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“It truly warms my heart to see so many of our colleagues doing good for others.”

Good day! One of the things that makes this time of year so special is the overwhelming feeling of giving back that seems to blanket our community, from purchasing toys for children in need, to donating blood, or volunteering at soup kitchens.

Such is the case within our own Care New England community too. Many departments are collecting items for patients and families in need. It truly warms my heart to see so many of our colleagues doing good for others.

Recently, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) asked all of its members for examples of their employees doing good deeds. Here are some of the stories we submitted, as well as a few others from across CNE to help spread the holiday cheer. I know these are just a small sampling of the good deeds you do now and throughout the year, but I think it is a great testament to all of you!

Butler Hospital employees have been “elving” for more than 10 years, donating hundreds of gift items to be wrapped and delivered on Christmas to patients unable to be home for the holiday. Everything from scarves and gloves to blankets and slippers to books, games, and candy are collected throughout December. A few days before the holiday, volunteers gather in the cafeteria to organize and gift bag the items. Patients receive a selection of things, with 150 to 170 “Santa sacks” created, depending on census each year. It’s estimated through this annual tradition employees have donated more than \$20,000 in goods. More importantly, each year they remind people they matter and are not alone on Christmas.



Integra Community Care Network wanted to acknowledge what their accountable care organization is thankful for and thank those people responsible. Integra works closely with the distinct populations who could benefit from a helping hand and wanted to show their appreciation for allowing them to become part of their patients’ everyday lives. Integra’s Care Management

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Department selected 25 families to give back to during Thanksgiving. Some members had been unemployed, and at a time when depression hits hard due to not being able to provide, those folks were able to spend the day without the worry of where the money for their meal was coming from. A vast majority of those selected were elderly and had limited funds and transportation to obtain their meal, so when their Integra team came knocking there was notable relief in their eyes and gratitude in the smiles that adorned their faces. Each basket given out contained a gift card for a turkey as well as all the fixings—from cookies, potatoes, carrots, all the way down to the baking pan with plates and napkins.



Each year, the **Women & Infants Program in Women's Oncology** social workers reach out to ask hospital departments if they would like to "adopt a family" for the holidays. The social workers supply the departments with a list of items requested by nominated families. There are a number of families who, in addition to having a mother going through cancer treatment, need some assistance from "holiday helpers" to ensure a happy holiday season.

Kent Hospital's Breast Health Center will hand out holiday baskets filled with necessities for cooking a holiday meal on Friday, December 22. Twenty-three families will receive a holiday basket, alleviating the financial burden that is often associated with hosting friends and families during the holiday season. In addition, Kent Hospital will celebrate the 37th year of the Kent Hospital Adopt- A-Family Program through which more than 50 local families receive gifts from each family member's wish-list, making for a very memorable holiday full of appreciation. The families are selected through Kent's KEEP Program, in-house referrals, as well as from local agencies such as Catholic Charities, Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, St. Rita's Parish, Thundermist, and the West Bay Community Action.

At **The Providence Center** an anonymous TPC employee is spreading cheer by creating a GoFundMe page to help raise money for the state's homeless communities. So far, the campaign has raised \$610.00 and allowed the team to purchase 50 Mylar sleeping bags, 100 Mylar rescue blankets, 40 hats, 30 pairs of women's gloves, 40 pairs of men's gloves, 40 scarves, foot/hand/body warmers, and 30 pairs of socks. In addition, TPC has coordinated both a clothing and holiday gift drive.

The VNA of Care New England worked closely with the City of Warwick and an anonymous donor to provide a handful of patients and their families with Thanksgiving and holiday meals. As VNA care teams enter patients' homes during the holiday season they also often voluntarily assist with their Christmas needs to help spread the joy this time of year brings.

What a great outpouring of caring and compassion! Thank you for doing so much for our own CNE community and for the broader community beyond. In closing, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a most joyous holiday season!

* * *

Thank you and have a good week ahead.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Patricia Recupero, JD, MD, Care New England Health System named president emeritus of Butler Hospital



The honorary position is appointed by Care New England Board of Directors in recognition of her retirement from position of president and her many years of dedicated service to both Butler Hospital and Care New England (CNE).

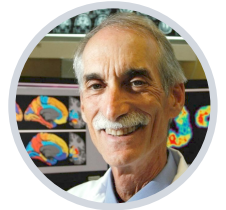
Dr. Recupero served Butler Hospital in both clinical and administrative roles since joining the staff in 1989. She served as president and chief executive officer for 15 years, retiring in 2014. During her tenure, she focused her leadership on augmenting the clinical strengths of the hospital, adding two new clinical buildings which doubled the hospital's capacity and improved patient experience, while shepherding its academic research programs to national prominence and almost doubling its grant funding. For the last three years, Dr. Recupero has served as senior vice president, education and training for CNE.

Prior to joining Butler, Dr. Recupero was an accomplished attorney, engaged in an active practice as litigator and served as special assistant attorney general for the State of Rhode Island. She is board certified in forensic psychiatry and addiction psychiatry and serves as a clinical professor of psychiatry at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, serving as a member of Brown's Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior since 1989.

As president emeritus, Dr. Recupero will remain a member of Butler's medical staff and attend organizational events and meetings.

Butler Memory and Aging Program one of first in world to enroll participant in landmark Alzheimer's prevention drug trial

On Friday, December 8, Butler enrolled its first participant in the Generation 2 study. An international Alzheimer's disease (AD) prevention study, it is investigating whether an oral medication, known as CNP520, can slow the build-up of amyloid plaques in the brain and delay cognitive decline in individuals at risk for the disease. Amyloid build-up is one of the major causes of AD and can begin up to two decades before the onset of the clinical symptoms.



The clinical trial is sponsored by Novartis Pharmaceuticals in collaboration with Banner Alzheimer's Institute and Amgen. The trial is designed for cognitively healthy adults, aged 60 to 75 years old, who carry at least one copy of the APOE4 gene and have a build-up of cerebral amyloid in the brain, both risk markers for Alzheimer's.

Jessica Alber, PhD, cognitive neuroscientist, is lead investigator for Butler on the Generation 2 Study working under the direction of Steve Salloway, MD, director of the Memory and Aging Program. Butler Hospital is one of 185 research centers across 25 countries participating in the clinical trial. The study seeks to enroll 850 people in the United States and 2,000 people world-wide. As a randomized double blind study, neither the research team nor the participants are aware of whether the drug or a placebo is being administered in the form of a daily pill.

Read G. Wayne Miller's coverage from *The Providence Journal* at <http://bit.ly/2kYrtWS>, which includes comments from the participant who wishes to remain anonymous.



Constance A. Howes Women's Health Innovation Research Fund awards three grants

Women & Infants Hospital has awarded three approximately \$25,000 grants from the Constance A. Howes Women's Health Innovation Research Fund. The research fund, which has raised more than \$400,000, was established in 2014 with contributions from more than 150 donors to honor former hospital president Constance A. Howes and to support research studies that advance women's health and gender-based research.

Awardees are Women & Infants researchers Valery Danilack, MPH, PhD, research associate in the Division of Research, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Paul DiSilvestro, MD, director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Niharika Mehta, MD, obstetric internist in the Center for Obstetric and Consultative Medicine.

The team from Dr. Danilack's proposal, "A Qualitative Study of Experiences and Preferences with Labor Induction," will conduct qualitative interviews of patients and providers to elucidate their experiences and preferences in regard to the labor induction process.

Dr. DiSilvestro's grant will enable him to continue his work, "miRNA Biomarkers for Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer." MicroRNAs (miRNAs) represent a promising breakthrough in both early detection and targeted treatment in epithelial ovarian cancer, the leading cause of mortality among all gynecologic malignancies.

Dr. Mehta will work with co-primary investigator Isabelle Malhame, MD, obstetric medicine fellow. Their project, "A Risk Assessment Tool for Cardiovascular Severe Maternal Morbidity," aims to develop a risk assessment tool that will allow clinicians to identify those women at highest risk of developing cardiovascular severe maternal morbidity during pregnancy and after delivery.

The three awardees, selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants, presented their projects to a Donor Advisory Committee at Women & Infants. The proposals were scored based on the projects' relevance to women's health and gender-based research, the potential for advancing knowledge and care models related to women's health, innovation and creativity, team strength and synergy, and plan and potential for research support from external sponsors.

The overall merit of the research projects was evaluated by a Scientific Advisory Committee and were peer reviewed and scored. Finalists then made a presentation to the Donor Advisory Committee.

Susan Mouradian, chief philanthropy officer at Care New England, said, "The Committee had intended to award two projects, but was so impressed by the innovation and promise of all three projects that donors Anne and Michael Szostak stepped up with a significant gift to ensure that all three projects could be funded this year. Thank you to the Szostaks and to all of the donors to the Constance A. Howes Fund."



Kent Hospital educates EMS community on emergency angioplasty services

On Tuesday, December 12, more than 70 EMS providers attended a Kent Hospital program highlighting 24/7 emergency angioplasty services. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the Robert E. Baute, MD, Cardiac Catheterization Lab where emergency angioplasty procedures take place, as well as meet and hear from Peter Graves, MD, Kent Hospital chief of emergency medicine; David Goldberg, MD, FACC, Brigham and Women's Cardiovascular Associates at Care New England; and Edward Thomas, MD, FACC, director, Kent Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Lab. The evening emphasized the teamwork required between EMS, the Emergency Department, and cath lab staff for the best possible patient outcomes.



Providence announces “PVD Safe Stations” initiative with The Providence Center

Last week, the City of Providence announced the PVD Safe Stations program, a partnership between The Providence Center (TPC); the RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals; and High Intensity Drug Task Area (HIDTA) New England, designed to connect opioid-dependent individuals with treatment and recovery services. Available 24/7, any person will be able to visit one of Providence’s 12 fire stations, speak with public safety officials on duty, and immediately be connected to support services.

The announcement, held at the Branch Avenue fire station, featured remarks from Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, Acting EMS Chief Zach Kenyon, TPC President and COO Deborah O’Brien, and other city and state officials. PVD Safe Stations is in alignment with the State of Rhode Island’s Overdose Prevention Action Plan, which includes expansion of peer recovery services and access to treatment options for long-term recovery.



“The creation of safe spaces throughout the city of Providence where individuals can meet with a recovery coach and be connected to the treatment they need is an innovative approach to community-based care,” said O’Brien in a statement. “We’re proud to be part of this effort.”

PVD Safe Stations will launch January 2, 2018 at all Providence fire stations. For more information and a full list of stations, visit <http://www.PVDSafeStations.com>.

Kent Hospital Cancer Committee holds “Tar Wars”

On November 16, Dr. Shardale McAfee, Kent Hospital resident; Patti Wingate, cancer registry; and Linda Millerick, cancer registry, visited Fishing Cove Elementary School where they met with 41 fifth-grade students to discuss the dangers of tobacco use. The program, called “Tar Wars,” includes educational and interactive components. The students were encouraged to do jumping jacks for one minute, then asked to do the same activity while breathing through a straw.



The exercise emphasized how breathing becomes a struggle for those who smoke. Dr. McAfee also reviewed the shocking ingredients in cigarettes, such as ammonia and butane. The teachers of Fishing Cove were grateful for the opportunity as their students fully grasped the negative impact smoking can have on their health.

Communicating weather-related closures

Winter is here and with it comes snow! Clinical services at any of our Care New England operating units that are closed or delayed due to weather will be announced through the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association (<http://www.ribroadcasters.com>), which lists on local media websites/stations.

In addition, we are centralizing all service closures and delays across CNE organized by operating unit at <http://www.carenewengland.org/alerts/weather>.

During inclement weather, announcements will be posted on our CNE websites and our social media sites directing people to the designated web page.



Securing mobile devices during holiday travel

As the holiday season begins, many of us will travel with our mobile devices, tablets, and laptops in tow. Although these devices offer a range of conveniences, it is important to be mindful of potential threats and vulnerabilities while traveling with them. Take a look at the below tips from the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) and recommended by Care New England's IS Department.

Know the risks

Your smart phone, tablet, or other device is a full-fledged computer. It is susceptible to risks inherent in online transactions. When shopping, banking, or sharing personal information online, take the same precautions with your smart phone or other device that you do with your personal computer—and then some. The mobile nature of these devices means that you should also take precautions for the physical security of your device (see Protecting Portable Devices: Physical Security for more information) and consider the way you are accessing the Internet.

Do not use public Wi-Fi networks

Avoid using open Wi-Fi networks to conduct personal business, bank, or shop online. Open Wi-Fi networks at places such as airports, coffee shops, and other public locations present an opportunity for attackers to intercept sensitive information that you would provide to complete an online transaction.

If you simply must check your bank balance or make an online purchase while you are traveling, turn off your device's Wi-Fi connection and use your mobile device's cellular data Internet connection instead of making the transaction over an unsecure Wi-Fi network.

Turn off Bluetooth when not in use

Bluetooth-enabled accessories can be helpful, such as earpieces for hands-free talking and external keyboards for ease of typing. When these devices are not in use, turn off the Bluetooth setting on your phone. Cyber criminals have the capability to pair with your phone's open Bluetooth connection when you are not using it and steal personal information.

Be cautious when charging

Avoid connecting your mobile device to any computer or charging station that you do not control, such as a charging station at an airport terminal or a shared computer at a library. Connecting a mobile device to a computer using a USB cable can allow software running on that computer to interact with the phone in ways that a user may not anticipate. As a result, a malicious computer could gain access to your sensitive data or install new software.

Don't fall victim to phishing scams

If you are in the shopping mode, an email that appears to be from a legitimate retailer might be difficult to resist. If the deal looks too good to be true, or the link in the email or attachment to the text seems suspicious, do not click on it!

What to do if your accounts are compromised

If you notice that one of your online accounts has been hacked, call the bank, store, or credit card company that owns your account. Reporting fraud in a timely manner helps minimize the impact and lessens your personal liability. You should also change your account passwords for any online services associated with your mobile device using a different computer that you control. If you are a victim of identity theft, visit <https://www.idtheft.gov/> for additional information. 