



Joanna Manzo,  
OR Surgical Tech



Elliott Joseph, President and CEO of Hartford HealthCare scoops strawberry ice cream as Cary Trantalis (far left) and Joanne Rahl observe his technique.

Dick Brvenik, President and CEO of Windham hospital, gets in on the fun.

## Champions OF CARE

National Hospital Week  
May 8-14, 2011

## Hospital Staff Celebrates with Ice Cream Social during National Hospital Week

Elliott Joseph greets staff and serves ice cream; work groups celebrate 1,111 new ideas

Windham Hospital honored its staff with a free ice cream social as it recognized National Hospital Week in early May. Hundreds of staff enjoyed a full ice cream sundae bar and the opportunity to meet Hartford HealthCare CEO, Elliott Joseph, who rolled up his sleeves during the festivities and served up dishes of ice cream to Windham employees. Windham Hospital President and CEO, Dick Brvenik said that taking time to celebrate each and every staff member for their hard work and dedication was the highlight of his day. "I am just so proud of our staffs' commitment this last year and for the selfless and compassionate care giving that occurs every day at Windham Hospital. Our patients expect and receive exemplary service and attentiveness to their needs and thanks to our incredible workforce, we are able to meet the needs of our patient population 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

Hospital Week also provided an ideal time to celebrate another accomplishment: Windham Hospital's "Commitment to Excellence" work groups and project teams exceeded their goal of generating 1,000 new ideas aimed at improving the hospital and its services. Staff celebrated the 1,111 ideas with big, colorful sheet cakes and a slide show presentation that featured photographs of work groups and also highlighted some of the ideas proposed by each group.



Mindy Kivlin and Kathy Hawkins, RN, Process Improvement Facilitators, at Windham celebrate the 1,111 new ideas that staff have generated.

## Windham Nurses Receive Prestigious Nightingale Award

Two Windham Hospital nurses were honored on May 5 in Hartford at the 9th Annual Nightingale Awards ceremony for their excellence in nursing. The Gala event honors nurses for going above and beyond the call of duty in an array of clinical and educational environments. The goals of the program are to encourage retention, inspire future nurses, focus public attention and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level.



Alana Tartisinis, RN, BSN




Janice (Jaycee) Worth, RN

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## Nursing Student Receives Scholarship


**S**andra Julian, an EMT and PCT III in the hospital's Emergency Department (pictured at left), has been selected to receive the 2011 Jane M. Desmarais Scholarship for continuing education in Nursing. Sandra is pursuing her RN degree at Three Rivers Community College. The Scholarship is awarded annually in memory of Jane Desmarais, a dedicated nurse who served Windham Hospital for a number of years, and is given to an outstanding nursing student. 

## Nightingale Award

*Continued from page 1*

Alana Tartsinis, RN, Department of Nursing Education, and Janice (Jaycee) Worth, RN, 4-Shea Unit were selected to receive the prestigious Nightingale Award in 2011.

Dick Brvenik who spoke at the ceremony said, "Each of you is a walking, talking advertisement for care giving at its finest. You are compassionate, kind and you go the extra mile. You don't take no for an answer until you have explored every possible option on behalf of your patient. Your priority every minute of every day you are at work is to administer top-notch care for those in your charge." He concluded, "I salute and toast all of you and offer my gratitude for a job well done."

As a staff nurse and clinical educator, Tartsinis recently led Windham Hospital's Fall Prevention Initiative team while Worth volunteers her insights with the Patient and Family Advisory Council and is a diligent advocate for the rights of patients and visitors. 


## The Auxiliary to Windham Hospital Honors Long-Time Auxilian Georgina Hendrick

**O**n Friday, April 29, the Auxiliary to Windham Hospital hosted a Recognition Luncheon honoring **Georgina Hendrick**. Georgina began volunteering at



*Georgina Hendrick receiving award.*


Windham Hospital in December, 1992 after she retired as the Dean of Administration at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, Connecticut. Having a background in finance and accounting, she first volunteered in the hospital's finance department. After a couple of years, she started volunteering with the Auxiliary, serving first as assistant treasurer, and eventually, as treasurer. Donations from the luncheon, made in Georgina's honor, will benefit the Anne L. Card Memorial Scholarship fund that provides two \$1,000 scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in the healthcare field.

In 2010, The Auxiliary donated \$125,000 to Windham Hospital for projects such as the construction of a new out-patient and oncology suite to be located in the Ambulatory Care Unit, the purchase of reclining chairs for in-patient rooms on various units and the purchase of televisions for patient rooms in the Shea Building. The funds are raised through annual events such as Spirits and Song, the Holiday Bazaar and the Auxiliary Autumn Gala. To join or for more information on the Auxiliary to Windham Hospital, please contact the Auxiliary Office at 860.456.6979. 

## Congressman Joe Courtney visits Windham Hospital



*Shown above (left to right) are Dick Brvenik, Yvette Melendez, Joe Courtney and Jim Blazar.*

**C**ongressman for Connecticut's 2nd District, **Joe Courtney**, recently held a roundtable discussion at Windham Hospital that was attended by both Windham Hospital and Hartford HealthCare leaders. The open discussion focused on priorities and strategies for Windham Hospital as well as the impact of State and Federal budget cuts. The discussion also provided opportunity for the Congressman to learn about the system's accomplishments, its focus on technology, shared vision and culture and quality and accountability initiatives. Shown above are **Dick Brvenik**, Senior Vice President Hartford HealthCare and President and CEO of Windham Hospital; **Yvette Melendez**, Vice President Government and Community Alliances, Hartford Hospital and Hartford HealthCare; Congressman **Joe Courtney**; and **Jim Blazar**, Chief Strategy Officer, Hartford HealthCare. 



**Brenda Bednar, CNM**

## New Kid on the Block

**Q.** How long have you been at Windham Hospital?  
**A.** Nine months.

**Q.** What is your title?  
**A.** Certified Nurse Midwife.

**Q.** What part of your job you like the most?  
**A.** I love how diverse the community of Willimantic is! Every patient interaction is different, which keeps the job feeling fresh.

**Q.** Where did you work before?  
**A.** Before starting at Mansfield OB/GYN, I was at Yale, working on a Master of Science in Nursing. Prior to returning to school, I was working in Boston at a refugee resettlement agency running a women's and children's literacy and cultural orientation program. I also worked in Brigham and Women's domestic violence program.


**Q.** Are you involved in volunteering/helping out in your community?  
**A.** While living in New Haven, I volunteered with an immigrant services program in their medical program helping newly arrived refugees navigate the U.S. health care system. Once I get acclimated in this area, I look forward to finding some new volunteer options.

**Q.** If you were to win the lottery tomorrow, what would you do?  
**A.** Travel, travel, travel! There is a lot of the world that I haven't seen! I'd also buy a fancy road bike and spend a lot of time on it.

**Q.** If you weren't working at Windham Hospital, what is another job that you have always wanted to do?  
**A.** Some days I feel that I missed my calling as a botanist.

**Q.** What is one thing in your life of which you are most proud?  
**A.** At the time I didn't think it was so exceptional, but now looking back, the fact that I left my home in Wisconsin at the age of 20 to spend a year in Kenya is pretty amazing to me. It was the first time I left the country, and I had no idea what to expect.

**Q.** What did you do during your last vacation?  
**A.** I spent a few weeks last summer in Guatemala, trying to improve my Spanish and hiking around the country. I loved it, and I can't wait to return.

**Q.** What do you do for fun?  
**A.** I regularly play Yogaball soccer – which is exactly what it sounds like: soccer with two large exercise balls going at once. I also do a lot of yoga, running, reading, and cooking. 

## Sports Medicine Orthopaedic Surgeon Opens New Practice

**R**obert O'Connor, MD, has opened his practice, The SPORTS Centre, LLC, at 151 Storrs Road (Route 195) in Mansfield Center. He completed his Fellowship in Sports Medicine at Orthopaedic Research of Virginia in Richmond, as well as a Residency at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. He received his medical degree from SUNY, Stony Brook in 2002, and for the past several years, has been in private practice with Arizona's Sun Valley Orthopaedic Surgeons in Phoenix. An athlete himself, Dr. O'Connor treats patients of all ages with a variety of orthopaedic conditions, including collegiate, scholastic, industrial and weekend athletes, using both operative and non-operative techniques

For appointments or more information, phone 860.456.1780 or visit [www.sportscentreortho.com](http://www.sportscentreortho.com). 



Robert O'Connor, MD.

## FREE Presentation Robotic Surgery: Is It for Me?

Tuesday, May 24 at 6 PM  
Mansfield Community Center  
10 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs

Join **Robert Gildersleeve, MD**, Section Chief, Obstetrics and Gynecology at Windham Hospital as he discusses overall gynecologic health for women as well as healthy lifestyle choices, disease prevention, common disorders, surgical and non-surgical treatment options and the benefits of noninvasive robotic surgery for procedures ranging from hysterectomy to infertility.

- Complimentary light dinner will be served
- Free childcare available for ages 1-7

**RSVP**  
**860.456.6700**



Robert Gildersleeve, MD

# 16th Annual Golf Classic to be Held at The University Club of Connecticut


Event benefits Outpatient and Emergency Services at Windham Hospital

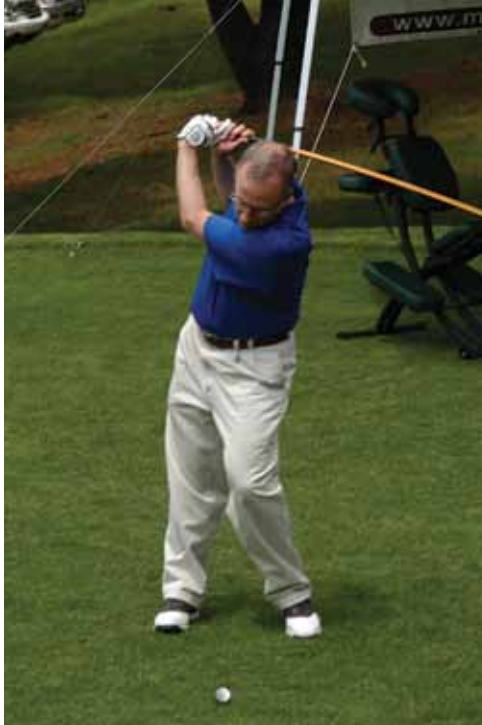
Wednesday, June 15th:

Morning round begins at 8 AM; afternoon round begins at 1 PM

The 16th Annual Golf Classic, presented by ConnectiCare, will be hosted by The University Club in North Windham (formerly the Willimantic Country Club) which is co-owned by former UConn basketball player and new ESPN sports commentator, **Donny Marshall** and his partners **Chuck and Joe Grodovich**.

In 2006, the Golf Classic Committee pledged \$1 million to the hospital's Emergency and Outpatient Expansion Project. To date, they have raised over \$805,000 toward that goal, and proceeds from this year's Golf Classic will continue to fund that pledge.

The Golf Classic includes a round of golf, silent auction, additional on-course contests, continental breakfast, and the awards dinner. To register, or for more information, call **Tom Birkenholz** at 860.456.6849 or visit [www.windhamhospital.org/golf](http://www.windhamhospital.org/golf). 




A golfer practices his swing at last year's tournament.

# THE SHABOO BLUES FESTIVAL

Concert to Benefit Outpatient and Oncology Services

The Auxiliary to Windham Hospital will present "The Shaboo Blues Festival" on Saturday, June 25, at Jillson Square in Willimantic. The concert is a benefit for a new out-patient and oncology suite in the Ambulatory Care Unit at Windham Hospital. Sponsored in part by the Lester E. & Phyllis Foster Foundation, the event will feature Elvin Bishop and James Cotton along with David Foster & the Mohegan Sun All-Stars (formerly the Shaboo All-Stars), and celebrates the 40th anniversary of the opening of the legendary Shaboo Inn.

Advance sale tickets are \$25 and \$30 at the gate; children 12 and under will be admitted without charge. Gates open at 4:00 PM, and the concert begins at 5:00 PM. Lawn chairs and blankets are permitted but no food, beverages or coolers will be allowed. There will be concession stands for food and beverages on site. VIP tickets are also available for \$100 per person. For advance sale tickets, visit the hospital's website at [www.windhamhospital.org](http://www.windhamhospital.org) or call 860.456.6123. 



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