

# GHHA NEWSLETTER

*A Newsletter of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance*

August 1997

Volume 1, No. 2

## *HGH Staff Appreciation Day '97...*

The administration of Hazleton General Hospital expressed its appreciation to employees, board of directors, medical staff and auxiliary for their dedicated efforts and professionalism by hosting the Eleventh Annual Staff Appreciation Day on July 25.

Employees who helped to make the day a success include: E. Richard Moore, Greg Kuntz, Janet Richie, Margo McGilvrey, Jane Kanyock, Dan Vrana, Barbara Massa, Mary Lou Kurtz, Melanie Zacharias, Andrea Molino, Mary Lou Bravin, Becky Schaffer, Martha Ciekalsky, Ruth Huges, Clarence Culp, Mary Rose Valiant, Bonnie Riley, Pat Bitel, Peggy Rolland, Andrea Andrews, Linda Rohde, Christine Swankoski, Barbara Kalena, Rosemarie Michalesko, Tim Farley, Nancy Buehler, Janis Pupach, Larry Kreisler, Teresa Zavitsky, Fred Polli, Dave Pogar, Cheryl Curcio, Mary Sue Currier, Jane Kehler, and Mary Ellen Cortese. Also, assisting were the maintenance, security, housekeeping, and human resources departments.

A sincere "thank you" goes out to the members of the HGH dietary staff who prepared the meals under the direction of Ann Usiak, manager; Dave Otter, supervisor; and Nancy Matyas, clinical dietician and Sunny Warholic, clinical dietician.

Congratulations to our cake decorating winners. First place was secured by the housekeeping department. The dietary department cake took second place.

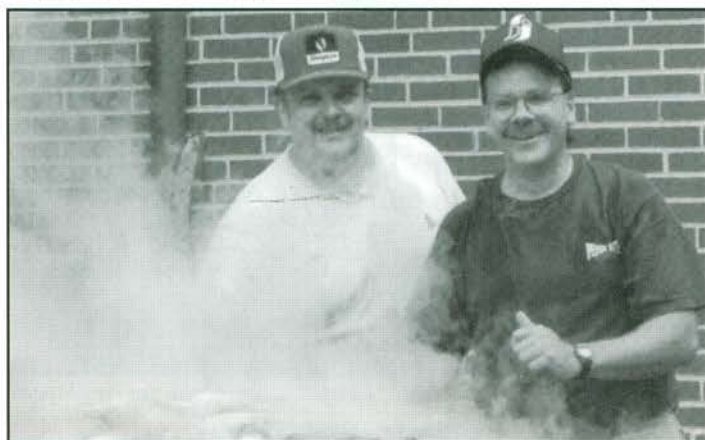


*Serving lunch are (L-R) Teresa Zavitsky, dietary aide, Fred Polli, pharmacist and Dave Pogar, pharmacy manager.*

## *HSJMC Mission Week '97...*

Mission week is a time for us to reflect on our mission as health care professionals, renew our body, mind and soul, and learn more about our Bernardine Franciscan heritage. This year we learned about the founding of Saint Joseph's Hospital. A variety of events took place throughout the week including: prayer services, mission puzzle, mission video, employee recognition dinner, and ClareFest - A Celebration of Service. ClareFest was celebrated to honor all of the employees for their dedication and service to the hospital.

Thank you to all of the employees who helped make the day a success including Bernard C. Rudegear, Jeffrey Sackrison, Pat Ward, Dot Sweet, Tim Malchitsky, Paul Slocum, Rick Flynn, Tami Frable, Lisa Wolk, Pat Paterick, Sandy Sackrison, Dottie Burrell, Cheryl Bubrowski, Tom Tomkeiwicz, John Pellock, Bob Pecile, Joe Caso, Mike Bogansky, Mike Kempchinsky, Bill Desuso, Tony Palina, Chris Keuhn, Ed Burke, Sue Farley, Mary Ann Montz, Cindy Kardisco, Sr. Celinia, Sr. Francesca, Lynn Wall, Janet Richie, Beth Turoski, Chris Belusko, Barbara Howard, Theresa Wilkinson, Ann Dolan, Sandi Kulick, Debbie Ladigan, Rhonda Koscuk, Bldg. & Grounds Dept., Plant Operations and Food and Staff.



*Roasting the corn for ClareFest was John Pellock and Bob Pecile from the Plant Operations Dept.*

### **Contest Is Still On!**

It is not too late to submit your creative name for the newsletter to us. If your entry is picked you will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Laurel Mall. Just write a name or two down on a sheet of paper and send it to Jennifer Bachman, HGH Public Affairs Department. **The deadline is Monday, September 15.**

# Department News

## Laboratory - HGH

Congratulations to:  
Albert Garnett, who passed his phlebotomy registry and Jennifer Hoffman, who passed her medical technology certification.

## Maintenance - HGH

Congratulations to Ronald Walper and Ann Carsia, patient accounts, on their marriage. They were married on May 16. Best Wishes!

## Operating Room-HGH

Congratulations to Mary Lou Purnell, CST, and her husband Rich who are the proud parents of a baby girl Candice Marie, born on August 2.

## Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation - HGH & HSJMC

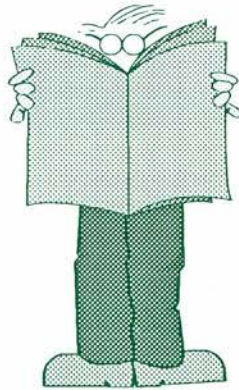
Michele Manley, OTR/L, has joined the HSJ Occupational Therapy Dept. as Supervisor. Michele, along with Erica Nemetz, OT, and Sheri Matthey, OT, will provide occupational therapy on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

Melissa Yurich has joined the HGH Physical Therapy Dept. as a staff physical therapist. Melissa is a graduate of Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Science.

Dennis Ganc, HSJ Fitness Coordinator married Deborah J. Fish on August 23. Best Wishes Dennis and Deborah!

## Radiology - HGH & HSJMC

Nancy Buehler, Rt (R) M.S. Manager, attended the American Healthcare Radiology Administrator's Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN.



David Peel, Rt (R)(CT), recently attended a CT Seminar on "Computed Tomography" in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sandra J. Sackrison, MHA, R.T. (R)(M)(QM) received notification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, St. Paul, Minnesota the representative of The American College of Radiology and The American Society of Radiologic Technologists that she has successfully completed the Quality Management Advanced Certification Examination.

On February 10, Lawrence S. Lisnock, BS, RT (R) assumed the duties of Radiologic Technology Program Director of the School of Radiologic Technology at the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center.

Welcome to the new freshmen radiologic class:

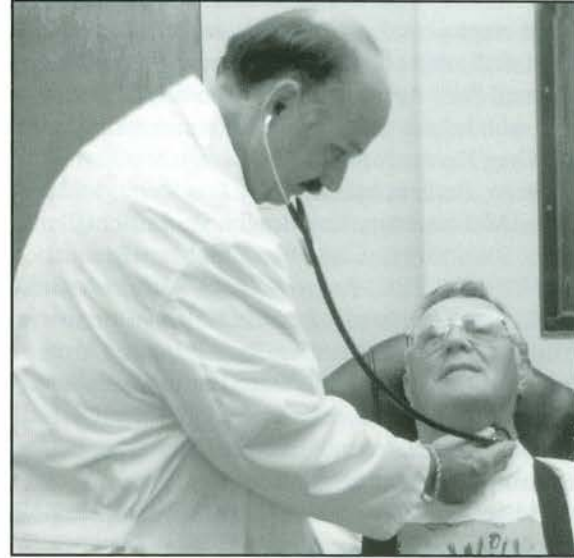
Tina Galade  
Christopher Halcovich  
Heather Hintzen  
Michele Kutchmarick  
Darlene VanBlargan

## Stroke Assessment Screening...

On July 25, a stroke assessment screening took place at HSJMC and sixty community members took advantage of the free service.

The program was coordinated by Ruth Hughes, Manager of Education, HGH; and Paula Triano, Education Coordinator, HSJMC.

Dr. Larry Antolick assisted with the screening procedures. A special "thank you" to Dr. Antolick for helping the project succeed.



*Dr. Larry Antolick checks the carotid artery of a community member.*

## Occupational Health Program Goes to White Cap...

The Occupational Health Program located at HSJMC held a Health Fair on June 26 for the employees and their families of the White Cap Corporation.

Under the direction of Joe Aquilina, marketing representative, a variety of services were offered from both HGH and HSJMC including: blood pressures, pulse oximetry, body fat analysis and hearing screenings. Also, a representative with information on diabetes, radiology services, Hi-Tech Home Care, Senior Choice, Insurance, Women Services and the Medical Library were available for the community. The volun-teens provided face painting for the children who attended.



*Robert Clark, HGH Paramedic Coordinator, gives the employees of White Cap a peek at our new paramedic unit.*

# HGH Employees of the Month...



## July

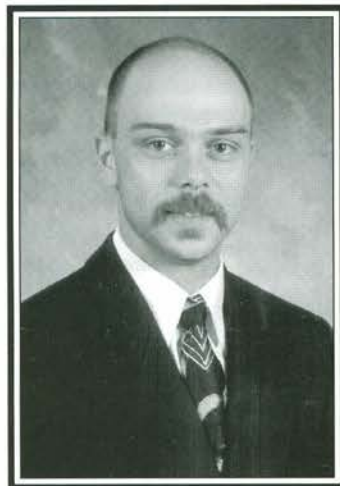
Daniel Leshko, RN, an employee at HGH for five years, is a registered nurse in the emergency room.

Daniel was nominated by patients mother who stated, "Daniel took wonderful care of my daughter when she was treated in the emergency room. To this day my daughter tells everyone who will listen about the nurse who saved her life."

## August

Eugene Rybarczyk, an employee at HGH for six years, is a transporter.

Eugene was nominated by a person who stated, "Eugene treats the patients with respect, dignity, and adds a special touch in making them feel comfortable. He often appears a bit overwhelmed by his tight schedule, but never loses a beat; never loses his wonderful, delightful demeanor."



Congratulations to the winners who participated in the open house tours of the Fitness Center, Freeland Primary Care Clinic, and various other departments:

Linda Plesce  
HGH, Patient Accounts  
&  
Gerald Leshko  
HSJMC, Linen Services

## Welcome New Employees

Lynn C. Bevans, Telephone Operator  
Eleanor Bloss, RN  
Pamela DiBuo, RN  
Kathleen Fogarty, Clinical Systems Analyst  
Beth Graham, Medical Technologist/Lab.  
Peter Harahus, Senior Programmer  
Nancy Harrison, Data Processing Manager  
Beth Harter, Nursing Aide  
Karl Hinterleiter, EMT/Paramedic  
George Joseph, PC Analyst  
John T. Klein, EMT  
Donna Knelly, Telephone Operator  
John Malia, RN/MHU  
Delcy Moyer, EMT  
Helen Noon, RN  
Heather Pental, Nursing Aide  
Dorothy Piacente, Telephone Operator  
Patricia A. Raeder, Nursing Aide/Transporter  
John Regula, Director, Information Services  
Christine Swankoski, Human Resources Intern  
Kimberly Valentine, Clerk Typist/Radiology  
Robert Walsh, EMT  
Sandra Webber, Clerk Typist/Radiology

Hazleton General Hospital

Hazleton - St. Joseph Medical Center

Lisa Baron, Food Service Aide  
Sylvia Buchman, CNA Skilled Unit  
Constance Delman, CNA Skilled Unit  
Jeffrey Jones, LPN, 3 Med/Surg.  
Kimberly Kessler, CNA Skilled Unit  
Lisa Kmiecik, LPN, 3 Med/Surg.  
Cynthia Krazewski, Med. Assist at  
Dr. Lobitz's Office  
Michelle Manley, OT Supervisor  
Tim Matushonek, Security  
Bridget Meehan, Surgica Tech./OR  
Chris Moran, Security  
Anthony Palina, Maintenance Tech.  
George Petruski, Security  
Tim Quinn, Utility Worker  
Angela Scatton, Home Health Aide  
Jeanette Shafer, Health & Fitness Aide  
Laurie Shaffer, RN, 3 Med/Surg.  
Joyce St. Clair, Unit Clerk, Telemetry  
Edward Washko, Courier  
Michelle Yurista, CNA Skilled Unit

# La Leche League Donates Book To Maternity Unit

The La Leche League's local chapter presented Theresa Wilkinson, RN, nurse manager, and Jennifer Ruck, RN, with the revised edition of The Breastfeeding Answer Book, written by the LLL Leaders Nancy Mohrbacher, IBCLC, and Julie Stock, IBCLC.



Presenting the book to Jennifer and Theresa are from (L-R) Lisa Myhre, Kimberly J. Slusser and Michele Hebal.

## Welcome New Physician...

### John Haber, D.O.

John Haber, DO, is a native of Hazleton and a graduate of Hazleton Area High School. He received his Doctor of Osteopathy from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1993. After graduating, he completed his Internal Medicine residency through the Scranton-Temple Residency Program at Mercy Hospital in Scranton.

Working previously in both private and emergency room settings, Dr. Haber treats patients in the emergency rooms at both HGH and HSJMC. He is a member of the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association Sigma Chi, and American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

# GHHA Questions & Answers



**Q. Why was Freeland chosen for van service? Will it expand to other communities?**

**A.** The patient transportation van service was launched at the end of March. It was started because our 1995 Community Health Needs Assessment revealed that transportation was a problem, particularly for senior citizens. The Alliance leased a van and put it on the road to gauge community response. Freeland was chosen because of its distance from Hazleton and because there are three primary care physicians practices there. The trial program has been so successful that GHHA will purchase a van and expand the service to the entire community in the very near future.

**Q. What is the situation with HSJMC and taxes?**

**A.** Both Hazleton General Hospital and Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center are not-for-profit corporations. Because of the services we provide to the community both hospitals are clearly tax exempt. The tax exempt status of both hospitals has been challenged by the Hazleton Area School District. Both hospitals have appealed the decision of the Board of Assessment to the Luzerne County Courts, where the cases are pending. However, a number of years ago, Saint Joe's made the decision to voluntarily pay taxes on properties that are not directly related to it's healthcare or religious missions. Both HGH and HSJMC have retained legal counsel to present their cases in court.

**Q. Is "net income" the same as profit?**

**A.** As previously stated, both hospitals are not-for-profit. This means that any "net income" or "revenue over expenses" is reinvested in each organization to enhance and continue their respective missions. Unlike "for-profit" hospitals and corporations, we do not have stockholders or Board members to whom profits are distributed. Members of our Boards serve strictly on a voluntary, non-paid basis.

## ☞ Meet Joe Kogel

The Pastoral Outreach Department at HSJMC brings Joe Kogel, former journalist, award-winning writer, and cancer survivor to speak to employees, family, and community members on September 22 at Genetti's. His one-man show entitled Life and Depth, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

A donation of \$5 to reserve your seat can be sent to Pat Paterick, Pastoral Outreach, HSJMC by September 1 for those who are interested in attending this inspirational seminar.

Don't miss out on this opportunity.

## Information Services Update...

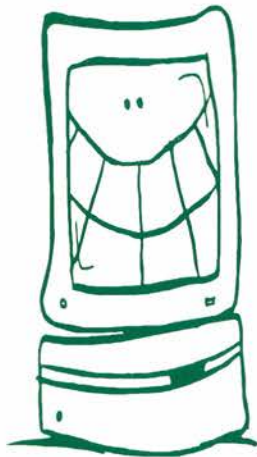
The new organization of the consolidated I.S. department has been shared with department managers. The transition of staff and functions will be phased in along with the conversion to the new corporate computer system. A key component will be the HELP DESK: a single point of contact for reporting problems and requesting services. Support activities will be tracked closely to ensure rapid response and quality service.

I.S. staff and key personnel from user departments have begun core training for the new corporate system. Project workgroups are busy designing processes and procedures, and the corresponding system specifications that will be used to build the new applications. Testing should start by the end of the year, and user training will begin shortly after that. An executive Steering Committee has been established and meets monthly to direct the Project and monitor its progress. Following the transition of base systems at both hospitals to the new system in the spring of 1998, additional applications and enhancements will be quickly brought on-line. These will be more directly focused on clinical care delivery and electronic patient records.

Cabling for the new telecommunications network was recently completed at the HGH campus. All of the departments and the maintenance staff are to be commended for their exceptional patience, understanding, and cooperation during the inconvenience. The cabling at HJSMC is currently underway; the same successful process is anticipated. When we are able to connect all workstations to

the network, we will be developing a sophisticated office automation environment. E-mail and on-line scheduling are high on the wish lists.

The department will be celebrating National Healthcare Information Systems week in mid-November. Several contests are being planned, so start gathering information related to I.S. activities to try and win. HINT: How many miles of cable were used to support the new network?



Carmen Pagan has resigned from the staff to relocate with her family to Michigan. She was currently the Senior Systems Analyst for administrative and financial applications, and a key player in the new GHHA system conversion project. Her last day was August 8, and she will be missed by her co-workers within the department and throughout the Alliance.

The coming year is full of challenges and changes for I.S. and for all the systems users throughout the Alliance. Keep watching for updates, and for opportunities to be part of an active user community.

## Festival of Trees '97



This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Hazleton Healthcare Foundation's Festival of Trees and several options are available for employee participation and support of one of our most successful fund raising events in our community. Employees are welcome to volunteer their time to work at one of the many various booths at Festival of Trees '97 to be held at Genetti's Best Western Hall of Presidents, November 22 through November 25. Some of these booths include the Kid's Korner, Snowflake Shop, Sweetland, Holiday Gift Baskets, Evergreen, and our new Craft Corner. Departments/individuals can decorate a tree available in sizes 4 1/2', 6 1/2' and 7 1/2', decorate a wreath, garland, topiary, or wall tree or donate a holiday gift basket/tricky tray. Also, another option for employees is donating baked goods to the Sweetland booth. Such items include cupcakes, brownies, cookies, or candy.

This year the monies raised will benefit our new Paramedic Unit which will be on display during the Opening Night Reception to be held on Saturday, November 22, 1997.

For any additional information contact the Development Office at 450-4941.

## Saint Joseph Fitness Center's FALL into Fitness Special...

Get a head start on those extra winter pounds! Start your fitness program today, so you can enjoy the holiday foods later.

Join or renew for 3 months membership at any time during the month of September and receive an **extra month free!**

All you need to do is call or just stop in, present this coupon when you join and we'll help you take the first step on the road to a new you. HGH & HJSMC employee discount for 3 months is: New Membership \$100 Renewal Membership \$70

459-3467

Coupon valid from September 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997. Membership must be paid in full when presenting this coupon.

Check us out on the Internet at [www.ghha.org](http://www.ghha.org)

you will find a variety of information about the various services and programs that Hazleton General Hospital and Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center offer.

## Romanian Students Visit Saint Joe's

Anda Lariu, and Emese Molnar, both 21 years-old, visited the U.S. through an opportunity provided by the Catholic Nursing School - St. Joseph in Cluj, Romania. They are third year nursing students who have plans to not only learn about how nursing is different in the U.S. but, to see and do everything from shopping to experiencing the Outdoor Opera in Delaware Valley to visiting Arizona.

With the help of two Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, Sister Sandra and Sister Roberta, Anda and Emese were given the opportunity of a life-time to enhance their careers in nursing. Their main goals in bringing the nursing students to the U.S. was for them to see how professional nurses act and communicate. Also, they wanted them see the variety of options nurses have in healthcare in the U.S. such as: home health, hospice, hospital, physicians, schools, occupational health and preventive healthcare teaching. In Romania, nurses primarily work in hospitals only and preventive healthcare is an unknown commodity.

Emese and Anda were overwhelmed by the number of supplies and medications that are available for patients. Also, they were astonished by the supermarkets and the variety of foods available, because they shop at an outdoor market where you get what you can get.

They are visited the U.S. for six weeks and stayed in the Hazleton Area from August 10 - 16 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Laczi.



*Pictured are (L-R) 1st row - Anda Lariu and Emese Molnar. 2nd row - Sister Sandra, Rhonda Kosciuk, and Sister Roberta.*

## EMPLOYEE GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

SUGARLOAF GOLF CLUB

WATCH FOR DETAILS...



## LAUREN HUTTON TO SPEAK AT ALL DAY CONFERENCE...

The Greater Hazleton Health Alliance will present the "Women Together" All Day Conference scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 1997. According to Jane A. Kanyock, chairperson, and Sandy K. Sackrison, vice-chairperson of the Conference, the "Women Together" program combined Hazleton General Hospital's Women's Task Force and Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center's Womankind programs. The new name, "Women Together...Building a Better Community" represents the combined efforts of both hospitals in providing quality education programs addressing a variety of health related topics to our community. This year's luncheon keynote speaker will be Lauren Hutton, model and actress, who will speak about the many issues facing women today. One of the world's most legendary models, Ms. Hutton has suddenly swept back into the limelight, igniting an astonishing revolution in the way media is portraying women in their 40's and 50's. In addition, Jordana Green, WBRE-TV's Eyewitness News Health Beat reporter, will be serving as the breakfast keynote speaker for the Conference. Anyone else interested in receiving a brochure, should contact Barbara Howard at 459-4592. The Conference will be held at Hazleton Area High School with registration and breakfast beginning at 7:00 a.m.; the Conference will conclude at 2:00 p.m. All schedules are outlined in the brochure; the fee for the Conference is \$20 per person with a registration deadline of September 19, 1997. Attendees are encouraged to register early to accommodate all participants. All registrations will be processed in the order they are received via mail.

## CONGRATULATIONS...

*Mary T. Alimeccom, RN, Cardiac Testing Supervisor - HSJMC, and James Boyle, LPN, Telemetry Nurse - HGH, have been nominated to the Leadership Hazleton Board of Directors. Both are Leadership Hazleton graduates and serve on the Junior Leadership Hazleton Steering Committee, in which Mary is the Chairperson.*



# GREATER HAZLETON HEALTH ALLIANCE

Hazleton General Hospital      Hazleton St. Joseph Medical Ctr.  
700 East Broad Street      687 North Church Street  
(717) 450-4357      (717) 459-4444

Hazleton, PA 18201

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 1997

TO: All Employees  
Hazleton General Hospital  
Hazleton St. Joseph Medical Center

FROM: Bernard C. Rudegeair, President/GHHA *BCR*  
E. Richard Moore, Executive VP/GHHA *ERM*

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As one of the steps in our process of assessing the continuing development of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance (GHHA), we have engaged the services of Morehead Associates, Inc. of Charlotte, NC to conduct an opinion survey among the employees of both hospitals.

The purpose of the survey is to learn how the men and women of HGH and HSJMC feel about both their respective hospitals and our Alliance. The results of the survey will be used as a tool to guide future decisions regarding employee relations policies and practices, patient services and the delivery of health care services to our community.

Participation in the survey is voluntary. However, everyone, in all departments and at all levels, is encouraged to take part. Survey participants will remain anonymous and responses will be confidentially processed and statistically evaluated by Morehead Associates, Inc.

The opinion gathering phase of the survey will take place in mid or late October. Morehead's processing will occur in November and December. Survey results will be presented to GHHA Administration in early January, 1998. It is expected that survey feedback will be provided to the staffs of each hospital beginning in the spring of 1998. Major issues will be identified and addressed.

More detailed information will be provided to you by the Human Resources staff and through your department or division heads over the next few weeks.

Please make every effort to participate in this process. Your frank and honest opinions and suggestions are vitally important and we value them a great deal.

cc: Core Group  
Division Heads  
Department Heads