

carenews

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“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

~ John F. Kennedy, 35th President
of the United States (1961-1963)

Good day!

Five years ago, we began a tradition of sharing our expressions of gratitude as we enter Thanksgiving week. This year I am particularly thankful for you. While I think most of you understand we are trying to respond to a changing payment environment and position our organizations for long-term success, we know that we had a difficult year—and we had to make some difficult decisions. In spite of these challenges, you continued to give your all to our patients and our organizations. I am so very grateful to each of you for your ongoing commitment and dedication.

I am also grateful for making it through a difficult year after the passing of my wife Laura's mother one year ago. She was the Matriarch of our family and we still miss her greatly. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you who have suffered a loss this past year and beyond.

Here's what you said in this season of thanksgiving about why you are grateful.

“I am one of the RN residents at VNA of CNE. I am writing on behalf of the entire VNA nursing residency program which includes: Christie Bilodeau, RN, Dawn Landry, RN, myself, Amelia Mason, RN, Karina Salazar, RN, and Kendra Santilli, RN. We are grateful for the wonderful opportunity that we worked so hard for. We are very grateful for our amazing preceptor Lisa DiMaria RN, PhD. We are also so grateful for the entire VNA, as they have been so welcoming to us and have helped us out in so many ways. We feel very welcome here at VNA and are grateful to be part of such a supportive work environment. Happy holidays!”
~ Lindsey Lilly, RN, RN Resident, VNA of Care New England

“My daughter was diagnosed with cancer on May 2nd of this year. After 3 surgeries, 4 months of chemotherapy and 11 radiation treatments, I am so thankful that she was declared cancer-free in October. Her journey is far from over but I feel so blessed that she has come this far and I am so proud to be her mom.” ~ Colleen Kiernan, Patient Access Services, Butler Hospital

In this issue:



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"Today I am thankful that I am able to make cookies to share." ~ Debbie Allen, Central Processing Department, Memorial Hospital

"I am truly grateful to be alive and healthy in these days; to have family, friends and faith; to have rewarding work to do as part of the fabulous Women & Infants Team and for the peaceful transition of power that underpins our great democracy!" ~ Mark Marcantano, President and COO, Women & Infants

"I am grateful for the patients who put their trust in me to heal them. I am grateful for the dedicated, compassionate and highly skilled staff at the Wound Recovery and Hyperbaric Medicine Center at Kent. These dedicated RNs, MAs and clerical staff treat all our patients like family." ~ Mary Elizabeth Hanley, DO, Kent Hospital

"I'm thankful for being able to help people and being a power of example!" ~ George O'Toole, manager, Anchor ED, The Providence Center

"I am thankful for so many things, but most fundamental is my faith and the growing ability to speak openly about it. It's a primary strength that can't be replaced by anything else." ~ Fran Giatas, Executive Assistant to Dennis Keefe, Care New England

"I'm grateful for a 37-year career at Butler Hospital that has allowed me to actualize my spiritual, emotional and intellectual life goals. I have learned so much throughout this amazing journey." ~ Mary Ella Dubreuil, Alcohol and Drug Partial Hospital Program, Butler Hospital

"Sometimes we focus on what we don't have, rather than what we do have. I have taken time out to remember the things I am thankful for: good health, family, the quality and the quantity of friendship, my job, my boss and co-workers, laughter, good choices, fresh air, sunshine and all the wonders of the four seasons." ~ Judy Desrosiers, Information Desk, Memorial Hospital

"I am most thankful for my family and friends, and being able to enjoy this holiday together!" ~ Sandra Rebeiro, Coding, Care New England

"I am thankful for my wonderful family. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!" ~ Tinamarie Medeiros, RN, Kent Hospital

"I am grateful to work with a team of professional, caring, and patient focused employees at the VNA!" ~ Kathy Peirce, vice president of clinical operations, executive director, chief nursing officer, VNA of Care New England

"I joined the Women & Infants team last month as the new manager of HIM. Being the "new kid" is never easy. However, I have been met with such kindness from everyone. The staff of the HIM Department has made me feel like we've known each other for ages. Jen Couri, Director of Revenue Integrity, and Ceci Castillo, Manager of HIM at Kent, have been amazing in helping me settle in to my position. Ceci especially has always been available to answer any questions and provide guidance when I've needed it. I can't thank her enough for that. I am truly grateful to be a part of such an amazing organization." ~ Renee Vuz, Health Information Management, Women & Infants

"I am thankful for the strength, courage and opportunity to relocate to Rhode Island and live near the gorgeous Narragansett Bay once again since college days here!" ~ Elizabeth Terlep, nurse, Recovery Navigation Program, The Providence Center

"I just wanted to let you know what I am feeling thankful for these days. I am 6 months pregnant with a baby that my husband and I never thought that we would get the chance to have. We went the 11 rounds
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of IVF in order for this to happen. So at this point I am extremely blessed, and thankful to be pregnant with our son. I am of course thankful to be healthy, and have been surrounded by my loving family, and coworkers through this whole process.” ~ Amie Cambio, Diagnostic Imaging, Memorial Hospital

“A job that I enjoy...” ~ Teri Pimley, Hospitality Suite, Butler Hospital

“I am thankful for my health, family, friends and those who serve to keep our country safe.” ~ Erin Pelletier, t3 Project Manager, Care New England

“Today I am grateful to be 9½ years ovarian cancer free! I am grateful to Women & Infants Hospital for being part of that journey.” ~ Donna Cantone, Food and Nutrition, Women & Infants Hospital

“I’m thankful for my ‘second family’ here at TPC!” ~ Cherie Davis, clinical therapist, Behavioral Health Outpatient Program, The Providence Center

“I am thankful for my loving, supportive family and friends and the opportunity to be a part of a truly amazing organization with such talented people.” ~ Dean Carlson, VP Leadership and Organizational Development, Care New England

“I am thankful for good work with caring people who are called to “be with” others in times of need. I am thankful for support and caring that we show one another, renewing our spirits, over and over again in order to continue in this work, together.” ~ Helen Bodell, Spiritual Care, Women & Infants Hospital

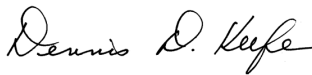
“I’m thankful for my children. They are not little kids anymore and I’m very proud of the beautiful individuals they have become. Each one teaching me something every day! Too often weathered by day to day living, my kids surprise me with wisdom—making me see all the goodness in life: Love, kindness, fun, health, friendship and family.” ~ Marianne McDonnell, Finance, Care New England

“The bigger question would be is there anything I am not grateful for? I am filled with gratitude. Albert Einstein said it best, “We can greet life as though nothing is a miracle or as if everything is a miracle.” For me, everything is a miracle. Namaste to all beings!” ~ Claire Allen, Occupational Health, Care New England

Well said, Claire!

I wish you and yours every blessing at Thanksgiving, and, for those of you who are working the holiday, special thanks for extending our bounty and hospitality with our patients and families.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Research team from Women & Infants Hospital publishes in *The Journal of Pediatrics*

Preterm birth is a serious health problem that costs the nation more than \$26 billion annually, according to the Institute of Medicine. While it has long been known that early preterm infants have increased risk of rehospitalization, recent data indicate that the increased risk of adverse outcomes associated with prematurity, including rehospitalization, extend to moderate and late preterm infants.

So how can we best care for these vulnerable infants and their mothers to reduce the incidence of complications and costly rehospitalizations?

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Research led by Betty R. Vohr, MD, director of Women & Infants' Neonatal Follow-Up Program, entitled "Impact of a Transition Home Program on Rehospitalization Rates of Preterm Infants," has been published in *The Journal of Pediatrics*. The research team also includes Women & Infants/Brown University colleagues Elisabeth McGowan, MD; Lenore Keszler, MD; Barbara Alksninis, PNP, NNP; Melissa O'Donnell, BA, MSW; Katherine Hawes, PhD, RN; and Richard Tucker, BA. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/2fDcXPQ>.

"Our primary objective was to evaluate the effects of an enhanced transition home program for families with social workers and family resource specialists (FRS) as team members to decrease the rate of rehospitalization in preterm infants cared for in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for greater than five days. Secondly, we sought to identify key maternal and infant social/environmental and medical risk factors associated with rehospitalization," explained Dr. Vohr. "Three factors that almost doubled the risk of rehospitalization were Medicaid insurance as a marker of poverty, non-English speaking, and a history of more than one pregnancy, and the most common cause of rehospitalization was respiratory. Rehospitalization is a major concern since it results in both increased stress/emotional costs and health care costs."

Dr. Vohr continued, "The good news is that the study demonstrated a 42 percent decreased risk of rehospitalization over the three-year period. We believe the success of the transition home program is related to providing comprehensive, family-centered care for both the infant and mother in a four-pronged approach of psychosocial support, parent education, medical support continuing post discharge, and enhanced partnering with parents, NICU staff and community providers. Expansion of comprehensive, family-centered, individualized transition home programs provided by teams which include FRS and social workers is needed to decrease morbidity and cost."

This research was supported by a 2012 \$3.2 million by a Health Care Innovation Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which enabled the expansion of Women & Infants' Transition Home Plus Program to 1,391 infants and their mothers in the NICU. Under the leadership of Dr. Vohr, the intervention program trained and deployed family care teams to offer education and support, monitoring of infants' growth and development, and support for primary care providers who help care for this at-risk population.

The Providence Center partners with RI Foundation

Last week, the Rhode Island Foundation announced that The Providence Center, along with Amos House and Crossroads, will be part of a partnership designed to expand services in Downtown Providence. TPC will receive \$80,000 to embed a second full-time clinician with the Providence Police Department to increase focus on downtown. The clinicians aim to divert people from involvement with the criminal justice system to substance abuse and mental health treatment and other services. This partnership is part of a citywide effort to improve the lives of those who seek refuge in public spaces like Kennedy Plaza.



In a statement, RI Foundation CEO Neil Steinberg said that "there is a significant population in need of housing, employment, mental health, substance abuse, and other services. We believe that more adequately addressing those needs by linking people to available services will go a long way toward improving the situation." The program is made possible by co-funding from the Grace K. and Wesley S. Alpert Foundation. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/2g2zDpr>.

Susan Amalfitano named director of Care Management

Congratulations to Susan Amalfitano, RN, MSN, PHCNS-BC, who has been named director of Care Management at Women & Infants Hospital. In this new role, Susan will oversee the Care Management Department, the Social Work Department and the Chaplaincy Program.



Susan began her nursing career as a certified nursing assistant at Slater Health Center in Pawtucket before attending nursing school at the Community College of Rhode Island (associate degree in nursing). She later served as director of nurses at the subacute and long-term care facility. Susan graduated from the University of Rhode Island (bachelor of science in nursing)

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and Rhode Island College (master of science in nursing/public health/community leadership), She was a medical-surgical staff nurse and case manager at the Miriam Hospital before joining the staff at Women & Infants in 2013 as manager and then interim director of care coordination. She is a clinical nurse specialist in community/public health.

Susan is a member of the American Case Management Association, the Rhode Island Emergency Medical Corps, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Nursing Association, and of several committees at Women & Infants and Care New England, including the MOLST Implementation Committee, the Utilization Review Committee and the Schwartz Rounds Committee.

Coventry nurse recognized with DAISY Award

Kent Hospital recently presented Albina Feeley, RN, with the November 2016 DAISY Award. This award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the above-and-beyond efforts performed by nurses every day. Albina was nominated by the family of a patient, who wrote, "my family and I have never seen a nurse so kind and patient as Bina, the compassion and understanding that she showed our mother; stroking her hair, holding her hand and just talking to her was a comfort to all of us. She was a blessing for our family, thank you Bina."

"It is my pleasure to present Albina (Bina) with the DAISY Award," said Rebecca Burke, RN, MS, NEA-BC, sr. vice president patient care services, chief nursing officer at Kent Hospital. "I am pleased to have recognized Bina for her dedication and compassion to patients, their families and to Kent Hospital. As the family stated, she went above and beyond for the care of their mother, thank you."

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, CA, and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

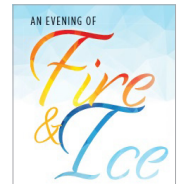
If you would like to nominate an extraordinary nurse that you encountered at Kent Hospital, you can submit an application to <http://www.kentri.org/daisyaward> or in person. Fellow providers and patients may also nominate a nurse for the award.



Lauren Griswold, RN; Claudia Maine, RN; Rebecca Burke, RN, senior vice president patient care services, chief nursing officer; Albina Feeley, RN; Kim Uustall, RN; Jean Butler, RN, director patient care services; Dean Carlson, vice president leadership and organizational development

VNA of Care New England presents 'An Evening of Fire and Ice'

The VNA of Care New England will host the second annual An Evening of Fire and Ice on Thursday, December 8, 2016, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. The event is open to the community and funds raised will support the mission of the VNA. Enjoy the hot sounds of cool jazz, gourmet food and cocktails, all amid beautiful botanical surroundings. The presenting sponsor of An Evening of Fire and Ice is Centreville Bank.



"This wonderful event represents the hard work and dedication of so many at the VNA of Care New England and is a great way to kick off the holiday season," said Kathleen Peirce, RN, vice president of clinical operations, executive director, chief nursing officer, VNA of Care New England. "We look forward to celebrating the mission of the VNA with so many of our community sponsors, friends and supporters."

Individual tickets are priced at \$100. Care New England employees can purchase tickets for a discounted rate of \$75. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Cezarina Jackson, special events coordinator, Care New England, at (401) 921-8508 or cjackson@carene.org.

