

CONNECTION

News, announcements, and vital information for associates, their families, and friends of Mercy Hospital of Buffalo

Winter 2015



The Catholic Health Heart Center team recently gathered to celebrate its ranking as one of America's Top 50 Hospitals for Heart Surgery from HealthGrades and the Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure Gold Plus Award and Target Honor Roll from the American Heart & Stroke Association. Physicians, nurses, and staff were recognized for their dedicated contributions to these national quality achievements.

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Mercy Hospital Achieves National Recognition for Heart Surgery and Heart Failure Care

Mercy Hospital, home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, was recently named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for Heart Surgery from HealthGrades® and earned the American Heart Association's (AHA) Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and Target: Honor Roll for the second year in a row.

HealthGrades evaluated nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide across 33 of the most common procedures and conditions and identified the top performing hospitals within each procedure.

Mercy is also proud to receive national quality recognition from the AHA. The award signifies an 85 percent or higher adherence to all AHA heart failure quality achievement indicators for two or

more consecutive 12-month intervals and at least 12 consecutive months of 75 percent or higher compliance with four or more heart failure quality measures to improve patient care and outcomes.

In addition, the hospital achieved the Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll, an initiative that provides hospitals with educational tools, prevention programs and treatment guidelines to help reduce hospital readmissions.

"We are pleased to be among a select group of healthcare innovators leading the way to providing high quality heart care," said Mercy Hospital President & CEO **C.J. Urlaub**. "We are focused on providing a superior experience for our patients."

Mercy blesses new maternity reception area



Mercy Hospital held a blessing ceremony for the new Maternity Reception area in the Family Birth-Place that opened in May. Speakers included Presi-

dent & CEO **C.J. Urlaub**; OB/GYN Physicians **Dr. Carlos Santos** and **Lynn-Marie Aronica**; Nurse Midwife **Jennifer Field**, former VP of Nursing **Kathleen Guarino** and Director of Maternal Child Services **Mary Ann Murphy**.

Stroke team achieves gold for third year in a row



Pictured at awards ceremony are: (l-r.) Jesse Ladoue, AHA; Shirley Duane, FNP, Director of Stroke Services; Omar Kass-Hout, MD; Lee Guterman, PhD, MD, Medical Director of CH Stroke Services; Roseanne Hemmitt, AHA/ASA Director of Quality Improvement; C.J. Urlaub, Mercy President & CEO; and Liz Zulawski, AHA Executive Director.

Congratulations to the Stroke Center team for achieving the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart & Stroke Association for the third year in a row! They also received Get With The Guidelines® Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus for 2015 — the only hospital in Western New York to receive this designation.

Is medicine going to the dogs?



Mercy Hospital's first therapy dog, Trooper, and owner Maureen Hammond, meet and greet members of the Patient & Family Advisory Council.

Is medicine going to the dogs? In a sense, yes, but in a good way. Pet therapy is a growing field that uses dogs to help people recover from or better cope with health problems.

Through a partnership with Therapy Dogs International, Mercy Hospital along with other Catholic Health hospitals, now offer pet therapy to patients. Specially trained dogs and their handlers visit hospital units regularly, providing patients with much appreciated cuddle time.

For more information, contact **Anne McGillicuddy**, director of Volunteer Services at 828-2098.

Heart Center opens valve treatment program



TAVR team members gathered after the first procedure in September. They are: (l-r.) Jeffrey Boyack; Enrino Fabrizio; Susan Charles; Trish Glascott; Dr. Nadeem Haq; Dr. Joseph Gelormini; Dr. Aravind Herle; Dr. Stephen Downing; Sean Regan of Edwards Lifescience; Patrick Hanlon, RNFA; Kyle Diesfeld, perfusion; and Stephen Bodkin. In addition to Cardiac & Vascular Services leaders, Jason Jankowiak, VP; and Julie LaManna; Senior Director; other TAVR team members not pictured include: Gail Markowski, NP; Brian Butler, RN; Jennifer Worthington, RN; Barbara Khries, CST; Julie Bell-Thomson, perfusion; and cardiac sonographers Kristle Redlinski and Susan Umarand.

The Catholic Health Heart Center at Mercy Hospital has opened a Comprehensive Valve Disease Treatment Program, offering Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) and a full spectrum of valve procedures including minimally invasive and robotic valve surgery.

Mercy Hospital cardi thoracic surgeons, cardiac interventionalists and a support team of highly skilled nursing, cardiac, anesthesia, perfusion and imaging professionals performed the Heart Center's first TAVR in September. This state-of-the-art, minimally invasive procedure

treats patients with aortic stenosis, a narrowing of the heart's aortic valve. TAVR is a non-surgical procedure that uses a catheter to place a new aortic valve where the patient's native valve was, pushing the faulty valve aside. Prior to FDA approval of TAVR in 2011, patients who were not eligible for traditional heart surgery due to their age or other medical conditions did not have other treatment options available.

For more information, contact the Center at (716) 923-9650.

Scrub Run promotes health and raises over \$44,000

More than 240 runners put their best foot forward at the Scrub Run to raise funds for the patients and residents served at Mercy Hospital and Catholic Health's Home & Community based ministries. Despite a soggy day on September 12, the 5K run and walk raised \$44,087 (net \$38,370) and increased awareness for heart health in our community.

Erik Bohen of Buffalo finished first in 18:01 and Jennifer DellaPenta of Hamburg was the top female finisher with a time of 22:40. Serving as emcees were News 4 anchor; Nalina Shapiro, Stanley Cup winning NHL hockey great Craig Muni and Buffalo Bills Hall of Famer Joe Delamielleure.

Special thanks to this year's Chairs **Dan & Julie Joyce**, as well as the sponsors, volunteers, event committee members,

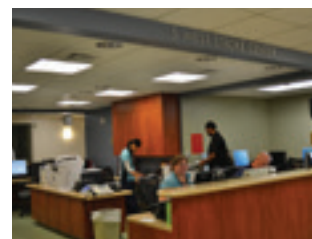


Mercy Hospital nurses Libbie Rasmussen of the NICU, left, and Jean Fallon of Maternal/Child Services are all smiles after completing the Scrub Run and their first 5K ever. Both of them participated in the Checkers Running Club "0 to 5K" program that culminated with the hospital run.

Foundation Board leaders, Buffalo Special Events Department, and Buffalo Police Traffic Control Division for helping to make the Scrub Run a success.

Generous donations benefit Stroke Center

Mercy Hospital's Stroke Center on the 5 McAuley West Unit now has a new, modern nursing station thanks to many generous donors to the Mercy Hospital Foundation's 2014 funding project. The \$300,000 project also included the construction of a new physician workroom and education room for patients and families; the purchase of a new nurse call system; and renovation of the staff lounge. In addition, the work involved sprucing up the patient care unit's corridors and adding new hand rail wall protection. The Mercy Hospital Foundation was proud to support this endeavor through money raised at the 2014 Autumn Ball, as well as other donations made to support this valuable project.



The nursing station on the 5 McAuley West Unit was recently renovated through funds donated to the Mercy Hospital Foundation.

Autumn Ball Results



Pictured above from left to right: Friends of Distinction honorees Cathy Milo and Christopher Grzybowski, Autumn Ball Chairs Mr. James Cornell and Dr. Darci Cramer, and Nurse of Distinction Shirley Duane.

It was a harvest of hope once again during this year's **7th Annual Autumn Ball** to support Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. **The signature celebration raised a record \$133,830 gross revenue (\$112,130 net) for Mercy Hospital.**

The Mercy Hospital Foundation would like to recognize Mr. James Cornell and Dr. Darci Cramer for leading the way as our event Chairs and Premier Sponsors during this our most successful year to date.

Additionally, special thanks go to this year's Friends of Distinction, Christopher Grzybowski, Cathy Milo, and the entire Grzybowski family for their generosity and continued support through the Charleen Grzybowski Golf Event. The 2015 Nurse of Distinction, Shirley J. Duane, an honor bestowed by the Professional Nurses Association of WNY, also received special recognition during the event.



Proceeds from this year's Autumn Ball will support the **Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed** campaign. Significant cardiac events are the leading cause of death in Western New York. More of our friends and family member pass away from heart attacks, heart disease, and heart failure than any other cause. At Mercy, our plan is to be ready to treat, save, and educate our patients to provide them with the best possible quality of life. The **Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed** project includes capital, technological, educational and preventive measure to support patients in our community.



Mercy Hospital is the heart hub of Catholic Health and it is the Mercy Hospital Foundation's privilege to support this outstanding clinical team's work with patients. Visit Facebook-Mercy Hospital of Buffalo for event photos and more information.

GYN surgery rated among top 5% in nation



Pictured above, nurses, staff and physicians were presented the HealthGrades Gynecologic Surgery Excellence Award during a recent ceremony.

Mercy Hospital has been named among the top 5% of 836 hospitals evaluated in the United States for providing outstanding performance in gynecologic surgery, as measured by Healthgrades®, the nation's leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

It is the fourth year in a row that the hospital was recognized with the Healthgrades Gynecologic Surgery Excellence Award, 2012 – 2015. The hospital also achieved a top 5-star quality rating for Hysterectomy procedures.

Congratulations to the entire team!

Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed



Hospital officials and physicians cut the ribbon on the new Mercy Interventional Unit.

Mercy Hospital held a blessing and dedication ceremony for its new Mercy Interventional Unit (MIU) in April as part of the Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed campaign. The unit serves as a prep and recovery area for patients undergoing minimally invasive procedures in the interventional labs, and features 25 private patient rooms designed to enhance patient comfort. The nearly \$5 million project involved the consolidation of two former prep/recovery units into one unit and relocating it closer to the labs on the hospital's second floor.

Honoring the Sisters of Mercy on Mercy Day



The hospital invited the Sisters of Mercy, who founded Mercy Hospital in 1904, for a Mass and luncheon to celebrate Mercy Day on September 24. Pictured above are a group of sisters who attended the festivities.

Mercy Hospital celebrated Mercy Day on September 24 in honor of the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy Catherine McAuley who established the first House of Mercy on September 24, 1827 in Dublin, Ireland. Mother Catherine McAuley opened the House of Mercy on September 24 — which is also the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy — to educate young, poor girls and to serve as a residence for homeless girls and women.

Mercy Hospital once again hosted a Mercy Day Mass and Luncheon for the Sisters of Mercy, who founded the hospital in 1904. Mercy associates were also treated to free coffee cake, coffee and tea that morning.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart..." – Charles Dickens

The last place David Earsing and his family expected to be on Christmas Eve was in the hospital. But after experiencing terrible chest pain, his wife and daughter took him to a local urgent care facility. The physician there examined him and immediately referred him to Mercy Hospital.



Dr. Henry Meltser

Once at Mercy, Dr. Henry Meltser, David's cardiologist, gave him news he didn't expect. David needed a stent placed right away, that day. David underwent surgery successfully and was released from the hospital a week later. But his care didn't end there. It extended into his home where a physical therapist from Mercy Hospital worked with him regularly, helping him steadily regain his strength and his health.

Today, David is doing more than surviving; he's thriving.

Thanks to donations from individuals like you, we're bringing the latest treatment options to our patients, recruiting world-class medical professionals, and delivering the most compassionate and sophisticated care, all close to home.

As a non-profit hospital, Mercy answers the call of the community. Every year, we touch the lives of thousands of Western New Yorkers, treating each with dignity, kindness, and respect. And no one gets turned away. We treat everyone who walks through our doors regardless of their ability to pay.

Visit www.FoundationsofCatholicHealth.org today to give a gift that will help save a life! Your donation, no matter the size, makes it possible for us to provide the best care to every patient, every day, all year round. Please, don't wait. Make your 100% tax-deductible gift today.

Blizzard of Babies arrive 9 months after storm



New moms are interviewed by CBS Inside Edition crew during a video shoot in August.

Nine months after the historic Snowvember Storm, Mercy Hospital braced itself for another blizzard—but, this time it was a blizzard of babies! Our mini-baby boom in August sparked the interest of media and newspapers across the country and the world. In addition to news coverage in such major publications as the *New York Daily Post*, *Washington Post*, and *The Daily Mail* in the UK, our baby boomlet was the "talk of the town" on national television.

On August 15, Mercy Hospital President and CEO **C.J. Ur-laub** was interviewed by The Weather Channel via Skype and Mercy's Director of Maternal/ Child Services **Mary Ann Murphy** was a guest on Fox News *Fox & Friends*. Then, the CBS *Inside Edition* show came to Mercy and interviewed **Dr. Carlos Santos**, and five new moms with their "Snowvember" bundles of joy for a heartwarming story that aired on September 1. As Dr. Santos put it, "We were seeing a bump in business, no pun intended!"