

## Hospital Happenings

May 4, 2009

During the month of May, hospitals across the country celebrate National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week. Of course, we could celebrate a different department in the hospital almost every week of the year. They all have a “special week” in which we recognize their services and the special things they do for our patients. During hospital week, MMH recognizes all of its employees and thanks them for their dedication and service.

After working at Montrose Memorial Hospital for over 20 years, I am still amazed at what an incredible place a hospital is. Very few businesses can boast that they are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That means, every night, every holiday, and every single weekend someone is here to take care of you. It isn't only nurses, and physicians, but radiology, respiratory care, housekeeping, pharmacy, laboratory, dietary, and more, who all play a role in making our hospital services available every day of the year. While you are home with your family on Thanksgiving and Christmas day, our dietary staff is here preparing a beautiful meal with all the trimmings to help make a patient's day a little more special. The staff in the patient care departments never get a choice of whether or not they'll work on the holiday; their choice is *which* holiday they will work. And think about our dedicated physicians, who are also available any time, day or night, 365 days a year. The emergency department physicians work 24-hour shifts and are available to provide care at any time. They never know if they'll be awakened for a car accident, chest pain, or a crying baby with an ear infection.

Not only are the MMH employees and physicians incredible, but we can't forget their families and the sacrifices they make. Having mom or dad gone on Christmas morning would be hard. Enjoying a soccer game or concert with your family and having them paged to the hospital would be disappointing. It takes a special commitment from these families as well.

One other group of people that deserve a pat on the back is the Hospital Board of Directors. These people generously volunteer their time, energy and expertise to help make the best decisions for our health care needs.

It's no secret in health care that patients respond to the personal touch of caring people. Our employees and physicians have a gift for reassuring patients. Through the trials of making life and death decisions, they remain supportive. National Hospital Week is an opportunity to recognize their hard work and dedication. But it's hardly enough to show our appreciation for the whole year. To everyone who works in Health Care, we thank you for your service!