Evelyn’s stay in SCU lasted four days, during which her caregivers slowly brought down the level of fluid and monitored her vital signs. “As a first-time parent, it’s scary, it’s alarming - your baby, with all those cords and tubes,” Grinsteiner says. “But the care received was beyond what we could ever imagine. It’s the best experience we could have had. They really went over and above in their attention to detail. Nothing was overlooked, nothing was missed.”

It was very comforting to be able to be near Evelyn throughout the experience, Grinsteiner adds. She and her husband, Travis, especially appreciated being able to stay nights in the nesting room, two doors down from their daughter’s room in the SCU, after her own discharge from the hospital.

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Grinsteiner is particularly grateful for the support she and her family received from SCU nurse, Clarettta South, RN, who was a “mother figure” to the new mom during this difficult time. “Clare’s title may be ‘nurse,’ but she was much more than that to my family,” Grinsteiner says. “She was a teacher, educator, the person around whom the entire hospital focused on the care of our sick infant. Anyone who has the privilege to work with or even be a part of the care for our baby, knows that the quality a parent would want in someone caring for their sick infant. Anyone who has the privilege to meet Clare would immediately pick up on the passion she has for her job. She cares.”

Evelyn was discharged with a clean bill of health. “I really can’t put into words how appreciative we are, not only for the care for our daughter, but also that we were given the support and the knowledge we needed to get through her stay in the Special Care Unit...”

In October, the committee hosted a luncheon, funded by the administrative team, to thank employees who have donated to past campaigns. With a kickoff in November, this year’s campaign is raising funds for the Maternal Heart of Mary statue that stands in the center of the West Pavilion circle drive, welcoming LCMH patients and staff each day. This is the second and final year the campaign is directing funds toward LCMH patients and staff each day. “Sometimes it’s about the timing, the area of greatest need or direction from hospital staff or key stakeholders,” she says. “We try to choose something that’s meaningful to employees.”

As in past years, 10 percent of funds raised will be designated for the Mary Potter Cross Fund to support employees in need. The fund helps employees who are facing financial hardship due to illness or other life events.

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In this year’s campaign, a “Mission: Impossible” theme, is designed to inspire at least 1,000 LCMH employees to contribute, in any amount.

The committee’s goal for 2016 – the 26th year of the campaign – is to increase the employee participation rate to 50 percent. This year’s campaign, with a “Mission: Impossible” theme, is designed to inspire at least 1,000 LCMH employees to contribute, in any amount.

At WGN-TV, Reilly is enthusiastic about this year’s beneficiary. “Seeing the beautiful statue of Mary in our new courtyard, and knowing that I was one of the many people who helped to make it possible, feels wonderful,” she says. “The statue, the new Café 95, and other things that the campaign has supported over the years will be here long after any of us are gone, and knowing that I had a part in it gives me a very blessed and happy feeling.”

Veronica Cordova, business office manager, also serves on the committee. “I have always seen the hospital community as part of my extended family,” says Cordova, who started with LCMH nine years ago, soon after graduating from high school. “I am the third generation of my family to work at LCMH, and have grown up feeling connected to the LCMH community. It is fulfilling to know that my contribution is helping the Sisters carry out their mission, and also helping my coworkers in their time of need.”

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INSPIRATION TO GIVE

To encourage campaign participation, the Employee Giving Campaign committee organizes a week during which employees can drop off their pledges in Café 95, which makes them eligible for giveaways and raffle items. This year’s participation incentives include Mission: Impossible-inspired sunglasses and tee shirts.

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Because of the dynamics of our institution as a smaller community hospital, we do rely on employee giving participation,” Flores says. “Without that campaign, we can’t function at the capacity that we would like. Beyond that, it’s part of our mission and values to form that camaraderie with employees to work on a common goal.”

Katie Reilly, emergency department secretary, has worked at LCMH for nearly 13 years and serves on the employee giving committee. “I have been contributing to the campaign for years,” she says. “I am inspired to give because it benefits not only the hospital, but also the employees. Knowing that by participating in the campaign, I can directly help some of my co-workers in their time of need, is a great feeling.”

Karen Cordova, business office manager, also serves on the committee. “I have always seen the hospital community as part of my extended family,” she says. “I am the third generation of my family to work at LCMH, and have grown up feeling connected to the LCMH community. It is fulfilling to know that my contribution is helping the Sisters carry out their mission, and also helping my coworkers in their time of need.”

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MISSIONS IMPOSSIBLE: CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!