

## **HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS**

**April 2012**

Happy Sixth Anniversary to the San Juan Cancer Center! On April 3, 2006, we opened the doors and saw the first patients at the Cancer Center. After a year of intense fundraising, led by Francie Smiles and the San Juan Healthcare Foundation, our community raised \$1,000,000 to help fund the MMH's portion of the center. A joint partnership between Montrose Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and the Western Colorado Radiation Oncologists has proven to be a wonderful and successful endeavor for the members of this community and many of the surrounding areas. Patients, family members and friends, who previously had to drive to Grand Junction for daily radiation treatments, are comforted to know that they can now receive "Complete Cancer Care Close to Home."

The San Juan Cancer Center continues to thrive and excel in their care giving. In 2006 they had 3285 patient visits and that number has increased over time to 4493 in 2011. The chemotherapy staff has been recognized nationally for having consistently high patient satisfaction scores. Marva Victor, RN, director of the Medical Oncology Department said, "We treat people by using the Golden Rule. Our job is to do whatever we can to make our patients comfortable and to help them understand and cope with everything they are going through."

The great news is that the Cancer Center is a strong and vital component of our hospital and community which we are blessed to have. The challenging part is that we have outgrown the space and our MMHi Board of Directors is discussing ways to expand the area to better serve our patients. In the past two years, we have added two additional chemotherapy chairs, going from eight to ten, which has made the area a bit crowded. We have also added a nurse practitioner, Laura Devor to our staff and she works closely with Dr. Kilbourn, our board certified medical oncologist. Different options are being discussed to make the Center bigger so we can handle the increase in patient visits.

When asked on a patient satisfaction survey what we could improve, one patient responded; "Nothing needs to be improved. The folks at the San Juan Cancer Center are a professional, highly skilled medical oncology staff who are patient focused. Dr. Kilbourn and his folks are a tremendous asset to our community and to all the other communities in southern/southwestern Colorado." I couldn't say it better myself! Happy Anniversary San Juan Cancer Center!

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