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**DEC 2009/  
JAN 2010**

# update

THE NEWSLETTER FOR **WATERBURY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES** & NETWORK AFFILIATES

RIGHT:  
**Christopher Michos, MD**, Chairman of the Emergency Department, is surrounded by members of the ED staff, from left, **Janet Richardson, RN**; **Jennifer Sanders, MD**; **Liz Longmore, RN**; **Lisa Vieira, MD**; **JoNell Benedetto, MD**; and **Aida Sadeghi, RN**.

BELOW FROM LEFT:  
**David Griffin**, Board Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Waterbury Hospital, with his wife, **Diane Griffin**, at the gala.

From left: ICU clinical instructors **Joan Paladino, RN**; **Ursula Mobilio, RN**; and **Tina Herman, RN**.

2009 Humanitarian of the Year Award winner **Richard Smith** watches the gala proceedings with his granddaughter, **Mya**, on his lap.

**Frederick Luedke**, Board Chairman of the Greater Waterbury Health Network, Inc., with his wife, **Jeanne Luedke**, at the gala.



**2009 ANNUAL CHARITY GALA**



# Celebration Time

## MORE THAN \$95,000 RAISED TO SUPPORT CRITICAL CARE SERVICE

There was plenty of reason to celebrate Waterbury Hospital's 10th Annual Charity Gala, which took place November 21 and featured a dazzling array of food, drink, music and camaraderie as more than 540 guests turned out in their finest gowns and tuxedos to pack the ballroom at the Villa Rosa Ponte Club in Waterbury.

When all was said and done, the event had raised more than \$95,000 to benefit the hospital's Critical Care Service, making it the most successful hospital gala to date. The evening's theme – "Let's Celebrate!" – proved to be most appropriate.

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# Celebration Time

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The evening's co-chairs were **Carl Sherter, MD**, of Waterbury Pulmonary Associates, and **Jo-anne Cosgriff, MD**, Director of Critical Care at Waterbury Hospital, who both expressed gratitude and appreciation for the support shown by the gala's guests and sponsors.

"We are overwhelmed and grateful for the generosity shown by those who attended and supported the gala this year," said Dr. Cosgriff. "This assistance will go a long way in helping us maintain our standards of excellence and quality care into the future."

**Thomas Missett**, the hospital's Director of Fund Development, said the gala benefited from the loyalty and dedication of the Greater Waterbury community.

"In this tough economy, the fact that we increased the net proceeds so significantly from last year just goes to show what a generous and loyal support system we have from our donors, sponsors and staff," he said.

One of the highlights of this year's event was an elegant arrangement of auction items that were on display as guests entered the hall. Guests were able to place bids on the items in a Silent Auction, a Live Auction and a Diamond Auction in which several pieces of diamond jewelry were put up for bid. The auctions all proved to be enormously successful.

Guests also responded enthusiastically to the music at this year's event, which was performed by the dance band Third Shift. The band's lead singer, **Nadina Perry**, is an employee in the hospital's One-Day Surgery Department who has sung on several recordings for professional artists. She and the band had the crowd on their feet dancing throughout the evening.

In keeping with a gala tradition, the hospital also presented its annual Humanitarian of the Year Award during the event. This year's recipient was Infectious Disease Clinic social worker **Richard Smith, LCSW**, who was honored for his long record of going above and beyond to help people living with HIV or AIDS to find new purpose in their lives. Smith was joined by several members of his family, including his daughter **Sarah Smith**, son **Josh Smith**, and his granddaughter **Mya Smith**, who joined him as he accepted the award. He was also joined by one of his clients, **Leroy Hilliard**, who overcame years of drug abuse and homelessness after joining Smith's innovative photography program a year ago.

"It's a special night for Richard, and he deserves it," Hilliard said. 🤝



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

ICU nurses **Becky Mathews, RN**, left, and **Carrie Hines, RN**.

From left: Infectious Disease Clinic employees **Gloria Batista**, **Nicole DeVito**, **Linda Sapio-Longo, APRN**, **Marangeliz Santos**, **Mercedes Turbides** and **Jeremy Richman**.

From left: CVU nurses **Jane Mackinnon, RN**; **Gina Spatafore, RN**; **Kathy Noakes, RN**; **Doreen Graham, APRN**; **Carol Rawkowski, RN**; and **Jaye Howes, APRN**.

From left: Access Rehab Centers physical therapists **Michele Valentino**, **Melissa Corriveau**, **Tracey Ciriello** and **Jamie Scholl**.



# NURSE PRACTICE COMMITTEE CELEBRATES TWO YEARS

## A MESSAGE FROM MARY PRYBYLO, RN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



November marked the 2nd anniversary of the Nurse Practice Committee at Waterbury Hospital, which has accomplished a great deal in just a short time. The committee was formed after many discussions about the essence of nursing and the impact the nursing shortage might have on our nursing practice in the

future. One theme that emerged was that professional nurses needed to be involved and accountable for making decisions about nursing practice. This is a large task but one the hospital is committed to because it will have a positive impact on our patients.

The committee provides a forum for nurses who represent each area of the hospital so that they can make recommendations about their practice. In reviewing practice, an evidence based approach is used so that members spend time reviewing the research, the standards, the Nurse Practice Act, regulations, along with the current practice here at Waterbury Hospital.


Committee membership is open to all nurses and managers in the organization. Anyone interested in joining should feel free to talk to their manager. The committee strives to improve communication by displaying minutes from the meetings on the unit floors and through reports from each of the representatives.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

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- Using the library and on line resources to look at evidence based practice.
- A site visit to Mid-State Hospital's Nurse Practice Committee to get an understanding of how they started and what they had accomplished.
- A "ticket to ride" program that was designed and implemented housewide.
- Standardizing the SBAR structure to be used for hand off communication.
- Research has shown that hand off communication has been one of the leading causes of harmful errors to patients if not completed correctly. So this was a major focus for the nurses on the committee.
  - o Cerner applications and a standardize format was developed for the temporary and permanent transfer of patients
  - o Shift to shift report content was standardized
- These programs were implemented, audited and adjusted based on feedback from staff. The committee is continuing to monitor the impact.
- This summer the committee took up the cause of hand washing with a focus on the nursing care team. Champions were identified, one-on-one interventions were made on the unit and ideas implemented to sustain the focus. This continues to be a huge concern for the safety of patients and staff.
- Providing input to the staffing plans in the patient care areas. Education was given to review how these are developed and made into budgets. The committee will complete this review in the coming months once the staffing plans have been re-formatted.

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In the coming year the committee will be focusing on following up and monitoring the projects that have been put in place and while taking on the significant task of looking at the nursing care plan, including whether the hospital needs to have one, what it should look like, how it might help patient care and what the process should be. Many questions remain and a lot of work still needs to be done. The committee urges all nurse staff to feel free to ask questions of your representatives or to attend a meeting. 



## Auxiliary Says Goodbye to Hamid, Welcomes New Officers

**Donna Duncan, RN**, left, vice president of the Waterbury Hospital Auxiliary Board of Directors, presents a bouquet of flowers to **Linda Hamid**, the Auxiliary's outgoing president, at the Auxiliary's annual meeting in November. Hamid announced that she is stepping down from her post after two years as president, and Duncan and the rest of the Auxiliary members at the meeting presented her with the flowers as a sign of their appreciation. The meeting also featured the election of a new slate of officers for the Auxiliary board, including new president **Mary Calvo, RN**; Duncan; treasurer **Christine Pease**; recording secretary **Beverly Carlone** and assistant treasurer **Theresa Pagano**.

### UPDATE

IS A PUBLICATION OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING DEPARTMENT OF WATERBURY HOSPITAL

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## ON THE MOVE



Diane Woolley

**Diane Woolley**, who joined the hospital as Director of Human Resources in 2007, has been promoted to be the new Administrative Director of Human Resources. Since joining the hospital, Woolley has brought many improvements within the Human Resources Department as well as labor relations, according to **Kathy Mulston**, the hospital's Vice President for Human Resources. Mulston said Woolley was promoted in acknowledgement of her importance to the organization and in recognition for her achievements.



Scott H. Kurtzman, MD

**Scott H. Kurtzman, MD**, the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Waterbury Hospital, has been elected to the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as a Governor-at-Large representing the ACS Fellows in Connecticut.

As Governor-at-Large, Dr. Kurtzman will serve as a direct communications link between the Fellows of the College and the members of the ACS Board of Regents, which is the overall governing body of the ACS. He will confer with surgeons throughout the state to convey their concerns to the ACS, and will also oversee the annual meeting of the College's Connecticut Chapter. Dr. Kurtzman has been on the medical staff at Waterbury Hospital since 2005, and he has been a Fellow of the ACS since 1993.



Juana R. Clarke

**Juana R. Clarke**, Director of Grants and Operations for Waterbury Hospital, has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Waterbury AIDS Outreach Ministries for a record of dedication to people living with HIV or AIDS in the Greater Waterbury community. Clarke was selected for the

Appreciation Award after being nominated by community organizations who praised her for her "dedication, knowledge and compassion" for people living with HIV or AIDS. She was selected by the World AIDS Day Nominating Committee.



Become a fan of Waterbury Hospital!