

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

Vol. 14, No. 18

December 1, 1982

New offsite supply center is working

Moving and reestablishing a half million dollar inventory of supplies across town with no interruption in service is no small task, but Maine Medical Center's Materials Management Department did it recently. Three days, 30 trips in a large truck, and 195 man-hours of labor were necessary for the move, which relocated most of MMC's supply receiving and distribution activities to a warehouse at 35 Diamond Street in Portland.

The move was made Friday through Sunday, November 12-14, by the Materials Management staff. The crews transferred computer paper, needles and syringes, and other materials Friday evening, Abbott and CSD supplies, dialysis supplies, linen and office furniture Saturday, and -- with the help of three Food Services staffers -- all the Food Services stock Sunday.

Along with the move came a new stocking and ordering system for the hospital. The only supplies now kept at the hospital complex are a minimum three-day supply of "critical items," such as needles, syringes, OR caps and shoe covers, Similac, and other indispensables. Everything else handled by Materials Management is now stored at 35 Diamond Street and ordered from there.

Inventory Manager Heidi Pelletier is very happy with the smoothness of the transition, and with the response from hospital departments. "The move went almost exactly as planned," she reports, "and there have been only a few problems with the new ordering schedule." Four routine deliveries from the Diamond Street warehouse, known as the Offsite Distribution Center (ODC) are made daily, and specific departments must place their orders by specific times to make their scheduled delivery. "On the very first delivery after the

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MATERIALS HANDLERS John Meehan, left, and Rick Dambrie prepare to pick an order from the shelves in MMC's new warehouse. (A/V Photo)

This experience is a heartwarming one

How would you like to give over three trillion presents this Christmas, to people you may not even know? How would you like to know that your gifts mean life to surgery patients, anemia and hemophilia victims, and those suffering from cancer and other diseases? And how would you like to do all this by taking a mere hour out of your day December 10?

In each pint of human blood, there are an average of 2.5 trillion red blood cells, 416 million white blood cells, and 150 million platelets. And that is literally only the half of it: about 55% of the blood's volume is made up of plasma, every bit as valuable as the other parts. One pint of donated blood can provide all this to people who need it.

The Red Cross bloodmobile will be

at Maine Medical Center 7:00 AM-4:30 PM, Friday, December 10, in Classrooms 3 & 4. Red Cross workers and volunteers from the Friends of MMC will staff the drive, which is particularly crucial in light of the upcoming holiday season. A recruitment table will be set up in the Admitting Lobby the week of December 6.

You can have the heartwarming experience of giving the gift of life if, basically: you weigh over 110 pounds, are between 17 and 65 years old, have *never* had viral hepatitis, and are in basic good health.

Give Blood

It's a
Heartwarming
Experience



WORK BEGAN LAST WEEK on a special construction access road at Maine Medical Center. The road crosses MMC property from the Eastern Promenade end of Bramhall Street to the construction site at the rear of the hospital. A 200-yard portion of Bramhall Street has been converted to two-way traffic for the duration of the project, to allow trucks and equipment to exit from the site. With construction about to begin, we will soon have a newsletter devoted exclusively to keeping us all alerted to plans and up to date on the progress of our project. (A/V Photo)

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move," Mrs. Pelletier reports, "we only had to call three departments for their orders."

Mrs. Pelletier notes that one major change that was scheduled didn't take place-- the switch to a stockless office supply system. She explains that it would have been too much change all at once, and that the concept is being rethought. For the time being, office supplies will be stocked, ordered, and distributed from the ODC.

Much work has gone into the changes in the Materials Management operations of MMC. The Materials Management Study Committee, composed of nearly two dozen people from throughout the hospital, formed in June to gather the necessary data and make recommendations. Subcommittees determined which stock items were critical, investigated the potential of bulk purchasing, and looked at the various options for storing and distributing supplies. This led to decisions about the location, size, and layout of the warehouse and the mechanics of the distribution system.

One reason for the move to an off-

site warehouse is the impending start of construction at MMC. The project will disrupt traffic flow to the rear of the hospital, and at the same time the amount of traffic will increase. A single MMC truck with a 20-foot van body will make deliveries from the ODC to the hospital, greatly reducing congestion. Also, space within the hospital complex is at a premium, and supplies storage is a function that could be moved off-site without severe disruption.

Some supply and delivery functions have remained the same, at least for the time being. Some deliveries--such as dry ice, gas cylinders, and mail--still come directly to the hospital, and CSD still handles most of its supplies. Among the projects still being considered are the consolidation of CSD supplies with other supply functions and the conversion of nursing units to a "par level" system. This system, already in place in some areas, maintains a given quantity of an item at the place it is used, with stock checked and replenished on a daily basis by Inventory Management staff. This relieves the department staff of routine supply ordering.

EAC holiday projects are now under way

Raffle tickets for the EAC's Annual Employee Christmas Raffle are now being sold. Prizes this year are: Grand Prize a Litton microwave oven. 2nd Prize a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond. 3rd Prize a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Tickets may be purchased from any EAC member. They are \$1.00 each or five for \$4.00.

Each year at this time, the EAC collects foodstuffs to provide Christmas dinners for needy Maine Medical Center employees and their families. Last year, the combined generosity of the EAC and employees provided food for five families, consisting of over twenty people. To go with donations of canned goods, vegetables, stuffing, desserts, and breads, the EAC purchased five ten-pound turkeys.

The Committee asks all employees to please share their own good fortune by donating some kind of canned item or food for those who are less fortunate. The collection point is in the Cafeteria.

Open House shapes up for MMC employees

The *Nautilus Fitness Center* of Portland is holding an Open House for MMC employees, Sunday, December 12, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM. The Center recently joined the Employee Discount Program of the Employee Activity Committee with a 20% discount on memberships and is sponsoring the Open House as an introduction.

The facility offers a circuit of Nautilus training equipment, as well as exercycles and treadmills. Nautilus equipment is generally considered to be the most scientific and effective available, and full training programs are devised in thirty-minute sessions.

There will be free refreshments during the Open House, and instructors will be available to demonstrate and explain the equipment and program. The center is located adjacent to the Tennis Racket, 2445 Congress Street, Portland.

There will be a bake sale Friday, December 10, 8:00 AM to Noon, in the Admitting Lobby. The sale is sponsored by Division #7 of the Maine Licensed Practical Nurses Association.

MMC Industries Project starts a 2nd good year

Since *What's Happening* last reported on the MMC Hospital Industries Project in July, several important events have occurred. First, the grant under which the project began in October 1981 has been renewed, and the second year is underway. Also, the program's success has led to plans to expand it. And two weeks ago, the project staff honored a request from two senior officials of the federal Department of Health and Human Services to have a first-hand look at the operation.

Dorcas R. Hardy, Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services, and Jean K. Elder, Ph.D., Commissioner on Developmental Disabilities of the Office of Human Development Services, learned of the program and contacted MMC for a closer look. They were accompanied by Ed Scott, Regional Manager of the Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation, and Michael Tarpinian, Regional Director of the Maine Bureau of Mental Retardation.

The Hospital Industries Project is operated by MMC's Department of Medical Rehabilitation under a federal and State Bureau of Rehabilitation grant, and is providing a supportive work opportunity within the hospital for clients of the Bureau of Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Mental Retardation. Presently, MMC includes 20 individuals under the program, in the Departments of Food Services and Housekeeping.

"There is no other program in the State that offers a sheltered shop within a working plant whose purpose is *other than* employment of handicapped people," says Richard Balser, Administrative Director in MMC's Rehab Department, "which would provide disabled adults with the means to earn money, learn specific skills, and realize the natural sense of accomplishment that goes with maintaining good work habits in the *real world of work*."

The federal visitors went even further, stating that to their knowledge the MMC program is unique in the entire United States. During their visit, they expressed the hope that the project could serve as a model for programs across the country. A similar sentiment was expressed this past July by Lincoln Clark, special Master working with the U.S. District Court in Portland in connection with a now-resolved case involving mainstreaming of the mentally handi-

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THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT paid a visit to MMC recently, in the person of two representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services. Hospital Industries Program Developer Michael Kotch, right, explains the Food Services portion of the project to Dr. Jean K. Elder, Commissioner on Developmental Disabilities of the Office of Human Development Services, rear, and Dorcas R. Hardy, Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services. MMC Director of Food Services Robert Underwood looks on at left. The visit was arranged at the request of the HHS, which is interested in the project as a model for national replication. (A/V Photo)



REGISTERED NURSES WHO GRADUATED IN OCTOBER FROM MMC'S CRITICAL CARE NURSING COURSE are, seated from left: Sylvia Wesley, MMC Per Diem; Barbara Armstrong, Regional Memorial Hospital, Brunswick; Elaine Minigell, Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital, Bridgton; Carol Owen Fortier, St. Joseph Hospital, Bangor. Standing from left: Marion Haley, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Ellsworth; Sandy Ahlquist, MMC-SCU; Linda Mooers, MMC-R7; Alicia Green, Rutland Hospital, Rutland, VT; Peggy Mulligan, MMC-SCU; Cathy Moss, MMC-SCU. (A/V Photo)

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Five-room heated apt., 2 blocks from MMC, bath w/shower. Can be 1 BR and DR or 2 BR. Secure bldg., sunny and convenient. Call 773-6034.

FOR RENT: Corner of Walker & Brackett Sts., 4 blocks from MMC. 1 BR, newly renovated apt., large yard, porch, heat included, \$400/mo. Animals welcome.

FOR RENT: Sunny 6 room, 1st floor apt. in Fort Allen Park area. Unfurnished, on bus line, parking avail. No pets, please. Call 774-3622 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

FOR RENT: Near Mercy Hospital. For quiet, pleasant person or couple. Recently renovated, sunny, 2nd floor apt. 1 BR, lg. combination living room/dining room, new bath. New stove, refrig. All utilities, heat, and parking included. \$300/mo., sec. dep., lease, refs. req. No pets. Call 773-5601.

FOR SALE: 1976 Toyota Corona wagon, excellent despite 107K miles. Best offer. Call 781-2529.

FOR SALE: King-size waterbed with mirror and shelves, 6 drawers in base. \$230, original cost \$730. Call 799-1902.

FOR SALE: 1/3 karat solitaire diamond ring in an 18-karat gold setting, size 6. Appraised at \$900, will sell for \$700. Call 797-5488 after 5.

FOR SALE: 4 Pioneer speakers 811, 6500 Sansui receiver. Call eves. after 7 PM, 767-3745.

FOR SALE: Ethan Allan dk. pine bedroom set. Db. cannonball bed, triple dresser with hutch mirror and night table, \$800; 9 x 12 blue & brown tweed rug, \$75; 2 pr. red & blue floral drapes, \$25. Call 775-1413 9-5, 774-2345 after 6.

FOR SALE: 1-7" reel-reel Teac 1250 with 12 tapes, \$300 or best offer; 1-cassette player, \$300, firm; 1-car stereo AM/FM cassette player and 2 speakers, \$50. Call 774-9220, ask for Mike. Keep trying.

FOR SALE: Drapes, 84" x 40", 7 prs.; adding machine; lamps; kitchen chairs and tables; stereo and T.V. (cabinets only); bed frames and springs; many odds and ends. Call 775-1077.

FOR SALE: Vermont maple syrup. Contact Jayne Marsh at 829-5035 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Men's figure skates, brand new, size 10 1/2. Call 775-3064.

FOR SALE: Odyssey II Video Game System with 11 cartridges (incl. U.F.O., K.C. Munchkin and Quest for the Rings). Console is less than one year old. Call eves. at 774-7534. Price \$200.

WANTED: Men's used hockey skates, size 10 1/2. Call 775-3064.

RIDE WANTED: From Latham St., So. Portland (near Evans and Broadway), daily for 8:30-5:00 shift. Share expenses including parking. Call Leigh at 799-7438.

HOME REPAIR problems? Solutions available at 774-4899.

New Employees

CENTRAL SERVICE: Michelle E. Devou

CSD: R. Herbert Edgecomb

PHLEBOTOMY: Bruce K. Cahill

POISON CONTROL: Robert L. Lawton

PULMONARY MEDICINE: Debra J.

Ayotte, Joel P. McMullin

NURSING: Mary Jo Aceto, Nancy E.

Amadon, Lisa M. Arsenault, Cindy F.

Audet, Bonita L. Baker, Barbara D. Bel-

cose, Catherine Birkinbine, Marilyn G.

Bunker, Theresa A. Cloutier, Kathleen

E. Crommie, Laurie L. Currier, Monica

S. Dawson, Susan E. Fitzgerald, Joan

E. Gurney, Marion L. Halgren, Carol A.

Higgins, Jolene M. Isom, Pauline T.

Juneau, Donna B. Kelley, Sandra E.

Knowlen, Mary-Teresa Lambert, Martha

J. Manuel, Edith M. McAuliffe, Susan H.

Mulkern, Kathryn A. Perry, Dianne E.

Ritchie, Pamela S. Toothaker, Donna L.

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what's happening

WHAT'S HAPPENING is published every Wednesday at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine for members of the Hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions and suggestions may be addressed to Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, ME 04102.

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capped. Master Lincoln Clark devoted an entire section of his July 30 report to the MMC program, calling it a "splendid example" of a transitional employment program.

"Maine Medical Center has established through a detailed job analysis a model for duplication. . . duplication of this program should be encouraged State-wide; this could give hundreds of disabled individuals the opportunity to work and earn a good wage in a normal environment," Clark's statement said.

The MMC program is proving -- to the community as well as to the clients -- that there is a climate which accepts them and in which they can function as productive and welcome members. "When accepted into the program, these people become employees of the hospital," Balser says. "They are subjected to the same disciplines and are expected to produce the same quality of work as any of MMC's 3,000 employees, and we pay their salaries under a Department of Labor contract based on ability.

"They're not here because we feel sorry for them. They're here to demonstrate that they can do the jobs assigned to them."

Testimony to the effectiveness of the program is MMC's hiring of six of the original 20 clients in the program. Eleven of the original clients remain in the program, and have been joined by six newcomers. A total of 15 new clients will enter the program's second year.

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