A visit to Oakwood Discovery Stage

This little crew took a break from playtime to pose for a picture. All are enrolled at the Day Care Center located at St. Luke's Hospital: Sara Katz, John LaCourciere, Gerald Miksch, Becky Guibord, Mike Werner, Jeff Mashruck, and Jimmy Haubert.
A visit
to Oakwood Discovery Stage

If you stroll down the far end of the hallway in the basement of the North building, you’re likely to hear a song belted out by young voices, or a baby’s cry or the squeals of children playing...or, if it’s siesta time, you might not hear a thing...

Walk in; visitors are always welcome. Notice the cheerful artwork on the walls, the photographs, the colorful designs accented with names like Erica, Beth, Jesse, Lauren, and John...

This is Oakwood Discovery Stage, the day care center located adjacent to the new Professional Building at St. Luke’s Hospital. Since its opening in April, 1983, Oakwood has been the answer to many child care problems for employees at St. Luke’s. Working parents now have the convenience of bringing their children right to St. Luke’s for professional, competent day care service.

Nearly 120 children—infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers—are enrolled at Oakwood. During the summer, school age children are eligible to register and are given activities of interest to their age group. This fall Oakwood will include a state approved kindergarten which will operate in the mornings. Children enrolled in the kindergarten will be able to remain at Oakwood in the afternoons, however, in a relaxed, home-like setting.

Karen and Tom O’Neill, who own and operate the day care center at St. Luke’s, as well as two others on South 27th Street, are pleased with the response so far. “The parents seem to like the convenience of bringing their children to work with them,” said Karen.

And what about parents who want to visit their youngsters during the day? “We love it,” said Karen. “With infants it’s super. With two or three year olds, we let the parents decide if it’s best to come down and visit for a few minutes during the day, or just to wait until their shift is over. It’s up to the parents.”

Oakwood’s facilities allow flexibility for various activities. The rooms in the center offer a cheerful environment for learning, playing, eating and even napping. Outside, the three-level play area, with areas designated for different age groups, gives children room for riding, running, climbing and playing games.

Throughout the course of a day, Oakwood’s teachers (college-educated in child education) provide the children with a structured program in both indoor and outdoor activities. For example, the preschoolers’ program includes reading readiness, math, art, music, listening and visual skills, foreign language and sign language. In addition, field trips are scheduled, such as a nature hike through the woods.

Oakwood Discovery Stage is now open for public enrollment. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about the services and facilities at Oakwood, visit the center soon or call 649-3955 for an appointment. The staff will be happy to help you.

Becky Cuitbord, Mike Werner

Carolyn Schwarz

Davy Long
From a young point of view

What does your mom or dad do at St. Luke’s?

The boys and girls who attend the Oakwood Day Care Center are a group of very busy people, with little time to stop for pictures and interviews. So, on a recent sunny day, while they charged around the outdoor play area, while they blew bubbles, listened to stories, created art designs and ate ice cream, photographer John Krawczyk captured some of their candid expressions.

At the same time, sons and daughters of employees took time from their busy schedule to answer the question, “What does your mom or dad do at St. Luke’s Hospital?”

In their own words, here is how they responded...

**Jeff Masbruch, 3**
“Sheworksupstairs. Shetalkstopatientsaboutdifferentthings.”
*Jeff’s mom, Laurie, is a clinical nurse specialist in Inservice Education.*

**Sara Katz, 5**
“She checks people with machines.”
*Sara’s mom, Sue, is the patient care manager in the Medical-Respiratory Intensive Care Unit.*

**John LaCourciere, 5**
“My mom gets a whole bunch of papers and gives them to the nurses for people who are sick.”
*John’s mom, Barb, is a supervisor in Cardiac Stress Testing.*

**Mike Werner, 4**
“She works by Peggy.”
*Mike’s mom, Debra, is a clerk in Patient Accounting.*

**Annie Griebenow, 6**
“My mother is a unit secretary. She has a special machine like a computer.”

**Amy Griebenow, 6**
“Her name is Mom, but my dad calls her Kathy. She checks people if they don’t have any blood. If they do, they stay alive and they can go home.”
*Annie and Amy’s mom, Kathleen, is a unit secretary on 4GK, surgical unit.*

**Beth Chudnow, 4**
“He fixes peoples’ owies.”
*Beth’s dad, Robert Chudnow, is a physician at the Family Practice Center.*

**Gerald Miksch, 3**
“She types.”
*Gerald’s mom, Julie, is a clerk in the Lab Information Center.*

**Jesse Pahman, 8**
“She’s in school to be a licensed practical nurse.”
*When asked what a licensed practical nurse does, he said, “I have no idea, but she will graduate in August.”* Jesse’s mom, Sandra, is in her final term at the St. Luke’s School of Practical Nursing.

**Margaret Fish, 6**
“I think he just writes stuff. He works full-time.”
*Margaret’s dad, Steve Fish, is an associate administrator.*

**Jake Miller, 6**
“She helps people with medicine and other kinds of things. She puts casts on people.”
*Jake’s mom, Constance, is an occupational therapist.*

**Becky Guibord, 3**
“She works far away upstairs.”
*Becky’s mom, Donna, is a clerk in the Business Office.*

A special thank you goes out to all the children who contributed to this issue of Sphere. You are, as the strawberry design on your wall says, “A Berry Good Group!”
Just some thoughts... from one who loves picnics!

Fritz Spinn, printer at the Copy Center, and his wife Joyce, were among the 2,200 people who attended this year's St. Luke's family picnic.

The following Monday, as Fritz cranked out reams of printed material for staff, he still had the picnic on his mind. In fact, anyone who visited him that day probably was asked, "What did you think of the picnic?"

Later on, Fritz took a few minutes to offer his thoughts on the hospital's big event for employees and families...

"During the course of my day I socialize a lot with people, trying to mix a little bit of sociability with business so that it's not all hard and fast - so it's got a little bit of warmth, if you will. At the picnic, I had a chance to chit-chat a little bit more than during the course of a day where you have to somewhat limit your chit-chatting because there is work to be done...

I enjoyed strolling around and intermingling with the people, saying hello to my friends and fellow workers, etc. Comradery, if you will... I like to use that word..."
Good food, volleyball games, special events and an abundance of sunshine brought out the competitive spirit in some, while others just enjoyed being part of the cheering section. A few youngsters took a break from the day's activities...

As a whole, the picnic was well organized. Everything went like clockwork. That's because of the people who ran it, the volunteers. To begin with, there was a lot of organization that went into it prior to the picnic itself because this thing is planned almost a year in advance. And so, consequently a lot of things that aren't on the surface are incorporated during the course of that day...

The quality of the food was excellent. There was nothing in the food that you couldn't recommend. It was all tasty. It was all hot - that I had - I had no problems with that.

And quick lines - you could just zip right straight through. There was no waiting...

I was at last year's picnic too. I love picnics. I enjoy watching some of these games that I myself can't participate in, the bedpan relay and that sort of thing. I get a big chuckle out of them...

The majority of the children that I had seen were tired when they went home, so that shows that they had a good day...

And another thing too, I have noticed with the St. Luke's picnics, that, contrary to most of the other places where I've worked, it was very seldom that management would come up and say hello to you. They would sit at their own table and that's it. Now Dan came up and slapped me on the back, "Say Fritz, how's it going?" That feels good, when management knows that you're there and that you care about the place...

Other places where I've worked didn't have the organization that we have here. I'll say that the volunteer groups did a bang-up job. I mean this is above and beyond the call of duty, so to speak, and it just turned out excellent."
Employee of the Month

“She’s a joy to work with”

Charlotte Petri
Assistant patient care manager, Surgical unit 4EF

Those are just a few of the many responses to Charlotte Petri’s recommendation for Employee of the Month. In fact, her co-workers offered enough personal tributes to fill this entire issue of Sphere. What they said about Charlotte, affectionately known as "Pete", is best represented by these thoughts expressed by one of the nurses on the surgical unit 4EF, where Charlotte is assistant patient care manager.

St. Luke's congratulates Charlotte for being selected as the Employee of the Month, an award given to her for the personal and professional qualities she brings to the hospital nursing staff and to the unit. In addition, she receives special recognition for her 30 years of service to St. Luke's Hospital, an anniversary which she will celebrate this November.

I was very happy and delighted to hear Charlotte Petri was recommended to receive the Employee of the Month Award.

"Pete" or "Petri" as everyone calls her, is a one-of-a-kind person. When I started at St. Luke's Hospital three years ago, I was a new grad from an LPN program. I was nervous and unsure of some things I was doing. With Petri around, she made me feel as if I worked many years at St. Luke's, not just a few weeks.

She is always praising and complimenting her co-workers. She helps patients through their most difficult times by being there, answering questions, teaching them and preparing them for their final step home. She gives patients her home phone number and tells them, "call me if you have problems."

She is very dedicated, she seldom calls in sick and she volunteers her help and knowledge with various meetings and organizations throughout the hospital.

Most employees look forward to vacations and off days; Petri needs encouragement to take vacation or a four day holiday.

Petri has been at St. Luke’s for many years. Recently my mother came to visit a friend of hers on 4 EF where Petri and I work. My mom andPetri began talking and found out that Petri took care of my mom when she delivered me 22 years ago. This means I'm working with the nurse who dressed me and sent me home from the hospital! But I'm not the only baby Petri took care of and is now working with. There are several others. Petri teases and says, 'I whispered into your baby ears, 'Go into the medical field,'” and we did.

She always gives her whole effort to help a friend in need. She has a heart of pure gold.

If anyone deserves this award, she does. She's the best there is.

Promotion

Joan Maro

Joan Maro has been promoted to patient care manager on 7JK, one of the medical units. Since joining St. Luke’s in 1975, she has served as nursing assistant, staff nurse, assistant patient care manager and instructor at the St. Luke’s School of Practical Nursing.

Joan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
Service Awards

May, 1983

30 YEARS
Laverne Dons
Family Practice

15 YEARS
Gerald Wachowiak
Anesthesia

Monica Zawacki
Housekeeping Services

10 YEARS
Dennis Dorow
Family Practice

Helen Downie
Surgical Nursing

Karen Frost
Pulmonary Medicine

Michael Grichar
Pharmacy

Elizabeth Lindstrum
Accounting

Joan Scheeler
Special Services Nursing

Edward Skow
Environmental Services

Dorothy Stefaniak
Accounting

Michael Zimmer
Anesthesia

5 YEARS
Susan Berndt
Anesthesia

Andrea Cychosz
Emergency Room

Kathleen Goudie
Emergency Room

Susan Hein
Surgical Nursing

Alice Kelly
Food Management

Marilyn Knopp
Laboratory Medicine

Raymond Kroupa
Environmental Services

John Lange
Food Management

Charles Sisson
Pulmonary Medicine

June, 1983

25 YEARS
Mary Brown
Environmental Services

Elizabeth LaBlanc
Special Services Nursing

20 YEARS
Jeanette Shmanz
Operating Room Nursing

15 YEARS
Alice Biedrzycki
Pharmacy

Elizabeth Jashinsky
Food Management

Margaret Kostuch
Housekeeping Services

Mary Nitzsche
Ambulatory Services

10 YEARS
Marlene Baldikoski
Operating Room Nursing

Ronald Blanchard
Operating Room Nursing

Mary Hoepfner
Operating Room Nursing

Kathleen Hunt
Nursing Services

Susan Jablonski
Personnel Relations

Barbara Linton
Medical Nursing

Christine Martin
Medical Records

Mary McCue
Laboratory Medicine

Tim Mikolajewski
Central Services

James Milone
Laboratory Medicine

Kathleen Roit
Emergency Room

Adelle Sanford
Cardiovascular Nursing

Arable Scardina
Housekeeping Services

Pamela Schroeder
Clinical Nursing

Dorothy Wildish
Housekeeping Services

Welma Wingo
Environmental Services

5 YEARS
Gail Andrejat
Medical Nursing

Katherine Baraga
Medical Nursing

Mary Berninger
Social Services

Sue Boedecker
Emergency Room

Pamela Connerton
Medical Nursing

Trish Ditlevson
Personnel Relations

Nancy Farmer
Emergency Room

Theresa Fonk
Medical Nursing

Lillian Franklin
Housekeeping Services

Jean Frey
Laboratory Medicine

Lynn Iverson
Medical Nursing

Rick Jahnke
Food Management

Cheryl Koehler
Cardiovascular Nursing

Susan Kopperud
Cardiovascular Nursing

Mary Lewandowski
Special Services Nursing

Diane Malicki
Physical Med. & Rehab.

Claudia Mueller
Special Services Nursing

Susan Nuccio
Clinical Nursing

Loreen Otzelberger
Emergency Room

Gregg Parnau
Pharmacy

Linda Peter
Surgical Nursing

Kathleen Prudent
Cardiovascular Nursing

Marsha Radaj
Information Services

Barbara Stein
Cardiovascular Nursing

Aaron Strehlow
Surgical Nursing

Susan Sweinberg
Surgical Nursing

Judy Tysver
Special Services Nursing

Mary Werner
Nursing Services

Jean White
Operating Room Nursing

Patricia Zainer
Special Services Nursing

Employees receive special recognition

The following employees with 15 years of service at St. Luke's Hospital were honored at the Recognition Banquet held in May. Their names were inadvertently omitted from last month's issue of Sphere.

Mary Klusmeyer
Dietary

Lillian Kowalski
Laboratory Medicine

Jane Kozlowski
Laboratory Medicine

Mary Kranitzer
Nursing Services

Blanche Krzyzanowski
Dietary

Karen Kuehn
Medical Records

Marilyn Lapota
Laboratory Medicine

Christine Lemke
Laboratory Medicine

Alois Lesniowski
Housekeeping Services

Lorraine Machak
Information Services

Nancy Maziasz
Dietary

Audrey McPherson
O. R. Nursing

Marion Miklas
Central Service

Mary Millonig
Information Services

Bernice Milone
Central Service

Corrine Mraz
Ambulatory Services

Dolores Otto
Dietary

Kathleen Palkowski
Medical Nursing

Elfrieda Peters
Ambulatory Care Admitting

Leona Polczynski
Patient Accounting
Congratulations!

New graduates in the St. Luke's School of Radiologic Technology include Katie Beck, Denise Nouak, Lori O'Reilly, Toni Zdebel and Kathy Horton. After successful completion of the registry exam on July 21, they will qualify as registered radiologic technologists.

For the second consecutive year, St. Luke's Hospital took first place in the Annual Registry Bowl for students from Milwaukee area schools of radiologic technology. Katie Beck and Lori O'Reilly, St. Luke's representatives in the competition, were responsible for the victory.

Retirements

Angeline Balcerzak, nursing assistant in Surgery, retired in July after nine years of service at St. Luke's Hospital.

Dolores Sizer, R.N., instructor in Clinical Nursing, retired last month. She had been an employee at St. Luke's for 25 years.

Martha Uttke, secretary in Food Management and Nutrition Services, retired after ten years of service.