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Sinai Samaritan holds community open house and dedication ceremony

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October is National Brain Injury Awareness Month
St. Luke’s uses team approach in rehabilitation

“Rehabilitation is the process of helping a person achieve his or her highest level of independent functioning,” says Peggy Stefanac, patient care manager, 2CEF-Rehab, at St. Luke’s Medical Center.

This means helping the brain-injured patient relearn skills that were disrupted by the injury, and helping the patient learn techniques to compensate for the skills and abilities that don’t return.

“It takes a team of health care professionals, guided by a physiatrist and including nurses, physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapists, social workers and psychologists and support staff to treat each patient,” Peggy says.

It’s to the team’s credit that in the first half of 1998, 80% of the patients discharged from St. Luke’s Rehabilitation Brain Injury Program were able to go home and not to an extended care facility.

Brain Injury Facts and Stats
- Traumatic brain injury is the leading killer and disabler of children and young adults in this country.
- Each year an estimated two million Americans sustain brain injuries, with 75,000 to 100,000 resulting deaths.
- Of those who survive, 500,000 require hospitalization, 70,000 to 90,000 experience lifelong disabilities and 2,000 exist in a persistent vegetative state.
- Two-thirds of all people who experience a brain injury are younger than 30.
- One-fourth to one-half of all brain injuries are alcohol related.
- Young men are twice as likely as young women to have a brain injury.

AMG clinic supports Walk to Cure Diabetes

A team organized at the Aurora Medical Group in New Berlin participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF) Walk to Cure Diabetes, Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Team leaders were Jeanne Clark, IDX project super user; Peg Downs, medical records clerk; and Janet Scheidt, RN, occupational health coordinator, with Robbie Carlson, site administrator.

Jeanne also chairs JDF’s checkpoint sponsorship and signage committee. The New Berlin team raised more than $1,200, with more than 45 clinic employees donating amounts from $1 to $75.

Employees at Aurora Medical Group in New Berlin show off their T-shirts.
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An afternoon dedication ceremony was held Sept. 27 for the newly consolidated Sinai Samaritan Medical Center. The afternoon event centered on establishing a time capsule to commemorate the day and to turn the focus toward the future.

The ceremony began with an invocation lead by Sinai Samaritan Chaplains Rev. Ed Foster and Rabbi Tsvi G. Schur.

At the ceremony, Len Wilk, administrator of Sinai Samaritan, asked those participating to share what they had brought for the time capsule.

Mark Ambrosius, president of Aurora’s Metro Region, brought footprints of a baby born at Sinai Samaritan, to represent the medical center’s commitment to the future. This idea was suggested by Cathy Leek, an employee in Sinai Samaritan’s Birthing Center.

Thomas Ament, Milwaukee County executive, shared a proclamation.

William I. Jenkins, past president of Sinai Samaritan, and president of Alternative Delivery and Community Programs, shared a symbol of parish nursing, which started in Milwaukee at Sinai Samaritan.

Melanie Gray, an employee representing all Sinai Samaritan employees, brought the symbol of the Golden Moment award, the medical center’s service award.

Dr. Richard Haas, chief of staff at Sinai Samaritan, shared two thermometers, old and new, to represent the medical center’s commitment to basic health care, a commitment to use today’s and tomorrow’s technology to make health care more accurate, coordinated and timely.

Pat Kerns, chairman of the Sinai Samaritan board of directors, shared photographs of the original three hospitals that merged to form Sinai Samaritan Medical Center.

Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Milwaukee County supervisor, read a proclamation from the County Board.

Len Wilk concluded the ceremony by inviting the audience to make their mark on the day’s celebration by adding their handprints to the “Make Your Mark” display.
Sinai Samaritan history

Sinai Samaritan has an unusual history among the Aurora hospitals. It was formed by the merging of three hospitals from three religious heritages.

The oldest of the three, Milwaukee Hospital, was founded by Lutherans in 1863, and was the first Protestant hospital west of Pittsburgh. Next was Mount Sinai Hospital, founded by Milwaukee's Jewish community leaders in 1903. The third was Evangelical Deaconess Hospital, which was founded in 1910 by German-preaching pastors of the Evangelical Synod, which eventually joined with other groups to become today's United Church of Christ.

Here's the sequence of events: Milwaukee Hospital changed its name in 1966 to Lutheran Hospital. In 1980, it merged with Deaconess to form Good Samaritan Medical Center. After a short time running two campuses, the Deaconess property was sold to Marquette University. In 1987, Mount Sinai merged with Good Samaritan to form Sinai Samaritan Medical Center, which operated two campuses for more than 10 years. In August of this year, Sinai Samaritan completed the consolidation of services at the campus that originally had been Mount Sinai. Sinai Samaritan's old West Campus (the Lutheran facility) was purchased by the Wisconsin Preservation Trust and is being marketed as Kilbourn Square.
Volunteer advocates being recruited for SATC

The Sexual Assault Treatment Center at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center will begin a volunteer advocate program this fall, according to Debbie Donovan, RN, who is coordinating the program.

“We’re looking for volunteers who want to give of themselves by supporting our clients and their family members here at the SATC,” Debbie says. “Clients who come in alone need support, and often the friends or family members who come in with patients need support, too. Being a volunteer advocate takes a special person. Violence is such an issue, and many people feel passionately that they have to do something to help.

“Volunteer advocates will have good listening skills, be non-judgmental, refrain from imposing their own impressions, be informative and be able to assess what the client can handle during this critical time,” Debbie says. “Mostly, advocates will be women, because rapists are usually men.”

Kandice Mallinger has signed up to become an SATC volunteer advocate. She had been a volunteer with Call Rape in Tulsa, Okla., before moving to Milwaukee this summer to attend graduate school.

“I volunteer to be there for the victim who comes forward,” Kandice says. It takes courage to tell what happened — it’s so personal and so invasive. This is one of the most important things I’ve done in my life. It’s one way I could make a difference. Volunteers support the victim and the secondary victims, the families and loved ones who feel such anger, sorrow and guilt.”

The SATC has space for as many as 18 to 20 volunteer advocates in its program. Volunteer advocates will be on duty 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. weekdays and around the clock on weekends. The advocates will be able to wear their own street clothes, consistent with the appearance policy, and will be provided with free parking.

Volunteer advocates will be invited to attend the SATC’s monthly staff meetings to be sure that they have the opportunity to know the staff and to share their experiences.

The SATC sees 600 to 700 clients a year, or approximately two clients in each 24-hour period. Staff at the SATC includes full-time social workers and registered nurses and a number of on-call registered nurses. The center is now recruiting registered nurses for its on-call staff.

An orientation program for volunteers is scheduled to be held at the end of October. To volunteer or for information about the volunteer advocate program, call Debbie, at 219-5938.

The advocate

• Is here to listen, not to work miracles.
• Is here to help women discover what they are feeling, not to make feelings go away.
• Is here to help a woman identify her options, not to decide for her what she should do.
• Is here to discuss steps with a woman, not to take the steps for her.
• Is here to help a woman discover she can help herself, not to take the responsibility for her.
• Is here to help a woman learn to choose, not to make it unnecessary for her to make difficult choices.

Customer service telephone numbers

There was an error in the customer service telephone numbers listed in the last issue of Teamworks. The correct numbers are: Physician Billing, 647-3466 or (800) 270-7855; Hospital Billing, 647-3147 or (800) 958-6202.

Customer service hours for both hospital billing and physician billing were recently expanded to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Aurora customer service representatives are available during those hours to answer patients’ questions about the bills they have received for services at St. Luke’s and Sinai Samaritan Medical Centers, Milwaukee Psychiatric Hospital, Hartford Memorial Hospital, the AMG clinics and Aurora Health Centers and Lakeshore clinics.