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Office of Informational Services, Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
a publication for the people of University Hospital

U-HELP FUND -- Respiratory Care Center patient Jacqueline Flaherty, pictured here with her daughter, Barbara Joyce, recently was able to purchase a special type of splint known as Dynasplints, thanks to the Hospital's U-Help Fund. The muscles in Flaherty's legs had contracted due to a long period of bed rest. (Photo by April Lindner)

events

UH'S ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Hospital employees and other BUMC personnel soon will be receiving invitations to University Hospital's annual ice cream social event. The social, which will feature a smorgasbord of ice cream and toppings, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, from noon to 4 p.m. (In the event of rain, the social will take place on Thursday, August 28.) Ice cream also will be made available to Hospital employees working the evening and night shifts.

need to know

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S CANCER PROGRAM APPROVED BY AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons recently granted three-year approval to University Hospital's cancer program. According to the Commission, this achievement reflects the UH staff's dedication to providing high-quality care to cancer patients.

Established by the American College of Surgeons in 1956, the national Hospital Cancer Program encourages participating hospitals to equip and staff themselves so that they are able to provide the best in diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Recognizing that cancer is a complex group of diseases, the program promotes consultation among family physicians, medical and surgical oncologists, diagnostic and therapeutic radiologists, pathologists, and other cancer specialists.

According to the Commission, an integral part of University Hospital's cancer program is the tumor registry. All patients who are diagnosed or treated for cancer are listed in the registry so that the hospital can maintain contact with them and make sure that they receive continuing care and assistance with rehabilitation. Information collected through the registry allows the Hospital to participate in national studies designed to improve patient care.

For example, patterns-of-care studies of carcinoma of the female breast were conducted by the American College of Surgeons in 1978 and 1982. By comparing the results of these two studies, it was possible to detect a dramatic change in treatment of breast cancer. The vast majority of patients included in the latter study had a modified radical mastectomy rather than a radical mastectomy--77 percent versus 3 percent in the earlier study. There also was an increase in the proportion of patients treated with partial mastectomy. These studies were made possible by the existence of tumor registries in hospitals where breast cancer is treated.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 930,000 cases of cancer will be diagnosed during 1986. Although only one-sixth of the country's hospitals, like UH, have approved cancer programs, 68 percent of patients who are newly diagnosed with cancer are treated in those hospitals with approved programs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL STUDY

Volunteers with adult onset diabetes are needed for a University Hospital study involving insulin by nasal spray to improve blood-sugar control. For detailed information, please call the Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes at x7117 (638-7117).

Take One is published for the employees of University Hospital every second Thursday by the Office of Informational Services, Boston University Medical Center. For copy submission or information, please contact April Lindner, editor; or Owen J. McNamara, director, Office of Informational Services, DOB-400, x8482.
81 communities in eastern Massachusetts.

health and human services to 1.3 million people in many people are still living in poverty, according to the United Way. These services are requested for emergency food and shelter have increased more than 20 percent; reported cases of child abuse, 51 percent; the need for day care, 33 percent; and government cutbacks, according to the United Way’s top United Way priorities.

The United Way of Massachusetts Bay this year has set a record goal of $43.3 million for the organization’s local fund-raising drive, an 11-percent increase over last year’s goal. United Way volunteers also are shooting for two additional records: sixth consecutive double-digit increase and a fifth consecutive goal-busting drive.

These goals were outlined in response to the dramatic rise in the demand for local health and human services and the continued impact of government cutbacks, according to the United Way’s 1986 General Campaign Chairman, Gary L. Countryman, president of Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

"Despite the economic recovery in our state, many people are still living in poverty," said Countryman. "Also, the changing demands of modern society have put tremendous pressure on the family, resulting in a need for more social services."

From 1983 to 1985 in Massachusetts, requests for emergency food and shelter have increased more than 200 percent; reported cases of child abuse, 51 percent; the need for day care, 33 percent; and requests for services for seniors, 27 percent, according to the United Way. These services are top United Way priorities.

The United Way of Massachusetts Bay supports 190 local agencies providing a wide variety of health and human services to 1.3 million people in 81 communities in eastern Massachusetts.

"BOSTON REVISITED" PROGRAM OFFERED BY VNA HELPS PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

University Hospital nursing staff members are invited to take part in a program offered by the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Boston. This four-hour program is designed to promote an understanding of the role of the community health nursing agency as an adjunct to the acute care facility. The program attempts to heighten communications between community care teams and hospital nurses as well as to increase utilization of community resources.

Participants will be assigned to one of the VNA’s four district offices to make joint home-care visits with a VNA nurse. A group discussion after the home calls will be facilitated by the VNA’s hospital liaison nurses.

The program, which is known as "Boston Revisited," will be offered on a non-basis to RN nurses as well as to all other institutional nurses in the Greater Boston area. Participants will receive 4.8 Continuing Education Units after completing the course of study. The cost of the program is $25 per attendee. For further information, please contact Susan Campbell, VNA Community Relations Coordinator, at 426-5555, x240.

WHEELCHAIR PASSENGERS RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION THROUGH MBTA’S NEW CALL-A-BUS PROGRAM

A new Call-A-Bus program of the MBTA now offers wheelchair passengers a special transportation service. At no extra charge, the MBTA will schedule a bus with a wheelchair lift on any one of 140 bus routes. Passengers may use the service by notifying the MBTA in advance. No special pass is required.

Lift-equipped buses may be requested by calling 1-800-LIFT-BUS, Monday through Friday only, by 1:00 p.m. on the day before you wish to travel. Weekend and Monday buses may be scheduled on Friday. Requestors should mention the route they plan to take, the time, and their name, address, and telephone number. Requestors also are asked to provide the MBTA with information on their return trip at that time, and, if their plans change, to cancel any scheduled rides by calling 1-800-LIFT-BUS at any time.

The MBTA also has changed the procedure for applying for a Special Needs Reduced Fare Pass. MBTA riders wishing to receive a Special Needs Pass should call 722-5438 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to request an application.