



# Connections

News and announcements for associates, patients, and their families.

Fall 2017

## It's That Special Mercy Touch!



Channel 7 News Anchor Ashley Rowe, right, interviews Melanie Janulewicz as Bridget O'Connell, far left, and McAuley 5 East staff look on.

Kudos to the nursing team on Mercy Hospital's 5 McAuley East Unit for demonstrating that **"Special Mercy Touch!"**

**Melanie Janulewicz, RN**, had noticed that her patient Bridget O'Connell was a huge fan of the LIVE with Kelly & Ryan show and hoped to some day be called for the show's Travel Trivia game and win a beach vacation.

Melanie then talked to 5 East Nurse Manager Judy Humes and Hospital Experience Supervisor Martha Metz about her idea to help Bridget. Soon afterwards, all the nurses chimed in and they started a Facebook page called "Beaches for Bridget" and wrote to the show's producers.

The local WKBW-TV Channel 7 crew caught wind of the story and presented Bridget and her mother with VIP tickets to the LIVE with Kelly & Ryan show that aired in June from Niagara Falls. "For the nurses to do something so kind out of the bottom of their heart to do something for me...it was just really nice and overwhelming," Bridget said.

Turns out that Bridget enjoyed a dream come true—all thanks to a team of nurses who went the extra mile.



Staff recognized at the Annual Nursing Awards ceremony included, from left, Andre Dixon; Kathy Kuchenbeisser, RN; Jeff Boyack, RN; Sue Ortman; William Gunnerson; Dennis Aquila with VP of Patient Care Services Shari McDonald. Honorees missing from photo are Steve Rice, RPH and Kevin Buck, RN.

## Nurses Week Honors Our Real Superheroes

Mercy Hospital experienced a very "SUPER" Nurses Week this year! With a **"Nurses are Superheroes"** theme, the fun-filled week in May started with ice cream sundaes delivered to all the patient care units and a *Blessing of the Hands* ceremony conducted throughout the hospital by the Spiritual Care staff.

Tuesday was a big hit with the first-ever Food Truck Rodeo, and Wednesday featured the Nurses **"Superheroes- Power"** Luncheon. The Annual Nursing Awards Ceremony highlighted Thursday's festivities that recognized several staff members for their compassionate work and dedication to our patients. Finally, topping off the week was a special speaker presentation about *"Nursing: the Balance of Mind, Body & Spirit,"* featuring Elizabeth Everett, ARRT – a Regional Expert in Mindfulness and Meditation.

Nursing awards were presented to:

Catherine McAuley Award	<b>Jeff Boyack, RN</b>
Father Nelson Baker Award	<b>Dennis Aquila &amp; Steve Rice, RPH</b>
Nursing Aide/ ITA	<b>Andre Dixon</b>
Outstanding Unit Secretary	<b>Sue Ortman</b>
Outstanding Tech	<b>William Gunnerson</b>
Nurse of Distinction	<b>Kathryn Kuchenbeisser, BSN, RN, CWOCN</b>
Outstanding Staff Nurse	<b>Kevin Buck, RN</b>

Congratulations to all of the honorees and hats off to the entire nursing staff and patient care team for being superheroes every day!

## Patients Celebrate 58<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

It all started with a morning conversation when patient Lenny Kostelny told 5 West Nurse Manager **Marsha Nowak** that he and his wife Freda were celebrating their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary that day and his wife was a patient in 5 West down the hall.

Marsha quickly set the wheels in motion. By dinnertime, she had orchestrated an anniversary celebration complete with a gourmet meal prepared and delivered by our Food & Nutrition staff, and a visit from their son Lenny, daughter Lori, nephew Bill Pawley (who was their ring bearer) and his wife Jan. Kudos to all who went above and beyond to make their day very special.



*Patients Lenny and Freda Kostelny celebrated their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at Mercy Hospital.*

## Warm Snuggly Blankets Find Their Way to Mercy

Thanks to Mercy Hospital Intern **Richard Ruh, Jr.**, a student at St. Bonaventure University, a ministry called "Warm Snuggly Blanket" found its way to Mercy.

The project sends blankets and letters of support to cancer patients, borne from the idea of the late Marge Maher, a local woman and teacher who battled cancer. Ruh was familiar with the ministry through his participation in Bona-Responds, a volunteer group at his college, and his position as President of the Family Business Club. Through his efforts, blankets were delivered to our Spiritual Care chaplains who then worked with nursing staff to identify patients who could benefit from them.



*Chaplain Barbara Britting, left, and 5 East Manager Judy Humes deliver a blanket to Wayne Woodman.*

## Heart Center Receives Award for Quality Care

For the second year in a row, Mercy Hospital, home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, has received the American College of Cardiology's NCDR ACTION Registry-GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2017.

Mercy Hospital is one of only 193 hospitals nationwide to receive the honor that recognizes high quality care for heart attack patients.

The award recognizes Mercy's success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that the Heart Center team has reached an



*Dr. Joseph Gelormini and Dr. Aravind Herle, center, accept the ACTION Registry award on behalf of the Heart Center team along with VP of Patient Care Services Shari McDonald, Senior Director of Cardiac Services Julie LaManna, and Mercy President & CEO C.J. Urleub.*

aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines.

## "Extraordinary" Nurses Presented Daisy Awards

Mercy Hospital was pleased to present its 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Daisy Awards to **Charleen Radecki, RN (ED)**; **Nicole Mayer, RN (5NC)** and **Nicole Sanita, RN (7W)**.

The DAISY Award, which recognizes extraordinary nurses, was established by the National DAISY Foundation in memory of J. Patrick Barnes who died at 33 of ITP, an auto-immune disease. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. Today, over 2300 hospitals across the county participate in the program.



*Nicole Mayer, RN, proudly signs the Daisy Award banner as part of the ceremony with Daisy Coordinator Cheryl Robinson.*

Anybody, including patients and families, can nominate a nurse for the award. Nomination forms can be found in the lobby Daisy display table, surgical waiting room, nurses stations, and cafeteria.



## Labor-Management Committees Update

**Nursing Supporting Nurses**, a Catholic Health-initiated Mentor Program, was recently launched in June at Mercy Hospital.

Spearheaded by Daynell Rowell-Stephens, MS, RN, Corporate Coordinator of Nursing Development & Onboarding, along with the assistance of CWA Mercy United Local 1133 and the Mercy Hospital leadership team, the program is designed to help support newly hired registered nurses as they transition into their new RN roles at the hospital.



*Pictured at the Mentor Mentee Blast in July are, (l.-r.) Program leaders Sandy Paolini, Daynell Rowell-Stephens, and Chris Anderson.*

The program began with 105 Mentors and 75 Mentees. A special luncheon forum was held in July.



## Stroke Team Earns Gold for 5<sup>th</sup> Year in a Row!

For the fifth consecutive year, the Mercy Hospital Comprehensive Stroke Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® - **Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and Target: Honor Roll Elite Plus**—the AHA's highest level of hospital recognition—for its commitment to quality stroke treatment based on nationally recognized, research-based guidelines for care.

"With a stroke, every minute counts, and the Gold Plus Quality Award demonstrates Mercy Hospital's commitment to being one of the top hospitals in the country for



Participating in the award ceremony were, (l.-r.) Steve Dofitas, MD; Omar Kass-Hout, MD; and Arun Babu, MD.

providing excellent stroke care," said C.J. Urlaub, Mercy Hospital President & CEO. "This recognition further reinforces our team's hard work and ongoing efforts to deliver advanced stroke treatments to patients quickly and safely."

## Heart Smart for Life

The Mercy Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) hosted a Summer Wellness Social in July to celebrate the first successes of the MCCC's **Heart Smart for Life**, a free community wellness program supported by the Mercy Hospital Foundation and a generous \$165,000 grant from the AstraZeneca Healthcare Foundation, *Connections for Cardiovascular Health*™.

Speaking at the event was the first Heart Smart for Life Champion, Nicole Arquitt, who talked about how the program turned her life around, together with improved health and a weight loss of nearly 40 pounds.



The first Heart Smart for Life Champion Nicole Arquitt, at left, visits with MCCC's Kathy Bragagnola at the Summer Social.

In the first five months of the program, participants together have lost over 350 pounds! Fall wellness classes begin on September 13. For more info, call 923-6152.

## Garden Grows with Everlasting Tributes

Mercy Hospital's Meditation Garden is a peaceful place for prayer and reflection and has also become a place to memorialize or honor loved ones through the placement of garden path stones.

The Mercy Foundation blessed four new path stones at this year's ceremony held in July that gave everlasting tributes to: the late **George J. Rautenstrauch**, a Respiratory therapist at Mercy Hospital for more than 40 years; the late **Daniel Szybala** whose family has accumulated over 94 years of service as Mercy associates; the late baby **Grace Valerie Tundo**, 'God's Special



Members of Dr. Wall's family look on as Father Joe Nguyen blesses his path stone.

Angel"; and the late **Dr. Robbie Daniel Wall**, a caring Mercy cardiologist, husband, father, and friend who passed away suddenly in a tragic accident in May.

## Another Successful



Each year Mercy Hospital Foundation's Scrub Run 5K health and wellness event gets bigger and better thanks to you.

Some 270 runners and walkers put their best foot forward at the charity run to raise funds for the Heart Center at Mercy Hospital. The Scrub Run raised over \$52,000 and increased awareness for heart health in our community.

Forty-two-year-old **Joe Silliman** finished first in 18:33 and 39-year-old **Mary Lawrence** was the top female finisher with a time of 19:05.

For the second year, the Scrub Run proudly recognized our Running with Heart participants who have overcome and persevered through life threatening challenges.

**Scott Swenson** is a heart attack survivor and Mercy Hospital patient who supported this year's race to raise awareness of Heart Disease - the leading cause of death in Western New York.

**Mark Messinger** suffered a life-changing accident in July 2016 when he fell from a 6-foot ladder while attempting to cut down a tree dangerously close to his family's home.

When he fell, the tree came down on top of him and crushed several bones in his body. He was told it would take a year to recover. Thanks to the team from Catholic Health's McAuley Residence Rehab Department and McAuley Seton Home Care, Mark is not only back on his feet, but running once again!

Special thanks to the Scrub Run Chair **Nancy Sheehan**, Catholic Health's Sr. Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, as well as the Scrub Run sponsors and supporters, participants, volunteers, event committee members, and Mercy Hospital Foundation Board of Directors for helping to make the Scrub Run a success.

Thank you, again! We hope to see you at next year's Scrub Run.



Chairs Mr. Richard A. Serra and  
Mrs. Diane Serra and Mr. Martin T.  
Griffith and Mrs. Amy Jo Griffith  
invite you to join us for....

# 9th Annual Autumn Ball

**Friday, November 3, 2017**  
**The Atrium @ Rich's**

**1 Robert Rich Way, Buffalo, NY**

**6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

Proceeds to benefit Mercy Hospital of Buffalo  
and the Heart Smart for Life program.

Visit  
[www.chsbuffalo.org/FCH/Mercy/Events/AutumnBall](http://www.chsbuffalo.org/FCH/Mercy/Events/AutumnBall)  
for more information!

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## 2017 Autumn Ball Honorees



**Kevin Buck**  
RN  
Mercy Hospital  
Nurse of the Year

**Kathryn  
Kuchenbeisser**  
RN, BSN, CWOCN  
Nurse of  
Distinction



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Proceeds from this year's Autumn Ball  
will support the Mercy Comprehensive Care  
Center's **Heart Smart for Life** program. It is a collaborative  
initiative aimed at ensuring vulnerable populations – those people  
who otherwise might fall through the cracks – have access to nutrition  
education, free health screenings, wellness programs, and other  
resources focused on preventing heart disease.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

- This year's attire color theme is **Blue & Bling**. Come dressed to impress!
- Register Online at: [www.chsbuffalo.org/FCH/Mercy/Events/AutumnBall](http://www.chsbuffalo.org/FCH/Mercy/Events/AutumnBall)
- Buy tickets, sponsorships, and donate online.
- The event will feature mobile bidding. Use your smartphone and bid from the comfort of your own phone or tablet.

— Gold Sponsors —



— Silver Sponsors —

