April 11, 2014

A TIMELESS MISSION

Appreciation and some history from the Congregation of St. Joseph

Inspired by the upcoming 125th Anniversary of Borgess Health, 22 members of Congregation of St. Joseph (formerly Sisters of St. Joseph) shared their thoughts on the timeless Mission of the health system they founded in 1889, their former roles within Borgess and appreciation to all current Borgess associates.

A new Congregation of St. Joseph interview can be viewed on CSJinterviews.Borgess.com each month beginning April 11. A sampling of the upcoming interviews include the following Sisters:

- Sr. Lenora Benda, RN, who trained the initial groups of Borgess nurses when Borgess began the area’s first open heart surgery program in 1971.
- Sr. Irene Waldmann and Sr. Ginny Jones, who championed new Borgess health promotion programs to help area residents avoid getting ill—years before preventive medicine became popular with other health systems.

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Members of the Congregation of St. Joseph who recently shared their thoughts include (left to right): Sr. Betty Veenhuis, Sr. Mary Joan Walsh, Sr. Rita Ann Tiechman and Sr. Irene Waldmann. Sr. Lenora Benda is shown on the far right of the 1973 Borgess open heart surgery photo.
“First Sr. Lenora went to St. Louis to earn a master’s degree in cardiac nursing. She then offered nursing training classes that included going to the Cleveland Clinic with Dr. Ernesto Suarez (southwest Michigan’s first cardiothoracic surgeon who trained at the Cleveland Clinic) for additional heart surgery instruction.

“Sr. Lenora regularly assisted in surgeries and continued Borgess educational courses until 1980,” said Sr. Paula Terese. “She then chose to assist the poor in Thailand and other locations. She has never slowed down. Today Sr. Lenora continues to use her nursing talents at a Detroit Clinic for underserved women.

“During the recordings, the Sisters shared a bit of their individual history and most importantly praised Borgess associates for carrying on the Mission of helping others.”

Sr. Paula Terese Pilon
Coordinator of Workplace Spirituality

“Some of the skilled nurses who received training with Sr. Lenora more than 30 years ago are still serving patients within the Borgess Heart Institute,” said Sr. Paula Terese. “They remember Sr. Lenora fondly for her expertise and her innate ability to foster teamwork in the new and exacting treatment specialty of open heart surgery.

“Sr. Irene Waldmann and Sr. Ginny Jones helped bring about many health promotion programs, like the Borgess Heart Institute,” said Sr. Paula Terese.

“Some Sisters were asked to interview for our ‘green health’ heritage of sustainability that has always been a part of Borgess and the Sisters.

“Not all of the 22 interviews became individual video stories,” said Sr. Paula Terese. “Also, some of these Sisters were additionally active in other health ministries, like St. John Providence Health System or St. Joseph Health System.

“A sincere thank you from the Sisters to all Borgess Health Facilities Members to listen to these Sisters reflect on our health care ministry and their hopes for the future,” said Sr. Paula Terese.

A sincere thank you from the Sisters to all Borgess Health associates

“The theme repeatedly shared by the Sisters is not personal accomplishment but a sincere thank you to all Borgess Health associates,” said Linda Root, RNC, BS, Vice President, Mission Integration.

“The original 11 Sisters of St. Joseph did every task except stoke the furnace with coal,” said Root. “However they realize that their role is no longer ‘hands-on’ but instead ‘hearts-on’.

“The Sisters repeatedly say in the videos how much they cherish the efforts of everyone within Borgess Health,” said Mary Heintzkill, MThS, BCC, Director, Spiritual Care. “They urge us to continue the Values that are seen on the walls of Borgess Health facilities: Service of the Poor, Reverence, Integrity, Wisdom, Creativity and Dedication.

“The interviews made me proud to be part of an organization that they created, helped shape and now entrust to us.”
Resounding Spirit Choir presents spring benefit concert

Harmony in healing will be on full display – and for a local cause – thanks to the popular Borgess Resounding Spirit Choir.

The Resounding Spirit Choir, now in its second full year of performing, will hold a benefit spring concert, hosted by the Congregation of St. Joseph, at 6 pm, Friday, April 25, 2014, in the Holy Family Chapel at the Nazareth Center. The concert, which is free and open to the public, will support Kalamazoo’s Ministry with Community.

The Resounding Spirit Choir, Ministry with Community, and the Congregation of St. Joseph are encouraging persons attending the concert to donate and support the critical services provided by Ministry with Community. A pre-concert reception will be held at 5 pm at Nazareth, where donations will be graciously accepted.

“We’ve heard great things about how the Resounding Spirit Choir provides support and inspiration to Borgess patients, staff and the community,” said Rob Oakleaf, Executive Director, Ministry with Community. “We welcome them stepping up to the plate, along with the Congregation of St. Joseph, to help us continue our mission.”

“We are pleased to offer this benefit concert for a Kalamazoo organization that does so much to feed and care for the poor and vulnerable in the community,” said Linda Root, Vice President, Mission Integration, Borgess Health. “We strongly encourage all Borgess associates, as well as people throughout the region, to attend, give and hear great music in the process.”

The Resounding Spirit Choir will sing a variety of inspirational selections during the benefit concert, including “Scarborough Fair,” “Sing We and Chant It,” and The Beatles classic, “Let It Be.” The choir is led by music director Jeffrey A. Spenner. It is open to all Borgess associates and volunteers, and meets at noon on Wednesdays in the chapel at Borgess Medical Center.

To learn more, visit choir.borgess.com.

Advance care planning important for everyone

Borgess Health encourages all associates and the community to attend the “Your Voice, Your Choice,” event on advance care planning and designating a patient advocate.

“While nobody plans to get sick or wants to make difficult medical decisions, serious illnesses or injuries can happen at any time,” said Stephen Jefferson, MD, Clinical Ethicist, and board-certified Pulmonologist and Internal Medicine Specialist, Borgess Health.

“Seventy-one percent of Americans have considered their end-of-life preferences, but only 29 percent actually have a living will in place. Without a plan, your health care team won’t know your wishes if you can’t speak for yourself and your family might not know what to do. That’s why advance care planning is so important.”

Presenters at “Your Voice, Your Choice” will include Dr. Jefferson; Mary Heintzkill, Director, Spiritual Care, Borgess Health; and Michael Philbrick, Attorney, Hall Render Attorneys. Advance care planning documents will be distributed at the event.

Borgess associates who participate in the Borgess Wellness Program will receive five wellness points if they complete an Advanced Directives form. Those who do should type in the date they complete their advanced directive.

National Healthcare Decision Day exists to inspire, educate and empower both the public and health care providers about the importance of advance care planning. For more information on National Healthcare Decisions Day, visit nhdd.org.

ANNUAL INVENTORY SALE

The Seasons Gift Shop will hold its annual inventory sale from 7:30 am until 5 pm, Wednesday, April 23, in room 123 of the Lawrence Education Center. Excess inventory will be sold at deeply discounted prices. For more information, call (269) 226.7379.
Beginning Friday, April 11, Federal Express will be the preferred method of shipping packages throughout Borgess Health. For more information, contact Karri Fuller, Finance and Materials Management, Borgess Health, at (269) 226.8301 or karrifuller@borgess.com.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday, May 2 – Borgess Health & Fitness Center**
- Meijer Kids Fun Run Expo – 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- Meijer Kids Fun Run – 6 pm
- Motivational Mile – 6:05 pm

**Saturday, May 3 – Wings Stadium**
- Borgess Run Expo, Packet Pickup and Late Registration – 11 am to 6 pm

**Sunday, May 4 – Borgess Health & Fitness Center**
- Packet Pickup – 6:30 am
- Kalamazoo Marathon – 8 am
- Borgess Half Marathon – 8:20 am
- Borgess 10K Run – 8:30 am
- Borgess 5K Run – 8:40 am
- Priority Health 5K Walk – 8:40 am

**More Borgess Health Park FUN facts**
- 4,600 tons of asphalt
- 250,000 linear feet of electrical wire
- 257,000 square feet of gyp board
- 136,400 linear feet of steel studs
- 31,760 feet of track and channel

The snow is finally gone, and the work at Borgess Health Park is heading down the home stretch. Landscaping is starting to take shape, and work continues inside. The ambulatory facility at 3035 Capital Ave. SW in Battle Creek opens in early June. Here are a few more interesting tidbits about the project construction, and photos.

**32nd-ANNUAL Burton H. Upjohn Merit Award Nominations**

Nominations for the Burton H. Upjohn Merit Awards are being accepted until April 18. Nomination guidelines and forms are available by contacting Debbie Mendles, HR Specialist, 226.7171 or DebbieMendles@borgess.com.

**Change in package shipping**

Beginning Friday, April 11, Federal Express will be the preferred method of shipping packages throughout Borgess Health. For more information, contact Karri Fuller, Finance and Materials Management, Borgess Health, at (269) 226.8301 or karrifuller@borgess.com.

**Earth Day prayer service**

Borgess Mission Integration is hosting an Earth Day prayer service at 11 am, Tuesday, April 22, 2014, in the Sister Anastasia Healing Garden. The prayer service will include blessing the garden for a new crop of fresh vegetables, and asking prayers for individuals who will receive this produce gift. For more information, contact Sr. Paula Terese Pilon, Coordinator, Workplace Spirituality, at (269) 226.7255 or paula.pilon@borgess.com.

**Passion of Our Lord reading**

There will be a reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ at noon on Good Friday, April 18, in the chapel at Borgess Medical Center. All are invited to attend.

**Burton H. Upjohn**: Former Borgess Board of Trustees Chairperson, Borgess Patient, Community Leader & Environmentalist.