Latest Updates
https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/covid-19-employee-information#goodnews
Nursing leaders recognize Year of the Nurse

In a year unlike any other for health care workers, it's fitting 2020 has been designated the International Year of the Nurse by the World Health Organization (WHO). The designation represents an effort to celebrate nurses and raise awareness about the challenges they face.

2020 was chosen as Year of the Nurse in part because it is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Florence would certainly be proud of the nurses at Marshfield Clinic Health System, and across the world during this pandemic.

Pulse asked Health System regional chief nursing officers Jacquelyn Frombach, Vicky Varsho and Pam Jochimsen for their comments about nurses during this extraordinary year.

Varsho, Jochimsen and Frombach: 2020 has certainly been a year that we never dreamed would play out the way it has. Our nurses have been challenged in more ways than one could imagine. We are so proud of the sacrifices our nurses have made every day during this pandemic. The dedication, commitment and courage deserve our deepest gratitude. They are a true inspiration!

The game changed for health care as the pandemic unfolded and nurses rose to meet the challenge and face the unknowns. Nursing is a profession that encompasses leadership, clinical skills, psycho-social patient needs, triage, pharmacology – the list goes on and on. In addition, nurses are innovative and creative, always asking: how else can we do this? What are the tools in our tool box and how can we apply them to this situation? Nurses come back day after day no matter what. They come back to work to make things better for patients and families. They come back for their team. We are beyond proud of the nurses in our workforce.

Nurses are compassionate and compassion fatigue is real among them. When they leave work, they essentially take our patients and co-workers with them, unable to turn off the events of their shifts. Families can't be with their loved ones at this time, and they look to nurses to help fill that void. Nurses are holding the hands of the struggling and the dying. Nurses are often the conduit of ongoing communication for loved ones while they are also being 'the nurse'.

Nurses will be the first to say it is a team effort. I agree with that. Nurses and physicians, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, pharmacists, Chaplin Services, Environmental Services, Food Services, everyone who shows up exhibits comradery and unity. All are part of the tremendous work of health care during one of the most difficult times many have experienced in their career, in their lives.
New Life Link III air base coming to Rhinelander in 2021

Life Link III has announced plans to open a new air medical base in Rhinelander. The base will be located at the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport and will support the growing needs of the Northwoods.

This new base is the 10th throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota, including Marshfield and Rice Lake. The Rhinelander base will begin 24-hour, seven-day a week operations in spring 2021.

Life Link III's medically-configured helicopters and airplane serve as flying intensive care units (ICUs) and feature advanced clinical capabilities on-board each aircraft including point-of-care laboratory testing, point-of-care ultrasound, and LUCAS mechanical CPR. Whole blood is also carried on-board every flight.

“Our new base in Rhinelander, will bring much-needed air medical resources to this region and surrounding communities,” said Life Link III Vice President of Operations, Lee McCammon. “Currently, the closest air medical resource for this area is almost 40 minutes away, which can have a significant impact on injured or critically-ill patients needing to be transported to a higher level of care. Rhinelander is an ideal location for our new base as it allows us to serve both the needs of northern Wisconsin as well as support our Life Link III consortium members.”

Life Link III has a 35-year history and works in partnership with local hospitals and public safety agencies to transport patients from accident scenes and from local hospitals to those that can provide specific expertise or higher level of care. To support this new base, Life Link III looks forward to bringing 16 new employment opportunities to this region.

“This is welcome news for our patients in the Northwoods. Having a Life Link III base in close proximity to our hospitals in Park Falls and Minocqua strengthens our ability to meet the air transport needs of our critically ill patients across the region,” said Dr. Susan Turney, Marshfield Clinic Health System CEO. “It also offers our patients and their families reassurance that their care needs will be met as timely and efficiently as possible.”
Clinical Medicine & Research released, features four original articles by Health System authors

The latest issue of the Clinical Medicine & Research journal was released Monday, December 14, featuring seven research findings including original research on predicting metabolic syndrome in people living with HIV, heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and urine antigen testing sensitivity. Four of these articles are authored by Health System researchers and clinicians (names highlighted in bold).

Clinical Medicine & Research is an indexed, peer-reviewed, medical research journal owned and published by Marshfield Clinic Health System, and edited within Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

Peer-reviewed original articles in this edition include:

“Myocardial Infarction Type 2 Avoiding Pitfalls and Preventing Adverse Outcomes” by Muhammad Umer Siddiqui, M.D.; Adnan Ahmed, M.D.; Muhammad Danial Siddiqui, M.D.; and Ahmed K. Pasha, M.D.

“Lipid Accumulation Product Index to Predict Metabolic Syndrome in People Living with HIV” by Marianna Amaral Raboso, M.Sc.; Nathalia Sernizon Guimarães, Ph.D.; and Unaí Tupinambás, M.D., Ph.D.

“Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction and 30-Day Readmission” by Manjari Rani Regmi, M.D.; Mukul Bhattarai, M.D., M.P.H., FACP; Priyanka Parajuli, M.D.; Odalys Estefania Lara Garcia, M.D.; Nitin Tandan, M.D.; Nicolas Ferry, M.D., Capt USAF; Asad Cheema, M.D.; Youssef Chami, M.D.; and Robert Robinson, M.D., M.S., FACP.


About the journal

Clinical Medicine & Research debuted in 2003 continuing the Health System’s long history of publishing scholarly journals that dates back to the first half of the 1900s. With an international reach, Clinical Medicine & Research is indexed in major U.S. and international databases of scientific information including Index Medicus/MEDLINE, PubMed Central, EMBASE, Scopus, Emerging Sources Citation Index and many more.

It is one of only a few medical research journals owned and published by private health systems and also included in the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s prestigious Index Medicus/MEDLINE database. Other health systems with such indexed journals include Mayo Clinic Health System, Cleveland Clinic, Texas Heart Institute and Menninger Clinic.

Accepted articles are published online at www.clinmedres.org prior to appearing in a formal issue of the journal. The site is accessed more than 20,000 times per month and has more than 100,000 full-text article views or downloads per year.

To submit an article, visit www.editorialmanager.com/clinmedres. All submitted articles are peer-reviewed first by the executive editorial team. If selected during editorial review, articles are also peer-reviewed by external subject-matter experts. To reach the executive editorial team, email clinmedres@marshfieldresearch.org or call 715-389-3501.

Members of the executive editorial team include Adedayo Onitilo, M.D., Ph.D., editor-in-chief; Sherry Salzmann Scott, M.S., senior editor; Jamiu O. Busari, M.D., Ph.D., associate editor from Zuyderland Medical Center in the Netherlands; Robert Greenlee, Ph.D., M.P.H., associate editor; and Rohit Sharma, M.D., FACS, associate editor. Members of the editorial advisory board from Marshfield Clinic Health System include Kelley Anderson, M.D.; Jessica Engel, D.N.P.; Steven Taylor, M.D.; and Richard Dart, M.D., editor emeriti.

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Spreading good cheer: Volunteers wrap nearly 250 gifts for frontline workers

The 2020 year has been a difficult one for many people, particularly frontline workers. The Health System’s Wellness@Work program and Security Health Plan Helping Employees and Communities team wanted to do a little something for the dedicated frontline workers, who have been picking up extra shifts and working long hours in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wellness@Work program and SHP HEC team had 16 volunteers who wrapped a total of 244 gifts for the 20 frontline employees who participated by bringing in their gifts to wrap.

“We wanted to ease the burden of wrapping gifts for them to free up time to rest or spend with family,” said Amber Corcoran, Marshfield Clinic Health System health educator. “Any burden we could provide to not worry about them wrapping gifts we wanted to do for them.”

In a difficult year employees were appreciative to have even a small thing like wrapping presents be taken off their plate this holiday season.

“The employees that did take advantage were super thankful,” Corcoran said. “They were so grateful and were asking to leave us tips, but this was truly just a thank you to them for serving on the front lines and we just wanted to take any stress away we could no matter how small.”

Polar Express day encourages all to believe in the spirit of the holidays

The holiday season brings a sense of wonder, joy and excitement to children every year and the Child Life and Expressive Therapies team is determined that this year will be no different. Every year, Child Life staff works with Santa and his elves to arrange a special visit to Marshfield Children’s Hospital.
This way kids who are in the hospital are able to celebrate the holidays. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they knew their holiday celebrations would need to look different.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, children and families at Marshfield Children's Hospital took a ride on the Polar Express. Kids and their parents received a letter from Santa explaining he wouldn't be able to visit them that day, but he sent his elves, the Child Life specialists, in his place with presents, a special viewing of The Polar Express, holiday treats and a virtual craft activity. Each child received a Believe bell like the one in the movie to encourage them, now more than ever, we need to believe in hope and the spirit of Christmas.

“We obviously still wanted to celebrate the holidays and provide a sense of excitement, normalcy and fun for the kids that had to be in the hospital,” said Heidi Giese, Child Life and Expressive Therapies manager. “We may be restricted from some of our normal activities, but it is important, for children and adults alike, to be able to celebrate in different ways.”

**Santa's Workshop**

Because of the generosity of donors, Santa’s Workshop for families will run now until December 25. Child Life staff are taking precautions to allow one parent at a time to come and pick out toys from Santa's workshop for their children and volunteer elves will wrap and prepare them to be sent home with families. All pediatric patients in the hospital on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will receive gifts from Santa and his elves to open on Christmas Day.

“Kids need to be kids and that includes celebrating holidays even if you have to be in the hospital,” said Giese. “We may be restricted from some of our normal activities, but it is important, for children and adults alike, to be able to celebrate in different ways.”

**Rice Lake hospital, hospice get in on holiday spirit**
Marshfield Medical Center – Rice Lake had a record year for the Spirit of Christmas program. Our campus “adopted” 30 families in the community and gifts were purchased for more than 150 people.

“We have never been able to adopt so many families in the past. This was absolutely amazing,” said campus Spirit of Christmas organizer, Tracy Schieffer.

Hospice at Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake also got in on the giving spirit.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. And when it comes to caring, Rice Lake hospice colleagues know a thing or two. When a hospice care team visited a patient in his home recently, they saw that the family had hung – alongside the family members’ stockings, stockings for each of the members of the patient’s hospice care team.

“This is how important this staff is to their patients. We’re like family,” said Home Care/Hospice nurse manager Tracy Schieffer.

Hospice volunteer Carla Gruenhagen, also conducted tuck-in deliveries. Each Thursday morning, a hospice volunteer calls each of the Rice Lake hospice patients. In addition to asking if the patient is comfortable, they ask if they are in need of any supplies. Requested supplies are then delivered by a hospice volunteer on Friday morning to patient homes, area nursing homes and community-based residential facilities. This wouldn't happen without the dedication of tuck-in volunteers: Bonnie Christianson, Julie Carlson, Gene Siriani, John Long, Linda Millerman, Peggy Olson, Dick Nerbun, Cathy Ekern, Sammie Alten@garten, Linda Ranallo, Marlene Thurs, Shelly Casey and Charlotte Antczak.
A foot in the door turns into a 42-year career

What was supposed to be a one-year experience turned into an entire career for Registered Nurse Jane Pritzl, Marshfield Medical Center in Marshfield.

“I was getting my foot in the door, learning nursing,” Pritzl recalled. “I planned to go on to school to be a midwife. I changed my plans and really enjoyed what I was doing and have been at Marshfield Clinic (Health System) ever since.”

Ever since is 42 years, all at Marshfield Medical Center on 7 North. Pritzl is a nurse for post-surgical and orthopedic patients.

She had eyes on working a few more years, perhaps 45 in total before retiring, but the COVID-19 pandemic altered that. Pritzl said the past year was exhausting.

“I found that getting older, it is harder to work especially in this environment,” she said.

Pritzl will be greatly missed, said Luke Schlagenhaft, manager for Patient Care Services - 7N.

“Jane has been a dedicated, engaged and appreciated member of the department,” said Schlagenhaft.

Pritzl's last day will be January 23. She plans to move closer to Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota, where she grew up and went to school. Pritzl has missed the beautiful water of the lake.

“When I first moved here, I thought, 'how can I stay here without water or hills,'” she said.

Pritzl's children live in Rice Lake and Eau Claire, so the plan is to move a little north of Rice Lake. While she is excited to retire and move on to the next chapter in her life, Pritzl said she will miss seeing her colleagues and helping patients.

“There has been a lot of changes over 42 years, but I like change,” Pritzl said. “I am going to miss taking care of patients and the satisfaction of helping people and alleviating pain and making people's lives better.”

Making a joyful noise: Pianist brings joy through an impromptu concert

There hasn't been much joy in 2020 for people to be happy about, even with the upcoming holidays.
Katrina Knake of Marshfield, though, decided to take things into her own hands for even just a few minutes to do something about it. She sat down at the piano last Thursday afternoon in the lobby of the medical offices at Marshfield Medical Center. She played Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” in honor of the composer’s 250th birthday and Christmas carols, like “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” with bars from “Stairway to Heaven” intermixed.

Knake, born and raised Norwegian-Lutheran, is a retired fitness trainer who just started working part-time in Food Services at Marshfield Medical Center. She was in the lobby just before going to work.

“I continue to be as many things as I can and don't ever want to be sorry I didn't try something,” she said.

Knake has also played the piano in the East Wing lobby of the medical offices, though curtailed that due to COVID-19, and for hospice patients at House of the Dove “where if you play soothing music for them, you honor them as they go.”

She's self-taught. Her mother kept an upright piano at their cottage as she grew up and Knake learned on her own, claiming to be a left-handed dyslexic who can stay in key pretty well.

“I’m a shaman and very spiritual,” she continued. “Playing piano is a way of communication. This piano …,” she said, touching the keys, “…has its spirit and it misses being played. Now I play it.”

Her audience was grateful.