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Rose Bongean, RN, of the St. Luke's South Shore post-anesthesia care unit, says her involvement with the One-on-One Mentoring Program brings more rewards than the time she gives. “It’s such a sense of accomplishment to help children get through those difficult middle school years,” Rose says. “To see them grow — socially, academically, emotionally — it’s very gratifying.”

As a volunteer in the 1997-98 program, Rose met for an hour a week with a seventh grade student to simply spend time together. Sometimes we did homework; other times we just talked. It doesn’t take a special person to do this, just someone who cares,” she says.

Recently completing its fifth year, the program is a partnership of St. Luke’s South Shore, the YMCA and South Milwaukee Middle School. During weekly mentoring sessions, adult volunteers emphasize the importance of academic achievement while developing a caring relationship with their student. The program involves two hours of training, two mentor meetings during the school year, and weekly sessions with the assigned student.

In addition to Rose, the following employees served as mentors during the past school year: Mary Pajewski, SLSS volunteer; Jennifer Yetter, SLSS admitting; and Kathy Nelson, RN, St. Luke’s Medical Center hyperbaric medicine.

For information about the mentoring program, call Sue Schaus in Community Outreach at SLSS, (414) 489-4137.

Rose Bongean, RN, mentored a middle school student during the past school year.

The School of Radiation Therapy has a new affiliation with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a response to the need to increase national educational standards for radiation therapists. Beginning in the year 2000, the entry-level requirement for employment as a radiation therapist will be a bachelor’s degree.

St. Luke’s will be graduating the final class of certificated students this August and will be one of the first clinical centers in Wisconsin to participate in training students for this advanced bachelor’s degree in radiation therapy, in collaboration with UW-La Crosse.

Students will arrive at St. Luke’s on June 15 to begin their 15-month clinical internship, after completing three years of undergraduate study in allied health and radiation therapy at UW-La Crosse. Program coordinator Pam Bauman, RTT, has been named clinical coordinator of the new program, and William Pao, MD, has been named medical director.

Since 1991, the St. Luke’s School of Radiation Therapy has trained registered radiologic technologists in an intensive 12-month program in the specialty of radiation therapy. Graduates of this program must take a national certification exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology to become registered radiation therapists and be able to administer radiation therapy procedures to cancer patients.
West Allis Memorial Hospital participates in state's largest disaster exercise

"Operation Purple Challenge" tests emergency response systems

"Operation Purple Challenge" was developed as a mass casualty response exercise to test coordinated military and civilian disaster planning. Held on Sunday, May 3, the exercise scenario was an explosion at New Berlin City Hall. Involving more than 300 military and civilian emergency services personnel, the exercise produced nearly 150 simulated casualties that were cared for at the site or transported to local hospitals. West Allis Memorial Hospital received 17 simulated casualties including a "severely injured" resusc-baby. The victims arrived by fire department ambulance from the City of New Berlin, City of Brookfield and City of Waukesha and by military transport.
PrimeCare's parent announces plans

United HealthCare Corp. announced last week that it intends to acquire Humana Inc. for $5.5 billion. United, which has its headquarters in the Minneapolis area, is the parent of Wauwatosa-based PrimeCare Health Plan Inc., Wisconsin's largest HMO. Humana, which is based in Louisville, has its local headquarters in downtown Milwaukee.

United's purchase of Humana would represent a significant consolidation of the HMO business here and across the country. The purchase would require the approval of shareholders as well as state and federal regulators. Antitrust concerns may be raised in many markets.

Aurora intends to carefully monitor the changes that may result from this purchase and make decisions that are in the best interests of the people we serve throughout eastern Wisconsin.

These are questions you may hear from patients who have Humana insurance:

Q: I have Humana insurance. Can I still use Aurora hospitals?

A: Yes. There will be no immediate changes. Aurora's current contracts with Humana run through the end of the year.

Q: I have an Aurora doctor and Humana insurance. Do I need to change doctors now?

A: No. You can keep the physician you have. Aurora's contracts with Humana will run at least through the end of the year.

Q: My company's open enrollment period for health coverage is in the fall. What should I do then?

A: United HealthCare's plan to purchase Humana was only just announced. Before it could happen, it would have to be approved by the state and federal governments and by shareholders of both companies. As that process is followed, there will be additional news coverage. And when we at Aurora know more about the changes in the areas we serve, we will be communicating directly with our patients who have Humana insurance.

Life Memorial Service planned

All staff members and volunteers are invited to attend the 57th Life Memorial Service at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, in the St. Luke's auditorium. Many families of patients who died at St. Luke's between Jan. 1 and April 30 will be attending. The service will last about a half hour, and refreshments will be served immediately afterward.

Pocket Reference Guide now available

In anticipation of the Joint Commission Survey (JCAHO), scheduled for June 22 to 26, the "St. Luke's Pocket Reference Guide" is now available for distribution. Employees who have not yet received a copy should check with their supervisor. Employees are encouraged to put their names on the guide and to keep it with them for use as a reference after the survey.

"It is acceptable for employees to refer to the guide during the survey process," said Chris Olson, RN, MSN, director of patient care services.

In the community

A series of brain attack screenings are planned during the month of June. These events are designed to increase public awareness and to help prevent strokes. Employees and their family members are encouraged to attend, especially if they have one or more of the risk factors for brain attack:

* high blood pressure
• high cholesterol levels
• heart disease
• smoking
• obesity
• alcohol or drug abuse

The free screenings will involve 125 people at a time, four sessions per day, at these times: 9 to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. The screenings are set for the following days and locations: Tuesday, June 9, Friendship Village, 7300 W. Dean Rd., Milwaukee; and Wednesday, June 17, St. Luke’s South Shore; 5900 South Lake Dr., Cudahy.

To register for one of the screenings, call 1-888-50-BRAIN (1-888-502-7246). Participants must pre-register for the screenings; walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Brain attack screenings take about two hours.

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**Infection control update**

- Watch for the June infection control inservicing for OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen and TB training. A new video has been created that the producers hope will knock your socks off — or at least remind you to wash your hands!

- There will be an infection control manual update on June 8 and 9 in the back of the St. Luke’s cafeteria. All infection control representatives or a designee are to bring their manuals to be updated between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. If your department cannot participate on these days, call 649-7372 as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

- Remember that the JCAHO wants you to practice infection control safety. Review the “Standard Precautions” section of your infection control manual so you will be prepared to correctly answer questions from a JCAHO reviewer.
If we build it, they will come . . . and they did!

G.Y.M. stressed health, wellness and fitness

Created by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and presented by Aurora Health Care and Warehouse Shoes, G.Y.M. was a three-day educational event focusing on all aspects of health, wellness and fitness. G.Y.M. stands for Get You Moving. Our goal was to educate participants about the full range of health services offered by Aurora Health Care.

The surgical suite display included clear labels for each piece of equipment.

The sports medicine display was interactive.

The Karen Yontz Women's Cardiac Awareness Center was featured on one display.
U.S. Women's Open
June 29 to July 5
Blackwolf Run, Kohler
The Karen Yontz Women's Cardiac Awareness Center at St. Luke's Medical Center is the designated charity for this world-class golf event. Daily admission to the U.S. Women's Open is $25 or $30, or there's an $80 season pass coupon book good for each of the seven days. To help promote awareness of women's heart disease, purchase tickets by calling Audrey or Chris at (414) 649-5767, or visit the Karen Yontz Center at St. Luke's.

Village Adult Services Inc.
3rd Annual Jazz Benefit & Silent Auction
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17
O'Donnell Park, North Gardens
Tickets are $20 per person and raffle tickets are $2 each or six for $10. Call (414) 277-8100 to purchase tickets.

July 1998 Nursing Education Classes
The classes listed here are free to Aurora employees unless a fee is indicated in the course or class description. Courses or classes may be canceled if the minimum registrations are not received. Preregistration is required for every class and course in June. For more information and to register, call nursing education, (414) 647-6370, or fax the registration to nursing education, (414) 647-4878, or e-mail on cc:Mail to nsg_ed or to nsg_ed@aurora.org on the internet.

9 Chemotherapy Precertification Class begins, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Eastern Wisconsin Regional Cancer Center. For more information, call Pat Schwalbe, (920) 451-5045. To register, call Nancy O'Brien, administration, Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center, (920) 451-5410. Two-day work shop plus two-hour exam two weeks after last class. $50 fee to Aurora employees.

10 Outcomes Management: Theory + Process + Tools = Results, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Hartford Memorial Hospital. To register, call (414) 647-6370. For more information, call Paula O'Hearn (414) 649-7031.

15 Basic ECG Interpretation Course begins, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.

16 Basic Physical Assessment Review, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.

20 Critical Care Module - Pulmonary, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.

21 Critical Care Module - Medical, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.

30 12 Lead ECG: What's Normal And What's Not, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.

Mark Your Calendars
The 1998 Aurora Family Picnic will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Watch for further information in future editions of Teamworks.

West Allis Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
Award Banquet
The members of the West Allis Memorial Hospital Auxiliary were honored at their Annual Awards Banquet in May. As part of their annual contribution to the hospital, they presented $35,000 to Rick Kellar, administrator. The funds were raised mainly from the profits of the Gift Gallery and many fund-raising events throughout the year. Also at the event, service awards were presented to those completing 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of volunteer service at the hospital, and scholarships were presented to local students preparing for a health care career.