

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Patient Can't Get Home for Concert, SCU Brings Concert to Him

Nick Stanley is an MMC patient in his mid-thirties with a neuromuscular disease. He is bed-ridden and has lost muscle control below his neck. Nick is also an avid music fan. One of his favorite local bands, Rustic Overtones, has played benefit shows for Nick, sometimes performing at his house.

Nick was recently in the hospital to get a tracheotomy and a feeding tube. Nick's mom, Karen, had scheduled Rustic Overtones to play at Nick's homecoming that weekend. Unfortunately, on Thursday Nick learned he would be unable to leave the hospital in time for the concert. Knowing that music means the world to her patient, Sonja Orff, R.N., Clinical Nurse Leader, in collaboration with other SCU staff members, set out to bring the concert to Nick.

"I figured you can always ask," Sonja says. "And once I started asking, I realized we could really make this happen."

An urgent call to action began. Nick's family checked with the band to see if they would be willing to play at MMC. Then Sonja contact-

ed multiple MMC departments to work out the logistics: they'd have to find a venue, create a plan to safely move Nick and his ventilator, and they needed sign-off from multiple parties. It was a lot to pull together in a short time.

After clearing permissions from Security, HR, Communications and Marketing, Nursing, Legal, Engineering, and others, Sonja mobilized a task force to pull the event together.

By Saturday at 1 p.m., the band was loading their equipment into the Dana Center.

A team comprising Allie Haynes, R.N., Deb Jackson, R.N., Dave Smith, Respiratory Therapy, and Fred Roediger, M.D., wheeled Nick from his room in AVU to the Dana Auditorium. Nick was hooked to a ventilator, pillows supporting his arms, legs, and head. He was covered in a blanket with a picture of musician Bob Marley, and he had a big smile on his face.

When everyone had said their hellos and the band finished tuning, the music began. Nick never stopped grinning as Rustic Over-



Rustic Overtones lead singer Dave Gutter holds out the mic for Nick to sing along. Nick's brother Isacc looks on.

tones played some of their biggest songs and tried out some new ones, too. Nick's family — his mom Karen, sister Sayward, and brother Isacc — danced near his bed, checked his tubes and made sure he was comfortable throughout the concert.

Then came the big finale, "Combustible," one of Nick's favorite songs. Dave Gutter, the band's lead singer, strutted his way over to Nick's bed. The mic cord wasn't long enough, so, without hesitation, five people jumped into action to move Nick's bed closer. Gutter sang to Nick as if the two were best friends, then held the mic out for Nick to sing along. Nick's

voice rang out through the auditorium, and everyone cheered — he wasn't expected to be able to speak more than a whisper after the tracheotomy, let alone belt out rock lyrics.

Nick's mom was overjoyed. "I can't explain what it means, to see the smile on his face. It's the world," she says.

Sonja was equally thrilled. "The collaboration from all disciplines was incredible. It truly takes a team to make something like this happen," she says. "To hear a ventilated, trached patient sing was a first. Amazing!"

Continued on back

Facebook Kudos

See what visitors are saying about us on Facebook ...

“We are so blessed to have the Gibson Pavilion. We love you guys to the moon and back!”

“I just wanted to thank the staff there, especially R7, they treated my brother with such love and compassion right up ‘til the end.”

“Love the Maine transplant team. They are the best.”

“Thank you to all in SCU who helped to save sweet Michael's life! Respiratory, nurses, and especially the amazing, innovative, brave, and caring surgeon Dr. Tracey Weigel.”



The care team surrounds Nick before the concert. Pictured: Sonja Orff, R.N., Clinical Nurse Leader; Fred Roediger, M.D.; Allie Haynes, R.N.; Jane Thibodeau, R.N.; Deb Jackson, R.N.; Dave Smith, Respiratory Therapy; Eric Botler, Care Management Associate; Cathy King, R.N.

*“Patient Can’t Get Home”
from front*

When the music ended, photos were taken, the band loaded up, and Nick was wheeled to his room.

Then it was back to routine for the family – checking tubes, making Nick as comfortable as possible, and planning what’s next.

When asked what he

thought of the show, Nick says, “It was great, it was awesome.” He added, “Thanks to the band for being amazing people and all the staff that brought me down to see it.”

COMING UP AT MMC

2014 Hospital Holidays

New Year’s Day
Wednesday, January 1

Presidents’ Day
Monday, February 17

Patriot’s Day
Monday, April 21

Memorial Day
Monday, May 26

Independence Day
Friday, July 4

Labor Day Monday,
September 1

Veterans Day
Tuesday, November 11

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 27

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25

*For details on all
upcoming events, check
out the Calendar on
the MMC Intranet.*



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