

# canticle

news for staff, physicians, volunteers and friends of Sacred Heart Hospital

12.22.09

*"For unto us a child  
is born,  
this day in the city  
of David a Saviour,  
which is Christ  
the Lord."  
• Luke 2:11*

 Sacred  
Heart  
Hospital  
Hospital Sisters Health System

Pictured above: Sacred Heart's Nativity Scene located in the hospital's Welcoming Atrium. As tradition, the Baby Jesus will not be laid in the manger until Christmas Morning.



*St. Clare of Assisi Adoration Chapel  
Springfield, Illinois*

To our friends at Sacred Heart Hospital,

Thank you for being Christ's healing presence to those you serve at our hospital. It is our sincere prayer that the Christ Child blesses you and your loved ones—especially during this Christmas Season.

Now and throughout the New Year, all are welcome to share prayer intentions through our website with the assurance of our prayerful support and love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,



Hospital Sisters of St. Francis  
hospitalsisters.org



## Volunteer Partners Deliver Christmas Cheer

This Christmas Eve, [Volunteer Partners](#) will bring Christmas cheer to [Sacred Heart](#) patients. Each patient will receive a ceramic angel (pictured right) and a special greeting, which tells the story of "The Second Christmas Crib."

### The Second Christmas Crib

After more than 2,000 years, people around the world remember the first Christmas in Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus Christ. It was an event that took place in a humble stable. A newborn baby—a king—was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger crib (a crude animal trough).

In the year 1223, in the little Italian hill town of Greccio, the nativity story was being forgotten by people. To recall the birthday of Jesus Christ to memory, St. Francis of Assisi did something very special: He arranged for a live nativity scene to be displayed. Men and women of the neighborhood prepared the manger with fresh hay and glad hearts. An ox and donkey were led in. People came from miles around and were filled with joy over the new mystery. Their candles and torches lit up the darkness as the friars sang and the whole night resounded with celebration and

rejoicing. St. Francis sang the Gospel story and then preached, emphasizing the homeless, humble and harsh circumstances of this King's birth. A man in the crowd had a wonderful vision: he saw a little child lying in the manger lifeless, and he saw St. Francis go up to it and rouse the child (as if from a deep sleep). It was a fitting vision. For the Child Jesus had truly been forgotten in the hearts of the people, but by the working of God's grace, the babe was brought to life in their memories again—never to be forgotten—by the humble monk we know today as St. Francis. [Adapted from Thomas of Celano's "Vita Prima of St. Francis of Assisi," circ. 1247.]

On December 24, following St. Francis' intention, representations of the manger crèche all around the world call

to mind the circumstances of the Son of God's birth. On Christmas morning, the crib in the Welcoming Atrium of Sacred Heart Hospital is a visual reminder of God's love for our world, prompting our hearts to see that the baby's arms stretch out for our love.

Angels were Nativity messengers of hope. May this angel gift, a messenger of hope, lift your spirits this Christmas Eve. On behalf of the Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteer Partners, and the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, may Christmas and the New Year bring you blessings of health and healing.

—The Volunteer Partners  
(Sacred Heart Hospital) Christmas Eve, 2009

## Neurosurgical Nurse Specialist Earns MSN degree and NP license

Jolene D'Huyvetter, RN, MSN, FNP, Marshfield Clinic neurosurgical nurse specialist at the [Brain & Spine Institute](#) at [Sacred Heart Hospital](#), earned her master's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, with a specialization as a family nurse practitioner. She then became board certified as a family nurse practitioner in November.

Jolene graduated from Viterbo University in 1997 with a BSN degree. She has worked in medical/surgical, emergency room and critical care departments. She joined the Brain & Spine Institute in 2003 and assists its neurosurgeons in all aspects of patient care, including inpatient rounds, post-operative and outpatient care, as well as quality assurance.



Jolene D'Huyvetter, RN, MSN, FNP,  
Marshfield Clinic

"Neurosurgery is always complex and challenging," said Jolene. "Patients are often anxious about what's going to happen to them. Being able to reach out and let them know they are in the hands of one of the nation's most skilled team of healers, who put the best technology in the world to work for them, is the most rewarding part of my job."

## Safety first at Sacred Heart Innovative Methods Reduce Surgical Site Infections

Typically, surgical site infections add seven to ten days to a patient's length of stay and may increase costs by an average of \$25,000. "Although Sacred Heart Hospital's surgical site infection rates are well below the 2.5%-5% reported nationally, our team of staff and leadership are **constantly examining new technologies, methods, and processes aimed at preventing these harmful infections,**" said Donna Moraska, BSN, MS, CIC, Infection Prevention & Control Professional, Sacred Heart Hospital. A common risk factor for these infections are micro-organisms on the skin. To combat this, Sacred Heart recently began utilizing a pre-operative SAGE 2% chlorhexidine surgical skin wipe disinfectant. "The formula is active for six hours after

application and has been shown to be significantly more effective than other methods of skin prep," commented Marcia Danzinger, RN, BSN, Assistant Director, Short Stay Care/PACU, Sacred Heart Hospital. "Although this treatment is done before the patient is ever taken to the OR suite, we will continue performing the final skin scrub and prep in the operating room. **This is just one more step toward reducing surgical site infections.**" As an organization that has placed a strategic priority on reducing patients' costs and length of stay, as well as providing an overall environment of service excellence, Sacred Heart is proud to offer innovative methods to ensure the safety and well being of all who come through our doors.

## Reflections of Gratitude Friends of Sacred Heart Hospital

Throughout this holiday season, we reflect on and express thanks for all that we have received and given in return over this past year. For that purpose, [Friends of Sacred Heart Hospital](#) would like to thank all colleagues, physicians, volunteers and community donors who have selflessly given charitable gifts to the benefit of all we serve. With those gifts, Sacred Heart has had the fortune to provide some of the most advanced technology available in the world, as well as the privilege to bring hope to so many through the services of [The Healing Place: A Center For Life's Journeys](#), the hospital's free grief support and holistic healing center. Over the past year, Friends of Sacred Heart Hospital has provided over **\$400,000 in funding to the regions only da Vinci Surgical Robot®** to provide life saving, minimally invasive procedures to surgical patients. In addition, Friends commits **\$180,000 annually to assist those in need through The Healing Place.**



## Joy Days Holiday Concert Serves the Elderly

Together with Father Edmund Klimek, Father Charles Wolf and others, Sister Claire Marie Wick, OSF, founded Triniteam (named for the Trinity of God, Others and Ourselves) on September 8, 1973. It was to be a non-profit “program of spiritual nourishment in the present, focused on life in the future,” according to an early mission statement. Today, Sacred Heart continues to be a vital partner with Triniteam. Sister Claire Marie started Joy Days, a social gathering that still takes place the first Thursday of each month in the hospital’s Rotunda. This month, nursing home residents from across the Chippewa Valley were treated to a Holiday Concert by the *Forever Young Choir*. When Triniteam was originally launched, the program served the elderly, mentally and physically handicapped, prisoners, and ex-offenders. Today, Triniteam provides programs such as anger management, job counseling and substance abuse treatment. Triniteam has also expanded to include a halfway house, a transitional living program and an Intoxicated Drivers Intervention Program. Although Sister Claire Marie sadly passed away of Cancer in 1984, she would be delighted that her program and legacy are still going strong today.



Pictured above: Community members listen as *Forever Young Choir* performs in Sacred Heart Hospital’s Rotunda in honor of Joy Days

## Spread the News

### Visitor restrictions loosen as Local H1N1 reports subside

Area healthcare facilities have seen a **local decrease in influenza-related visits and admissions**, and recognize the value of family members’ presence to a patient’s hospitalization experience. As a result, temporary restrictions on visiting hospital, nursing home and assisted living patients have been eased at:

- [Sacred Heart Hospital](#) in Eau Claire
- [St. Joseph’s Hospital](#) in Chippewa Falls
- Luther Midelfort in Barron, Bloomer, Eau Claire and Osseo
- Red Cedar Medical Center in Menomonie

As always, for the safety of patients, **any visitors who display cold or flu-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat, coughing, nausea, runny nose and diarrhea are asked to refrain from visiting** until the visitor is symptom-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

[Maternity](#) units are still at higher risk for H1N1 transmission. While siblings will be allowed, other children younger than 16 are still being asked not to visit maternity units at this time.

Members of the community are reminded to practice good health habits during this cold and flu season, including:

- Staying home when sick
- Covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Washing hands often
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth
- Getting vaccinated against seasonal and H1N1 influenza, as vaccine is available



## Never letting our guard down

### Hospital Security Officers Speak From Experience

At Sacred Heart Hospital, **safety and security measures are among the highest of priorities**. At the backbone of those effort are the officers of the hospital’s Security Team, who have **trained countless hours to ensure that Sacred Heart continues to provide patients and their loved ones with the safest, most healing environment possible**. To that team, each officer brings their own valuable skill set, as well as the commitment and dedication that comes from years of experience in the field. In fact, spread across the hospital’s 10 Security Officers is over **125 years of experience** in areas such as:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Fighting
- Water Rescue
- Security
- Emergency Medical Services

“Our Security Officers are continually training for situations ranging from evacuation preparedness, natural disaster drills and codes, to combative restraint techniques and proper hazmat protocol,” says Brian Hedrington, Security Supervisor, Sacred Heart Hospital.

*Thank you for all that you do to make Sacred Heart a safer environment for all.*

## Hospital's Laboratory Services Aid Eau Claire Fire Rescue

Over the past few months, [Sacred Heart's Laboratory Services Department](#) has assisted [Eau Claire Fire Rescue](#) personnel in the development of the most effective **Standard Operating Guidelines for cleaning their ambulances and equipment between each patient transport.** "I was put in touch with Diane Schummer, the Supervisor of Microbiology, who walked me through our evaluation process that consisted of four ambulances and 64 germ cultures," said Rick Merryfield, EMS/Fire Prevention Deputy Chief, Eau Claire Fire Rescue. At the hospital's [EMTC](#) garage, the single-blind study examined eight pre-cleaning samples from each ambulance without the crews knowledge of the locations. After pre-cleaning samples were taken, two of the ambulance crews were given instructions to hand clean the ambulance just as if they

had transported a MRSA patient. Meanwhile, the other two crews utilized the Zimek Decontamination System, a disinfectant mist that coats the entire inside of the ambulance. Post-cleaning samples were then taken of all four ambulances in the same locations to determine the effectiveness of each cleaning method. "Although we didn't find many differences between cleaning methods, Diane and our team had many **great suggestions that will help assure the cleanliness and safety of everyone we transport in the future,**" Rick added.



## Giving Matters Colleague Giving Program



"I participate in the employee giving program for a number of reasons: to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, improve the facilities, and to help continue the Franciscan Mission. I am proud to know that my gift, along with others, help to provide so much to so many. I participate because... giving matters!"

*Kristy Lien, Lab Histology Supervisor*

## The gift that lasts a lifetime [Literacy Volunteers](#) Offer Rewarding Adult Tutoring Opportunities

Do you want to offer a "gift that lasts" to an adult with basic literacy needs? In the Chippewa Valley, more than **10% of the adult community has low literacy skills.** This impacts one's employment skills, communication with a child's school, or accuracy dispensing medication to family members.

**Volunteer tutors can make a significant difference!** Training sessions will be provided and volunteers must be willing to work with an adult for 9-12 months. There is no required fee to participate, although a \$25 donation to help cover the cost of training materials is greatly appreciated. To register or to receive additional information, please contact Cheryl Sutter at (715) 834-0429 or [csutter@lvcv.org](mailto:csutter@lvcv.org).



## Volunteer Partners' Holiday Book Sale

On December 7 & 8, Sacred Heart's [Volunteer Partners](#) held a pre-Christmas book sale. "Books Are Fun" and representative Jeanne Laliberty supplied the books and gifts.

The daily drawings were won by:

- Peggy Bauer, [Fiscal Services](#)
- Kay Saur, [Behavioral Health Center](#)

Thanks to the following volunteers who worked at the event: Sharron Green, Debbi Westerberg, Bonnie Olson, Dorothy Walter, Marge Gharrity, Judith LaFave, Jeanne Frechette, Helen Ristau, Margaret Berg, LaVonne Santala, Geraldine Bischel, and Bessie Lauer.

The profit of over \$1,000 will be used for on-going projects of the [Volunteer Partners](#). The spring book sale will be held on March 11 and 12, just in time to find items for Easter, Mother's Day, graduations, Father's Day, and weddings. Sincere thanks to all colleagues, volunteers, and others who patronized the sale.

