

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 486-8606.

All story ideas, news items, announcements or recognition information must be submitted the Friday before the Independent is printed. **The deadline for the next issue is Friday, May 22.**

*\*The Independent can be viewed online at [www.Madonna.org](http://www.Madonna.org)*

Madonna patient crosses the finish line



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Artist donates artwork to Madonna



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## Madonna nurse among the top 10 nurses



The *Lincoln Journal Star* has recognized Tracy Schilke as one of the top 10 nurses in the "Best Nurse of Nebraska" contest. Tracy has worked as a registered nurse (RN) on Madonna Rehabilitation

Hospital's spinal cord injury (SCI) unit for more than nine years.

Tracy was nominated by her fellow Madonna coworker Fay Weckle, RN. She describes Tracy as a very compassionate nurse who always has a smile. "Tracy has been known to purchase with her own money things like hair ties or nice smelling gels and lotions, to help perk up patients and make them feel special," stated Fay.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* received more than 200 nominations for this award; 11 were Madonna nurses.

"This is a nice surprise, I really enjoy working on the SCI unit at Madonna. It is rewarding to take care of each and every patient," said Tracy. Congratulations, Tracy, on this prestigious honor!

## Kansas teen grateful after surviving accident

"I never thought this would happen to me," said Brayden Wiley, reliving the ordeal of her recent accident.

On March 7, Brayden, 19, was a passenger in a Chevy CZ-71 pickup with three of her friends. The young teens had been drinking and details are sketchy, but the pickup crashed before dawn outside their hometown of Wellington, Kan. It is believed Brayden was ejected out the back window upon impact.

Brayden was taken by ambulance to Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita, Kan. Her parents, Laura and Zach, had checked their daughter's bedroom at 6 a.m. and finding it vacant, called her cell phone. A sheriff answered and delivered the news that their daughter had been in an accident. "It seemed like an eternity to make that 30-minute drive to the hospital," said Laura.

Brayden had surgery to address her lacerated liver, spleen and abdominal bleeding. A CT scan revealed injuries to the right hemisphere of her brain that resulted in a traumatic brain injury (TBI). "The brain injury diagnosis was scary," said Laura. "The doctors told us it would be a roller coaster ride and it definitely has been," she added.

During her 25-day stay in the ICU, Brayden fought off pneumonia and blood clots. She was medically sedated for half of that time. "I didn't even know I'd been in a car accident until the second week I was at Madonna," said Brayden.

Her parents hadn't realized the extensive rehabilitation their daughter would need. They made the decision to transfer Brayden to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital after consulting with a case worker and friends who had good outcomes at Madonna. On April 1, Brayden arrived via airplane to Madonna. She was very weak, on a ventilator and trach, unable to walk or talk.

Brayden's parents worked with her Madonna team to set up goals. The trach and vent were removed within weeks and Brayden

began coming out of her medically-induced fog. Amy Potter, speech language pathologist, said initially Brayden was disoriented,

impulsive and had decreased attention to activities. Her emotions were typical of many TBI patients, being very flat and lacking facial expression or voice inflection. "Eventually, her attention improved to where she could complete tasks of at least 30 minutes," said Amy.

Brooke Murtaugh, occupational therapist, saw rapid progress with Brayden, too. "Once Brayden realized the hard work needed in therapy, she really focused on participating 100 percent in each session to increase her

skills," shared Brooke. The DynaVision 2000 was utilized to improve her peripheral vision and reaction time. "Brayden always had a smile on her face and was willing to try anything," said Brooke.

The Community Participation Group helped Brayden redefine her cognitive skills. "It really made me stronger by making me think on my feet," recalled Brayden. On one outing, her group went to the discount store, Target. Brayden had to solve a simple math problem of the cost of three apples and also be able to locate a birthday card for her brother. "She really shined on her community outings where she proved she could multi-task and initiate with others in a community setting," said Brooke.

Brayden feels she wouldn't have had the success in therapy had it not been for her family's support. "I'm so thankful for my mom; she never left my side," said Brayden.

Laura remembers Brayden's first day at Madonna. "I arrived early and was reading those patient stories on your Wall of Fame," said Laura. "I stood there and cried; it gave me such hope for Brayden," she added.

On April 16, Brayden was ecstatic to be going home to her family and friends. "I look at life a lot differently now; I appreciate it more," said Brayden. "I hope my siblings and friends all learn from my accident – I know I did," she added.



Brayden uses the DynaVision 2000 during a therapy session with Brooke Murtaugh, OT, to work on her peripheral vision and reaction time.



Friday, May 22, 2009

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. or  
4:30– 6:30 p.m.

North Commons Café

- Serving hamburgers, veggie burgers, chips, pop, cookies and fresh fruit
- Pizza will be delivered to staff working the night shift on May 22, 2009.
- Hosted by Madonna's Employee Appreciation Team

# Injured athlete celebrates progress, crosses race finish line with support of Team Derek

**T**hirteen-year old Derek Ruth is a champion to those who know him, both on and off the football field or baseball diamond. A star player on the Malcolm, Neb., midget football team, Derek suffered a traumatic brain injury during a game on Sept. 6, 2008. After surgeries to save Derek's life, which involved removing portions of his skull on both sides, he was transferred to Madonna's inpatient pediatric rehabilitation program in early October.

At first, Derek had very limited mobility and was unable to walk, talk or eat on his own.



Derek Ruth's determination shows as he crosses the finish line of the Lincoln Marathon with a smile, followed by his family and friends.

With the help of his Madonna team, the constant support of his family, and his faith and determination, Derek has made incredible progress.

Madonna social worker Diana Kluthe and another Ruth Family friend, Teresa Bruggeman, organized "Team Derek" to celebrate his achievements by participating in the Lincoln Marathon and Half Marathon on May 3. Derek cheered on his supporters, including many Madonna staff, then walked with his family and team to cross the finish line – running the last few yards. His winning smile said it all.

# Lifestyle Challenge rewards winners

**K**udos to all the teams and participants who completed the Lifestyle Challenge. Collectively, the net weight loss amounted to a staggering 921 pounds, and the net physical activity hours climbed to 11,427 hours! The average weight loss per person was approximately 3 pounds, and the average physical activity acquired per person was approximately 39 hours or 2,340 minutes.

## Top Lifestyle Challenge teams for weight loss:

- Belly Busters—56.8 pounds
- Up Chucks—42.2 pounds
- Kegel—39.8 pounds

## Top physical activity teams were:

- Repeat Offenders—520.7 hours
- Kegel—505.2 hours
- 100% Fat Free—354.2 hours

Top weight loss individuals, not on a winning team were Amber Pankonin, Cathy Smith, Curt Butler, Jim Fry, Jim Pelton, Melissa Glinsmann, Melissa Rose, Nicolle Johnson, Nova Adams and Susan Koerber.

Top physical activity individuals, not on a winning team are Amber Pankonin, Brenda Florea, Jim Fry, John Nelson, Kelli Anderson, Melissa Starr, Monica Vandergriend, Rebecca Seeber, Russ Virus and Susan Koerber.

Thanks to the following participants who displayed extraordinary devotion, encouragement and spirit through the challenge; Amy Hobza, Andrea Bethune, Denise Gleason, Frannie Littrell, LeeAnn Maul, Linda Stones, Melody Gagner, Michelle Stoltenberg, Pat Smetter and Sally Thompson.

# Ideation

## Examining the Clifton Strengths Finder™ theme

**Y**ou are fascinated by ideas. An idea is a concept, the best explanation of the most events. You are delighted when you discover beneath the complex surface an elegantly simple concept to explain why things are the way they are. An idea is a connection. Yours is the kind of mind that is always looking for connections, and so you are intrigued when seemingly disparate phenomena can be linked by an obscure connection. An idea is a new perspective on familiar challenges. You revel in taking the world we all know and turning it around so we can view it from a strange, but strangely enlightening angle. You love all these ideas because they are profound, novel, clarifying, contrary and bizarre. For all these reasons, you derive a jolt of energy whenever a new idea occurs to you. Others may label you creative, original, conceptual or even smart. Perhaps you are all of these. Who can be sure? What you are sure of is that ideas are thrilling. And, on most days, this is enough.

## A Madonna employee describes how Ideation works in her life

*submitted by Sharon Duffy, RN, MS, CRRN Manager, Integrative Medicine*

"Hey guys, I have an idea!" If you know me very well or have spent much time with me, I'm sure you've heard me say that line.

You can imagine how excited and energized I feel when new ideas or opportunities are presented to me. Program development is a perfect example of an opportunity.

Programs I've helped develop at Madonna include: the multi-day, discipline specific New Employee Orientation, the staff Competency Assessment, Rehabilitation Associate class (RA), Assisted Living Associate class (ALA), the LPN-C Course, and the first ANCC Approved Provider status for nurses.

I've assisted with several programs at ProActive including Soteria Spa, the Life Balance Programs and my current position as coordinator of Holistic Health and Integrative Medicine—an idea I had a long time ago and a dream come true for me.

What an exciting journey I've been on these past 16 years; thank you, Madonna!



Belly Busters team members include: (L to R) Sarah Hauck, Angie Howard, Jaime Dredge, Barb Funkhouser and Alex Williams.

# Employee Focus: Fun factoids about Mike



Mike Quicke  
Nurse Manager, Acute Rehab  
MRH employee for 8 years

- 1 I learned how to ride a dirt bike before a bicycle at the age of three.
- 2 I would have curly hair if I let it grow. And yes, my three-year-old gets her copious curls from me!
- 3 One of my favorite Bible passages: 1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
- 4 My favorite movie of all time is "Tommy Boy!"

I am one of three nurse managers on the hospital side. I manage the Acute Rehab nursing staff and have been in that role for three years.



Repeat Offenders team members include: (L to R) Melodee Vankekerix, Katy Martin, Ian Thompson, Michaela Kumke and Tami Rudder (not pictured).

# Changes ahead for health benefits

**B**enefits election forms will be mailed to eligible employees' homes by May 19, 2009. If you are scheduled to work 40 or more hours per pay period, you will be receiving a large white envelope from Madonna in the mail. Please open and read this information when you receive it as it is time sensitive.

If you need to make any changes to your benefits for the 2009/2010 plan year, indicate the desired change(s) on the salmon yellow-colored election form, sign and date the form and **return it to Human Resources by Friday, June 5 at 4:30 p.m.** No changes will be allowed after June 5, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

The following plan changes are occurring effective July 1, 2009:

## **Madonna Health Plan**

- The claims administrator and Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) for the Madonna Health Plan will change from Meritain Health and Midlands Choice to Coventry Health Care beginning July 1. Coventry offers one of the broadest provider networks in the area. You can access the Coventry Web site by going to [www.chcnebraska.com](http://www.chcnebraska.com).
- The Wellness Benefit (Preventive Services) maximum cap will be eliminated. The Madonna Health Plan will pay 100% of covered charges with no co-pay or deductible for preventive services including a history and physical, chest x-ray, urinalysis, blood tests, EKG, routine eye exam and refraction as well as prostate cancer screening, colon cancer screening, mammograms, cervical cancer screening and immunizations as recommended by either the CDC (for adults) or American Academy of Pediatrics (for children). Well child care, routine hearing tests for children and laboratory tests for children are also included. These services must be performed by a Coventry Health Care provider in order to be eligible for the 100% benefit with no limitations.
- Premiums for the health plan will increase slightly from last plan year.
- Mail order generic prescription drug co-pays will increase from \$20 for a 90-day supply to \$25.00 for a 90-day supply.

- Retail and mail order brand name prescription drug co-pays will have no change. Retail generic prescription drug co-pays will have no change.
- The specialty prescription drug category will be implemented. Drugs that fall into this class will have a \$100 co-pay for a 30-day supply.
- A specialist office visit co-pay will be implemented at \$30 per visit. Regular office visit co-pay will continue at \$20 per visit.
- Deductibles will increase:
  - High Option- \$500 to \$600 individual/\$1,000 to \$1,200 family
  - Low Option- \$1,000 to \$1,100 individual/\$2,000 to \$2,200 family
- Maximum out-of-pocket limit will increase:
  - High Option- \$1,700 to \$1,800 individual/\$3,400 to \$3,600 family
  - Low Option- \$2,250 to \$2,400 individual/\$4,500 to \$4,800 family
- A Disease Management program will be implemented through Coventry Health Care. This program is offered to members with certain health conditions that will be identified using medical and prescription drug claims information, self-referral or provider referral. This voluntary program offers differing levels of interventions for conditions that can be managed through standard treatment plans by receiving educational information on their condition, reminder mailings to have certain health care services performed and/or a referral to a case manager when appropriate.
- The hospice care plan limit of \$3,000 has been eliminated. There will be no hospice care dollar limit under the plan.
- If a transplant patient chooses a transplant facility/provider outside of the Coventry transplant network, they will have an additional 20% reduction in their benefits for those services.

## **Dental Plan**

- Premiums for the dental plan will have no change.
- There will be no changes to plan provisions for the dental plan.

## **Life and Long Term Disability Insurance**

- No premium increase to life insurance or long term disability insurance rates.

## **Medical and Dependent Care Reimbursement**

- PayFlex will be Madonna's partner in administering the health care and dependent care Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) beginning July 1. You will be able to submit claims in a variety of ways – electronically, via fax or mail directly to PayFlex. You can elect direct deposit reimbursement or have your paper check reimbursement mailed to your home address. Each health care FSA enrollee will also be provided a PayFlex debit card so you may electronically access your health care account to immediately pay for eligible expenses. You can use your PayFlex card for qualifying expenses at qualifying merchant locations that accept MasterCard. Qualifying merchants include physician and dental offices, vision providers and merchants who have implemented an inventory information approval system (IIAS). All enrollees will be able to access their account information online at [www.mypayflex.com](http://www.mypayflex.com). You will be able to view your claims history, account balances and payment information online.

Please contact Wendy Charlton or Cindy Rohlmeier in Human Resources with any questions regarding benefits renewal.

Please plan to attend one of the enrollment meetings scheduled to review the changes as of July 1, 2009:

### **Tuesday, May 26**

7 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Agee 7 and 10 a.m.; Flanagan A 2 and 3:30 p.m.

### **Thursday, May 28**

7 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Agee all day

### **Friday, May 29**

7 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Sheridan A/B all day

### **Monday, June 1**

7 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Sheridan A/B all day

### **Tuesday, June 2**

7 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Eisenbarth 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sheridan 3:30 and 10 p.m.

### **Thursday, June 4**

7 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Flanagan all day

# New Flexible Spending Account (FSA) offers debit cards to enrollees

Beginning July 1, 2009, Madonna will partner with PayFlex, our new Reimbursement Account administrator. PayFlex, located in Omaha, Neb., has been administering Reimbursement Accounts since 1987 and is one of the largest processors in the country. All Health Care and Dependent Care FSAs will be processed through PayFlex beginning July 1.

An FSA is a Flexible Spending Account, which is authorized by the IRS and available through Madonna. This type of account allows you to set aside money for health care and/or dependent day care expenses on a pre-tax basis. As you incur these expenses throughout the year, you submit a claim for these expenses to be reimbursed with tax-free dollars from your PayFlex account.

A health care account reimburses you for out-of-pocket expenses, meaning those expenses that are not covered by your medical, dental, prescription or vision programs. These expenses include deductibles, co-pays, coinsurance, and certain over-the-counter (OTC) expenses. The dependent day care account reimburses you for expenses you incur

to allow you and, if married, your spouse to work. These expenses include day care, before-and-after school programs, preschool and summer day camp.

During the upcoming annual enrollment period from May 20 - June 5, you will be allowed to put aside a portion of your salary on a pre-tax basis for medical and dependent care expenses. The amount you choose to set aside will be deducted from your paycheck in equal amounts each pay period throughout the plan year. To assist you in estimating your out-of-pocket expenses, use the FSA Planning Worksheet at [www.mypayflex.com](http://www.mypayflex.com).

PayFlex will issue a debit card to all health care FSA enrollees. The PayFlex debit card electronically accesses your health care account to pay for eligible expenses. You can use the card at qualifying merchant locations wherever MasterCard is accepted. Qualified merchants include physician and dental offices, vision providers and merchants who have implemented an inventory information approval system (IIAS). The card allows you to pay for eligible expenses at the point of service.

Using the PayFlex Card is a great way to help relieve you of some filing of claims; however, it is important that you keep all itemized documentation for the entire plan year in the event the information is required by PayFlex to comply with IRS regulations.

If you incur eligible expenses and cannot use or choose not to use your PayFlex card for reimbursement, you may submit a claim online using Express Claims or by completing a paper claim form and mailing or faxing it along with receipts to PayFlex. Go to [www.mypayflex.com](http://www.mypayflex.com) for detailed instructions on submitting a claim.

Reimbursements are processed on a daily basis and are either direct deposited or mailed to home addresses via paper check. You may go to [www.mypayflex.com](http://www.mypayflex.com) to set up your payment preferences once you have enrolled in the plan.

For more information on the PayFlex FSA plan, go to [www.mypayflex.com](http://www.mypayflex.com) or contact Wendy Charlton in Human Resources. Plan on attending one of the annual enrollment meetings being held from May 26 to June 4.

## Praise for course offering at Madonna

Professor Herb Howe, professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and coordinator for the Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), recently wrote letters to Drs. Judy Burnfield and Bill Shuart, praising the course offering that was presented at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Following is an excerpt from his letter:

“With one course to go in the Research at Madonna OLLI course, I wanted to again take the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for your leadership in helping Mark Hakel arrange the speakers, as well as the

presentations that you and your team members provided to our class.

“Madonna is clearly a very welcoming facility!”

—Prof. Herb Howe

I was really impressed by the welcoming atmosphere we received from everyone we encountered – the speakers, the support staff and everyone we passed in the halls. Madonna is clearly a very welcoming facility! While I’m sure that everyone

in the OLLI class hopes that they never need the wonderful services that Madonna provides, you can be sure that if that time comes, everyone will opt for treatment at your outstanding facility.

I appreciate you passing along my thanks to all of your team including Heith, Thad, Adam and all of the others who made our visits so informative.”

Dr. Paul Dongilli, Vice President and Chief Operations Officer

**Q.** What steps is Madonna taking to minimize the exposure that patients and staff have with dust, etc., during the hospital remodel?

**A.** Safety for both patients and staff is a top priority at Madonna and we have taken several steps to address the issue. In an attempt to contain remodeling activities, the workers have built construction walls. These walls separate construction areas from treatment areas, thereby minimizing any construction related accidents. Sampson Construction has installed an air scrubber in several locations in the St. Benedict wing where there are ongoing construction activities. This air scrubber filters the air and removes the dust and other possible irritants from the construction site before it cycles back out to patient care and treatment areas. This scrubber runs 24 hours a day when needed. Therapy staff members who voiced concerns and work in close proximity to the construction area have been offered the option to move to positions in areas unaffected by the construction. These moves would be temporary and once construction is completed, staff would move back to their original patient care areas. Currently, these solutions appear to have been successful.

*Operating Officer Paul Dongilli wants to address your questions or concerns. Share your operational or employee concerns by e-mailing Paul at [pdongilli@madonna.org](mailto:pdongilli@madonna.org), calling ext. 6242 or sending a note interoffice. Participants can remain anonymous. Questions will be featured in future issues of *The Independent* in his column.*



Children from Madonna's Child Development Center participated in a "Salute to Nursing" parade on May 12 on the main campus. Allyson (left) and Madie dressed up with their classmates in hospital garb. A special thank you to Peter Smith in Purchasing for donating the supplies.

## Bike to work

Lincoln is encouraging more of its residents to ride their bikes to work by expanding the community bike trails, developing bike lanes downtown and allotting money to install bike racks on the StarTran buses.



Biking to work has numerous benefits including exercise, reducing fuel emissions, and saving money on gas. Employees are encouraged to try commuting to work on their bike. It could become a lifestyle change.

Bike racks at Madonna are located in the south parking lot next to the picnic tables and outside the lower level east entrance door.

## Artist's donation touches Madonna staff

When Jean Ulrick was diagnosed with Stage IV renal cell sarcoma, she came to Madonna hoping to gain enough strength to return home to her husband, George. Soon, Jean, a mother and grandmother, found her health deteriorating and eventually agreed to supportive cares. George became overcome with emotion and Whitney Patterson, RN/nurse therapist, assisted him by contacting their five children and Jean's sister to alert them about Jean's critical condition. All of the family members were able to be at Jean's bedside before she died peacefully in her sleep on February 23, 2009 at Madonna.

"This isn't the outcome that we would have wanted, but we were so happy that it happened at Madonna with all of you."

—George Ulrick

The Subacute Rehab staff became allies with George and Jean during her stay. They learned how the couple met and enjoyed hearing stories of their grandchildren. To honor his wife, George, an artist, created an elaborate wood carving of two dolphins. The caption reads "Find joy in being together" — an apt descriptor of the lifelong union George and Jean nurtured.

Along with the artwork he donated to Madonna in Jean's memory, George shared a CD with the staff that portrayed Jean's life through photographs. He expressed his gratitude for the care Jean received from her Madonna team. "This isn't the outcome that we would have wanted, but we were so happy that it happened at Madonna with all of you," said George. Many of the staff were visibly moved by his comments and generosity. "This is why we do what we do!" emphasized Pat Gehrig, one of the LPNs who cared for Jean.

The staff is working to arrange for the artwork to grace the wall outside Room 66, where Jean was able to spend her final days.



Front (L to R) Rebecca Seeber, Lorinda James, Dr. Magda Beauchamp and Jennifer Bausch Back (L to R) Vonnie Bockstadter, Heidi Estell, Whitney Patterson, Shelley Harrington, Pam Kerns and Pat Gehrig

## Admin Team helps energize Green Team efforts



It's been just a little more than a year since the Green Team started its campaign to encourage colleagues, patients and visitors

to be more environmentally conscious. In that time, Styrofoam cup usage went down, paper usage also decreased, the recycling program grew, light sensors have started to be installed in conference rooms throughout the hospital and most recently, thanks to the support and approval from the Administrative Team, a full-time summer intern position has been approved to help assess Madonna's alternative energy possibilities.

The internship program is part of a coordinated effort between Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas schools. The area in which Madonna will be participating is known as the Hospital for Healthy Environment or H2E program. Samantha (Sam) Marin,

an industrial engineer at Kansas State University, will participate in program training at K-State, then report to Madonna on Monday, June 1 to begin her 10-week, on-site internship.

Initially, Sam will conduct a baseline assessment of Madonna's current energy output and identify ways in which output could be more resourceful and cost-effective. Her primary focus while at Madonna is to research the feasibility of installing solar and wind energy equipment. "We feel the structural design of our hospital with its expansive layout and roof top surface area provides us with a unique opportunity to utilize solar energy," said Dan Steinbach, Madonna director of facilities management system. "Sam's knowledge in the field is a great way to initiate the research we need to make these decisions. We're looking at this learning opportunity as a mutually beneficial way to do something positive for the environment," added Dan.

## > CALENDAR

- May 18** **NEO**
- May 19** **MES: Real lives and solutions  
What a nurse wants, what a nurse needs**  
*Michelle Welch*  
5:30-6:30 p.m.
- May 21** **CPR Re-certification**  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 5-9 p.m.  
Agee  
Call 6550, 6476 or 6406 to register
- May 22** **Employee Appreciation BBQ**  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or  
4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Pizza will be delivered to night staff  
North Commons
- May 28** **Continuity of Care: Real lives and solutions, What a nurse wants, what a nurse needs**  
*Michelle Welch*  
8-9 a.m.  
Call 6550 to register
- CPR Certification**  
9:30 a.m.  
Call 6406, 6550 or 6476 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 3:30 p.m.

**May 17** Grace Lutheran Bell Choir

**May 24** Steve Werner

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](mailto:swerner@madonna.org).



Best selling author Lee Woodruff cuddles with Alexis Verzal, a patient in Madonna's pediatric rehab day program. Ms. Woodruff was interviewed on April 28 for the Madonna Chairman's 2009 Goal Awards documentary film, which is being produced by Alexis' parents, Brandon and Tiffany Verzal.

## Speech language pathology update

It's been a productive year for Madonna's speech language pathologists (SLPs). The combination of the ever-growing skills of individuals in both in- and outpatient departments covers a wide scope and continuum of care for adults and children in need of expert evaluation, treatment, and education for speech, language and swallowing issues. Listed below are some of our inpatient therapists recent accomplishments:

*Carol Alberts*—Carol is the weekend lead and educates herself on every aspect of our scope of practice since she floats to every hallway.

*Jennifer Conrad*—Jennifer and Rebecca Wills, pulmonary program manager, directed a pilot study on the 1C hall aimed at improving oral cares and reducing infection and aspiration pneumonia with good results. They plan to continue their research with the goal of standardizing protocols throughout the hospital.

*Katie Gentert*—Katie was certified in VitalStim® last summer. VitalStim® is a specialized electrical stimulation treatment for swallowing. Katie is involved in research to collect outcome data on its use. Her goal is to present the results in a poster session at the Nebraska Speech Language and Hearing Association's (NSLHA) annual conference in October.

*Ricque Harth*—Ricque presented a poster session at the state NSLHA conference and the national American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conference in Chicago last November on swallowing. She also co-authored an article on the role of the SLP in vent weaning and the necessity for respiratory therapy and SLP cooperation for the ASHA Leader, a monthly professional journal for SLPs.

*Judy Harvey*—Judy is the inpatient speech supervisor. She is the vice president-elect of NSLHA. Judy is a certified trainer in brain injury specialty (CBIT) by the American Academy of Brain Injury Specialists.

*Patrice Haywood*—Patrice just completed a poster presentation in Atlanta for the National Black Association of Speech Language and Hearing. She presented on the role of the SLP on a burn team.

*Jessie Kohn*—Jessie just finished two University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) graduate courses with a pediatric and cognitive focus. These courses have added to her expertise as a pediatric traumatic brain injury clinician on the 1E hall.

*Amy Potter*—Amy obtained her certification in brain injury specialty last summer from the American Academy of Brain Injury Specialists.

*Teresa Springer*—Teresa co-teaches the graduate dysphagia course at UNL with Mark Hakel. They are also co-authors of an article on dysphagia and West Nile virus in a forthcoming book on dysphagia and rare disorders.



Front (L to R) Teresa Springer, Katie Gentert, Carrie Childers, Amy Potter and Mark Hakel  
Back (L to R) Gail Finsand, Patrice Haywood, Jennifer Conrad, Nova Adams, Karen Stokely, Judy Harvey, Carrie Windhorst and Cheryl Wagoner

*Cheryl Wagoner*—Cheryl Wagoner was the primary author of the dysphagia poster session presented with Ricque at NSHLA and ASHA in Chicago last November. She also co-authored the ASHA Leader article with Ricque and Carrie Windhorst. Cheryl is taking on a new role as the representative for communication disorders on the Electronic Medical

Records System (ELMER) project.

*Carrie Windhorst*—Carrie was the primary author on the ASHA Leader article. As a result of this article, Madonna's model is used as an exemplary standard of practice by Passé Muir, Inc., a speaking valve company. Carrie is the augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) consultant for the inpatient SLPs.

This SLP feature will continue in the May 29 *Independent* and will focus on the latest happenings with the outpatient therapists.

## How SHARP are you?

Did you know that nationally, approximately 15% of all needlestick injuries occur when the needle is being disposed of? Thankfully, this is not the case at Madonna and we would like to keep it that way. Are you aware of Madonna's procedure for sharps box disposal?

According to Madonna OD #23: Sharps boxes in patient rooms will be checked during cleaning by Environmental Services staff. If full, the Environmental Service staff will call the Patient Service Tech (PST) voice mail at ext. 6308. The message will be relayed to a PST. A PST will then change the full sharps box in that patient room. For sharps containers in areas other than patient rooms, it will be the responsibility of nursing staff or a PST to monitor fullness of the containers and exchange it as needed.

Anyone that utilizes the sharps boxes needs to be aware of this and never force anything into the sharps box, risking a possible significant exposure.

Please take note of any sharps box you see. Notice where the "full" line is on the box; it is lower than you may think. If full, take steps to see that it is disposed of immediately.