



MAY 14, 2018 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 20

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**I'd like to start this week by wishing a belated, but very Happy Mother's Day to all! I hope you were able to enjoy some time yesterday with those you hold most dear.** I don't know if you saw it, but yesterday's *New York Times* Magazine featured an amazing story, "[Children of the Opioid Epidemic](#)," written by Jennifer Egan. Here's a link, in case you haven't seen it for yourself. It's long but well worth your time. The subhead of the article reads, "In the midst of a national crisis, mothers addicted to drugs struggle to get off them—for their babies' sake, and their own."

Across CNE we do so much to help people who are addicted to drugs, alcohol, or other substances. At Women & Infants, not only are we conducting groundbreaking research but we also have a unique approach to caring for the babies who were exposed to opioids in utero and are at risk for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Jennifer Egan from the *New York Times* spent time at Women & Infants over the past year, visiting with Dr. Barry Lester of the Brown Center for Children and with Dr. Adam Czysnski, medical director of our the newborn nursery. She also spoke with staff and nurses, and met many patients who are being treated at Women & Infants. She followed their stories. She saw the good and the bad, the highs and the lows. The bravery and the honesty of these women is awe-inspiring. And what she came out of it with is an understanding that the care that is being provided to this incredibly vulnerable population right here in Rhode Island, right here at our very own Women & Infants, is second to none.

Congratulations to all those who were involved in this wonderful article helping to shine light on and bring attention to our incredible programs. I am amazed each and every day by your great work and accomplishments. I offer my sincerest thanks, appreciation, and respect to all who provide such exemplary care in a wonderful and nonjudgmental environment.

Before I close and lest you think I forgot, we will have a recap of Hospital/Nurses Week in next week's issue, including photos and special recognitions that were awarded. Pictures and accolades were still coming in as of our Friday deadline, but from what I have heard and have seen personally, it was a big success!

Have a great week ahead.

Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**ConvergenceRI**  
VIEW THIS WEEK'S EDITION HERE

## Anchor hosts Governor Raimondo and Patrick Kennedy



Anchor Recovery Center in Pawtucket hosted a meeting with Governor Gina Raimondo and former Rhode Island U.S. Representative and recovery advocate Patrick Kennedy recently.

They met with representatives from Rhode Island Student Assisted Services and The Providence Center to discuss mental health and substance use issues in the school system. The meeting was also attended by Pawtucket Mayor Don Grebien and RI Department of Health Director Nicole Alexander-Scott.

KENT

## Kent Hospital and Warwick Rotary holds annual May Breakfast



On Friday, May 4, the Warwick Rotary staffed the Kent Hospital cafeteria from 7 to 9:30 a.m. to provide Kent employees and the surrounding community a traditional May Breakfast. Each year a portion of the proceeds are designated for The Kent Employee Emergency Program (KEEP). Father Ricard offered his heartfelt thanks on behalf of the KEEP committee, "The KEEP committee

and employees of Kent Hospital wish to thank the Rotary President Donna Caccia and members of the Rotary Club of Warwick for their very thoughtful donation of \$1,000 through the success of this year's May Breakfast."

BUTLER

## Mental Health Awareness Month offers stories of hope



Mary Marran, president and COO of Butler Hospital, attended the kick-off for Mental Health Awareness Month at the State House earlier this month. The kick-off included a speech made by Melissa Fundakowski, a Butler Hospital peer specialist. Melissa spoke about her personal experience as an individual who is effectively managing psychiatric illness and is also dedicating her work to helping others recognize that her success story can become their reality, too. Melissa's message was poignant in conveying the realities of living with her illness, while her story also offered hope and guidance to those who suffer from mental health and substance use disorders.

KENT

## Mark your calendars! An evening to benefit Kent Hospital

Join us on **Thursday, June 14**, for a fabulous event at the Aldrich Mansion in Warwick beginning at 6:30 p.m. The elegant evening will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres at the magnificent historic mansion with spectacular water views and music. Celebrate with friends and colleagues as we support Kent Hospital.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Special Events Coordinator Cezarina (Sue) Jackson at (401) 921-8508 or [cjackson@carene.org](mailto:cjackson@carene.org). Visit <https://foundation.kentri.org/event> for more information. 

