

A tip of the cap

Trumbull Lab receives accreditation

Trumbull Memorial Hospital's Laboratory has been awarded an accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

The laboratory's director was congratulated for the "excellence of the services being provided". Trumbull Memorial Hospital Laboratory is one of more than 6,000 CAP-accredited laboratories nationwide.

During the CAP accreditation process, on-site inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine the entire staff's qualifications, the laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and record, as well as the overall management of the laboratory. This

stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for the laboratory's patients.

The CAP is the world's largest association of pathologists and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance.

Benefits in your mailbox

Looking for a little light reading? The most recent Master Plan Document and Plan Description for the Forum Health Benefit Plan will soon be arriving at your homes. If you have questions about your benefits plan, this booklet will probably have the answers.

If you do not receive a book in the mail, please contact the Benefit Department at 330.841.3570 or 330.841.3857

Our generous employees help area families



L-R: Pastor Dan Ellis; Kevin M. Spiegel; Carolyn M. Brown; Rev. Chris Gilger

You probably already know this, but the kindness and generosity of Forum Health employees is virtually endless. Last fall, the Warren Family Mission's Fall Food Drive was a great success, thanks in large part to the contributions made by Trumbull Memorial employees. Reverend Chris Gilger said that the donations are a tremendous blessing to the needy families of Trumbull County.

As a way of honoring the donations made by the Trumbull employees, the

Mission recently presented Kevin M. Spiegel, FACHE, chief operating officer at Trumbull, with a commemorative plaque.

The Mission provides needy Trumbull County families with food, shelter and clothing. Donations of food, money, clothing and furniture are graciously accepted at all times. For more information, please contact the Warren Family Mission at 330.394.5437.

Kudos to all who helped in this generous effort.

Forum
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Enhancing The Health Status Of The Communities We Serve

OPEN FORUM

A PUBLICATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF FORUM HEALTH

May 2005

Trumbull is Tops

Only hospital in area ranked among 100 Top Hospitals

Trumbull Memorial Hospital is one of the 100 Top Hospitals in the nation according to a study just released by *Solucient: 100 Top Hospitals® National Benchmarks for Success*. The 12th annual study identifies industry benchmarks by recognizing hospitals and their management teams that demonstrate superior clinical, operational, and financial performance.

Among the key findings of the Solucient study, the Top 100 hospitals boast the following accomplishments:

- **Have higher survival rates.** An additional 84,000 Medicare inpatients could survive if performance in all acute care hospitals matched that of the Top 100.

- **Have fewer complications.** An additional 54,000 patient stays could be complication-free each year if all acute care hospitals adopted the Top 100 benchmarks, saving an estimated \$10 billion in health care costs.

- **Get patients home faster.** Patients at Top 100 hospitals return to everyday life faster than those at other hospitals.

- **Use newer drugs on the market.** Top 100 hospitals are more likely to administer newer drugs to ischemic stroke patients or those undergoing balloon angioplasty for cardiovascular disease.

"The exceptional performance of the 100 Top Hospital award winners brings real value to their communities," said Jean Chenoweth, executive director of Solucient's Top 100 Hospitals program.



Every year, Solucient recognizes 100 hospitals across the nation for setting performance benchmarks in four critical areas: quality of care, operational efficiency, financial performance and adaptation to the external environment. Trumbull is the only hospital in the Mahoning Valley to be ranked among the 100 Top Hospitals.

"This honor reflects the extraordinary hard work and commitment of our faculty and staff to be the best when it comes to patient care, research and medical innovation," said Kevin M. Spiegel, chief operating officer at Trumbull Memorial.

2nd annual shooting competition is a hit Hillside welcomes sharpshooters

Unlike many sports, target shooting is something that can be enjoyed by men and women, by youngsters and senior citizens, and by individuals or members of a team. And it's a sport that can be enjoyed by people with physical disabilities.



A competitor takes aim at a target with the new air rifle that Hillside received through a grant from the National Rifle Association.

To create awareness of the opportunities in the shooting sports, and to assist disabled people in participating in these activities, the Adapted Sports program of Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital sponsored the second annual

Air Rifle Disabled Shooting Competition on March 11th at Chip's Sports Center in Howland.

Part of the NRA-Beeman Grand Prix Championship, this competition is for people with physical disabilities caused by spina bifida, stroke, paralysis, amputation, arthritis and other conditions. According to Linda Case, clinical supervisor for Hillside's Recreation Therapy and Adapted Sports, "this event provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in a sport at a competitive level."

The 26 competitors from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, Alabama, Michigan, and Georgia received a warm welcome and, in return, provided some very skilled competition, with one competitor setting a new NRA/Beeman National record.

Hillside is one of only 10 hospitals in the United States with a therapeutic shooting program.

Win 2 tickets to a Cleveland Indians game.

CATCH THE TRIBE!!

Through a special partnership with CLEAR CHANNEL radio, we are able to offer lucky winners two tickets to an upcoming Cleveland Indians baseball game at Jacobs Field. To enter, just fill out and return this form to: Marketing & Public Relations office by June 3.



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OPEN FORUM

There's no place like home, there's no place like home

When it comes to recuperating from an accident or illness, dealing with a disease or disability, or simply coping with a medical problem, there is no place like the comfort and convenience of home.

That's where Forum Health At Home comes in.

Forum Health At Home has provided home healthcare services to the community since 1985. Offering private duty skilled nursing, personal care, transportation, and other vital services, the professional staff brings compassionate, quality health care to adults and children. The program currently services 200 clients.

Clinical Director Sherry Petric said people don't realize that there is such a wide range of services or even that the program exists.

She explains, "Our in-home staff includes LPNs, RNs, STNAs and home health aids. We provide physical, speech and occupational therapies, pediatric care, intravenous therapy, medication monitoring, social services and nutritional counseling, just to name a few things. Our aids can also help the client with personal care, errands, bathing, daily living care and light housekeeping."

24/7/365

Petric also pointed out that services are available whenever they are needed. "We have staff 24-hours a day, every day of the week. There are always nurses on call, so someone is always available including weekends and holidays.

A fulfilling job

Charlotte Davolio, LPN, has been a Forum Health At Home Private Duty Nurse for over 11 years and says, "Our clients range in need. The majority are in home situations. I currently care for a child in a school setting. I go to his house in the morning and spend the day with him at school." Davolio says she loves private duty nursing. "It's very rewarding work. And you can do it full or part-time and work times can be scheduled around the days you want to work." Private duty positions are posted on the board and any Forum employee can bid on a position. Applications are available at the FHAH office.

Great nursing and much more, too. Forum Health At Home offers a wide

variety of other services in addition to private duty nursing. For example, HotMeals provides pre-packaged hot meals to senior citizen facilities and private homes. More than 270,000 meals are delivered each year.

The Lifeline service is a personal emergency response system. A client wears a bracelet or necklace and at the push of a button, the wearer is then connected to lifeline headquarters via the phone system.

Through the Van Service, clients can be taken to and from doctor's appointments, therapies, group meals and other destinations. Fees are \$3/roundtrip. This service is available to clients 60 years and older.

The Hospice Service is available for anyone who is terminally ill. Nurses are on call 24 hours per day.

The services offered by Forum Health At Home can be covered financially by a variety of sources and anyone is eligible, Petric said.

For more information on Forum Health At Home, contact Sherri Petric at 330.884.2530.

CALENDAR

May 15 - 21, 2005
Emergency Medical Services Week

June 5, 2005
Tod Telethon
Children's Miracle Network

Northside staff making house calls

Several Forum Health professionals have been making some very special house calls, thanks to the efforts of Northside recovery room nurse Trish Makara.

For the past five years, Makara has recruited several doctors, nurses and other medical personnel to make special presentations to Boy Scout Troop 25 of Canfield.

The presentations are held in conjunction with First Aid Month and throughout the month Makara organizes speakers for the troop. Thanks to the generosity of several Forum doctors and nurses, the schedule is easy to fill. "I've been so fortunate that these people care enough to donate their own time and come speak to the troop," she said. Dr. Michael Miladore, Dr. John Venglarcik and Dr. Michael Burley are among the physicians who have addressed the troop on topics such as bone fractures, infectious disease and heart ailments. Lisa Taase, a pediatric clinical nurse specialist is also scheduled to make a presentation on diabetes.



"It's amazing how totally captivated these boys are," said Makara, noting that there are 42 active members from 11 to 18 years old in Troop 25. Makara's own sons, Michael, 15 and David, 13, are also part of the Troop. Sharing his mother's enthusiasm, David Makara added, "When Dr. Miladore showed us how he puts on casts, everyone was paying attention. That's really hard to do with this group, because some kids don't always listen."

Makara was quick to point out that she is not at all surprised by the willingness of Forum doctors and nurses to give back to the community in this way. "It's all part of the 'Planetree Philosophy' of healing and nurturing the body, mind and spirit and these individuals personify that idea," she said.

No room because we're making room

Due to the West Addition construction, Classroom A in the Medical Education Building/NMC will be unavailable for an indefinite period of time beginning May 12, 2005. Charlene McFall will be contacting those persons already scheduled in this room to make alternate arrangements.

Also remember that if you have reserved a room but no longer need it, please call us to cancel. To make or cancel room reservations call: **NMC: ext. 43695, TMH: ext. 19880**

Happy Mother's Day...

Women & Infants Pavilion opens

For Mahoning Valley parents-to-be, there's no better place to welcome the new family member than the new Women & Infants Pavilion at Beeghly Medical Park.

Officially opened on May 4, the new Pavilion is a dream come true for patients expecting that very special delivery. The new maternity center and neonatal care unit offers the most comprehensive care available, combined with the ultimate in family-friendly amenities. Spacious rooms feature privacy in a comforting home-like environment, while soothing artwork and rich wood cabinets conceal the best in equipment and technology.

"With the opening of this facility, Forum Health is once again raising the bar in terms of how medical services are delivered here in the Mahoning Valley," said Kris Hoce, president and CEO of Forum Health.

Look for full coverage of the Women & Infants Pavilion opening in the next issue of Open Forum.

AS I SEE IT...

Dedicated to Employee Opinions

What is Forum Health's Best Attribute or Greatest Strength?

"Our longevity and the experience of the staff overall. We have many, many years of experience here. Plus, we really embrace the new grads and bring them into the family, so hopefully they will stay here many years, too."

Carol Wehmeyer
Tod Children's—Tod 2—Peds Hem/Onc



"Northside takes care of a wide diversity of patients—from the very poor and the very well-to-do, we provide care for all. I am worried that we are losing the middle class, but for now, our strength is in the wide variety of patients that we care for."

Ruth Billcheck
Northside—Adult Same Day Care

"The main strength is good patient care. We are the caring hospital. Here at Information I think it is important to give people a good outlook of Forum Health as soon as they come in."

Dorothy A. Schnell
Northside—Information



"Well, I think they've actually lost their greatest strength, which was their various schools, such as radiology, pharmacy and nursing. They lost their line of well-trained, successive people."

Dennis Toth
Trumbull—Pathology

"Well, speaking for Tod 2, we definitely work as a team. We work together and that's a real strong point."

Erin Meehan
Tod Children's—Tod 2—Peds Hem/Onc

