the INDEPENDENT

A Newsletter for Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

www.Madonna.org June 12, 2009 402.489.7102

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, June 19.**

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

Madonna vans get "wrapped" and rollin'

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Randolph students entertain residents

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Trucker overcomes adversity to reclaim his seat following a stroke

Tom Fisher has a love for blue skies and the open road. It's a good combination for a truck driver. On Nov. 22, 2008, Tom's life took a curve when he suffered a debilitating stroke.

Tom, 61, of Lincoln, Neb., was never sick. His employer required yearly physicals and Tom always passed with flying colors. The stroke hit him completely by surprise.

Tom had just eaten dinner and went to refill his glass when, as Tom recalls, he "kissed the carpet." Following a short hospital stay at BryanLGH Medical Center, Tom arrived at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital slumped in a wheelchair, unable to walk, talk or feed himself.

Brenda Henderson, Tom's daughter, worked with her father and his Madonna team to create realistic therapy goals. "He was extremely frustrated with not being able to do things independently," said Brenda.

The team quickly weaned Tom from the feeding tube and his strength increased. "I promised myself I'd walk out of here and that I'd be back up in my truck again," said Tom.

His days filled with speech, physical and occupational therapy to help recover the functions the stroke had robbed from Tom.

Marin Salisbury, OT, witnessed Tom Fisher reach one his goals, to crawl into the cab of an 18-wheeler following his stroke.

Through Tom's determination, he would slowly transition from inpatient to outpatient therapy. On March 27, Tom endured a minor setback when he suffered another small stroke. Undeterred, Tom bounced back and soon joined Madonna's Rehab Day Program.

"In Rehab Day, we got to know so many other families," said Brenda. "Those families and the therapists became our extended family," added Brenda.

Virginia Schweitzer, occupational therapist, found Tom was always willing to learn new techniques to try at home. "He worked so hard and never lost sight of the goal of climbing back into his truck," recalled Virginia.

Tom also participated in the Independent Living Skills (ILS) group. He appreciated being able to hone his skills in a community setting. A highlight was touring Memorial Stadium with the ILS group and sitting in the announcer's booth.

On May 6, Tom Fisher tackled the final goal as his feet found their way up the steps of his son-in-law's tractor-trailer. As he eased into the passenger seat, a big smile broke out on Tom's face.

Tom realizes he won't be behind the wheel again, but simply being able to make short runs with fellow truckers in the future will suffice. "We're thankful Madonna got Dad back on his feet enjoying life again," said Brenda.

Werner celebrates his 35th year of ordination

Pastor Steve Werner, a familiar face in Mission Services, reached a milestone in June by marking his 35th year of ordination. Steve graduated from Wartburg Seminary in 1974 and has served congregations in South Dakota, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. In South Dakota, Steve accepted a tri-fold ministry serving Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations. "This experience was vital for my current position at Madonna where I minister to all faiths," said Steve.

Steve completed training in clinical pastoral education before moving back to Nebraska. Originally from Hebron, Neb., Steve was accepted as Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital's first protestant chaplain in 1999. He began working toward board certification, committing to a year-long continuing education regimen. Steve was examined by other chaplains and spent an additional year fulfilling writing and oral presentations. He achieved board certified chaplain status in 2003. Each year, Steve must complete continuing education requirements and be affiliated with a congregation of his faith background to keep the certification current.

Steve has been involved in every level of rehabilitation at Madonna. He served the Long Term Care unit for nine years and currently assists the 100 and Lower Level teams.

In addition to his ministry at Madonna, Steve has been the PRN chaplain at BryanLGH Medical Center for five years and a chaplain with the Lincoln Fire and Police departments for six years. "The thing I like most about my position is laughing, praying and talking with people," said Steve. "In my background, I am called to serve – I have a call to serve here at Madonna," he added.

Steve Werner is shown in Madonna's chapel, where he has been on staff since 1999.

The Nebraska Synod Assembly recognized Steve's ordination anniversary in a special banquet celebration on Saturday, June 6, in Fremont.

Madonna named state lead center of excellence

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital has been named the State Lead Center of Excellence for Nebraska to implement the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan (PABI Plan) developed by the National Advisory Board of The Sarah Jane Brain Foundation. Madonna will represent the state in efforts to expand research, develop protocols and build awareness of PABI, the leading cause of death and disability for children under 15 years of age in the United States.

Madonna was selected because of its nationally recognized pediatric rehabilitation program and exceptional outcomes. It is one of only eight hospitals in the United States accredited by the international Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for both inpatient brain injury and pediatric-specific rehabilitation.

See more information on the Madonna Web site: www.Madonna.org.

Cameras are rolling…

The documentary film being produced for the Madonna 2009 Chair's Goal Awards event is making progress, much like the patients being profiled. The focus will be on Madonna's brain injury program, featuring Alexis Verzal, Derek Ruth, Mandy Kays, Christian Stokes and Gina Simanek.

Video producer Brandon Verzal has filmed all of the patients, except Gina, from their earliest days at Madonna. Gina brings the perspective of someone who has completed rehabilitation and has moved on to a productive and fulfilling life. The diversity of ages and types of injuries will help viewers understand the individual nature of brain injury and the varying degrees of recovery. The one element all the patients share is the outstanding care of their Madonna teams. In addition to patient profiles, the film will also include interviews from staff, referring physicians and comments from past Goal Award speakers Lee Woodruff and Trisha Meili.

Medical recycling benefits far-reaching

Several years ago, the Madonna Mission Effectiveness Committee began a "sister hospital" project by donating recycled medical supplies and equipment to a hospital in Sudan. Since that time, Madonna broadened its donations to other developing nations. In the past year, the program has not been as active, but thanks to the Sub Acute area, the Medical Recycling Program is off and running again.

Madonna's Mission Effectiveness Committee has resurrected its Medical Recycling Program for the benefit of medical clinics in developing nations by placing blue medical donation barrels throughout the hospital.

- In addition to the donation bin in Sub Acute on Lower Level, blue donation barrels are located in the following unit areas: St. Jane de Chantal North and South and the 100 and 200 nurses' stations.
- Remember that unused medications are NOT to be placed in the bins. According to Madonna OD/policies, send unused and opened medication to the Pharmacy.
- Please be aware of any medical supplies or equipment that are in good condition and can be recycled. Full barrels may be emptied in the supply closet on the Lower Level loading dock. The closet is located between the equipment cage and orange lockers.
- Madonna is working with C.R.O.S.S Ministries to get donations to places where they can bring immediate benefit. A representative from C.R.O.S.S. ministries will stop by the supply closet on a periodic basis to collect donations.
- If you have questions about the program, contact Rebecca Seeber at ext. 6011.

Futuristic

Examining the Clifton Strengths Finder™ theme

"Wouldn't it be great if . . ." You are the kind of person who loves to peer over the horizon. The future fascinates you. As if it were projected on the wall, you see in detail what the future might hold, and this detailed picture keeps pulling you forward, into tomorrow. While the exact content of the picture will depend on your other strengths and interests—a better product, a better team, a better life, or a better world—it will always be inspirational to you.

You are a dreamer who sees visions of what could be and who cherishes those visions. When the present proves too frustrating and the people around you too pragmatic, you conjure up your visions of the future and they energize you. They can energize others, too. In fact, very often people look to you to describe your visions of the future. They want a picture that can raise their sights and thereby their spirits.

You can paint it for them. Practice. Choose your words carefully. Make the picture as vivid as possible. People will want to latch on to the hope you bring.

A Madonna employee describes how Futuristic works in his life

Submitted by Nick Roth, Radiologic Technologist

The Futuristic theme plays a pivotal role in any health care field, particularly in imaging. Radiology is constantly changing as new technology becomes available.

At Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, the radiology department has recently undergone several changes, including the acquisition of PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) and computed radiography. Finding a system that fits our needs was a strenuous process at a facility as unique as Madonna. Several months was devoted to researching various equipment and a system was ultimately selected that fits Madonna's needs perfectly.

My previous experience with PACS and computed radiography allowed me to understand features necessary now and anticipate the future needs.

My coworkers and I used the Futuristic strength to not only guide our new equipment decision, but also to make sure that it will fit our needs for years to come.

Employee Focus: *Fun factoids about Carrie*

Carrie Windhorst
Speech-Language Pathologist
MRH employee for six years

1. My favorite thing to do is hang out and play with my two boys, Jacob (4) and Bryson (20 months).
2. I have to start every day with at least one cup of coffee.
3. I prefer warm weather and love to be outdoors.
4. I enjoy photography and scrapbooking.
5. The majority of the time I have some kind of music playing at my house.

"Come unto me, ye who are weary and overburdened, and I will give you rest."

—Matthew 11:28

Brain Injury Group Event

"The Power of Humor"
featuring Lois McElravy

June 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.
Sheridan Room

For more information, go to
http://bit.ly/humorJune30

Federal TBI grant awarded to Nebraska

Nebraska was one of 16 states awarded a new federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Implementation Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. Nebraska will receive $250,000 each year for the next four years for TBI services.

Nebraska's TBI Advisory Council and Keri Bennett, the state vocational rehabilitation program director for acquired brain injury, will work together to identify individuals who need services and to develop those services.

Madonna staff members Dr. Lori Terryberry-Spohr, program manager for brain injury, and Peggy Reisher, social worker, are members of the Advisory Council.

HALL TALK

Psst!

Dr. Paul Dongilli, Vice President and Chief Operations Officer

Q. Will the employee clinic that Kelly Thelen did continue after she leaves Madonna?

A. Madonna will no longer have a nurse practitioner in Physician Services when Kelly leaves and therefore, the employee clinic will stop sometime in July. Madonna's Health and Wellness committee makes recommendations about our benefit program including health insurance and wellness initiatives. They will investigate this issue and make a recommendation about whether or not the employee clinic should resume over the next six months. The recommendation will be based on clinic usage and cost data, benchmark information from other organizations and employee input. We are presently obtaining the usage and cost data from this last year along with the benchmark information.

I would like employees to provide us with their thoughts about whether Madonna should resume this clinic in the future. Please send a note or e-mail with your thoughts to Wendy Charlton in Human Resources.

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, 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.

Rolling advertisements for Madonna hit the road

Madonna's Marketing and PR department has partnered with Revolution Wraps, one of the nation's leading suppliers of high impact graphics, to create a head-turning, rolling advertisement of the facility. The wraps provide a unique way to offer brand recognition for Madonna.

Two of the current fleet have been "wrapped" with patient images to portray the steps to recovery. Plans are underway to secure funding to apply the colorful, new look to the rest of the vans.

Therapists recall powerful memories from 2005 mission trip to Africa

Ask Michelle Wiggins and Heidi Bartlett Allen what led them to travel halfway around the world to distribute wheelchairs and they'll give you one answer; to help others who are less fortunate.

Michelle and Heidi, occupational therapists at Madonna, both attend American Lutheran Church and felt a calling to be part of the August 2005 Wheels for the World mission trip.

Wheels for the World is a wheelchair outreach program that was started by Joni Earkeson Tada, a quadriplegic injured in a diving accident in 1967. The organization aims to "meet the physical and spiritual needs of the disabled by providing wheelchairs and sharing the love of Jesus Christ."

To date, Wheels for the World has distributed more than 52,000 wheelchairs in 102 countries. In many countries, the cost of a wheelchair can equal a year's wages, rendering it nearly impossible for people affected by disability to ever afford one.

"I got involved after I read Joni's story; she really inspired me," said Michelle. Through fund-raisers and donations, Michelle and Heidi each raised approximately $2,000 needed to fund the trip to Africa. Their teammates were 15 people from across the United States.

Michelle shared that people with disabilities in developing nations are often viewed as outcasts and abandoned by their families.

Edith (center) was one of the first people Madonna Occupational Therapists Michelle Wiggins (left) and Heidi Bartlett-Allen, helped on their mission trip to Africa with the Wheels for the World project.

They often discovered people with activity limitations living in desperate conditions.

Michelle and Heidi both found it heart-wrenching to see the children in the hospitals and orphanages. The staff to patio ratio was 1:20 and many children were lying on the floor and unclothed.

Their team arrived in Africa with 120 wheelchairs, along with walkers and crutches, to distribute to people with disabilities. Recipients included children with cerebral palsy, teenagers with spinal cord injuries and adults with physical disabilities.

The wheelchairs were customized by the team to meet the specific needs of each person.

Lydia, age 11, had suffered a brain injury and been confined to a hospital bed for six years. She had no family to visit or care for her. The team went to work fitting Lydia with a special wheelchair. "We saw a big smile on Lydia's face when she got up in that chair," said Michelle.

Michelle and Heidi will never forget Edith, their first client. Edith, in her fifties, had been hit by an donkey and injured. Her son, David, said the wheelchair gave his mother so much hope.

The gift of mobility made an obvious difference in the lives of the Kenyans. Michelle said that each person was individually fitted for his or her chair and trained in how to use it. The recipient was also given his or her own Bible and a gospel bracelet that explains the salvation God provides.

In addition to their outreach efforts, Heidi and Michelle got to experience a two-day African safari. "We got to see a piece of God's creation that many only dream of seeing," said Michelle.

"I'd love to go back on another trip," stated Heidi. Michelle echoed her thoughts. The therapists realize their efforts touched many lives, but the experience also left them both with vivid, lifelong memories.

> CALENDAR

June 16 **MES: Using Medical Ethics in Health care Practices**
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Sheridan
1 CH

June 18 **CPR Recertification**
9:30 a.m.-Noon
5-9 p.m.
Agee
Call 6550, 6476 or 6406 to register

June 23 **Grand Rounds: Discharge planning for ventilator dependent children**
Dr. Heather Thomas
Noon-1 p.m.
Sheridans
1 CME & CEU

June 25 **CPR Certification**
9:30 a.m.
Agee
Call 6550, 6476 or 6406 to register

June 26 **Grand Rounds: Pediatric vision development**
Dr. Sauberan
Noon-1 p.m.
Sheridans
1 CH

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.

June 14 Sharon Nore
June 21 Ron Walker
June 28 American Lutheran Praise Team

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.

Angels among us

"When we first brought our mother to Madonna, we were unaware that this facility was staffed by angels; we know it now. You are the kindest, gentlest, most caring people. Every kind word and gesture helped to lighten a heavy burden that we were carrying and to ease Elsie's final journey. From deep within our hearts, we thank you."

—The family of Elsie Boucher

Giving blood: 1-2-3

1 It only takes **one** person to donate—you.

2 Every **two** seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

3 You can potentially help **three** different people with your single donation!

60 percent of our population is eligible to donate blood and yet only 5 percent do. Madonna averages 18-20 people who take time out of their busy day to donate blood.

Donating blood takes so little time and even less time when they come to our facility.

The Community Blood Bank will be at the Madonna campus, Wednesday, June 24 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The whole process takes approximately 30 minutes and you get free juice and cookies.

Madonna has 21 slots and we need to fill them all. Don't delay; reserve your spot today by calling Jody Luzum in Employee Health Services at ext. 6413.

Driver license procedures to change

Effective June 22, 2009, a number of driver license security initiatives will be implemented at Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices statewide. Some of the changes include:

- Upon completion of the exam and payment of the fee, the County Treasurer will issue you a 30-day receipt, with driving privileges if appropriate. Your driver license or State ID will be mailed to you within 5-7 business days.
- If you are applying for a new driver license or State ID Card, you will be required to present one form of U.S. based identification that includes your full legal name. You will also be required to present two forms of principal residence.

Go to http://www.dmv.ne.gov/examining to read more about the upcoming security initiatives and how they will affect you.

Teen volunteers needed for summer

Do you have a teen who needs 20 hours of community service to fulfill his or her high school volunteer requirements?

Madonna has several summer volunteer positions open for teens ranging from assisting in the mail room to the recreation areas. Contact Marla Buresh, ext. 6084 to request a volunteer application.

Madonna's Child Development Center marked its third anniversary with a flurry of activities June 1-5. Children pose outside in front of their "Madonna Rocks" sign.

The strings ensemble from Randolph Elementary presented a mini-concert for the residents of St. Jane de Chantal on May 26 in the Nebraska Room.

Keagan Maranville sports a balloon hat at the ProActive pool party on May 29. The annual event attracted 150 people to the facility for food, fun and, of course, pool time!

Patients from Madonna's spinal cord unit enjoyed an evening at the Lincoln Salt Dog's home game on May 26.