CALENDAR

June 13 **CPR Recertification**
Agee
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 5-8 p.m.
Call ext. 4401 or 4402 to register

June 14 **Introduction to Outlook 2007**
Sharon Gollehon
Agee
9-10 a.m.
Call ext. 4404 to register

June 17 **NEO**

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 9 Jeri Gibson

june 16 Ron Walker

Washington lobbyist presents to board

Martha "Martie" Kendrick, a partner with Patton Boggs, LLP in Washington, D.C., presented to the Madonna board of directors on May 22. Kendrick is working on national legislation to preserve access to rehabilitation. For 20-plus years, Kendrick has represented clients before Congress in virtually every major piece of health, Medicare and Medicaid legislation. "I feel it's an enormous privilege for me to represent rehabilitation hospitals," said Kendrick.

Her presentation covered post-acute care, Affordable Care Act implementation, the fiscal year 2014 federal budget, Medicare physician payment reform, legislative outlook and legislative priorities of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA).

Kendrick stated Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital has been visionary in its national leadership of the medical rehabilitation field. "Marsha Lommel, president and chief executive officer of Madonna, who currently serves as chair of AMRPA, has led the national organization with strong advocacy and positioning for the future," added Kendrick. She stressed the importance of patients, families, and employees conveying to legislatures the unique role that medical rehabilitation provides in the overall healthcare system. "Rehabilitation medicine is the most precious sector in the continuum of care of the dramatically changing healthcare world," said Kendrick.

Triple amputee pilot to speak at Madonna

Modified Flight Plan authors Brian Thomas and Lisa Kovanda will speak at an event hosted by Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital on Friday, June 21.

Modified Flight Plan, tells the story of Brian, a pilot and mechanic, whose dreams are put in danger due to a rare bleeding disorder. After enduring a spleen removal and chemotherapy in attempts to cure the disease, he is left with a weak immune system.

In April of 2009, Brian left his job at Duncan Aviation where he was a mechanic, to go home with what he thought was the flu. Four hours later, he was comatose and on life-support. His hands, feet, and face developed gangrene and, ten days later when he woke up, he faced the prospect of becoming a quadruple amputee. Surgeons saved his left hand, but he faced a long road to recovery, and regaining his life. Facing his situation with great courage, he overcomes these enormous setbacks and is able to resume his life through rehabilitation at Madonna.

Today, Brian is not only flying again, he also uses his experience to help others. In addition to being a writer, he is a Certified Peer Visitor with Amputee Empowerment Partners and a member of Pilots of America. He also has returned to work at Duncan Aviation in Lincoln.

Brian's co-author Lisa Kovanda is an award-winning writer and current President of the Nebraska Writers Guild. She is also a charter member of the Nebraska Film Association. She has penned *Reckless Abandon, The Hunt* and *Cedar in Seattle*.

The event is free and open to the public. It will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Sheridans. Books will be available for purchase and the attendees can meet the authors.

Omaha toddler (cont. from page 1)

By July, Molly's hands are steering a grocery cart and she's painting pictures with her feet. Her fingers carefully plant beans in a cup, to water and watch them grow. Molly is blossoming, too. Within a month, she transfers to the Rehabilitation Day Program. She calls the little brick house on Normal Boulevard home. It saves Stacy the commute back and forth from Omaha. "The onsite housing is a great benefit and allows Molly to focus on her therapies."

Hours in aqua therapy address Molly's head control. The FES bike and Lokomat boost her physical stamina. "The Lokomat made a huge difference and also increased her respiratory strength," said Stacy.

As 2013 begins, Molly surprises everyone by crawling and trying to walk. "Go Molly, go!" became the mantra of her family and therapy team. The NTrainer is introduced to help Molly regain the sucking reflex. Michelle Foley, SLP, explains Molly is the first child to use the specialized technology at Madonna. "Our New Year's present was seeing her progress."

Another role therapists play is educating the parents, like Stacy, on technology. "I can do therapy all day long, but if I haven't provided education on how it helps their child, then I haven't done my job," said Michelle. Within a month of NTrainer therapy, Molly reaches another goal, closing her mouth, sucking her juice through a sippy cup.

One year from her admission date, Molly is trach-free and walks 60 feet with assistance. She's reciting colors and playing Candyland. "It's been a journey of tears, laughter and hope," said Stacy, who is proud of her daughter. "We are blessed to have an awesome rehab facility this close to home."

Molly continues outpatient therapy, will attend a preschool transition program and enjoys home life. A strong faith carries the family through Molly's recovery and they feel God has a special plan for her. "God is good and we keep praying for our Miracle Molly."

Bowler's recovery is a perfect strike

Amber Nieman demonstrates her perfect bowling technique under the watchful eye of John Long, physical therapist. Amber, a Southeast High School junior, suffered multiple injuries, including a traumatic brain injury, in a February car accident.

A member of the varsity bowling team, Amber brought in her own bowling balls to use during physical therapy. "I've been bowling since I was 13 and just love it," said Amber. She was on crutches when she started outpatient therapy in April. "I've come a long way."

Amber is the daughter of Jason Nieman, who works in Madonna's transportation department.

the INDEPENDENT

A Newsletter for Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

www.madonna.org June 7 , 2013 402.413.4292

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

All story ideas, news items, announcements or recognition information must be submitted the Friday before the Independent is printed. Note: The deadline for the next issue is Friday, June 14.

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

Former patient presents Angel Wings to staff

PAGE TWO

Davison voted Nebraska therapist of the year

PAGE THREE

NTrainer System

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital recently obtained a state-of-the-art piece of equipment to help our youngest patients relearn to eat after a life-changing illness or injury. The NTrainer System is an FDA approved medical device designed to assess and entrain orofacial motor systems. The child's internal sucking pattern will attempt to mimic the external motoric pattern.

The NTrainer quantitatively analyzes the child's non-nutritive suck (NNS), an indicator of their neurological organization. It measures the strength of their suck, the amount of activity per sucking burst, total sucking activity, and the consistency from one burst to the next. The therapy mode then reinforces the development of the NNS through a pulsating pacifier attached to a hand-held motoric device. The pattern provided through the pacifier mimics the normal brainstem pattern. The technique capitalizes on the benefits of neuroplasticity by strengthening neural networks and entraining the brain through repeated exposure.

NTrainer therapy has been shown to:

- decrease the time to return to oral feeds
- decrease length of stay
- decrease oral aversions
- improve secretion management
- increase oral feedings and weight gain
- decrease the likelihood of g-tube placement

Researchers across the nation are beginning to show that the NTrainer has positive outcomes on children with cardiac defects and children who have sustained strokes and brain injuries. Madonna is the only facility in Nebraska with an NTrainer System.

Omaha toddler rebounds a year after tragic choking accident

Three-year-old Molly is the laid-back kid in the Felker family. A social butterfly with a beautiful smile and striking, chocolate brown eyes, Molly easily makes friends and captures hearts. Dora the Explorer tops her favorites list, along with bike rides with her mom, Stacy, and singing and dancing. She adores her dad, Mike, and siblings Beth, 19, Jacob, 13, and Gabby, 10. Molly favors the color pink, enjoys wearing her hair in pigtails and swinging in the park.

Family members lovingly call her "Molly Dolly" or "Molly Hot Tamale." Her most recent pet name, "Miracle Molly," refers to the toddler's resilience in reclaiming her carefree life after nearly choking to death last spring.

"It all happened so fast," said Stacy. On Sunday, March 4, 2012, the family was having hot dogs for lunch at their home in Omaha, Neb. They cut up one for Molly, but she grabbed one off another plate, took a bite and choked. Mike frantically began the Heimlich maneuver on his daughter. Stacy remembers him yelling to call 911 – Molly couldn't breathe. "It was unbelievable - like something in a movie," Stacy said. By the time paramedics arrived, the youngster was limp, barely responsive and turning blue. The team worked on her for ten minutes. As the ambulance rushed Molly to Lakeside Hospital, the hot dog finally broke loose and her pulse returned. Once stabilized, Molly was transported to the intensive care unit at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

Molly, a happy-go-lucky girl who could count to 20 in English and Spanish, had suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) from the lack of oxygen. She lay in a medically-induced coma to let her brain heal.

When Molly transferred to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital on March 28, her evaluation was extremely low, a 1-2 on the Rancho Scale, a TBI assessment tool. She had a trach, feeding tube and was in a wheelchair. "We just wanted our old Molly back," said Stacy.

Molly physically struggled with "storming" – horrible muscle spasms that racked the toddler's body. She battled pneumonia

Molly Felker displays her trademark smile during a therapy session on the Lokomat with Tara Tobia, physical therapist.

twice. Once the right combination of medications kicked in, Molly was able to sit up and take bites of Italian ice. With her tiny hands, arms and feet wrapped in casts to increase her range of motion, Molly forged ahead into rehabilitation. "Here's my little girl, covered from shoulder to toes in splints, yet she's so strong!" said Stacy, proudly.

In April, the respiratory therapists tried a speaking valve on Molly's trach and Stacy heard her daughter's cry for the first time in a month. "I was so happy; it brought tears to my eyes."

The Snoezelen Room exposed Molly to sensory stimuli, like brightly lit toys and fiber optic lights. The multisensory approach is found to be effective with children who have brain injury. Stacy observed Molly literally 'waking up' and her eyes began tracking. "Those little accomplishments are monumental for kids with injuries like Molly's," Stacy remarked.

By spring, Molly was eating applesauce, could stand upright in the standing frame and visited the Lincoln Zoo. A huge turning point was evident in the return of her trademark smile. "I felt like we had our baby back, her personality and that big, beautiful smile," said Stacy.

Molly's therapists helped her play dress up, donning princess clothes, a boa and sunglasses. Practicing getting dressed was a therapy game for Molly. Speech therapy became art class as she flexed her fine motor skills creating a Father's Day card for Mike.

(continued on page four)

Staff earn ICAN status

Madonna's Interdisciplinary Clinical Advancement Navigator (ICAN) program provides a uniform mechanism to recognize and reward the direct care clinician in clinical, competence, interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge advancement and leadership. ICAN aims to increase retention of team members while enhancing national recognition and reputation.

There are four levels of engagement an employee must complete including: Level I: Department Focused; Level II: Interdisciplinary and Facility Focused; Level III: State and Regional Focused; and Level IV: National Focus. Each discipline has specific criteria for each behavior and level. Congratulations to the following ICAN graduates for this quarter:

Level II

Cara Bassinger, OT
Amanda Cool, OT
Kimberly Epp, RN
Terasa Farlin, RN
Janelle Hansen, PT
Markie Novotny, RN
Kilee Oetjen, PT
Deb O'Connor, SLP
Jennifer Vetick, RN

Level III

Sara Bills, PT
Ryan Burger, PTA
Michelle Claycomb, PT
Heather Knight, PT
Ashley Fargo, RN
Brooke Murtaugh, OT
Erin Reier, OT
Shannon Ruzicka, OT
Sheri Smith RT
Melissa Starr, PT
Michelle Wiggins, OT

Level IV

Sonya Irons

Applications are reviewed quarterly and the next application deadline is Friday, Aug. 2. Applications and criteria are available on the Intranet under Forms. Nine points awarded for Level II, 14 for Level III and 19 for Level IV. Clinicians should submit their completed applications to Chris Lee, director of rehabilitation operations.

Visiting RTs discover Madonna's team approach

Respiratory therapists from Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, Conn., visited Madonna's campus recently to learn about the interdisciplinary team approach to patient care. The therapists, including Lorraine Cullen, Keshia Drysdale, Tammy Maher and Richard MacGillivray, were referred to Madonna by representatives of Passy-Muir, Inc.

Madonna is one of the Centers of Excellence with Passy-Muir and provides continued educational opportunities for clinicians, patients and families using the Passy-Muir ® Valves as the standard of care for tracheostomized and ventilator dependent patients. Using this method, Madonna has decreased recovery time and enhanced the quality of life for patients.

"We got a vision of Madonna's team approach that we hope to adopt," said Richard. "We've learned so much to bring back to our hospital."

Respiratory therapists from Gaylord Hospital in Connecticut recently observed the interdisciplinary team approach to care on Madonna's LTACH. (L to R) Lorraine Cullen, Keshia Drysdale, Tammy Maher, Richard MacGillivray and Madonna Pulmonary Program Manager Rebecca Wills.

Employee Focus: *Fun factoids about Jackie*

Jackie Krason RN, BSN, CRRN
Nurse Quality Analyst
MRH Employee for 6 years

1. I am married and have two children – Damian, 10, and June, 6. Summer is our favorite season filled with swimming, fishing, bowling, baseball, grilling, and trips to the zoo.
2. In my spare time I enjoy watching sports, running, shopping, yard work, baking and reading.
3. Learning is important to me. I am currently working on my MSN degree and will graduate in May 2014.

I work in the Quality Department and love data. I'm involved with monitoring medication errors, unplanned return to acute care events and other quality measures. I believe that quality improvement efforts at Madonna assist in delivering amazing patient outcomes. I feel blessed to work at Madonna where caring and compassion are part of everyday life.

Madonna Angels help young patient soar

The family of a Madonna pediatric outpatient chose the Friday before Mother's Day to celebrate five phenomenal women, and the impact they made, not only to their daughter's life, but to theirs as well.

Jason and Michelle Grieser presented Madonna Angel Wings to **Erin Reier, Michelle Wiggins, April Lieb, Sandy Carney** and former employee **Jen Sylvan** for their talents in "mothering" their daughter Olivia.

Michelle Grieser wrote a touching tribute, in rhyme, to each of the employees and presented them an Angel Wings certificate, pin and a bright potted daisy.

An excerpt from the tribute read: "Each of you is incredible and like no other to find, as your hearts are the rarity in the best of our Father's flock. He gave each of you talents that spread far and wide, you have nurtured and mothered them to perfection and pride. We are blessed to have our path crossed with yours on our way to seeing our little girl one day soar and fly away. Imagine her new world as she ventures to school like many five year olds will do as a big kindergartner with hopes that grow wild. You are a part of this ever changing world that she explores to new heights and demands, and we are so very grateful to you for all that she commands. Thank you!"

The Grieser family made a gift to the Madonna Foundation in honor of these special employees. Half of their gift is designated to the Cole Christensen Memorial Fund for a pediatric lite gait and treadmill and the other half to the new Pediatric Enhancement Fund which extends pediatric inpatient and outpatient therapy through the purchase of new therapy equipment, software, parent and caregiver education, toys, and field trips/outings.

The Madonna Foundation thanks the Grieser Family for their generosity and congratulates the employees on their honors.

(L to R) April Lieb, Erin Reier, Olivia Grieser and Sandy Carney.

Pictured L to R: Jerry Frick (USPSA), Spencer Kloke, Karen Russo (USPSA), Hayden Higgins, Blake Werts, Rick Haith (coach), McKenzie Ocker, Amy Strode (coach), Lily Lautenschlager, J.C. Russo (USPSA).

Power soccer team gets advanced training

Members of the United States Power Soccer Association (USPSA) shared their skills with members of Madonna's power soccer team and coaches Rick Haith and Amy Strode at a workshop on May 18 at ProActive. The team learned advanced skills from Jerry Frick, Karen Russo and two-time Team USA member J.C. Russo.

The USPSA is the governing body for Power Soccer in the United States. Power soccer is the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users of all ages. Athletes' disabilities include: quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, and many others. The game is played in a gymnasium on a regulation basketball court. Two teams of four players attack, defend and spin-kick a 13-inch soccer ball in a skilled and challenging game similar to able-bodied soccer.

For more information on Madonna's power soccer, contact Rick Haith, (402)-413-3722 or rhaith@madonna.org.

Creative therapy with IREX

Therapists discovered another creative option for their patients when the Interactive Rehabilitation and Exercise System (IREX) was unveiled recently at Madonna. Gene Berezowski a representative with GestureTek, a Canadian firm that designed the IREX, was on site demonstrating the new technology.

IREX is a touch-free, motion-activated solution for virtual reality physical therapy, occupational therapy, multisensory stimulation and immersive play. It allows patients, regardless of their age, ability or condition, to have fun in an environment they would not otherwise be able to experience such as sky diving, scuba and race car driving. Capable of measuring range of motion and other data points from the human body, the IREX allows therapists to program specific therapy routines for their patients to help achieve maximal recovery, and to measure their progress along the way.

Joyce Jaixen, PT, (left) experiences the new IREX technology with guidance from Kari Connelly, PT and Gene Berezowski, a company representative.

According to Dr. Ryan Ernst, neuropsychologist, the brain creates new pathways after injury by continual exposure to novelty, variety and challenge. The IREX makes it possible to meet these three conditions within a neuro-rehabilitation hospital. "We feel very fortunate to be the only hospital in this region to be able to offer such technology to our patients," said Dr. Ernst.

Davison voted Nebraska Therapist of the Year

Kathy Davison (center) was recently honored as the Nebraska Therapist of the Year by the Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care. Congratulating Kathy were Jim Pelton, respiratory clinical manager and Nancy Nathenson, respiratory therapy education coordinator.

Kathy Davison, RRT, was honored by her peers as the Nebraska Therapist of the Year at the 2013 Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care (NSRC) Great Plains Conference held May 15-17 in Kearney, Neb. Davison has been a lead therapist on the Ventilator and Special Needs unit since 2005. She was also a 2010 St. Jane de Chantal Award recipient for providing outstanding patient care.

"I enjoy the relationships with the long term care residents and getting to know their families, too," said Kathy. "Just making the patients laugh and brightening their day is rewarding."

The NSRC's mission is to promote the advancement of the respiratory care profession through patient advocacy, collaboration, and education throughout the state of Nebraska. Congratulations, Kathy on receiving this prestigious honor from your colleagues!

Community Health Needs Assessment

Madonna devotes significant time and attention to researching and planning ways to address the priority needs of our community, as well as proactively anticipating future needs. One element of this process is developing a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Madonna's CHNA was developed by a committee that researched quantitative and qualitative data to discover unmet needs, as well as provide recommendations for Madonna's community benefit and strategic planning.

View Madonna's CHNA report at www.madonna.org, under "My Madonna."