



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT ■ MAINE MEDICAL CENTER ■ PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

Feb. 3, 1975

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A blue booklet--small, but with great significance--was distributed late last week throughout the hospital. Compiled by a committee of trustees, physicians and auxiliaries headed by Judge Edward T. Gignoux, the booklet is a statement of the rights and responsibilities of the Maine Medical Center, its physicians and its patients. In effect, it sets forth what each element may expect, and what is expected of it. For some time now, hospitals have been adopting patients' "Bills of Rights." Our hospital has gone considerably further, recognizing that with "rights" go responsibilities, not only for patients, but for physicians and the hospital itself. If last week's distribution missed you, extra copies are available in the P/R department.

1974 MMC ANNUAL FUND

The 1974 Annual Fund recently closed its books with a total of \$68,294.90 in unrestricted gifts from hundreds of donors, including Trustees, Corporators, Medical Staff, employees, community leaders, former patients and friends. The money will be used to meet pressing needs in patient care, medical education and medical research, things that could not be included in the 1975 operating budget or needs which have arisen after the budget was set for this year.

Although the Annual Fund did not reach the goal of \$85,000 set for 1974 (the fourth year of annual giving at MMC), all associated with the effort feel that the 1974 Fund was successful in doing the very best it could given the difficult economic situation of the past six or eight months. Trustee George M. Lord, who served as Chairman both in 1973 and 1974, has turned the reins over to Corporator Edward Y. Blewett, who will lead the 1975 Annual Fund. Dr. H. Randall Deming, who was Chairman of a special Annual Fund Committee for the Medical Staff in 1973 and 1974, will be succeeded by Dr. Chris A. Lutes. The new Committee has not yet been signed up and the goal has not yet been determined, but early gifts are beginning to come in, with more than \$1,000 already received.

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Certificates for completion of a four-week course in critical care nursing were presented by Edward J. McGeachey, administrative director, and Agnes E. Flaherty, R.N., director of Nursing, to seven R.N.'s at a brief ceremony Friday. The course was the first of a series of three to be offered at MMC during 1975. The critical care training program is designed to assist the participant in acquiring knowledge sufficient for the planning, delivery and direction of others in the nursing care of patients with complex and critical nursing needs. The course for registered nurses is composed of five units including cardiovascular, central nervous system, respiratory, renal and a miscellaneous unit. Seven nurses completed the entire course and 20 other R.N.'s participated in one or more separate units. Certificates were awarded to Mary L. Bazinet, R.N.; Patricia Jordan, R.N., Mary Rewa, R.N.; and Vickey Tompkins, R.N.; all of MMC; Sheila Ely, R.N., Central Maine General, Lewiston; Jane Philbrick, R.N., and Richard Woodrum, R.N., Bath Memorial Hospital. Judith Thomas, R.N., MMC Staff Development unit teacher, is course coordinator.

DAY SURGERY

A new program that will improve the care and cut the expense of many minor surgical patients will begin Monday on P4A, where diagnostic and treatment facilities, an office, a waiting room and several recovery rooms have been set up by Dr. Richard C. Britton and the Department of Surgery. Called Day Surgery, the new area and program will eliminate many of the problems connected with previous ambulatory surgery, minor surgery, endoscopy and ambulatory transfusion procedures. Along with the new facilities have come streamlined procedures that are expected to improve care significantly for increasing numbers of low-risk surgical patients.

39 HELICOPTER TRIPS

Security Chief Sam Cummings reported Friday that a total of 39 infants have been brought to MMC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit from points throughout the state. Of the total, 36 came in 1974, first year of the operation. Of these, Chief Cummings said, 22 landed on the new helicopter pad behind the Richards Wing. The service is provided by the 112th Maine Army National Guard unit and its Maine Incubator Transport Service for Infant Emergencies... MITSIE, for short.

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