Healthcare Heroes Recognized for Exceptional Patient Care

Emergency Department nurses Nick Horvath and Corrine Medeiros are Healthcare Heroes! The Philanthropy Department’s Healthcare Heroes program gives patients and their families the opportunity to make a donation to the hospital in honor of an employee or employees who made a positive impact on their health care experience.

A patient’s mother wrote to Nick, “Thank you for the bed at 3 a.m.; you didn’t have to. Thank you for bringing me a coffee that morning; you didn’t have to. Thank you for the care you gave my daughter in June. Forever grateful.”

Corrine’s patient honored her with this message: “I was admitted to the Emergency Room by ambulance. My nurse’s name was Corinne. I want you to know that she is a very caring person and a great nurse. You are lucky to have her.”

Congratulations, Nick and Corrine, and thank you for living MMC’s values.

Local Elementary School Students Create Cards, Snowflakes for MMC Patients

Fourth and fifth graders from Great Falls Elementary School in Gorham learned about volunteerism this holiday season by creating special holiday gifts for patients spending the holidays at the hospital.

The school’s Student Ambassador program encourages children to spend time giving back to their community. This year, the students created holiday cards, snowflakes and ornaments to have distributed to MMC patients during the holidays.

The students delivered the gifts last week. This is the second consecutive year that the Great Falls Elementary Student Ambassadors have volunteered their time to make the holidays brighter for MMC patients.

Great Falls Elementary School fourth and fifth graders deliver cards, snowflakes and ornaments to MMC patients.
Alexandria Betz, DO, has recently joined Maine Medical Partners - Women’s Health, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Delaware, she went on to earn her osteopathic medical degree at the University of New England and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Geisinger Health System.

She culminated her training in 2018 with a Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, after which she started practicing at Geisinger Health System.

Her clinical interests include high-risk obstetrics. In her free time, she enjoys running, being outdoors and spending time with her husband and two little girls exploring all that Maine has to offer.

Susan Santangelo, Sc.D., Director of the Center for Psychiatric Research at MMCRI, coauthored a study published in the journal Cell that finds many distinct psychiatric diseases share a common genetic structure. In the largest-ever study of its kind, the researchers at MMCRI and the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, an international team of investigators of which Santangelo is a member, identified more than 100 genetic variants that affect the risk for more than one mental health condition.

“The big takeaway from this study for me is that although the classification system we use for treating psychiatric disorders assumes that each disorder is distinct from one another, these study results clearly contradict that view,” Santangelo said. “Understanding that many of these disorders share biological risk factors from an early stage of development can give us more insight into how we might better diagnose and treat the disorders.”

Thank you, Mickey Mouse and friends from Disney On Ice for visiting BBCH patients last week!