“Clare’s title may be ‘nurse,’ but she was much more than that to my family.”

CAROLYN GRINSTEINER
CROWN POINT, INDIANA
As you open this edition of Envision, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the incoming Chairman of the Little Company of Mary Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. As a native of Tinley Park, my family has been associated with Little Company of Mary Hospital and the work of the LCM Sisters for more than 60 years. I am proud to be serving on the Foundation Board and advancing our mission and heritage of faith-based healthcare to the community. I look forward to meeting you in person at one of our upcoming events, hearing your stories of how Little Company has impacted your life, thanking you for your support and receiving your feedback on how the LCMH Foundation can better serve our community.

From the 1940’s to the late 1970’s, Little Company of Mary Hospital was known throughout Chicago as “the Baby Hospital.” This reputation was well-earned with over 225,000 births. In this issue of Envision, we go back the scenes to discover more about the encompassing services provided by our Family Birth Center clinical team, the critical care services offered by our Neonatal Special Care Unit and why Little Company of Mary Hospital retains its reputation as the premiere provider of delivery services for mothers-to-be. Little Company of Mary employees take seriously our mission of serving the needs of our community and show their commitment to services by their participation in the annual Employee Giving Campaign. In this issue, we’ll get a glimpse of what motivates them to give back — and why it is so important to renew that commitment every year. And our community too, continues to give back and support our mission and the patients entrusted to our care. Our fundraising spotlight focuses on the extraordinary accomplishments of the Pink Pajama Party and the resources raised to support the needs of our female patients undergoing treatment for cancer and fighting serious illness.

Indeed, we are proud of our rich heritage and our mission of providing excellent Catholic healthcare to our community and beyond. You are remembered daily in the prayers of our LCM Sisters for your unfailing generosity and support. On behalf of the LCMH Foundation Board of Directors and staff, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a peace-filled new year 2016.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Vandenberg

Chairman, LCMH Foundation Board of Directors

The Baby Hospital Prepares to Enhance Services for Special Care Newborns

IT’S a concern that has crossed the minds of most mothers-to-be: What if my newborn has complications or needs special care? It can be a scary thought, and one that often influences a woman’s choice of birthing center.

With an outstanding reputation for personal and compassionate care for both mother and baby, Little Company of Mary Hospital’s Family Birth Center has long been a first choice for women. In fact, LCMH is known locally as “the baby hospital,” with approximately 1,200 babies delivered annually. The center is now embarking on a one-to two-year process of upgrading the state classification of its Special Care Unit (SCU) from level II+ to level III, which will make it an even more attractive option.

A key advantage LCMH will offer at the higher level is the ability to care for babies with more complex situations than the unit can currently address, says Mary Grinsteiner, RN, nurse manager for maternal-child services. “We can keep babies that are born at 30 weeks or greater, and weigh at least 1,250 grams,” she explains. “Currently, a baby born at 28 weeks or less, would have to be transferred to a level III hospital, and with mom still hospitalized post-delivery, they would have to be separated. We know it’s important for bonding to be at the baby’s bedside, to be able to touch and be with the baby. We don’t want that separation for our moms.”

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One new mom and LCMH patient whose newborn daughter, Evelyn, needed services from the SCU in Carolyn Grinsteiner, who chose LCMH for her birth despite having to commute from her home in Crown Point, Ind. “I grew up in Palos Heights, and Little Company has always been my hospital,” Grinsteiner explains, adding that she found the birth center facilities to be beautiful and appreciated the privacy of the rooms.

After birth, Evelyn was unable to tolerate and retain oral feedings. Her pediatrician admitted her to the SCU, where tests indicated that she had an enlarged stomach. It turned out that an unusually rapid delivery had caused Evelyn’s stomach to fill with amniotic fluid and blood. “She wasn’t hungry, so it was hard to nurse,” Grinsteiner says. “And her other organs were being compromised.”
the qualities a parent would want in someone caring for their child. Grinsteiner says. "She was a 'nurse,' but she was much more than that to my family," she says. "It was very comforting to be able to be near Evelyn throughout her stay in the Special Care Unit…"

"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..." says Cordova, who started with LCMH nine years ago, soon after graduating from high school.

“I have always seen the hospital 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, is a great feeling.”

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.”

This year, Little Company of Mary Hospital’s Annual Employee Giving Campaign committee is issuing a mission that they hope employees will choose to accept.

Mission Impossible: Challenge Accepted!

T he 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.

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 the statue, which was commissioned by the Province of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and shipped by boat from Carrara, Italy. The campaign committee members planned on two successive years due to illness or other life events. The fund helps employees who are facing financial hardship due to illness or other life events.

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

“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."

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.

"Mission: Impossible" theme, is designed to inspire at least 1,000 LCMH employees to contribute, in any amount. A committee, composed of 35 employee volunteers, brainstorms ideas about where to direct the funds each year. “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.”

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**Crystal Heart Ball 2016**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, February 6, 2016

The Field Museum

Cocktails at Half Past Six

Dinner at Eight O’Clock

Black Tie Valet Parking

**HONORING**

Choose Kind - Kerry Ryan Lynch

The Venerable Mary Potter Humanitarian Award

LCMH Pastoral Care Team

Sister Nancy Boyle Award for Excellence

Patricia Elwood and Nancy Loo

WGN-TV

Masters of Ceremonies

Access to select permanent and special exhibits.

Proceeds benefit the Neonatal Special Care Unit of Little Company of Mary Hospital.

For more information, please call 708.229.5447.

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“Cancer breaks people,” says Giglio, who has been with LCMH since February. “No one really talks about all the changes that happen in your life when you’re a cancer patient. And it’s expensive to have cancer. So I’m here to help make patients more comfortable, and to make their lives less crazy financially.”

Giglio works closely with Cara McGuire, RN, LCMH’s breast nurse navigator, and Joanne Jager, Pink Pajama Party chairperson, to determine the best ways to allocate funds raised by the event. “Cara sees the patients every day, and she knows what they need,” Giglio says.

These needs run the gamut, from financial and logistical to medical and psychological. In high demand are gift cards of all kinds, to help with things like groceries and gas expenses for patients traveling to and from LCMH for chemotherapy and radiation. Cleaning services are another aid to patients too ill to keep up with daily household chores, and Giglio has arranged for services from a local office of The Maids.

Even little things, Giglio says, can help patients feel more like themselves, especially when they have lost one or both breasts to surgery and are struggling to feel feminine and attractive. “We’ve found a nail polish line to use at the hospital spa,” she says. “Our patients can tolerate the smell, and it doesn’t contain carcinogens. I’m always on the lookout for the best available products that can help improve the quality of life for our patients.”

Giglio was born at LCMH and is thrilled to be back in a role that enables her to truly make a difference: “It seems like God created this job for me.”
Nominate a Little Company of Mary physician for the Healing Hands Award!

Little Company of Mary Hospital and Heath Care Centers is blessed to have many wonderful physicians. The Healing Hands Award is presented quarterly to one physician on the Little Company of Mary medical staff.

Physician nominees should exemplify our core values of Professionalism, Compassion, Quality and Responsibility. All patients, staff and fellow medical professionals are invited to take this opportunity to nominate a physician for our Healing Hands Award by one of the following methods:

**MAIL** Give your completed form to your caregiver, drop it off at the main entrance information desk or mail it once you return home using the postage paid reply envelope.

**FAX** Send your completed form via interoffice mail to the Medical Staff Office or fax it to (708) 422-2042.

**ONLINE** Online forms can be completed and submitted electronically at www.lcmh.org/healinghands.