Inside

A Message from Carla O’Malley and Barbara R. Medvec..................2

Nurse Giving Society—Together We Can Do Great Things! ................2

The Magnet Journey—Oakwood Nurses Attend National Conference ........3

Wound Care Certifications Across the System .........................3

Our Nursing Everyday Heroes ........................................4

Oakwood Remembers Alberta Muirhead ..................................insert

Scholarships Support Oakwood Nurses..................................insert

2011 Nurse Giving Society Honor Roll ......................insert

Evidence Based Practice Conference

Each year, Oakwood nurses look forward to the Evidence Based Practice Conference. This annual conference, sponsored by Barb Medvec, the Nurse Executive Council and the Nurse Giving Society, celebrates our accomplishments in taking evidence and applying it to our daily practice, while allowing Oakwood nurses to gather together to learn about new practices based in research and clinical evidence.

“Evidence Based Practice positions nurses to be a significant influence on health care decisions and a partner in improving quality of care.” said Mary Jane Magalotti, RN, BSN, MS, Director, OHS Nursing Excellence. “The conference gives direct care nurses the opportunity to learn about Evidence Based Practice. It challenges them to implement the best interventions and practices that are supported by evidence and create the best patient outcomes.”

This year at the Evidence Based Practice Conference, a special award was presented to one of our nursing professionals. Sandra Schmitt, RN, BSN, OHS Manager, Nursing Development, was presented with a Bravo! Standing Ovation Award!

First place:
“Pre-Anesthesia Phone Message and Rate of Return Based on Primary Language of Patient” by Janet West, RN, BSN; Nancy Nadolsky, RN; Terri Gray, RN, BSN, M.Ed, CPAN, PAS (OHMC)

Second place:
“Surgical-Site Infections Post Open Heart Surgery” by Amanda Sedlik, BSN, RN, CCRN; Maria Gahry, BSN, RN, CVCU (OHMC)
We would like to take the time to recognize and thank you for your care, compassion and dedication to your profession. Nurses impact the quality of patient care in so many ways. When our patients are looking for reassurance, a gentle touch and skillful care, you are there to ease their suffering.

As fellow nurses, we know the trials and tribulations of this profession. Each day, you bring compassion, dedication and clinical excellence to every patient and family we serve.

We are so proud that you are an Oakwood nurse. Thank you for everything you do for our patients and their families.

You and I: together, we’re nursing.

Carla O’Malley, RN
Executive Director & President,
Oakwood Healthcare Foundation

Barbara R. Medvec, RN, BSN, MSA, MSN
Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer,
Oakwood Healthcare, Inc.

Oakwood’s Nurse Giving Society (NGS) was established in 2003 as a model program of philanthropic support and community involvement anchored by nursing professionals and friends of the Oakwood Healthcare System. Since its inception, Oakwood nurses and friends have contributed more than $375,000 to their site NGS funds. In turn, more than 518 nurses have been able to access these funds to attend conferences, purchase reference books and materials, receive certifications and advanced training, and bring back the best practices in clinical care for the betterment of their patients, as well as their professional advancement.

“I give to the Nurse Giving Society to support my ICU RN’s,” said Janie Bereznay, RN, Clinical Manager in the Intensive Care Unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. “For me, as a Manager, I feel it is the best way to demonstrate my love of nursing and my support to the RN staff for growth and development.”

By contributing to the Nurse Giving Society fund, you are helping to advance the professional development of your coworkers and nursing peers. Thank you for your support of Oakwood’s journey to nursing excellence!

A Letter From Oakwood’s Chief Nursing Officer
Delivered at the Evidence Based Practice Conference, April 13, 2011
Barbara R. Medvec, RN, BSN, MSA, MSN

Dear Oakwood Nursing Colleagues and Guests:

Welcome to the 2011 Oakwood Nursing Evidence Based Practice Conference. As we gather to learn about new practices based in research and clinical evidence we also welcome our guests and colleagues from around the State. Today we will also celebrate with our Oakwood nursing colleagues several accomplishments and recognitions.

Today enjoy and learn from the many accomplishments in clinical practice growth across all of our clinical specialties. In 2011, many new opportunities for nursing engagement are available. Opportunities to participate in shared nursing leadership and governance exist throughout Oakwood. Enjoy the podium presentations and panels as well as the poster sessions from our Clinical Advancement Program Level III nurses and other clinicians in the organization. Our Oakwood Gallup survey again demonstrated that through the growth and use of Unit Based Councils, overall nursing staff engagement and satisfaction has increased. Oakwood’s continued use of Relationship Oriented Care (ROC) practices distinguishes us as the only Michigan health care system with full integration of ROC across multiple units and hospitals.

As our country continues to address health care reform now more than ever, the leadership by direct care nurses is essential to assist our patients in their emotional and physical healing and recovery. Oakwood’s nursing workforce of over 2,000 registered nurses continues to demonstrate the value of nursing care in patient quality, safety and service initiatives.

In 2011, your commitment to the Nursing Excellence journey continues. During the fourth quarter of this year we anticipate submitting documentation for recognition by the American Nursing Credentialing Center as Magnet Hospitals. On behalf of your Nursing Executives and the Corporate Education Council thank you for your continued interest in professional excellence. To our podium and poster presenters, we offer our thanks for sharing with us your practice learnings and expertise. To our Guest Speakers, thank you for sharing your experiences with us. We could not continue to have this meeting without the continued contributions by our nursing donors, our exhibitors and colleagues from the Oakwood Nurse Giving Society. Without these generous contributions the Evidence Based Practice conference and speakers would not be available to us.

In closing, thank you for representing the spirit of professionalism and excellence in nursing practice. In your hands rests the professional practice model of Oakwood Nursing.
Oakwood has applied for Magnet designation! Special thanks go out to Oakwood’s Nurse Giving Society for sending six Oakwood nurses to the 14th National Magnet Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in October 2010. This three-day conference includes educational sessions on leadership, clinical practices and new research findings.

“Our attendance was made possible by the Nurse Giving Society funding,” said Mary Jane Magalotti, RN, BSN, MS, Director, OHS Nursing Excellence. “We are extremely grateful to have experienced and participated in the conference. We were represented along with 6,300 other nurses from not only the USA, but from across the world.”

“After the conference, the Professional Excellence Council meeting invited me to share what I learned,” said Laura Preston, RN, Direct Care Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. “All I could think of was that the administration really does care about and listen to the staff nurses! That is truly Magnet.”

The National Magnet Conference gives Oakwood nurses the opportunity to network with other hospitals on the journey to nursing excellence and learn from those who have already received Magnet designation.

“Just being in the vicinity of so many facilities that were celebrating the designation could make your heart swell,” said Ronnalee Zambeck, RN, Staff Nurse at the Birthing Center at Oakwood Southshore Medical Center. “The next couple of days proved to me that the Magnet designation truly comes from a journey.”

OHS nursing began this journey in 2005 and now has made the official application to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for our four acute care hospitals.

Achieving Magnet status has improved other organizations by creating a practice environment that is more supportive of nursing and professionalism and where staff education has a greater emphasis. Magnet encourages lower turnover, higher staff retention, improved recruitment and ultimately leads to better nurse-patient and nurse-physician relations.

“Nurses, physicians, administration as well as environmental services, lab technicians and plant operations have to be invested in this Magnet journey,” said Kari Szczechowski, RN, Direct Care Nurse at OHMC’s Intermediate ICU. “Yes, Magnet is a ‘nursing’ recognition; however, we rely on every department in the hospital to provide the best quality care to our patients.”

Currently, there are more than 380 Magnet-recognized organizations in the country and only 13 in the state of Michigan.

“I appreciate the sacrifice that each person in the Nurse Giving Society and Community Giving Campaign gave to allow me to attend this moving conference,” said Ronnalee. “I’m looking forward to that moment when Oakwood receives this gold star in nursing excellence.”

Wound Care Certification Across the System

The complexity of non-healing chronic wounds presents a particular challenge to health care providers. As with any chronic disease process, a wound—regardless of its cause—requires intervention by multiple health care disciplines to address the many conditions that impact wound healing.

“Wound care is a large population, it’s not just pressure ulcers,” said Elizabeth Spears, RN, WCC, Staff Nurse at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. “We see a lot of vascular and arterial ulcerations as well as surgical wounds and decubitus ulcers as well.”

That’s why this year, the Nurse Giving Society has funded wound care certifications for nurses from Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, Oakwood Heritage Hospital and Oakwood Southshore Medical Center.

“Heritage now has a Wound Care Certified nurse as well as Southshore, so we’ve been able to move this through the system with the Nurse Giving Society allowing nurses to go,” said Elizabeth. “Now we can collaborate better as a whole.”

“The wound certification has greatly affected the care I give to my patients,” said Denise Alcodray, RN, Staff Nurse at OAH. “During nursing school, we learned a very limited amount of information about the skin and how to care for wounds. Although I had already been caring for patients for 5-6 years, this class taught me so much about our largest organ and the importance of its integrity.”

“This certification has also allowed me to be a resource to the nursing staff and doctors here at Heritage Hospital,” said Debbie Noel-Driggs, RN. “I feel I am now able to impact patient care at the bedside and educate direct care providers on skin care and wound management.”
Grateful Patients Recognize Oakwood Everyday Heroes

Oakwood's Everyday Hero program gives grateful patients and their families the opportunity to pay tribute to an Oakwood physician, nurse, employee or volunteer who made a positive impact on their lives by providing compassionate care while they were in one of our facilities. Through this program we honor the patients' requests and celebrate the caregiver with a personalized card, Everyday Hero pin and other recognitions.

To date, more than 256 Oakwood nurses have received grateful patient tributes and have been awarded the Everyday Hero pin.

Our Nursing Everyday Heroes...

"Annabelle Clarin is the most caring, gentle, and compassionate nurse I have ever had. I have been sick a very long time. She is the best, better than all the rest. Calls you at home to check up after all treatments. I don’t like the treatments; however she makes them smoother & easier. She is so kind and sweet!!"

"I believe that one would be hard-pressed to find a more caring, capable, compassionate group of ladies than at the Annapolis Infusion Center. They certainly made my chemo sessions more bearable."

"Rose Dein was an outstanding & caring nurse. The best I have ever had at Oakwood. She knows her job and took very good care of me. It was the first time I felt a nurse went over and above her job. She made sure I was pain-free and comfortable."

"To me, Elaine Lane is the best nurse you have there... Elaine did everything she could to help me with all her heart. She is the best."

"I’ve been in your hospital many times. Annette Korzetki was the best. She was not only my nurse but a new friend."

"Lindsay Cowell is an excellent nurse. She was very attentive to my stepson’s needs and his care. She was willing to help us in any way possible. Thank you for taking such good care of us, you’re the best."

"I just wanted to let you know what a great job your ICU-Nursing Station staff is doing. My mother was admitted to the ICU and she has received the absolute best care any person could expect or wish for from this staff. The staff assigned to her room has been very responsive to her needs. She entered the hospital via ER on Sunday evening and the nurse assigned to her was also great."

"We would like to thank the entire medical care team on 8 South for their excellent quality of care during my dad’s last hospital admission. Special thanks to the nursing staff under the direction of Ms. Toni Ward. We would also like to recognize and thank especially Lou, RN; Emily, Nurse Assistant, and Melissa, Student LPN nurse from Monroe Community College Nursing program. These individuals were very kind, helpful and excellent examples and role models for outstanding care at Oakwood. Our thanks to the Oakwood Foundation for their faithful interest in my care and health."

"The doctors and nurses in emergency were very compassionate and good at keeping the patient comfortable and informed of what’s going on. Nurses on 4th Floor North were always ready to make you comfortable and take good care of your needs."

"There comes a critical time when someone will need an especially gifted person in their life. For me that person was Nurse Yvonne Roberts...Yvonne has many admirable qualities. Among them are competence, warm heartedness, gentle in her applications and truly aware of the dignity of each person. She is my Hero!"

This year, Annabelle Clarin, RN, OAH Infusion Center, was the first employee at Oakwood to reach five Everyday Hero tributes! She was recognized with a special Everyday Hero pin at the Leadership Forum in February 2011.