



# WINDHAM HOSPITAL

# StaffLINK



Volume 10, No. 4

112 Mansfield Avenue • Willimantic, CT 06226 • 860.456.9116

April 24, 2008

## CEO CORNER

*Dick Brvenik*

The Windham Hospital family took time out on Thursday, April 10th, to celebrate a significant milestone--the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Hospital. Former staff members mingled with current staff, Connecticut state dignitaries sent congratulations, and a time capsule was ceremoniously filled and buried on the grounds. The event was the kick-off for a celebration that will include a revival of the theatrical revue, "The Willim-Antics" in May, a hospital float in the Willimantic Boombox Parade on the 4th of July, participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday StreetFest in downtown Willimantic, and numerous Auxiliary events. It is particularly appropriate that we coordinate our festivities with these community events because the community has steadfastly supported the Hospital throughout its 75 years. As we celebrate our own history, we also celebrate our community's history, and we should be ever-mindful that today's achievements and success are built on yesterday's hard work, the dedication of an exceptional staff, and outstanding support from our community.

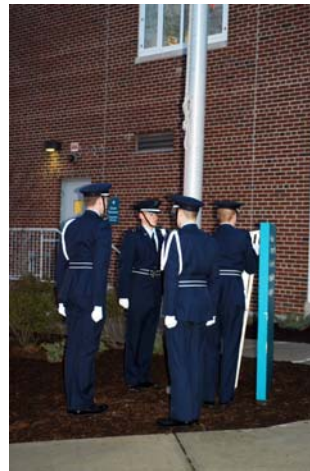
From the early morning flag-raising ceremony on April 10<sup>th</sup>, where members of the Airforce ROTC Honor Guard from UConn performed the honors; (through the efforts of Congressman Joe Courtney, the flag had been flown over the US Capitol in Washington, DC on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in honor of our 75th Anniversary), to the formal ceremony, where Lt. Governor Michael Fedele presented the Hospital with a proclamation from the Governor, and Representative Walter Pawelkiewicz read a citation from the Connecticut State Legislature. Staff, Board and Auxiliary members past and present were honored, and the time capsule was filled and buried. It was truly a gathering of our community, and celebrated our past accomplishments and our hopes for the future. Our rich tradition of excellence, caring, and community will endure into the next 75 years, and beyond.

I hope you will take some time to glance through the commemorative edition of HealthLINK (available throughout the building, and online at [www.windhamhospital.org](http://www.windhamhospital.org)), take advantage of chances to view the Oral History DVD (also available free online in coming weeks), and view some of the history displays in the Atrium and in the first floor corridor. These displays will be changing throughout the summer; in fact, if you have items you'd like to share, please let Sharyn Mathews know, so these items can be included in future displays. In addition, the Hospital Gift Shop will be selling t-shirts, polo shirts and hats with the original theme designed by Bill Bottomley especially for this Anniversary. This design is also displayed on banners along Willimantic's Main Street.

We hope you'll join us in the coming months as we celebrate 75 years of caring.

HAPPY 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, WINDHAM HOSPITAL!

## HAPPY 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!



*The Airforce ROTC Honor Guard Raises the US Flag*



*Dick Brvenik and Art Brodeur, Chairman of the Board, accept the proclamation from Lt. Governor Michael Fedele.*



*Fran Boulay, Patient Access Manager, Dr. Anthea Woodley, Chief of Medical Staff, Donna Evan, and Mary Russell place items in the time capsule.*



Above, retired physicians Nelly Nepomuceno, William Ellzey, John Lee, Gerald Sandler, Sage Sikand, Marge Petro, and Carl Lindquist, shown here with Dick Brvenik, Art Brodeur, and Anthea Woodley, were honored for their years of service to the Hospital.



Left, getting "into" the spirit of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Marina Quarticelli and Tom Birkenholz attempt to place "a bit of history"—Shawn Maynard—into the time capsule!

Greg Charron and Mike Shaia "dig in" as they bury the time capsule on our campus (without Shawn—he managed to escape before the capsule was sealed).



Note: The time capsule will be secured in a reinforced concrete vault for the next 75 years. Thanks to George Jones for his suggestion to reinforce the capsule and its marker for future generations.

## FAREWELL ...

... **Heather Casio**, Patient Billing Services, who has accepted a position at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London.

Wherever your journey takes you, our best wishes go with you!

## WELCOME, NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Carolyn Franzen, Windham High Student Health Center • Luis Pacheco, POM • Christina Alberino, Sitter—Greer • Carol Villa, Data Manager, Auxiliary & Volunteer Services • Cindy Beaudry, Nursing • Susan Sime, RN, Nursing • Doris Cottrell, Sitter—ED • Lori Rottino, Sitter—Nursing • Annette Lussier, Sitter—ED • Tom Myslak, RN, Nursing

## WELCOME, NEW VOLUNTEERS

Mark Miner – Family Centered Care • David Horanzy – MET Desk • Colin Ladd – Integrative Health Services (Pet Therapy) • Ted Urbanski – Integrative Health Services (Pet Therapy) • Rich Kragle – Integrative Health Services (Pet Therapy) • Kathy Armstrong – Integrative Health Services (Pet Therapy)

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

On March 29, a group of students from the University of Connecticut did a **spring cleanup** of the hospital grounds. The students were taking part in the 24th annual Hunger Cleanup. In addition to cleaning up various sites such as shelters, soup kitchens, nursing homes and hospitals, the students have raised \$13,026.44. The money raised has gone to shelters like No Freeze and Holy Family House and Shelter in Willimantic and Cornerstone Foundation in Rockville.

The week of **April 27 – May 3 is National Volunteer Recognition Week**. Windham Hospital will reward its volunteers with the traditional Great Escape. This year's destination is Newport, RI. Please remember to take a moment to thank our volunteers for their commitment and dedication to Windham Hospital. Their hard work helps us all!



The free lecture series continues with...

## LAUGH, BREATHE, AND TAP INTO AN ABUNDANT ENERGY SUPPLY


Presented by Lois Grasso,  
Founder and Director of the  
OxyGenesis Institute in Hartford

April 30, 2008  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Bernard & Desrosier Rooms



Gift certificates for yoga, massage, Reiki, and acupuncture are now available in the Hospital gift shop.

**HOSPITAL WEEK**  
 Join us in the Atrium for a  
**Chocolate Extravaganza**  
 on **Monday, May 12** from  
 3-5:30 pm to celebrate Hospital Week.



**NURSES WEEK**

will include a special “**Humor in Nursing**” performance hosted by the Nursing Leaders of Windham Hospital. **Angel Rentas, APRN**, will entertain on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM in the Hatch Day Room. Nurses may register for VIP seating until April 30<sup>th</sup>; contact Leslie Chasse (x 6744). After May 1<sup>st</sup>, registration is open to all staff members.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO...**

...**Colleen Corcoran, RN and Melody (Estabrook) Zande, RN**, Windham Community Memorial Hospital’s Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing winners for 2008.



Colleen has been a nurse at WCMH for over 35 years and presently works as the Pre-Admission nurse in the Ambulatory Care Unit. She exemplifies the true spirit of Nursing in her compassion and knowledge of the needs of her patients.

Melody is a nurse on Greer, the surgical/orthopedic/pediatric unit. She approaches each day with confidence and fortitude; accepting each challenge as one that will offer her the opportunity to learn and make a difference in the lives she touches. Colleen and Melody will be individually recognized during Nurse’s Week and on the evening of May 8<sup>th</sup> at a regional Gala held at the Mystic Marriott. Congratulations to these outstanding nurses for the brilliance and excellence they bring to the profession of nursing and the distinction they bring to our hospital.

...**Anne Schmidt**, for receiving Windham Hospital’s Third Annual Leadership Recognition Award. Anne was cited for her compassion, her unwavering support for her staff, and her “amazing ability to get things done—MANY things!” Cary Trantalis, VP for Patient Care, and Marty Levine, VP, Human Resources, surprised Anne with the announcement during the manager’s meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.



*Cary Trantalis congratulates Anne Schmidt on receiving the Leadership Recognition Award.*

...Reach for the Stars quarterly winners **Wendy Chaput** and **Dawn Simoneau**. Wendy and Dawn were cited for their exceptional service to Windham Hospital; presenting the awards, VP, Human Resources Marty Levine praised both women for their longstanding dedication to their work. Wendy and Dawn each received a \$100 American Express gift card, a certificate, and a pin proclaiming their staff award.



....Winners of the drawings for **National Nutrition Month**, courtesy of our WCMH CSI Team, Lynne McPhee and Suzanne Gerety (shown below). Dr Nadia Nashid won a book by Michael Pollen, *In Defense of Food, An Eater’s Manifesto*; Jason Rosenblum won a book by Alice Waters entitled, *The Art of Simple Food*; Debra Mather won a set of garden tools; Jacy Worth, RN, won a pedometer; Dr. Robert Bundy won a salad/herb spinner; and Deb Linton won the grand prize, a Jack LaLanne juicing machine.

**Congrats to everyone!**



**THE WAUGH GARDEN**



...is just bursting with new life! Every day brings another bud, a new blossom, a beautiful respite from the day’s activities. And thanks to the Garden Committee, headed by Dr. Ed Sawicki, it’s just received a spring “make-over”—new mulch, some new plants, and some relocated flowers to brighten up the Garden. Stop by to visit, bring your lunch, or walk through on your way to another part of the building—just enjoy!  
**HAPPY SPRING!**

## jazzercise

and the CT Defenders present the annual  
**Breast Cancer Awareness Game**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup> at Dodd Stadium**

Breast cancer survivors attend free, and are honored at the game. This year's event includes a jazzercise demonstration, too!  
 Contact Carol Palonen for detail (x 6896).

### THANKS

My heart-felt thanks go out to all of you during this very sad time in the lives of my family and I, on the passing of my dad, Ray Tellier. I knew he was well-liked, but the outpouring of love for him will always remain with me and my family. He was a very special man who always thought of others, and was there with a helping hand when needed. He loved his family very much, and that extended to his WCMH family. The many cards of sympathy we received and the kind words acknowledging just how much he was loved and appreciated mean so much to us. He will forever be with us in spirit, and we will always remember that little man with the big heart. Thank you to everyone for helping me get through this very difficult and sad time.

— Carolyn Sypher

### WRB BEGINS ON JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

WRB is a group called "**Wanna Ride Bikes**" and they want you to join them! Remember riding bikes when you were a kid? Come and recapture the fun of riding with friends—and get fit! Wednesdays, beginning in June, WRB will leave the upper parking lot at 5 PM. Begin slowly, and build up over the summer. All levels welcome. Call Mary Horan for more info (x 6766)

### AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Auxiliary to Windham Hospital will award 2 scholarships of \$1000 each, to selected high school seniors in the WCMH service area who are planning to enter a full time course of study in medical related fields.

In order to apply for consideration, the student must:

- Complete a Scholarship application form (available on the Hospital's website);
- Enclose one letter of recommendation from a current teacher or counselor.
- Enclose one letter of recommendation from a personal reference (non-family member);
- Enclose a high school transcript; and
- Mail all requested items to: Debra Leavens, Auxiliary to Windham Hospital Scholarship Committee, Windham Community Memorial Hospital, 112 Mansfield Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226

Applications, letters of recommendations, transcript, etc. must be postmarked by May 15, 2008. The selection of the scholarship recipients will be made by the Auxiliary Scholarship Committee.

StaffLink is a publication of Windham Hospital. To share news with your colleagues, contact Sharyn Mathews, Editor, at ext. 6801 or email [smathews@wcmh.org](mailto:smathews@wcmh.org).

### NEW POLICY REWARDS STAFF MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEER

Effective this month, the Hospital has adopted a new Community Involvement Incentive Policy. This program was created to encourage staff members to participate in hospital-sponsored community events, and awards points to staff members who volunteer during non-working hours (or who use PTO time to volunteer) will receive points—one point for each hour served, up to five hours per event—toward an annual lump sum incentive. Of course, staff members must be active full- or part-time employees, and must be employed by the Hospital at the time of payment. All activities must be pre-approved by the Vice President of Development and Community Relations 10 days prior to participating in the event in order to be eligible for point awards. Service between 6 and 9 hours will earn \$50; for 10 to 19 hours, \$100 will be awarded; and for 20 hours or more, the volunteer will receive \$150. The incentive lump sum will be paid in November. If you have questions about the policy, contact Human Resources or Community Relations.

#### Potential point-earning events this summer include:

- May 16 Golf Tournament
- May 28-29 The Willim-Antics
- June 21 The Shaboo All-Stars Concert
- Sept. 4-7 The Hebron Fair (Hospital Booth)
- All summer Third Thursday StreetFest (Hospital Booth)

Sometimes

### HUMOR'S THE BEST MEDICINE

*In each issue of StaffLink, we include some of the "lighter side" of the healthcare world. Staff contributions are welcome! To submit an item for publication, send it to [smathews@wcmh.org](mailto:smathews@wcmh.org).*

My own prescription for health is less paperwork and more running barefoot through the grass.

— Leslie Grimutter

### MEMORY LANE+...



Can you identify these ladies? They are listed only as "1975 nursing staff" on the back of the photo we have. If you know who they are, please contact Sharyn Mathews, x 6801. It's interesting to note the many cap styles!

## CALENDAR

**April's** calendar includes National Autism Awareness Month, Donate Life Month, Occupational Therapy Month, and National Humor Month! March 30-April 5 marked Patient Access Week. In **May**, our nation celebrates Hospital Week (12-17), Nurses Week (6-12), Nurses Day (6), and Emergency Medical Services Week (18-24).

### WHO'S THIS

**PHOTOS NEEDED!** If you have a photo you'd be willing to share, please drop hard copies off in the Community Relations Office, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. Photos will be scanned and returned to you. You may also email photos to [smathews@wcmh.org](mailto:smathews@wcmh.org).

#### PREVIOUS PHOTO:

*Congratulations to Nate Goodrich, who correctly identified a very young Stephanie McBride, CCU.*



## WINDHAM HOSPITAL TESTS THE OPENING OF AN ALTERNATE CARE FACILITY

On Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> Windham Hospital, the North Central District Health Department, Eastern Highlands Health District, and the City of Willimantic's Emergency Management Director along with a host of other regional partners participated in an exercise that opened an Alternate Care Facility (ACF) for triage and subacute care of patients with pandemic flu symptoms. The goal of the all-day exercise was to establish an ACF to minimize patient surge to the Windham Hospital ED in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak.

Alan Estell, Chris Desmond, Leigh Johnson, Paul Scarchuk, Ellen Schreiber, and Paris Sideris assisted with medical oversight at our ACF, Windham Technical High School. The UConn School of Nursing, Windham Techs LPN students, ROTC, and behavioral health practitioners were also among the volunteers. Evaluators were from CT DPH, DEMHS Region 4, the Ledge light Health District, and DEMAS.

More than 80 volunteer patients including the first selectwoman of Willimantic were seen and triaged during the afternoon of this successful exercise.

## WRITING CONTEST

CHA's "Healthcare Heroes" contest is back! The theme this year is "**Celebrating 90 Years: Helping Hospitals Care for Communities.**" Entries can be of any length and format – such as essays, poems, or even short stories. **The deadline for contest entries is Friday, May 2, 2008.** Ten individuals whose entries are selected by the panel of judges will receive \$100 cash prize, awarded during the CHA Annual Meeting on June 17, 2008. **Essays must be signed and forwarded to CHA "Healthcare Heroes" Contest, 110 Barnes Road, P.O. Box 90, Wallingford, CT 06492 or**

via fax (203) 284-9318 (Attn: "Healthcare Heroes"). Nominate a co-worker or yourself as a healthcare hero!

## FOUNDATION NEWS

The Windham Hospital Foundation will be launching a special **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute** program to honor healthcare professionals as we begin to celebrate Hospital Week, May 12-17. Donors who make a gift of \$25 or more will have an opportunity to send a message of thanks to their caregiver(s) and support the work of the Foundation. All names will be listed in our annual report and on our website.

Information about this initiative will be sent to physician offices as well as posted around the Hospital and on our website the first week in May.

The goal of the Windham Hospital Foundation is to generate resources for Windham Hospital to assist in meeting the health needs of our community. When you give to the Foundation you're expressing your commitment to excellence in community healthcare.

For more information, contact Tom Birkenholz at [tbirkenholz@wcmh.org](mailto:tbirkenholz@wcmh.org) or 456-6849.

## STAFF APPEAL DRAWING WINNERS

The February winner of the coveted Priority Parking space is Julie Bundy. Congratulations also to Donna Chaput, who has been enjoying free coffee and/or soup from the Coffee Shop in April. To make your pledge and be eligible to win one of these monthly drawings, contact Tom Birkenholz at extension 6849.

## QUIT FOR LIFE

Windham Hospital is joining other Connecticut hospitals in a statewide initiative to become a smoke free campus in 2008. Several hospitals in Connecticut have already adopted smoke-free campus programs as well as over 1,100 national and state hospitals, healthcare systems and clinics in 45 states according to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. Annual state healthcare costs directly related to smoking total \$1.63 billion and it is estimated that smoking-caused loss of productivity costs Connecticut \$1,017 billion per year. By committing to this smoke-free campus initiative, hospitals will help to control healthcare costs while demonstrating a commitment to saving lives in Connecticut.

Why a tobacco-free campus? Well, first and foremost, to allow smoking anywhere on the campus is contrary to our Mission Statement, "To enhance the lives and well being of people in the community we serve by providing quality healthcare." Secondly, as the healthcare leader in the community, we need to model healthy behaviors and to take actions to help staff take control of their own health, and enable them to support others in the effort to stop smoking.

Our goal, as we move closer to the smoke-free campus date in November, is to provide smoking cessation programs to interested staff as well as to make stop-smoking aids available. We will continue to keep you updated on this initiative as we move closer to the date.

## CONDOLENCES TO

**Carolyn Sypher** and her family on the death of her father, Ray Tellier, who died in March.

## AUDITIONS...

for the Willim-Antics are on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>! **Are you ready?**



The revival of  
**The Willim-Antics**  
Variety Show

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Windham Hospital

**WHEN:** May 29 & 30, 7:30 PM  
**WHERE:** ACT (Arts at the Capitol Theater)  
**AUDITIONS:** May 7 & 8, 6-8 PM

**CONTACT:** Tom Birkenholz at 860.456.6849 or email [tbirkenholz@wcmh.org](mailto:tbirkenholz@wcmh.org) for an audition form and information.

The SBM Charitable Foundation Presents

## Spirits in Spring

A Tasting of Exceptional Libations, Fine Wines & Premium Beers

**Thursday, June 12, 2008**

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

At the home of  
Dr. Robert  
& Jane Moskowitz

For more information,  
contact Shawn Maynard  
at 456.6861 or [smaynard@wcmh.org](mailto:smaynard@wcmh.org)



Liberty Bank Presents the

## SHABOO ALL-STARS REUNION CONCERT

Celebrating Windham Hospital's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
and featuring: **David Foster and the Shaboo All-Stars**, the **Marshall Tucker Band** and **Rick Derringer**

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 pm – 11:00 pm  
Jillson Square, Willimantic

Tickets: \$20 per person at the Gate, Advance Sales  
\$15.00 per person or VIP Tickets \$100.00 per person  
(visit [www.windhamhospital.org](http://www.windhamhospital.org))

# JEEPIN.

Jeepin' for Healin' V

**Saturday, May 3**

8 AM to 4 PM – Rain or Shine

All proceeds benefit Windham Hospital.

**PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP**

Pre-Registration required • \$75 minimum donation • FREE  
Breakfast & Barbeque • Drawings • Live Music  
To register, call 860.423.4516,  
or e-mail [rudy.capitolcdj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rudy.capitolcdj@sbcglobal.net).

13TH ANNUAL

## WINDHAM HOSPITAL GOLF CLASSIC

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

Tunxis Plantation Country Club  
Farmington



PRESENTED BY

**Anthem** 

For sponsorship and player information, contact Tom  
Birkenholz in the Foundation Office, x 6849 or email him at  
[tbirkenholz@wcmh.org](mailto:tbirkenholz@wcmh.org).



**SUNDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Noon – 3 PM on the Hospital grounds

If you are a survivor, join us!  
If you know a survivor,  
invite them! **Come join the  
celebration.** Questions?  
Contact Carol Palonen at  
456-6896 or email her at  
[cpalonen@wcmh.org](mailto:cpalonen@wcmh.org).

Co-sponsored by Eileen M. Ossen, and  
Elizabeth Ossen, in memory of  
Jeffrey P. Ossen, and the  
American Cancer Society.