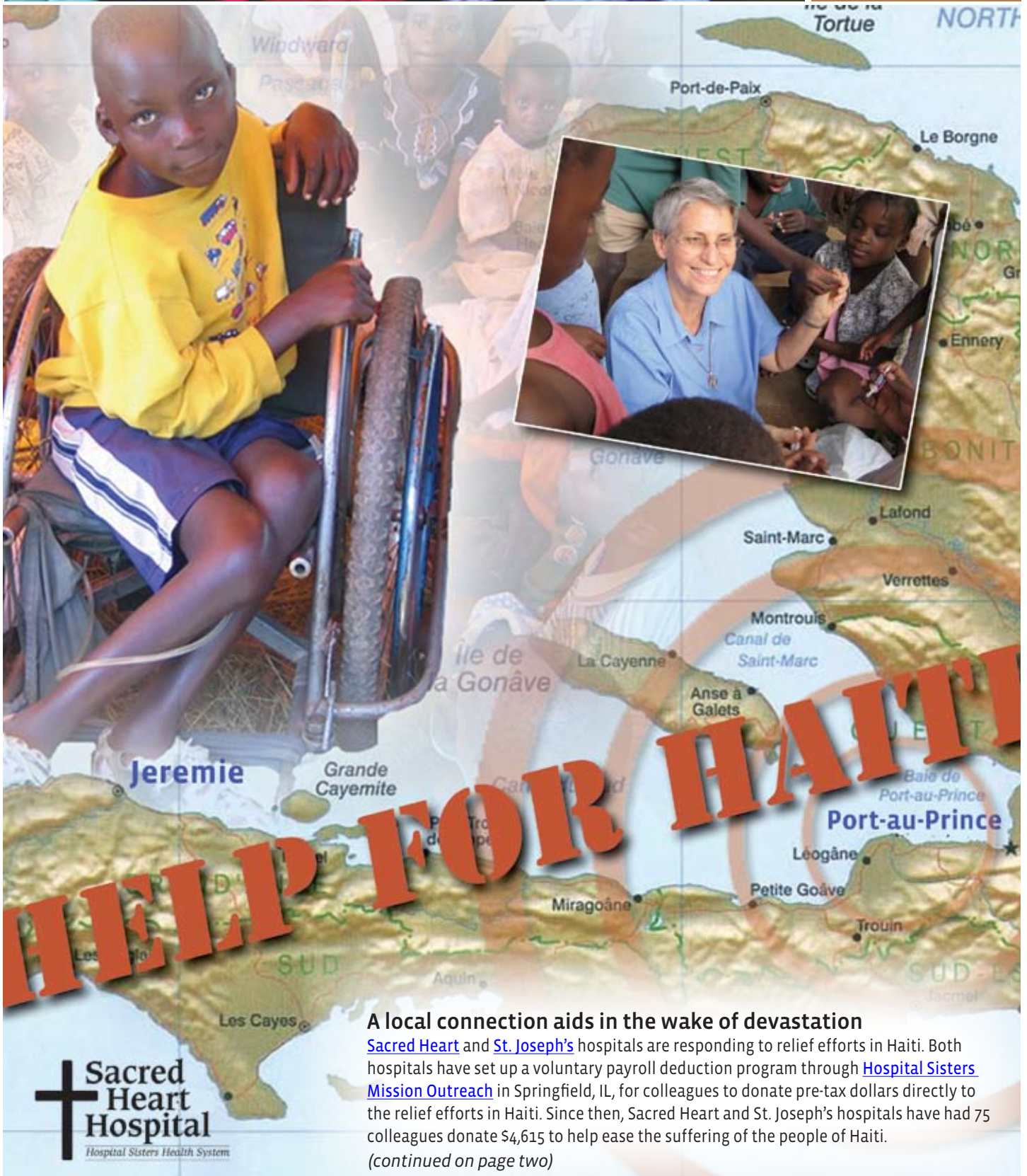


canticle

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

1.26.10



A local connection aids in the wake of devastation

[Sacred Heart](#) and [St. Joseph's](#) hospitals are responding to relief efforts in Haiti. Both hospitals have set up a voluntary payroll deduction program through [Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach](#) in Springfield, IL, for colleagues to donate pre-tax dollars directly to the relief efforts in Haiti. Since then, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals have had 75 colleagues donate \$4,615 to help ease the suffering of the people of Haiti.

(continued on page two)

Mission Outreach

(continued from page one)

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is a not-for-profit organization focused on the recovery and responsible redistribution of healthcare equipment and supplies to developing countries. Mission Outreach is responding to the crisis through its many long-term relationships with organizations including Food for the Poor, Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Military. Through their inventory of medical equipment and supplies, Mission Outreach thus far has shipped more than \$550,000 of supplies and equipment for the immediate response. In addition, Mission Outreach has committed another \$1 million in humanitarian aid support.



Sister Maryann Berard, OSF

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis have a personal connection with Haiti. Sister Maryann Berard, OSF,

RN, who served at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls from 1982 to 1985, is currently serving the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) at their clinic in Jeremie, Haiti, and has done so since 1989. Jeremie is a village about 100 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the epicenter of the earthquake. HHF provides health care, development, relief, and the hope of a future to more than 225,000 of the poorest people in over 100 rural mountain villages in southwestern Haiti.

If you would like to donate funds for the shipment of medical equipment and supplies from Mission Outreach, please visit the following website to learn how you can help: www.mission-outreach.org.

Also, to read a recent e-mail from Sister Maryann Berard in Jeremie, Haiti, please visit:

<http://www.hospitalsisters.org/StFrancisScripts/WhatsNewDetails.asp?ID=998>

Convenient parking,
private waiting,
dressing areas,
plush robes,
private consultation rooms...

are just a few of the many amenities the hospital's new Center for Women's Health offers patients.

Located within the hospital's current [Center for Imaging](#) on the east wing of the hospital, the Center for Women's Health offers comprehensive care in one central, private setting.

"We are proud to offer the latest in women's imaging technology with an emphasis on patient comfort,"

Alicia Arnold, MD, Medical X-Ray Consultants, a board-certified radiologist at [Sacred Heart Hospital](#).



Sacred Heart
Center for Women's Health

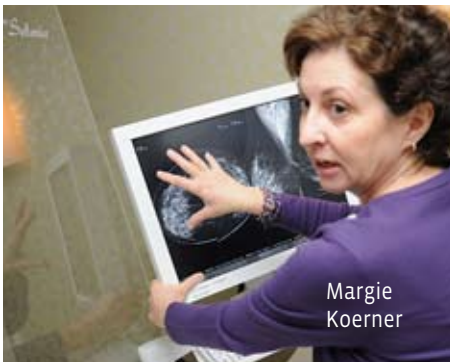
Early Detection. Renewed Hope.

Center for Women's Health Grand Opening Celebration

This \$1.1 million investment in patient care is particularly useful for the early detection of breast cancer, and other cancers related to reproductive health. Breast procedures offered at [Sacred Heart Hospital](#) will include ultrasound guided biopsy, MRI-guided biopsy, needle localization and stereotactic core biopsy.

In addition, Sacred Heart offers [full-field digital mammography](#) for improved detection of breast cancer. This digital mammography system allows for faster and more accurate images compared to film images. It also shortens exam times and improves patient comfort. Digital mammography is most effective and recommended for women younger than 50, those with dense breast tissue, and those who are pre-/peri-menopausal.

[Other technologies](#) in the Center for Women's Health include the 3-D ultrasound breast probe – the latest clinical technology for ultrasound-guided biopsies; the regions only 3 Tesla MRI breast imaging service; and bone density technology for the early detection of osteoporosis.



Margie
Koerner

The American Cancer Society recommends that women have yearly mammograms starting at age 40. Women who are at high risk for developing breast cancer, due to family history or other factors, may benefit from breast MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). These women are encouraged to discuss breast MRI with their physicians.



Kim
Thalacker

On January 21, Sacred Heart celebrated the grand opening of the hospital's newly completed Center for Women's Health. The center is designed specifically for women, offering the latest clinical imaging technologies, procedures, and care for the early detection and treatment of breast cancer. A Ribbon Cutting and Blessing was held in the hospital's Welcoming Atrium, and was followed by tours and a Community Open House.

■ Digital Mammography

Digital Mammography is recommended for:

- Women younger than 50
- Those with dense breast tissue
- Women who are pre-/peri-menopausal



■ 3-D Ultrasound

Benefits of Ultrasound:

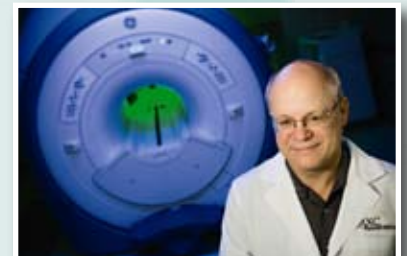
- Provides physician with real-time images
- Physician can determine if abnormality is solid or fluid-filled



■ 3 Tesla MRI for Breast Cancer Evaluation

Features of the Breast MRI include:

- Unsurpassed resolution and clarity
- Detects fine changes in structures
- Can eliminate the need for invasive procedures



Thomas Edwards, MD, PhD,
President, Medical X-Ray
Consultants; and
Medical Director
of Radiology
Services at Sacred
Heart Hospital



Enabling physicians to remotely monitor their patients' conditions wirelessly from the patient's home, giving patients more freedom to live normal lives.



Keeping a Steady Beat

Sacred Heart **first in the region** to implant new wireless pacemaker

Sacred Heart Hospital is the first hospital in the Eau Claire area to implant a new pacemaker equipped with wireless technology that can notify physicians of changes in their patients' device or condition. This state-of-the-art technology, which was approved by the FDA last July, was developed by St. Jude Medical to improve patient care and make device follow-up more efficient and convenient. The "Accent™ RF" pacemaker is the first pacemaker with automatic test results and complete diagnostics that can be accessed via wireless communication in a clinic or from the patient's home.

Fadi Alsous, MD, a board certified interventional cardiologist with Eau Claire Medical Clinic, implanted Eau Claire's first Accent RF pacemaker on January 15, at Sacred Heart Hospital.

Cardiac pacemakers are used to treat bradycardia, which is a heart rate that is too slow. These devices monitor the heart and provide electrical stimulation when the heart beats too slowly for each patient's specific physiological requirements. What makes the Accent RF pacemaker unique is that it enables physicians to remotely monitor their patients' conditions wirelessly from the patient's home – giving patients more freedom to live normal lives.

On scheduled check-up dates, data from the pacemaker is wirelessly sent to Dr. Alsous and becomes available for viewing via the Merlin.net® Patient Care Network. The wireless device also automatically alerts Dr. Alsous to important changes with the device or the patient's heart rhythm, in between scheduled check-ups.

"Being able to remotely monitor my patients will allow my clinic to realize greater efficiencies without compromising patient care," said Dr. Alsous. "Patients also realize greater convenience when they don't have to come into the office for routine device checks."

Managing disease progression is particularly important for patients with heart failure. It is important for the physician to know of a change in the patient's condition as soon as it happens, in an effort to address the issue before it worsens – potentially reducing the risk of adverse events like stroke. "The daily alerts that I receive with this technology enable me to know about important changes in my patient's condition so I can act more quickly in addressing any issues," added Dr. Alsous.

Hope for stroke patients

Saving lives, minimizing disabilities, improving outcomes

Over the past two years, [Sacred Heart Hospital](#)'s Stroke Program has continued to grow by leaps and bounds. First, it received certification as a [Primary Stroke Care Center](#) by the Joint Commission, followed by achieving the Silver and Gold Plus Performance Achievement Awards from Get With the Guidelines, an evidence-based program for quality improvement. Then, this Fall, the program obtained recertification by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Care Center. "The goal of our Primary Stroke Care Center is to give our stroke patients



exceptional multidisciplinary care from admission through rehab and discharge, to effectively meet the unique and specialized needs of stroke patients and their families," said Jeannie Pittenger, RN, CNRN, Stroke Program Coordinator, Sacred Heart Hospital.

Education continues to be a key focus of the program. "We have provided education on the elementary school level, attended various community educational functions, and are developing a stroke awareness program for Girl Scouts," added Jeannie.

"...exceptional multidisciplinary care from admission through rehab and discharge..."

~ Jeannie Pittenger, RN, CNRN, Stroke Program Coordinator, Sacred Heart Hospital



WISCONSIN CHAPTER of the
American College of Healthcare Executives



American College of
Healthcare Executives
for leaders who care®

Assistant Administrator Elected to State ACHE Board

Shawn Dryden, Assistant Administrator, Advanced Hospital Care and Operations, Sacred Heart Hospital, has been elected to the [Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives](#) (ACHE) board of directors. The WI ACHE is the professional membership society for healthcare executives and helps advance its members' professional, educational and leadership needs while promoting high ethical standards and conduct in healthcare leadership. The state chapter serves over 650 healthcare executives in Wisconsin in all fields including hospitals, health agencies, consulting firms, educational organizations, and related public and private organizations. Shawn joined Sacred Heart's Executive Leadership Team on September 29, 2008. In this role, he has been responsible for several flagship service lines: [Neuroscience](#) (including the [Brain & Spine Institute](#)), [Cardiovascular](#) (cardiac catheterization and surgery, cardiovascular [diagnostics](#) and [rehabilitation](#)) and [Emergency/Trauma Services](#). Congratulations Shawn!

neurosurgeon expands leadership role

Steve Ronstrom, HSHS Divisional President & CEO (Western Wisconsin), recently announced the expanded role of Kamal Thapar, MD, PhD, FRCS(C), Marshfield Clinic, Neurosurgeon at Sacred Heart Hospital; Director, **Brain & Spine Institute**; and Medical Director, Tertiary Care Services. In this expanded role, Dr. Thapar will attend the monthly Medical Executive Committee meetings as an Administrative representative. He will advise and assist in clinical quality improvement efforts, strategic planning, care coordination and medical administrative matters. He will provide medical leadership on the development of key tertiary care service lines. Additionally, he will serve with Mr. Ronstrom as co-chair of the Clinical Council, a group of physicians who bring clinical perspective to administrative decisions that enhance care and shape strategy. Please welcome Dr. Thapar to the Administrative Team.



Kamal Thapar, MD, PhD, FRCS(C),
Marshfield Clinic

hemodialysis technicians earn certification

Sacred Heart Hospital's [Hemodialysis department](#) now boasts all certified hemodialysis technicians. Hemodialysis is a procedure that cleans and filters the blood, and is the most common method used to treat advanced and permanent kidney failure. In October 2008, new Medicare rules went into effect requiring all current hemodialysis technicians nationwide to be certified by April 2010. Since then, Sacred Heart's hemodialysis technicians have passed that certification exam – three months before the deadline – to meet the new Medicare requirements.

"I am so proud of our team – all of them passed the rigorous exam on their first try," says Mary Richbourg, RN, MSN, Hemodialysis Supervisor, Sacred Heart Hospital. "This ensures that our hemodialysis technicians meet certain levels of knowledge and expertise that include advanced knowledge of water treatment, patient care, as well as all aspects of the hemodialysis process. The new regulations will standardize the knowledge and skill levels among technicians in hemodialysis care."

PREPAREDNESS: The Joint Commission

One of the National Patient Safety Goals is "Improving the effectiveness of communication among caregivers." In order to assure the timely reporting of critical test results, Sacred Heart Hospital has:

- Developed written procedures for managing the critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures that address the following:
 - **The definition of critical test results**
 - **By whom and to whom critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures are reported**
 - **The acceptable length of time (30 minutes) between the availability and reporting of critical test results**
- The procedures for managing the critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures have been implemented.
- The timeliness of reporting the critical test results is audited and evaluated.



Enhancing the Mission

hospitals assess innovation under impending healthcare reform

Sacred Heart and [St. Joseph's](#) hospitals recently welcomed a group from Geisinger Health System to visit with colleagues and physicians from each hospital. Geisinger is part of an integrated health system based in Danville, PA which has been assisting Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) in developing Care Integration initiatives. The purpose of the visit was to assess the readiness of the Western Division in pursuing clinical innovations revolving around healthcare reform and the pursuit of potential pilot projects that are included in current legislation. Before making recommendations, an initial assessment of all divisions

and hospitals at a local level will occur. Recommendations will be developed for each Division given the uniqueness of the markets, organizations, environment and provider relationships that vary across the Divisions. They commented that it is evident both hospitals' physicians and staff have already worked well together demonstrating success in focusing on the patient and collaborating on quality (i.e. Evidence Based Medicine and Stroke Protocols) and are well positioned to continue such achievements. Through innovative thinking and strategic planning, the Western Division and HSHS will continue to enhance the mission of the hospital sisters.

Taking the **PLUNGE** again

2010 Polar Plunge

Last year, in the middle of a cold snap, 26 members of the Sacred Heart Hospital "Critical Care Crew" braved the cold to jump into the frigid waters of Half Moon Lake. Their participation in Eau Claire's 10th Anniversary Polar Plunge raised over \$10,000 for the Special Olympics Wisconsin to support programs for young people and adults with developmental disabilities.

As the event's number one fundraising group for the past five years, this year, the group hopes to build on their success and grow in both participants and fundraising dollars. All colleagues are encouraged to participate either physically or monetarily for this most worthy cause to benefit over 10,000 [Special Olympic](#) athletes. The event is held on **Sunday, February 28, at Half Moon Beach in Carson Park** from noon to 2:30 pm. For more information on how to join the [Sacred Heart](#) Polar Plunge Team, please contact [Judy Pielhop](#) at 717-4408.



New Coding Supervisor Welcomed

Faye Deich, Chief Operating Officer, Sacred Heart Hospital, is pleased to announce that Pamela Ebben, RHIT, has been hired as the Health Information Department's Coding Supervisor effective January 25, 2010. Pam has been employed with the Hospital Sisters Health System's Wisconsin-Western Division for the past 24 years. First, for 1 ½ years at Sacred Heart Hospital before transferring to St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls for the past 22 ½ years. At [St. Joseph's Hospital](#), Pam served as a Coding Specialist in the Health Information Management Department. "Although I will miss the many fond relationships I've made with my colleagues at St. Joseph's, I

look forward to returning to Sacred Heart Hospital, and am excited to help strengthen our Health Information Department," she said. Please join us in welcoming Pam to the Health Information Department and Sacred Heart Hospital's Leadership Team.



Pamela Ebben, RHIT

Sacred Heart Hospital, Macy's & Charter Media Go **Red** Events

Join Sacred Heart Hospital, Macy's & Charter Media for a weekend of heart healthy activities, presentations and free gifts! Don't miss the fun on Friday, February 5 & Saturday, February 6 at Macy's-Oakwood Mall in Eau Claire.

Friday, February 5

8:30am

Private Shopping Event and Your Health: Your Heart Presentation featuring Fadi Alsous, MD, FACC, Eau Claire Medical Clinic & Mahmoud Sharaf, MD, Eau Claire Heart Institute

10:15am

Healthy Cooking Demonstration
Heart Healthy Breakfast On The Go with Sacred Heart Executive Chef Randy Lathrop & Director of Hospitality Services Rick Beckler

12:30pm

Macy's Red Fashion Show

2pm

Your Health: Stroke Presentation

5pm

Heart Healthy Happy Hour & Healthy Eating Presentation

Saturday, February 6

9am

Heart Healthy Family Fun Walk with Dr. Brent Jensen, Sacred Heart Hospital Pediatrics

10am

Healthy Cooking Demonstration
Quick & Easy Heart Healthy Snacks with Sacred Heart Executive Chef Randy Lathrop & Director of Hospitality Services Rick Beckler

11-12:30pm

Make Your Own Valentine's Day Card Station with Sacred Heart Hospital's Center for Healthy Living

1:30pm

Metabolic Syndrome Presentation with Linda Poirier, RN, MSN, FNP-C, Willow Creek Women's Clinic

2-4pm

Cosmetics Events