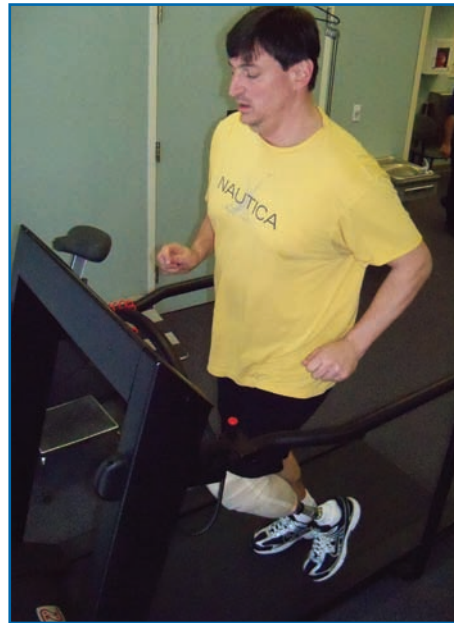


## Amputee making strides at AthletiCare

When Kevin Degnan was hit by a car in 1986, the avid runner's world as he knew it stood still. His lower left leg was severely injured, putting the Canisius College track star's passion on hold long term.

After enduring fourteen surgeries, years of rehabilitation, and constant fights with infection, Kevin and his doctor made the mutual decision this past fall to amputate his leg below the knee.

Only a few months after his surgery, he's started running again and owes his recovery to the AthletiCare staff at Kenmore Mercy Hospital and Tonawanda Limb & Brace Inc., who fitted him with a prosthetic leg.



Kevin's journey has been an amazing one to say the least. Confronted with a host of emotions, questions and concerns, he didn't know what the future would hold.

He describes his experience as an uphill battle. "Running was my life and this accident, and then the surgery; it hit me from so many psyches. I couldn't have done it without my amazing support system – family, friends, work and the physical therapists at AthletiCare."

Through modern prosthetics and proper rehabilitation, many amputees can lead active, productive

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Check out the *Kenmore Mercy Foundation Insider*, inside this edition.

#### Submit news items to:

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(716) 447-6279

View copies of this newsletter online at [www.chsbuffalo.org](http://www.chsbuffalo.org).



Follow Kenmore Mercy  
Hospital on Facebook

## 3 East is transforming care

Kenmore Mercy Hospital's 3 East nurses, along with select nursing units within Catholic Health, are participating in "Aligning Forces for Quality/Transforming Care at the Bedside," a nationwide program sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to lead improvements in the quality and safety of patient care.

The 18-month, nurse-led quality transformation program will engage frontline staff to work together to identify, pilot, test and adopt new practices. The program empowers nurses to make changes at the bedside to improve the patient's experience of care and reduce adverse events. Participating nurses will share their success-



Jennifer Rennels, RN and Natasha Calato, RN are participating in TCAB.

es and lessons learned with other hospitals across the country.

# Kudos!



## From the President James Millard

Although the ground is still covered with snow, Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring. That's good news for those of us who have had enough of winter, and are looking forward to the upcoming year.

Kenmore Mercy Hospital will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in October. Throughout the year, we'll provide several opportunities to recognize the accomplishments of the past, to re-commit ourselves to the mission on which the hospital was founded, and to continue to plan for our future. Watch for photos, stories and special events to celebrate this significant milestone.

As further recognition of the excellent care that we provide here, we will be applying for Joint Commission's Disease Specific Certification in three areas; Total Knee Replacement, Total Hip Replacement, and Advanced Primary Stroke Care. These certifications demonstrate our commitment to a higher level of service, and require us to meet extremely high clinical, quality and operational standards. We've done a significant amount of work in preparation of the required on-site reviews, and we're confident that we're ready. We expect that these reviews will take place within the next three months. If successful, we will be the first hospital in Western New York to receive the Total Knee and Total Hip Disease Specific Certifications.

I'm proud to say that our patient satisfaction scores continue to rise, and our goal of being one of the top 10% performing hospitals across the country is well within our reach. This is a testament to the efforts of every single associate, physician and volunteer within the organization. Thanks to each of you for your assistance in reaching our goal.

It takes a strong team of many talented individuals from diverse backgrounds to provide high quality care while assuring a positive patient experience. We've been lucky to have such a team here for the last 60 years, and look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come.

**Michael Wendel** has been appointed to the position of Pathology Manager for Catholic Health Laboratories. He will also retain his position as Laboratory Supervisor for Kenmore Mercy Hospital.

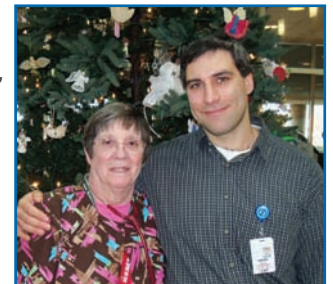


Volunteers **Fred Caughill** and **Carolyn Beyer** were honored by the Town of Tonawanda Youth, Parks and Recreation Department for their contributions to the Ken-Ton community. Fred volunteers in the pharmacy and Carolyn in the Gift Shop and the transport office. In addition to their service at Kenmore Mercy, both help with Meals on Wheels, among many other volunteer activities.



**Laura Verbanic**, Director of Quality & Patient Safety, has been selected by Catholic Health for the first annual Carl Montante Award for efforts in quality and patient safety.

**Mark Basile**, physical therapist, and **Carol Myers**, RN, were recipients of the hospital's Annual Medical Staff Award, recognizing outstanding associates for their service to patients and staff.



## Welcome Aboard



**Sarah C. Karasch** has joined the staff as a medical librarian. Sarah will provide clerical and technical services support for the Medical Library as well as assist in the provision of library reference and computer search services.

**Richard Millich** has joined Kenmore Mercy as the Manager of Imaging. Since 2002, he held the same position with Sisters of Charity, St. Joseph Campus.



Catholic Health Primary Care Services and Kenmore Mercy Hospital are pleased to welcome **Sanford R. Pleskow, MD**, to the Williamsville Primary Care Center.

A ten-year veteran of Catholic Health, **Nicole Szeluga**, has joined the financial service team as business advisor, supporting Kenmore Mercy Hospital, the neuroscience and vascular service lines and the Rehabilitation business unit.



# T-shirt quilt memorializes patient

As Linda Page cut up her husband's "colorful" t-shirts, she cried her eyes out. Today, they hang in the form of a quilt in Kenmore Mercy Hospital's pulmonary rehabilitation gym, where Phil Page spent much of his recent years as a patient before passing away from a pulmonary embolism in the summer of 2010.

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation program provides structured exercise and education to help patients increase stamina and manage their lung disease. It has also become a place where patients can talk to each other, sharing ideas and experiences - the unofficial information that is so valuable in day-to-day living.

"This group helped us better understand what Phil was going through.



Margueritte Augugoiaro and Linda Page hold up the quilt.

It really became his solace and helped him be happy again," said Linda.

Phil, who suffered from emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), was with the group for three years during which time he developed a special bond with his fellow patients, especially Margueritte Augugoiaro to whom the quilt was gifted.

"We're a very close knit group, like a family," said Margueritte, a COPD patient who has been in the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program for 13 years. "When we don't see someone for a few days, we start to assume the worst."

Phil is one of several "family members" they have lost over the years. This quilt of many colors reminds them all not only of Phil, but how sometimes many different people can come together to make something beautiful.

## Save the Date! Associate Forums

Tuesday, March 29  
11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30 - 6 a.m.  
Friday, April 1 - 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 5 - 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 6 - 2 p.m.  
Friday, April 8 - 6 a.m.

Monday, April 11 - 8 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 12 - 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, April 13 - 5 p.m.

*All sessions will be held in the Community Room. Special arrangements will be made with offsites.*

## Upcoming Events/Observances

### February

17 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Blood Drive - LL Conference Room

13-19  
Cardiovascular Professionals Week

23 - Handcrafted Jewelry Sale  
Atrium

19 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Catholic Health Heart Fair  
Community Room

### March

National Nutrition Month

8 - 17 - 9 a.m.  
Diabetes Self Management  
Mural Room

10 Scrubs Sale  
Community Room

13 - 19

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week

18 & 21

Auxiliary Sewing Bazaar - Atrium  
30 Doctors' Day

### April

12-15

Auxiliary Used Book Sale - Atrium

3-9

Healthcare Access Personnel Week

18-24

Administrative Professionals Week

Healthcare Volunteer Week

24-30

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

**Call 447-6205 for details about upcoming classes.**

**"Each day is a step we make towards eternity and we shall continue thus to step from day to day until we take the last step, which will bring us into the presence of God."**

**~ Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy**

## Medical missions blessed

Each year dozens of associates, volunteers, and physicians bring health care to the distant corners of the world, some traveling abroad and others helping to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people throughout the United States.

"These dedicated individuals are all inspirations, living our mission - to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need," said Sister Ellen McClure, OSF, Vice-President, Mission Integration.

On January 10, the hospital community gathered to recognize these many amazing individuals during a Blessing of the Missions Ceremony.



Drs. David Johnson and David Silverstein, Mary Scholten, RN, and Cheryl Hayes, Vice President of Patient Care Services, were blessed by Rev. Nancy Lindberg.



Jan Vosburg, RN, right, assists with an operation on her recent medical mission trip to Africa.



Samuel Saleeb, MD, FACOG, Uro-Gynecologist, with a patient and her husband post-operative day one in Egypt.

Contact Sister Ellen McClure, Vice President of Mission Integration at x76360 for more information about medical mission opportunities.

## Medical Mission opportunities

Most mission trips require a resume, written statement of determination, letters of recommendation and a fee.

Below are a few missions that members of the Kenmore Mercy Hospital family have participated in:

### Coptic Medical Association of North America

<http://cmanamerica.org>  
Samuel Saleeb, MD, from Ken-Ton Family-Care Center, is an active member of this team. He traveled to Egypt with them in 2010 and will go Bolivia later this year.

### Himalayan Healthcare

[www.himalayan-healthcare.org](http://www.himalayan-healthcare.org)  
David Johnson, MD, from Kenmore Family Medicine has traveled with this organization, helping the rural poor in Nepal since 1992.

### Hope for Tomorrow Foundation

[www.hopefortomorrowfoundation.com](http://www.hopefortomorrowfoundation.com)  
Jeffrey Meilman, MD, and his foundation help American and foreign patients to receive needed plastic surgery.

### Global Health Ministry

[globalhealthministry.org](http://globalhealthministry.org)  
Mary Scholten, RN, in Care Management traveled to Jamaica with GHM in January.

### World Spine Outreach

[www.worldspineoutreach.com](http://www.worldspineoutreach.com)  
Started by Jan Vosburg, RN in surgery.

## Strides

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lives. Catholic Health AthletiCare and Partners In Rehab's Amputee Rehabilitation Program is helping patients like Kevin on the road to recovery.

"From the moment a patient learns an amputation is necessary, we begin the education process with the entire family, discussing everyone's needs and what lies ahead," said Joe Baumgarden, manager of AthletiCare at Kenmore Mercy Hos-

pital. "From there, specially trained therapists at each level of care (Acute, Medical Rehab, Subacute, Home Care, and Outpatient) work with amputee patients to provide high quality, seamless care and help them achieve their rehabilitation goals."

For Kevin, that goal is to run a 5K in April. A resident of Kenmore, he can be seen running through the village. On nice days, he even runs to AthletiCare where Joe has tai-

lored a rehabilitation plan working on balance, strength, coordination, getting him to walk and eventually run without thinking.

"Some people who go through an amputation end up being so inactive that they're at risk for obesity, depression, and diabetes," said Joe. "That obviously hasn't been the case for Kevin. He has shown determination, courage and amazing enthusiasm. He is truly an inspiration."