatient Communications Disorders

Many thanks to Sharon Gollehon for your assistance in setting up new files for our records in Mission Services and to Tami Rudder assisting with graphics for our flyers, service programs and other printed material. You help make Madonna a great place to work!

—**Mary Frank**
Mission Services

Way to Go ProActive Team. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work last year and in advance for the busy season approaching us at ProActive. A great team has been created including the Front Desk, fitness and dance instructors, personal trainers, membership, play center, cardiac rehab, sports performance, Fit for Work, Soteria and TherapyPlus. It's amazing to watch you all work together to meet the health and wellness needs of our members. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. I look forward to a great 2009!

—**Heith Wilkinson**
Madonna ProActive

Thanks to Kristin Luethke and Linda Ohnoutka for your continuous pursuits of excellence in recreation therapy. You both do an outstanding job working in multiple programs within Madonna and the community.

Thanks to all of the therapy rehabilitation associates and cardiac monitor techs for the excellent work you do everyday to keep the therapy departments running smoothly. Your excellent support and “behind-the-scene” work has a positive impact not only upon our therapy staff, but also the people we serve at Madonna.

—**Kathy Schmidt**
Inpatient Occupational Therapy

TherapyPlus O Street would like to give a big thanks to David Kennedy, PTA for providing therapy coverage for us over the past seven weeks. He was great to work with and did an outstanding job helping our patients.

A big thank you to Linda Sullivan and Sharon Votava for arranging the Lunch and Learn session on Dec. 4, with the four case managers from Corvel. TherapyPlus, Fit for Work, and ProActive had an opportunity to give a PowerPoint presentation explaining our occupational health services and they benefit clients. Ninety-five percent of Corvel's business is from worker's compensation; they also lease their network with Traveler's Insurance.

—**Bob Lueke**
Madonna TherapyPlus

Thanks to Kay Wheeler and Noelle Crew, Inpatient Scheduling Staff, for all their ongoing commitment and dedication to excellence as it relates to schedule management. Your work allows for success of the therapy areas, including efficiency for clinical staff and patient care. Your attention to detail, creativity and ability to multitask complex situations is appreciated. Thanks for all you do every day that often goes unnoticed!

—**Michele Ohlmann**
Inpatient Physical Therapy

Way to Go to the staff at Madonna ProActive for creating a fun environment to work in! Thanks to the fitness trainers for sharing your knowledge and creating life changes for clients. Thanks to Samantha Beaubier, dietitian, for being instrumental in my personal fitness success. Thanks to the Front Desk staff for welcoming clients with positivity and smiles. Kudos to the creative Play Center staff—my own kids love you! Thanks to the membership team for doing a stellar job selling the unique concept of ProActive. Thanks to Bob and Stephanie Chase for your boundless energy and positive attitudes. Thanks to Angie Farnik for all you do. Thanks to Marsha and Rich for maintaining a clean environment. Thanks to General Manager, Heith Wilkinson, for your leadership.

And finally, a huge thank you to Katy Martin for being the best office mate ever and keeping me on track; I appreciate your support. Lifestyle Challenge 2009, here we come!

—**Ian Thompson**
ProActive

Way to Go to the Madonna Food and Nutrition Services Department! Thank you for the opportunity to make Madonna great by having the Customer Close-Up Survey incentive. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated; keep up the great work!

—**Heidi Estell**
Hospital Support Staff

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A Special Holiday Section of Way to GO!

To Holly Schifsky—Thank you for all you've done to develop our Pediatric Program. You have provided excellent leadership and assistance in preparing us to work with children who have complex medical conditions, including those on a ventilator. You have developed strong relationships with key physicians and other referral sources that has begun to pay off, with double digit growth in volumes over the past year.

To Diane Ulmer—Your passion for working with persons with SCI really shows as you speak both internally and externally with people about our program. Thank you for all you have done to help grow our SCI program. With your leadership, we have an excellent program that has grown in both numbers and complexity of care. Thank you also for your leadership with the Peer Volunteer Program. Your hard work with coordinating and providing training, disseminating information about the peers to others, and working with the other program managers and staff to ensure the Peer Volunteers are utilized has resulted in a very successful and meaningful program. Thanks to all of the Program Managers for contributing to the success of this program.

To Amy Goldman—Kudos to you and your team! With your leadership, the stroke outcomes have improved dramatically over the past year. Your involvement with other stroke providers in the Lincoln community has strengthened Madonna's position as a leader in stroke rehab. Your passion for this population is very evident in all you do.

To Lori Terryberry-Spohr—Thank you for all you have done to grow and promote Madonna's Brain Injury Program. With your hard work and leadership, we have expanded our services to injured service men and women, implemented CPI non-crisis intervention for patients who are agitated, and are now moving along with putting in place a neurobehavioral plan for those who need it. You are an accomplished speaker and have developed good relationships with many key people.

To Rebecca Wills—Thank you for the work you have done with the Pulmonary Program. Your collaboration with other programs such as Pediatrics and SCI have resulted in our ability to care for persons with different types of disabilities who use a ventilator. Your leadership has helped promote not only excellent weaning rates but also promotion of dignity and quality of life for those who are unable to wean.

To Linda Ohnoutka—Kudos to you and your team for offering excellent adaptive sports and recreation programming for children and adults with a variety of disabilities. Thanks to your leadership, many people with disabilities are able to participate in fun, community centered events.

To Brooke Murtaugh—Our vision program is growing in both size and reputation. I am really excited about the work you and Lisa Anderson are doing to develop an outcomes tool, and look forward to seeing it being piloted next year. Thank you for your leadership!

To Marketing and PR—Your help in assembling appropriate collateral materials: Fast Facts, Outcomes Booklets, Program fliers, etc., the production of newsletters such as Makin' Tracks and the Madonna Minute, and your pitching success stories to the media has really made our job of communicating the message of Madonna much easier.

To Dr. Bohart, Dr. Krabbenhoft, Dr. Zeng, Dr. Hartman and Dr. Beauchamp—Thank you for your leadership and the excellent clinical care you provide to our patients. Without your care and leadership, we would not be as successful as we are today. I appreciate your involvement in program development and quality improvement efforts.

—Karen Divito
Rehabilitation Services

Thank you to the St. Anthony's staff for your warmth, compassion and understanding of our residents and families.

—Geri Hepp
St. Anthony's Program Manager

The St. Anthony's staff would like to thank Mary Graff for all her hard work in marking the clothes for our new residents and remarking the clothes of current residents.

—Geri Hepp
St. Anthony's Program Manager

Way to Go to Father Steve Cooney for being so willing to meet resident's needs in any way he can.

A post-election Way to Go to the St. Jane de Chantal team of Diana Kluthe, Kara Merchant, Doris Lewis, Deb Oates, Christa Yoakum and Beckie Kimes. The election commission sought me out to commend you for your efforts to ensure as many residents as possible received absentee ballots. Marilyn, a commission member said, "Madonna is by far the best facility in the city, in providing the opportunity for residents are able to participate in their democracy." Thanks also to Father Steve Cooney, as he hand delivered some ballots on the last eligible day of voting.

—Julie Willnerd
VAU/Special Needs

Way to Go to the team at the Arbors! You have made 2008 special by giving quality Alzheimer's care.

—Michele Roy
Activity Coordinator-The Arbors

Thank you to the outpatient scheduling staff, Linda Plummer, Ardyth Bowen and Laura Maxwell. Your hard work and continued dedication to Madonna makes a difference in patient's lives. I appreciate your cooperation in enhancing our department and sharing the future vision of our team.

Way to Go TherapyPlus main campus staff! Thank you for your continued support. We have such a team-oriented, flexible work group. The teamwork and camaraderie is fantastic! Thank you for your dedication to Madonna TherapyPlus.

Many thanks to Deb Rima for all your support to outpatient scheduling. You always go the extra mile, and it's greatly appreciated. I value your expertise. Your leadership and dedication to Madonna is admirable!

—Lenne Anderson
Madonna TherapyPlus Main

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> CALENDAR

- Jan 5** **NEO Week 1**
- Jan 7** **Introduction to Outlook**
1-2 p.m.
Call 6507 to register
- Outlook Calendar**
2-3 p.m.
Call 6507 to register
- Session 1 Supervisor Ed**
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Lau
Call 6406 to register
- Jan 8** **Blood and Medical Assist**
Agee
Call 6550, 6476 or 6406 to register for time

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 3:30 p.m.

Dec 31 – 4:30 p.m.

The Feast of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
(No 10:30 a.m. Mass)

Jan 1 – 10:30 a.m.

The Feast of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
(No 4 p.m. Mass)

Jan 3 – 4:30 p.m.

The Feast of the Epiphany
(Anticipatory Mass)

Jan 4 – 10:30 a.m.

The Feast of the Epiphany

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.



Reflecting on the year (cont. page 1)

One of my favorite memories from 2008: competing in the Market to Market Relay with my wife, Sara, and fellow employees Lisa Butler, Kristen Pfeil and Michelle Claycomb.

—**Charles H. Bills**
Madonna ProActive Fitness Trainer

On Dec. 18, 2008, I graduated from the respiratory program at Southeast Community College! My supervisors, Lynn Hallowell, and Jim Pelton, allowed me to maintain my hours for part-time benefits. I treasure the special friendships I've built with my Madonna family. And...everyone has shared the excitement that my husband and I are expecting our first baby! Thanks to everyone at Madonna I have encountered in 2008.

—**Janina Chapin**
Respiratory Therapy Assistant

I remember seeing the Acute Rehab night shift volleyball team having a ton of fun and winning a trophy during Nurse's Week! Then, hearing stories of how sore everyone was after that jam-packed day of volleyball fun!

—**Mike Quicke**
Nurse Manager, Acute Rehab

My 2008 memory - successfully discharging ventilator patients home with extensive services in place, fulfilling their wish to be at home with their family.

—**Kara Merchant**
Social Worker VAU/SN

I am glad I had the opportunity to treat and advocate for my college roommate's brother as he underwent rehabilitation for an incomplete spinal cord injury.

—**Matt Ulmer**
Physical Therapist

There are so many great memories associated with patients, so I would like to acknowledge our staff to continue to provide excellent care and an unending array of memories.

—**Sarah Stevicks**
Physical Therapist Assistant

I got a surprise visit by this beautiful, poised young woman, Ashley Tammen, and her mother, Mary, following Ashley's post traumatic brain injury check-up.

—**Jane Booth RN**
Developmental Coordinator

My favorite memories of 2008 are seeing volunteers involved with patients whether transporting in the therapy gym, visiting in the peer program or watching an Angel Dog participate in a therapy session with a toddler!

—**Jo Ann Drucke**
Volunteer Resources

This memory is dedicated to the best looking pink-haired bride that Madonna has ever seen: Woods House resident Scott Wurdeman for Halloween 2008!

—**Shannon Collins**
The Woods House



Let's go shopping

In the spirit of the holiday season, Hy-Vee donated a child-sized grocery cart to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital's pediatric unit. The donation took place Friday, Dec.19. Yes, there is such a thing as "shopping therapy." The grocery cart will be used as an assistive device for pediatric patients who require external physical support while walking. Using real-life equipment and accessories, such as a grocery cart, is an important part of medical rehabilitation. Children will use the donated cart to practice their physical, cognitive and social skills in a fun and therapeutically functional manner.

"It is through donations like this that we are able to incorporate real-world activities, those that kids observe mom and dad completing each day, into our therapy environment," states Madonna pediatric physical therapist, Kilee Oetjen.

Four-year-old Signe Morrow is one patient who is excited about this donation. "Signe loves to go shopping at Hy-Vee because they offer child-sized carts and she can push it by herself without assistance from mom. Now her therapists will be able to include one of her favorite activities into therapy sessions," states Signe's mother, Stephanie Morrow. Signe has bravely fought medulloblastoma, a type of pediatric brain tumor, and is currently an outpatient at Madonna, working on her strength and balance.

While transporting a lady from The Arbors who is 96, I asked her age. She replied, "I'm pushing 40." Every day I drive the van, there is a special memory involving patients, residents and people in our community.

—**Sue Brandl**
Transportation

My 2008 highlight was taking Xavier, a patient, on community outings and seeing his face light up, smiling and joking around because he was out of the hospital.

—**Kristi Britten**
Physical Therapist

On my first day of work, I witnessed John Andrews walk from his room all the way to the front entrance after being told he would probably never walk again. Miracles do happen at Madonna.

—**Julie Foral**
Marketing and PR