

carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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“From the physicians and nurses to the therapists and nutritionists to the various types of facilities and administrative teams, everyone plays an important part in CNE’s ability to deliver high quality health care services. It’s our job.”

Good day!

Or should I say, “Good deeds!” In this season of giving and receiving, the Care New England (CNE) family certainly rises to the occasion. I imagine none of us are surprised as we observe each other performing heartfelt acts of kindness every day, throughout the entire year—for our patients and for each other. In fact, it may be something that comes so naturally to us that we sometimes take for granted the impact we are having on each other beyond health and work.

From the physicians and nurses to the therapists and nutritionists to the various types of facilities and administrative teams, everyone plays an important part in CNE’s ability to deliver high quality health care services. It’s our job. However, I believe the reason why health care careers often span decades is because there’s a shared desire of those of us in this field to make the world a better place. It’s what makes what we do not just a job, but a passion.

I’ve personally witnessed and heard from our colleagues about how you expertly and with compassion execute your daily work responsibilities and then step up to donate your time at the fundraising and community health events that our member organizations host throughout the year. The money raised (some of which comes from you) and the education and example you provide through participation benefits our patients and community. Now, as we close out 2015, you are opening your hearts even wider.

Below is a sampling of the stories I’ve heard about how the CNE family is making a difference for people during a time of year when “merry” and “happy” are meant to be in abundance and for some may not. As this is not a comprehensive list please be sure to acknowledge the many other acts of generosity happening within your departments so the good deeds do not go unnoticed.

For 35 years the Kent Hospital team through its Adopt-A-Family Program (AAF) has provided families the bare necessities as well as all the holiday trimmings and feast

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at Christmas. This year 43 families were adopted through Kent's KEEP Program (an employee-funded and managed program to benefit employees in financial distress), Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, St. Rita's Church, Thundermist and West Bay Community Action. Additionally, the program distributed more than \$4,000 in food cards to more than 20 families throughout the year.

Kent's Food Four Paws committee donates pet food to help the elderly who are inclined to feed their own food to their four-legged companions. In its sixth year, more than 2,400 pounds of food was delivered through Meals on Wheels in 2015.

Working with Children's Friend and Service's Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive, the education team at Memorial's Department of Family Medicine is providing clothing and gifts to a family with four children.

Care New England and Memorial IS departments—even garnering support from Huron consultants—expanded its outreach to the community, and this year adopted four group homes touching 44 clients. No small feat coordinating collection and delivery of what is likely car loads of essential and merry-making goods.

Women & Infants Center for Reproduction and Infertility, who adopt a family every year at this time, kept their giving closer to home when Becky Enright, RN, shared that a family close to her had just lost a 35-year-old father of two to an acute illness that struck suddenly—proving the kindness of strangers can lift a burden and brighten someone's day. Women & Infants Patient Access team received an overwhelming response from employees donating money to purchase coats, gloves, hats and gift cards for pediatric oncology patients, while the nursing team adopted one of the families for gift giving.

Making a big impact as individuals, Steven Beaudry in respiratory therapy at Memorial anted up an Xbox 360, toys and clothing to St. Mary's Home for Children; Mindy Wachtenheim donated 10 percent of proceeds from her holiday sale at Domaine Designs jewelry outlet to Women & Infants Patient Advocate Fund; Pat Blezard from Women & Infants Health Education Department and her family donate Advent Bags filled with money, underwear, socks and pajamas for families connected to St. Rita's Church in Warwick; Women & Infants' employee Sandra Scuncio organized the Annual Christmas 10K Run and 5K Walk at Rogers High School in Newport with proceeds benefiting the hospital's Behavioral Health Clinic Integrative Care Program; The Providence Center (TPC) Manager Christopher Jordan organized a toy drive, collecting 700 donations to distribute to TPC's community support teams, Women's Day, Project Link, Quitting Time and the Early Childhood Institute; and Joy Vaudreuil of Butler Hospital works with Seniors Rule's Elves for Elders and helped wrap 1,000 gifts to deliver to 22 nursing home facilities throughout Rhode Island.

Forgoing the traditional Yankee Swap gift exchange, the administration team at TPC donated socks to clients—a simple gesture that will provide many days of comfort to others.

Butler Hospital's Human Resource Department paid it forward to Women & Infants NICU and donated \$175 to support families with ill or premature infants. Almost 100 Butler Hospital employees donated and wrapped more than 300 gifts for 172 people—everything from books to body wash and clothing to candy—to deliver to every patient in the hospital on Christmas.

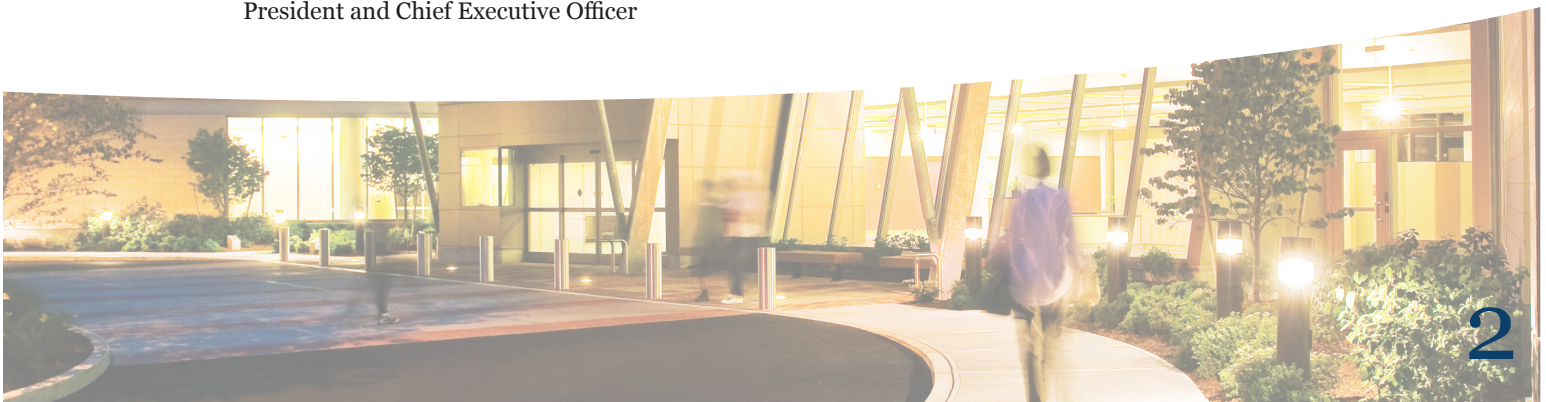
Lastly, should you be further inspired to commit more good deeds, on New Year's Day join Martin Beck of New England Grass Fed for the Frozen Clam Dip at 12 noon at Goddard State Park in East Greenwich. His team, RI Pink Tu2 Crew, will be raising money for Women & Infants and Gemma Breast Cancer Foundation. Looks like a great combination of a good cause, good fun and good people. I know you'll fit right in.

I wish you and yours an abundance of “merry” and “happy” this holiday season. Keep up the good deeds!

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Women & Infants physician awarded best surgical paper honors at AUGS annual meeting

Charles Rardin, MD, a urogynecologist in the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery and director of the Robotic Surgery Program for Women at Women & Infants Hospital, director of Minimally Invasive Surgery at Care New England, and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and team, was awarded Best Surgical Paper at the 36th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) in mid-October in Seattle, WA.



Their study, entitled “Vaginal Uphold Hysteropexy and Laparoscopic Sacral Hysteropexy for Treatment of Uterovaginal Prolapse: A Parallel Cohort Study,” examined surgery methods that accommodate a woman’s wish to not have her uterus removed when the decision is made to surgically repair uterine prolapse. Traditionally, a hysterectomy is performed at the time of the repair. This study looked at two surgeries—known as hysteropexy procedures—done vaginally or laparoscopically; both of which use mesh to bolster the durability of the repair.

“The primary outcome of the paper, surgical success, did not show a difference between these procedures; both were very good at fixing the problem,” explained Dr. Rardin. “Complication rates were low in each group. The vaginal procedure was quicker, while the laparoscopic group had a greater improvement in sexual function.”

Kent welcomes new chief of anesthesia

Kent Hospital is pleased to welcome Vijay Sudheendra, MD, as its new chief of anesthesia. Dr. Sudheendra comes to Kent after serving as chairman of anesthesia at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital and Roger Williams Medical Center.



Dr. Sudheendra has also served as chief of anesthesia at Saint Anne’s Hospital in Fall River, MA, and its affiliated Hawthorn Surgery Center in Dartmouth, MA, the medical director of Southern New England Surgery Center in Attleboro, MA, and director of cardiac anesthesia at Miriam Hospital from 2006 to 2011. Dr. Sudheendra was a clinical assistant professor of surgery and anesthesia at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University from 2003-2012. He received his medical degree from Karnataka Medical College in Hubli, India and completed an anesthesia residency at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 2002.

“We are very excited to welcome Dr. Sudheendra to our medical staff and Kent’s Anesthesia Department,” said Joseph Spinale, DO, senior vice president, chief medical officer at Kent Hospital. “Dr. Sudheendra has extensive clinical experience and is highly respected in the field of anesthesiology. He will be a tremendous asset to Kent’s Department of Surgical Services and the patients of our community.”

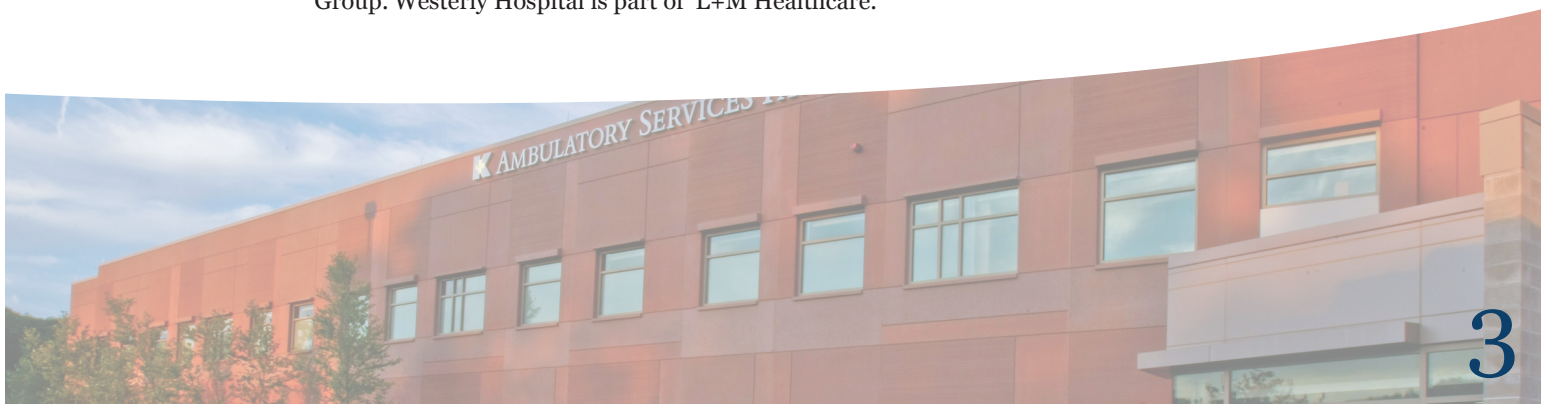
Dr. Dacey named as Hospital Association of Rhode Island officer

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island Board of Trustees elected new officers during the association’s recent annual meeting. Michael Dacey, MD, president and chief operating officer of Kent Hospital, will serve as vice chair. His appointment is for a two-year term.



“I am proud to serve as vice chair for the Hospital Association of Rhode Island,” said Dacey. “I look forward to working with my peers in addressing challenges confronting our hospitals. Our organizations serve a vital role in maintaining a healthy, strong and vibrant state - their mission must be protected.”

Named chairman of the association was Christopher Lehrach, MD, who is chief transformation officer at Lawrence + Memorial Healthcare and president of the L+M Medical Group. Westerly Hospital is part of L+M Healthcare.



CNE's leaders for today and tomorrow

The CNE Leadership Seminar is a comprehensive developmental opportunity which enables leaders and aspiring leaders to engage with peers from across the system to explore, discover and advance their leadership competence through a wide range of experiences including lectures, small group activities, individual and group projects and extracurricular activities. The program includes development of an individual leadership development plan and selection of a project that aligns with the CNE Balanced Scorecard—all to provide the opportunity to gain understanding of strategic planning, goal setting, and strengthening of business acumen.

Meet the CNE Leadership Seminar Class of 2015

From Butler Hospital: Elizabeth M. Ford, Occupational Therapy/Occupational Therapist; Megan Kurth, AA Link Grant/Research Project Manager; Karen Lebeau, PFS/PFS Rep; William E. Menard, Avid Petscan Grant/Research Operations Manager; Megan R. Morrow-Radlowski, HIM/Clinical Information Clerk; Amanda M. Parris, Young Adult Partial Hospital/Unit Secretary; Sarah M. Pennisten, Child & Adolescent Unit/MHW; Summer Short, Intensive Treatment Unit/Staff Nurse.

From Care New England: Steven E. Brown, IS End User Desktop Support/IS Site Manager; Christopher Chung, IS Inpt Clinical Apps/Sr. Programmer Analyst; Nikki A. Gates, IS Ambulatory Apps/Ambulatory Training Manager; Ken W. Greene, IS Security & Disaster Recovery/Interim CISO; Steven Resendes, IS Site Management/Hardware Technician; Colin D. Shaw, Public Relations/Electronic Communications Specialist; Diana Sinina, IS Inpt Clinical Apps/Sr. Programmer Analyst; Tara Barber, Rehabilitation Unit/Clinical Coordinator.

From Kent Hospital: Kelly Baxter, Aff Palliative Care Medicine/Nurse Practitioner; Stacey N. Chevalier, ER/Clinical Coordinator; Lauren Griswold, Nursing Admin/Nursing Supervisor; Amy Read, Patient Registration/Patient Access Associate; Brydie C. Thomasian, Social Services/Clinical Social Worker Supervisor.

From Memorial Hospital: Angela S. Quarters, Performance Improvement/Outcomes Coordinator.

From Women & Infants: Julie Eckles, Network Development/Network Outreach Coordinator; Tamatha Yeaw, Pharmacy/Interim Pharmacy Supervisor.



Help Kent Reach Its 10,000th Blood Donation



No one knows the importance of having blood on hand more than those of us caring for patients who need it every single day. If donations are strong tomorrow Kent will reach its 10,000th blood donation with the Rhode Island Blood Center at our blood drive, December 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Doctors' Auditorium.

Representatives from the blood center will recognize the hospital for its efforts in not only supporting RIBC's mission to provide a safe, plentiful and cost-effective blood supply, but for also providing the excellent clinical care needed to save lives in our community with those blood donations.

We look forward to seeing you! Give the gift of life!

That's a wrap

Staff participating with the Flex For Life Care New England employee wellness benefit provided free holiday gift wrapping to Memorial employees on December 15. Employees were able to bring in five pre-boxed gifts to be wrapped. Pictured left to right, Ewa Dzwierzynski-Mann, site manager, Pharmacy and Jan Mackinnon, wellness manager, CNE Wellness Center, both wrapping gifts and April Jones, assistant nurse manager, Wood 6—happy to have some of her gifts wrapped. 