

Hospital Happenings

December 2008

The newspaper headline reads, “A Dark Day at Montrose High School,” and I agree that it was a scary, horrific day—I also believe there were many rays of light that showed through and helped care for the injured student and her fellow students. First of all, the students and teacher who helped administer first aid should be congratulated. It can be difficult to jump in and assist during situations like this, but not one of them hesitated. Next, we need to acknowledge the teachers who reacted so quickly and had 1,500 other students safely locked in the classrooms in less than four minutes. Their quick reaction and attention to the student’s safety should be commended.

The response time from the emergency personnel was amazing and I’ve heard nothing but positive comments about how caring and kind the EMTs and officers were. They gently spoke to concerned parents and worked hard to make order out of the chaos and confusion. The area was secured and the assailant was quickly apprehended.

The injured student was assessed by the EMTs as a Level I trauma. The hospital’s operating Room, administration, surgeon, radiology, lab, and respiratory were all notified prior to her arrival. The emergency physician and emergency nurses were waiting. She was quickly assessed, IV fluids started, the patient was consoled, medications given, family notified and united with patient, X-rays taken and her total ER time was 20 minutes! She was then moved to the operating room where two of our general surgeons, Dr. Sawyer and Dr. Jay worked together with the OR crew to secure the wound. She was then cared for by our nursing staff who also worked closely with her family to provide the best healing environment.

The hospital was in close communication with school administration whose utmost concern was for the recovery of this student and helping the other students who were shaken and affected by the event. They continued to work hard to let parents and key communicators know what was going on and to assure them that every measure was being taken to make sure students and faculty were safe. Based on information e-mailed to the hospital from the school district, we were able to communicate and reassure our employees—many of whom had children at the high school.

We wish the injured student and her family all the best and hope she has a speedy recovery. To all of the students and faculty members who were affected by this incident in some way, we encourage you to talk to someone about it and get additional help if needed. And last, but absolutely not least, a huge thank you to everyone who responded and helped out during this difficult experience