50-YEAR AWARD HIGHLIGHTS IVCH RECOGNITION DINNER

Eighty-seven Illinois Valley Community Hospital employees, including one who has worked at IVCH for 50 years, were honored at the hospital’s annual service awards dinner April 21 at Grand Bear Lodge, Utica.

The evening also included the formal presentation of the Buckman Family Award to employee of the year Cindy Schlesinger by Elaine Buckman, whose husband founded the award in 1994. George Buckman and Harry Erlenborn, two long-time IVCH board of directors’ members who together gave more than 80 years of service to the hospital, died in February.

Chief executive officer Tommy Hobbs commended the hospital’s employees for their dedication to IVCH. “The care and comfort you provide patients and their family members when they need it most is very much appreciated by the communities we serve,” he said.

Hobbs’ remarks were seconded by Kris Paul, board of directors’ president. “We have seen a lot of changes in healthcare over the past few years, and I’m sure we will see many more. But if we continue to work together as a team, we can handle whatever comes,” said Paul.

Human resources director Mary Beth Herron emceed the event. Deacon Ray Fischer, IVCH’s pastoral care coordinator, gave the invocation.

The half-century-of-service honor went to patient financial services clerk Nancy Porter of LaSalle, who has worked at IVCH for 50 years. Porter, 92, spent most of her IVCH career as a switchboard operator.

Emergency department nurse Mary Sue Martyn of Oglesby received an award for 40 years of service.

Here is the complete awards list:

50 YEARS
Nancy Porter, Patient Financial Services

40 YEARS
Mary Sue Martyn, Nursing Services

35 YEARS
Cheryl Braboy, Diagnostic Imaging
Edith Flaherty, Food Services
Nancy Cualandri, Nursing Services
Cheryl Moncrief, Food Services
Susan Padilla, Food Services
Mary Petre, Nursing Services
Maureen Rebholz, Education
Mary Warnell, Environmental Services

30 YEARS
Debra Caresio, Quality Management
Michael Mayszak, Pharmacy
Dawn Moutray, Social Service
Sue Walters, Occupational Health
Daniel Zissler, Diagnostic Imaging

25 YEARS
Kris Hanson, Pharmacy
Janet Langham, Food Services
Vicki Pangrnic Nursing Services
Julie Repsel, Nursing Services
Anna Rybarczyk, Nursing Services
Janine Sobin, Clinical Documentation Improvement

20 YEARS
Laurie Galetti, LaSalle Medical Clinic
Kevin McLendon, Counseling Services
Susan Schmollinger, Family Home Medical Equipment
Joe Skoflanc, Respiratory Therapy
Leanne Sobkowiak, Health Information Management
Amy Stash, Massage Therapy
Andrea Walker, Environmental Services

Continued on page 4
IV Healthcorp employees and volunteers who received WOW! Service Excellence Awards in April include:

John Apilado  Jane Fisher  Deanna Maggi  Amy Stone
Mary Armata  Morgan Foster  Bridget Malone  Lisa Theobald
Anaalicia Arteaga  Marlene Frkol  Kristina Martin  Heather Tipton
Debra Baker  Mike Frank  Jennifer Mayer  Sylvia Twardowski
Christie Balzarine  Darrell Geiger  Kayla Mayszak  Dawn Verucchi
Brenda Bankes  Jorie Goskusky  Courtney McCoy  Joe Wagner
David Bartels  Cathy Green  Colleen McKenna  Susan Wagner
Dasia Beals  Nancy Gualandri  Amy Mertes  Mary Warnell
Bobbi Bowser  Sylvia Guerrero  Susan Mowbray  Jennifer Washelesky
Cheryl Brabay  Alyssa Heider  Lela Nelson  Roberta Wendel
Debra Buckley  Marisa Henry  Angela O’Bryant  Stacey Wertz
Cynthia Cadegiani  Cynthia Herrmann  Greg Osland  Paula Widoff
Deborah Cardot  Melissa Hubbard  Annabelle Perez  Lori Woods-Way
Jason Caresio  Diane Hunt  Jill Peters  Tara Wozniak
Laurie Cox  Hope Ingram  Jenna Peterson  Jennifer Wroblewski
Lizeth Cuevas  Jennifer Jenner  Mary Pini  Holly Zarka
Cassie Danekas  Lynsey Jones  Doreen Plochicki  Roxann Ziano
Charles Dean  Melissa Kelly  Debra Pyszka  Daniel Zissler
James Denham  Lee Kirby  Elizabeth Ramirez  Michelle Zuniga
Patti Dominy  Kathy Knauf  Brianna Rebolz  Penny Zurinski
Donna M. Donna  William Korter  Deborah Redd  JAN
Jheri Emmerling  Dawn Krolak  Janet Redshaw  THE
Linda Ernat  John Kupperschmid  Debra Ringenberg THE
Carina Esquivel  Jaimie Kurth  Lynn Romagnoli
Patricia Esquivel  Sonia Leon  Karen Rossmann
Raquel Esquivel  Therese Lesmeister  Christine Sabotta
Mike Evans  Mandy Lester  Cynthia Schlesinger
Brenda Ferguson  John Lindennmeyer  Michelle Serpico
Joan Fernandez  Debra Loebach  Wendy Smyth
Debra Fewell  Dr. Steve Lukancic  Robin Stedman

IV Healthcorp employees and physicians who were mentioned by name in a positive manner on patient surveys returned in April 2016 include:

Jessica Allen (2) • Dr. Eugene Becker • Bobbi Bowser • Cheryl Brabay • Carrie Burr • Dr. Mario Cote (3) • Mary Couts • Dr. Vijay Desai (2) • Kim Duttinger
Mimi Ernat • Becky Ferguson • Linda Gaul • Rebecca Gensini • Nancy Gilmore (2) • Amanda Gould • Stacey Green • Emily Grivetti (2) • Marisa Henry (3)
Barb Hrovat • Megan Hochstatter (3) • Dana Hoffman • Dr. Othman Jibril • Mary Jauch (5) • Joe Kamphaus • Dr. David Kelton • Dawn Krolak • Todd Kuzma
Cathy Lenkaitis • Macee Lentz • Brittnae Lewis • Deanna Maggi • Bridget Malone (2) • Jacqueline Marshall • Kris Martin • Mary Sue Martyn • Adam Maubach
Kim McTee (2) • Amy Mertes • Beth Michael • Dr. Mauro Montevechchi • Renee Olsen • Annabelle Perez • Jill Peters • Mary Pini • Elizabeth Ramirez
Tina Reel • Angela Reidner • Debra Ringenberg • Donna Ristau • Dr. Muhammad Sabir (3) • Michelle Serpico • Janelle Stegman (3) • Lisa Theobald
Sue Tutko • Karen Urbanc • Dr. Michelle Vasquez • Penny Zurinski

New hospital safety scores, which assign A, B, C, D, and F letter grades to hospitals nationwide, were announced April 26 by the Leapfrog Group, a national patient safety watchdog.

Illinois Valley Community Hospital was one of 798 hospitals nationwide and one of only 50 hospitals in Illinois to receive an A, ranking it among the safest hospitals in the United States.

“Avoidable deaths in hospitals should be the number one concern of our health care leaders. Hospitals that earn an ‘A’ from Leapfrog are leaders in saving lives, and we commend them and urge their continued vigilance,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group.

Developed under the guidance of Leapfrog’s Blue Ribbon Expert Panel, the Hospital Safety Score uses 30 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D, and F grades to more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals twice per year.

The score is calculated by top patient safety experts, peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. For the first time, the Hospital Safety Score includes five measures of patient-reported experience with the hospital as well as two of the most common infections, C.diff and MRSA.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

ADULT DAY CENTER
The clients enjoyed music and entertainment with Rich Selquist. Happy Father’s Day from all of us at the ADC. Looking forward to a nice, hot, fun-filled summer.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT
Welcome back to Deb Puetz, Pt. Rep. We are happy for her new joint and hope she will soon be pain free after all the years of discomfort. No one ever knows what someone else’s job entails until you have to cover it. Glad she is back! Robin Sienkiewicz traveled to Edisto Beach, SC, to her niece’s destination wedding and had a great time visiting with relatives and friends. We want to wish our 3R neighbor, Brittney Moutray, a happy maternity leave and can’t wait to see her new daughter. Enjoy your time off and try to get some rest. Thanks to the Nurse’s Week and Hospital Week committees for their hard work to make our May Celebrations special.

PATIENT FINANCIAL SERVICES
Congratulations to Cindy and Jack Kohr on their 40th anniversary! A relaxing time was spent on a Florida beach. Congratulations to Kathy Knauf’s granddaughter Maggie for making the color guard squad at Normal Community High School. Cathy Jo’s son Taylor will be graduating from Mendota High School this month and hopefully will be going to UTI this fall to be a diesel mechanic.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING
Dana Hagen (Ultrasound) married John Colby, Saturday, April 23, at St Joseph’s Church, Peru. It was a beautiful day, and a beautiful ceremony and reception. Thank you for the outstanding awards banquet at the Grand Bear, April 21. It was nice to see everyone out of our work environment.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Graduations all around! Jheri Emmerling’s brother Bucky graduated from Illinois Wesleyan, Joan Fernandez’ son, Chris, graduated from Bradley University and Vonda Spanbauer’s granddaughter, Michaela, graduated from Byron High School.

MAINTENANCE
Maintenance would like to congratulate Harry Weide on the marriage of his daughter, Tricia. Dan Postula has added another grandchild to his tribe, a five-year-old Sheltie named Abby. We’d like to congratulate Greg Windy on completing the qualifications to be promoted to a level III mechanic.

IVCH NOTES
LORI WOODS-WAY IS LATEST SUNFLOWER AWARD WINNER
Congratulations to phlebotomist Lori Woods-Way, the latest winner of the Sunflower Award, an honor given quarterly to a member of the IVCH support staff for giving outstanding service and care to patients. Lori was nominated by her lab co-workers for the compassion she shows patients. One of the nominations said she often buys flowers for patients who are having bad days. “The way she treats patients and their families, and also her co-workers, goes above and beyond the ordinary. She truly cares so much about everyone and shows great compassion toward those who are suffering. She is a role model for all who know her,” said a nomination from the laboratory staff. Pictured, from left, are Kim Hanck, Lori Woods-Way, Joannie Templeton, Nicole Beuster, Marissa Martin and Jennifer Passini.

CAFETERIA RENOVATION STARTS JUNE 1
Work will begin June 1 on remodeling the IVCH cafeteria. The job is expected to take about two weeks to complete. During the renovation, menu items may be limited.

UROLOGISTS MOVE INTO NEW IVCH OFFICE
Drs. Chris Schwartz and Steve Chung, the two urologists who treat patients and perform surgery at IVCH, have moved into larger quarters in the hospital’s West Street office building. They had been in an office at the end of the building’s first floor hallway. They are now in the space formerly occupied by Family Pharmacy.

IVCH STREATOR LAB DRAW DAYS INCREASED
An IVCH phlebotomist is now at the hospital’s Streator Medical Clinic four days a week to collect blood and urine samples from patients who need lab work done. No appointment is needed for the service, which is available from 8 till 10 a.m. each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the office of internal medicine practitioner Indra Pal, MD. The other office suite in the building is occupied by internist Damodara Karkera, MD.

DATES SET FOR IVCH SPORTS PHYSICALS
IVCH will be offering $20 school sports physicals July 21 from 4-8 p.m. at the CPRA, August 2 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Oglesby Elementary School, and August 9 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Parkside School in Peru. Call the CPRA at 815-780-3509 for details.
THANK YOU to all of the IVCH employees and community members who supported the Plant Sale. We hope your yards look beautiful!

50-YEAR AWARD HIGHLIGHTS IVCH RECOGNITION DINNER

15 YEARS
Cathy Bankes, Patient Financial Services
Dasia Beals, Nursing Services
Barbara Boehm, Patient Access
Jason Caresto, Environmental Services
Mary Coutts, Nursing Services
Jane Curry, Nursing Services
Donna M. Donna, Diagnostic Imaging
Michael Hubbard, Plant Operations
Dawn Krolak, Nursing Services
Janice Lannen, Food Services
Mark Mateika, Security
Candace Reppin, Nursing Services
Victoria Strait, Diagnostic Imaging
Martie Tomsha, Family Home Medical Equipment

10 YEARS
Maeele Bade, Patient Access
Kerry Curtin, Pharmacy
Christine Fiek, Patient Access
Diane Garland, Fiscal
Melissa Hubbard, Nursing Services
Nina Hutchinson, Diagnostic Imaging
Maureen Lemmer, Illinois Valley Orthopedics
Mandy Lester, Human Resources
Jo Ann Main, Patient Financial Services
Relynn Olivero, Social Service
Kayla Olson, Physical Therapy
Jim Schaefer, Administration
Amber Slover, Sleep Clinic
Kimberly Taylor, Patient Financial Services
Craig Vickery, Adult Day Center
Jennifer Washelesky, Diagnostic Imaging
Trisha Watkins, Nursing Services
Patricia Wren, Outpatient Clinics
Vallary Ziel, Laboratory

5 YEARS
Mari Angel, Fast Care
Ana Alicia Arteaga, Diagnostic Imaging
Brenda Bankes, Environmental Services
Emalita Baptista, Fast Care
Caroline Barnes, Hygienic Institute
Catherine Bunzell, Nursing Services
Betsy Caputo, Quality Management
Dr. Kelly DeBoer, Oglesby Medical Clinic
Elizabeth Emmerling, Peru Medical Clinic
Lynnette Erickson, Care Today
Carina Esquivel, Nursing Services
Ashley Quisti, Nursing Services
Tamara Hand, Women’s Health Care Center
Casey Harmon, Information Systems

Guadalupe Heredia, Outpatient Clinics
Lynette Kmetz, Environmental Services
John Kupperschmidt, Environmental Services
Brittnae Lewis, Nursing Services
Dr. Scott Millington, Anesthesiology
Michelle Moreno, Health Information Management
Nichole Naramore, Women’s Health Care Center
Angela O’Bryant, Nursing Services
Janel O’Keeffe, Peru Primary Care Clinic
Tracy Platt, Patient Access
Kevin Seghi, Transport Services
Dr. Michelle Vasquez, Peru Primary Care

RETIREES
Nancy Butler
Carol Burke
Marcia Ciccone
Terry Hrovat
Joe Kamphaus
Kathy Kehr
Laurie Krystofek
Greg Kulp
Diane Marchesi
Cheryl Suarez
Sandra Vander Meersch

NEW VENDOR SET TO HIT THE IVCH CAFETERIA
Get excited! IVCH will be welcoming a new vendor! On Tuesday, May 24 and Wednesday, May 25, please join CC’s Specialty Foods in the cafeteria from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. both days. They will have Chicago’s finest Kolaczki (16 pieces for $8), Coffee cakes ($12/each), Honey sticks, poppyseed rolls, and much more! You can also check out their delicious items by visiting their website at www.ccsspecialtyfoods.com. If there are items you would like to pre-order, please email Dave at dave@ccsspecialtyfoods.com so he can have your order ready to go. Thank you for your continued support!

IVCH USED BOOK SALE
The Auxiliary is currently taking donations of books and puzzles for the Used Book Sale that will be held on July 22-23. Please bring your donations to the Lobby Shoppe or to Danielle Bourell’s office on 3R. Thank you in advance for your donations.

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Thank you in advance for your donations.

BIRTHDAYS
Join me in wishing a very happy birthday to the following Auxiliary members: Norma Witzacz (6/9), and Penny Zeman (6/11).

RED COATS HONORED AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Members of the IVCH Volunteer Escort Service were recognized for the 5,844 hours they donated to the hospital during calendar year 2015, as well as for the time they’ve spent when they met for their annual luncheon May 5 at Marco’s Maples in Peru. Here are the Red Coats who have contributed the most hours volunteering at IVCH:

• William Perra – 23 years and 6,048 hours
• Wayne Howarth – 20 years and 4,440 hours
• Ron Rynke – 16 years and 3,596 hours
• Jean Mikus – 15 years and 3,180 hours
• Jerry Hahn – 12 years and 2,580 hours

Thank you!
You may have noticed the Mother’s Day post on the IVCH Facebook page featuring this photo of moms who work at IVCH and their children who also now work at the hospital. The message with the photo invited the Facebook community to post photos of their mothers on the IVCH page. Jheri Emmerling, IVCH Foundation secretary, came up with the idea.

Going from left to right, here’s who is in the photo:
Lisa Grivetti and daughter Emily Grivetti
Betsy Emmerling and daughter Jheri Emmerling
Deb Puetz and daughter Amy Stash
Cindy Grabow and daughter Jennifer Mayer
Britnae Lewis and mom Vicki O’Brien
Jason Caresio and mom Deb Caresio
Joanne Vacarro and daughter Betsy Caputo
Dee Pinter and daughter Mary Pinter
Renee Rebholz and daughter-in-law Brianna Rebholz
Mandy Lester and mom Callie Struna-Feliksiak
Pam Tondi with daughter Ashley Freitag and grandson Duncan Freitag
Dawn Moutray and daughter-in-law Brittney Moutray
Janelle Dyer and mom Connie Dyer
Karen Gray with mom Janet Langham

IVCH MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS (OR DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW) PLUS ONE SON

THE BABY FRIENDLY HOSPITAL INITIATIVE
THE IVCH JOURNEY TO BECOMING A BABY FRIENDLY HOSPITAL

IVCH takes pride in striving to deliver extraordinary care to every patient, every day! And that of course includes the care provided to pregnant women and their infants. When a couple is expecting, they will naturally have questions and will be making important decisions during the pregnancy in regards to the birth, feeding their baby and baby care. Parents often look for information and guidance from their healthcare providers and from hospital staff for answers to those questions and in making decisions. Parents also expect respect and support of those decisions during their hospital stay and sometimes the weeks and months to follow when home.

IVCH is happy to announce our participation in a program that we feel embraces the very type of care we strive to provide every day! The program is the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative. We are presently at the half-way point through the program, a journey to receiving the designation as a Baby Friendly Hospital. The program is designed to encourage and recognize hospitals that offer an optimal level of care for infant feeding and mother/baby bonding. The BFHI assists hospitals in giving all mothers the information, confidence, and skills necessary to successfully initiate and continue breastfeeding their babies or feeding formula safely, and gives special recognition to hospitals that have done so.

When the decision was made to participate in this program and pursue the designation, a multidisciplinary task force, comprised of staff from various departments, was formed and quickly went to work using tools, studying program guidelines and examining policies and procedures associated with maternity care and infant feeding. The next steps are to provide physician and nursing staff education and training, auditing, data collection and looking at the results. Finally, the hospital will be formally assessed prior to receiving the designation.

We’re finding our journey to be exciting and challenging, but worth it; a program that provides opportunities to develop high performance work teams and build leadership skills among staff, in addition to improving health outcomes for both mom and baby!

If you have questions about the program, please call our certified lactation consultant, Mary Coutts, ILBCL at 815-780-3860. You can also find more information at: www.babyfriendlyusa.org
AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – MAY 23
The next American Red Cross Blood drive will be held, Monday, May 23 from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the 6th Street Building. A huge thank you to the Service Excellence committee who will give $5 in IVCH bucks to all staff and volunteers who donate. To sign up for your life saving donation, please contact Danielle Bourell at ext. 3387 or call 815-670-2460.

VALLEY REGIONAL CANCER CENTER
5TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE – JUNE 11
Valley Regional Cancer Center is inviting all of its patients, former patients and the public to an open house celebrating VRCC’s fifth anniversary. The event is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. Saturday, June 11. The cancer center is located north of the Peru Mall, next to Jalapeno’s Restaurant.

IVCH FOUNDATION GRANT HELPED PURCHASE FURNITURE
A $75,000 IVCH Foundation grant helped the hospital purchase bariatric furniture – furniture for heavier-than-average patients – for the 2 South and 3 South nursing units. The funds let IVCH buy two bariatric beds, a bariatric lift chair recliner, a patient room chair and a transporter chair to allow increased mobility and comfort for bariatric patients. Also included in the grant were funds to purchase lifting equipment to help nurses safely move bariatric patients. Other recent Foundation grants include:
• $11,450 to continue a program that funds free massages by IVCH therapists for patients at the Valley Regional Cancer Center.
• $6,000 to send two hospital employees to "train the trainer" aggression management classes.
• $1,000 to help a nurse become gastroenterology certified.

IN SYMPATHY
The IVCH family wishes sincere sympathy to:
• Chris Debosik, Endoscopy, on the loss of her mother-in-law, Helen Debosik;
• Kim Stoffle, Center for Physical Rehabilitation and Aquatics, on the loss of her father-in-law;
• Lorene Munson, Hygienic Institute, on the loss of her mother, Elizabeth Hamilton.

New EMPLOYEES
New members of the IVCH family welcomed at the May 9 new employee orientation session include, front row from left, Lindsey Foster, Illinois Valley Orthopedics; Dawn Haase, nursing services; Jocelyn Salazar, CPRA; and Amanda Hines, nursing services. In the back row, from left, are Michele Waters, nursing services; Angelia Delphi, information systems; Brian O’Leary, information systems; Barbara Tieman, Women’s Health Care Center; and Stephanie Simpson, laboratory.

EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS