Many of us have heard the saying "Change is the only constant." In healthcare, change in treatments, technology and processes happen daily, making our profession an exciting one to work in. There are going to be some changes as we bring St. Joseph and Sisters hospitals together as one.

By coming together as a team, everyone at St. Joseph and Sisters hospitals all have the opportunity to share in success stories, offer hope, and ease the pain of illness and injury. We are all connected in some way as we share the passion for caring for others.

Members of the Leadership Team from both hospitals are working together to make this transition as easy as possible for our physicians, associates and patients.

Bringing two hospitals together isn’t an easy task. Currently, the Leadership Team led by Jim Millard and Peter Bergmann, are focusing on the operations aspects of the transition process. Members of this team include Gary Constantino, Matt Hamp, Donna Fabry, Mary Dillon, Debbie Parkot, Paula Moscato, Dr. Jagdeep Singh, Dr. Nady Shehata, Kim Judzowski and Dave DeLorenzo. Their job is to merge together all policies, committees, licensing, permits, accreditations, and certifications. Each department is working with their counterpart to get this done well in advance of the merger so we can begin to educate all of our associates on any changes.

As we continue through this journey, we ask you to be patient with the process. If you have any questions please feel free to ask your management team. We appreciate your continued support and hard work.
From The President
James Millard

I am thrilled to introduce St. Joseph Connection, our new quarterly associate newsletter. This publication is focused on providing timely news that is important to you. It’s also an opportunity to share our accomplishments and to communicate some positive things that are happening within the facility.

With the upcoming merger with Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital will be going through a significant amount of change. Over the years, we’ve built a solid foundation of providing quality care to our patients. Moving forward, we will continue to strive for excellence, looking for opportunities to work together to improve healthcare in our community. Improvements in facilities, technology, and clinical performance – across all areas of the hospital will enable us to meet and exceed healthcare standards in Western New York.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of the past, the strengths of the present and look forward to the promises of the future. I’d like to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to the hospital and to our patients.

Safety Fair A Success

The first Catholic Health Safety Fair was a success! Over 320 St. Joseph’s associates attended the event. Our focus, as a system, is to improve patient safety through education tools and policies.

The goal of the informational fair is to raise awareness about the Culture of Patient Safety and the many patient safety initiatives that the Performance Improvement Department is coordinating. Some of the topics included patient identification, pressure ulcer prevention, medication reconciliation, communication techniques, critical values, infection control, patient fall and restraint use, along with speaking up for safety and associate expectations for safety.

For taking time out of your day, associates who participated were put into a drawing for some great prizes! Sherry Hark from 5-North was the grand prize winner of two Buffalo Sabres tickets. Several other associates won $25 Gas Cards, $20 gift cards to Target, Tops and Wegman’s, plus Tim Horton’s gift cards. Congratulations! We would also like to thank all the managers and volunteers who helped out.

Mission Moments

Our 2nd quarter LOVE Award recipients are Mary Barry and Cheryl Jonas. Mary is Chief Radiology Technician and her co-workers said, “If someone is in need she is there. Mary is a real Superhero!” Cheryl is a Surgical RN and her co-workers say, “She lives her life caring for everyone around her and would do anything for anyone.”

We are holding a collection drive for St. Vincent de Paul Society on October 16th from 7am-5pm and October 17th from 7am-9am in the Associate Parking Lot. If you have any questions regarding the collection please contact Debbie Parkot in the Mission office at ext. 2685.

We are deeply saddened to share that Anne Zagorski (above), a dedicated employee of St. Joseph Hospital for nearly 30 years, lost her battle with cancer last month. Anne worked as an Administrative Secretary in the Nursing Office. Let us be thankful that we have known such a wonderful, independent, and strong woman.
Palliative Care Program Progress

A structured Palliative Care Program has been in place at St. Joseph Hospital since April 2001 assisting over 1,500 patients coping with chronic or life threatening illnesses. Palliative Care is different than Hospice care because it addresses every stage of illness, no matter what the prognosis. Our team is trained to control pain and symptoms while providing the patients and their families with support and compassion. As medical advances allow people to live longer, the acute care hospitals face new challenges with patients being admitted with several different medical conditions requiring long term management of their symptoms.

The St. Joseph Hospital Palliative Care team is led by Dr. Yashodhara Satchidanand, Board Certified in Palliative Care Medicine. The interdisciplinary team also consists of Spiritual Care, led by Reverend Dale Stanley, nursing, and social work, as well as other team members on an as needed basis. There are few Palliative Care services in the nation that have the ability to make such an impact in an acute care setting.

For further information contact the St. Joseph Spiritual Care Department at 891-2546.

Get A Good Night’s Sleep

Sleep is essential for physical and mental well-being. However, over 100 million Americans regularly fail to get a good night’s sleep. More than 80 recognized sleep disorders affect our population’s quality of life and personal health.

For many, getting a good night’s sleep is just a dream. Now the SleepCare team at St. Joseph’s can help you do just that! Our team has helped nearly 9,000 Western New Yorkers get a good night’s sleep.

The sleep clinic was started in 1993 and in 2005 was named an Accredited Member Center of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Just last year, SleepCare expanded its testing facility from four to six beds to meet the growing demand for diagnostic sleep studies.

Recently, another member of the SleepCare team, Sue Zorn, passed the RPSGT exam, which means she is now a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist. Over 50% of the SleepCare therapists have passed this exam. Keep up the great work!

Buffalo Physican Writes Book

Dr. Algirdas Gamziukas, a retired member of St. Joseph Hospital’s medical staff, has written an autobiography called Changes. The memoir follows his life journey as a Lithuanian boy forced to leave his country during WWII. Gamziukas’ family relocated to America where he eventually became a doctor. The book is now available in the SJH Gift Shop for $27 and $5 for each book sold will be donated to the SJH Foundation. Dr. Gamziukas was the first Vice President of Medical Affairs at St. Joseph and held that position for 11 years. Pick up a copy of this interesting, informative and enjoyable book today!
Successful Sundae Sale

SIH held a Sundae Sale to benefit St. Vincent de Paul and Gerard Place. For just $2 you could pile your ice cream treat high with goodies! The sale was a success, raising $444 for the local charities. Our goal is to raise $5,800 this year.

Be Quiet Campaign

Our patients spoke and we listened! In an effort to improve patient satisfaction, SJH recently launched a new initiative to keep the noise levels down in patient areas. The Be Quiet Campaign posters feature associate’s children reminding visitors and staff to “be quiet.” The new posters will change periodically to feature other associate’s children.

The first poster features Sarah Elizabeth, daughter Shannan Pasternak, Nursing Manager ICU/CCU

Youth Volunteers

Youth Volunteers provided assistance throughout SJH over the Summer. We would like to thank the 93 students, ages 14-18 for their help. The students had to complete hand-washing and wheel chair certifications and were required to complete 40 hours of volunteering in order to finish the program. At the end of the program they each received a certificate.

Attention Associates

In an effort to continue communicating with associates, a new “Associates Page” has been created. Just log on to www.chsbuffalo.org/associates for the latest hospital happenings. Also, do you have an event or some news you would like to share? Feel free to fill out the “Submission Form” to have your information posted online.

Employee Spotlight

The Nursing Management Team recently received a letter from a former patient praising one of our associates, Victoria Wells, an Assistant Nurse on 5-North. We’d like to share a segment of it with you:

“I wanted to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for one of your exceptional employees - Victoria Wells. While I was in extreme pain and practically immobile. Ms. Wells showed great expertise in tending to my needs. Her kind and attentive care allowed me to keep my dignity and focus on healing. She was my Angel on earth and I’ll always be grateful to her for her kindness and support.”

--B. P.

Please take the time to congratulate Victoria for a job well done!