OUR PROMISE: Knowing that every child's life is sacred, it is the promise of Cook Children's to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury.

January 2011 | Issue 182

The Healthcare Heroes among us

The Justice League may count Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman as members but they have nothing on Cook Children’s. With the latest publication of the Fort Worth Business Press’ Healthcare Heroes list, four more of our Cook Children’s family have been named to this list of individuals for their heroic contributions to healthcare. **This year’s winners are Staff Care Chaplain Cameron Brown and the NICU PICC team of Suzanne Frey, Tammy Hoff and Shirley Redmon.**

Brown was nominated and subsequently recongized for her pivotal role in watching over the needs of the staff and for “caring for those who care for others.” She is the caring shoulder to cry on or ears to listen when our Medical Center staff is dealing with the emotions of particularly difficult cases.

For their revolutionary work of eliminating the incidence of blood stream infections in the NICU, the PICC team is highly deserving of this praise and honor. As of today, the NICU has been BSI-free for 459 days and the practices developed by the PICC team have been adopted by the PICU, who have also gone 253 BSI-free. The national scene has taken notice of this success as well as Frey was recently asked to serve as the only nurse on a CDC comittee developing a standardized guidelines for eliminating BSI in NICUs nationwide.

Join us in congratulating Brown, Frey, Hoff and Redmon on this high honor.

Behind the mask: A look at our CRNA team

If you ventured into the Atrium this week, you were treated to the sights of posters proclaiming the work of our Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) and to the smiling faces behind the masks.

With the theme of ‘Behind the Mask’ for CRNA week, this team provided patients and staff with a look into their world. In addition to the poster presentation, the CRNAs partnered with Child Life to host a ‘Be a CRNA’ activity earlier this week -- an opportunity for patients to act as a member of this team as they prepped their patient teddy bear for surgery.

So, how important is the role of the CRNA at Cook Children’s? In a word…essential. This is evident in the widespread involvement of providing anesthetics by a CRNA in up to 35 locations a day, including the operating rooms at the Medical Center and the Northeast hospital, imaging, cardiovascular operating rooms, the iMRI suite, cath labs, Harris Methodist Special Procedures and the PACU to name a few.

PACU nurse Tina Sutton describes their role in her unit. She says, “The CRNAs provide expertise

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Behind the mask: A look at our CRNA team (cont.)

In anesthesia knowledge and care, often using teachable moments and collaborating with the PACU team. They act as a direct extension of anesthesiologists in a very busy surgical department. They serve a decisive role in determining patient readiness for discharge, helping provide expedient discharge for patients and families. Overall, the collaboration with CRNAs in the PACU helps us achieve our optimal goal of providing safe patient care in a timely manner for each child and family that come through Surgical Services at Cook Children’s.

For a nursing specialty that has centuries-old roots, the presence of CRNAs at Cook Children’s has grown exponentially over the last couple years. For example, the team now has 53 CRNAs on staff, including seven of which who are assigned to cover nights and weekends for our Level II Trauma Care. This means there is 24/7 CRNA availability at our Medical Center.

In addition, for the 24,193 anesthetics administered last year (a 10 percent increase over 2009), they saw the patient through all phases from peri-operative modeling, before and during surgery, and post-recovery. This team approach that is demonstrated by our CRNAs as they collaborate with specialists and anesthesiologists is on full display in the fact that every CRNA, regardless of level or administrative duties, is still involved in the front line of patient care on a regular basis.

In a message to her team, Director of Anesthesia, Jacquie Miller, CRNA, MHS, perfectly described the impact and priority of the anesthesia team. She said, “Each member of our team should be proud of not just how efficiently, but how safely we moved each child through. It is a true testament to the culture of Cook Children’s, alive and well in our department, that we treat each and every child like they were our own. This is why we have been so successful.”

The kick off to Employees Care 2011 is only days away

This year, Employees Care is almost upon us and it is your chance to let you show our patients that you care by demonstrating one of our core values -- giving.

At the heart of the growth happening at our Medical Center is the children that we care for daily, in order for them to have a healthy childhood and to just get the chance to be a kid. Giving to Employees Care is giving them that chance and is giving you the chance to celebrate the child in you.

Employees Care begins next week and managers will be distributing information about how you can give.

Watch next week’s Sneak Peak for more information and CookNet for regular updates on the participation progress throughout the month of February.
Where do you park?

Information Services and Parking need your help. From Feb. 1 to Feb. 28, all employees need to complete the Employee Parking Information form on CookNet. This form will be live next Tuesday and must be completed by all employees before the end of February.

To the right is a look at what you will need to fill out.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Preston Byrd at 682-885-7492 or preston.byrd@cookchildrens.org.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to help with this matter.

Important reminder: Schwartz Center Rounds Feb. 7

Don’t forget that Cook Children’s will hold its first Schwartz Center Rounds session on Monday, Feb. 7, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Decker Board Room. The first session is entitled ‘Faith, Miracles and Uncertainty.’

As a reminder, each session will begin with a brief 10 to 15 minute presentation by a panel of two to three clinicians from different disciplines involved in the care of the patient, followed by a facilitator led open discussion. Lunch will be provided beginning at 12:15 p.m. Continuing education credit will be provided.

Street closures a-plenty in preparation of the Super Bowl

With only one week from the start of Super Bowl weekend in Dallas-Fort Worth, the big event isn’t just bringing thousands of visitors. It is also bringing several street closures to downtown Fort Worth to accommodate the live broadcasts from Sundance Square all week.

Please visit CookNet Announcements for a full list of street closures that will possibly impact your daily commute or any planned outings to Sundance Square over the next week.