

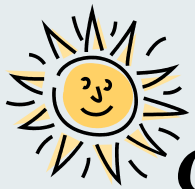
# St. Joseph CONNECTED

January 16, 2009

News for the Employees of SJHC, SJMP and SJHC-W

## Got News?

Send it to  
Mary\_Enger@ssmhc.com or  
interoffice mail it to  
PR and Marketing.



## WANTED: Your Cost-Saving Ideas!

Put on your thinking caps — Sr. Mary Jean Ryan, president/CEO of SSM Health Care, would like to hear from you! She is asking employees at all entities for **cost-saving suggestions**...no matter how large or how small.

If you have ideas, you'll find new suggestion boxes in the lobby of SJHC and SJMP and in the cafeteria at SJHC and SJHC-W. Stuff those boxes with your great thoughts...you might be mentioned in an upcoming article in our system's publication, *Network!* ●

## Construction Update



- Street Level A-Wing Cardiology "refresh" scheduled to be completed Feb. 28.
- 2A Pysch Renovation was completed Dec. 29.
- 4C Patient Room renovation construction complete on Jan.21; occupancy Jan. 25.
- Endoscopy Nurses Station replacement to be complete week of Jan. 19.
- Cystology Room renovation to be complete in February.
- New cooling towers and chillers to be complete in February.
- 1A/1B renovation for Select Medical Long-Term Acute Care Hospital started on Dec. 26; scheduled for completion in May. ●

## Employees Help Each Other Through ERF

For five years, employees at SSM St. Joseph have been helping coworkers in need through the SSM St. Joseph Foundation Employee Relief Fund (ERF). The fund has assisted more than 200 employees in financial crisis, who have experienced a death in the family, an extended illness, or a disaster such as a fire, flood or tornado. The need continues to grow, especially in these difficult economic times. You can help by knowing about the fund and spreading the word to those willing and able to assist.

### Caring for Our Coworkers

The ERF aids employees who have experienced financial emergencies or other crises. The Fund is supported by employee donations and is administered by a committee consisting of representatives from the SSM St. Joseph Foundation, Human Resources, Mission Awareness and Pastoral Care departments. This "employees helping employees" program is an expression of the mission and values of SSM Health Care and its entities, including St. Joseph Health Center, St. Joseph Hospital West, St. Joseph Medical Park and St. Joseph Health Center-Wentzville.

### How You Can Contribute

All employees at SSM St. Joseph are invited to contribute to the Employee Emergency Relief Fund through payroll deduction. It is a convenient and easy way to reach out to coworkers in need.

### Employee Emergency Relief Fund Guidelines

Only emergency requests from employees of SSM St. Joseph (with at least one year of service) are considered. For example, the fund will not pay credit card debt. Checks are issued to creditors only. An employee can receive no more than \$350 in assistance per calendar year. Complete confidentiality is maintained with each application.

**For more information, call the Foundation at 947-5612.** ●

## SSM-St. Louis Leadership to Initiate 'Conversations'

The leadership of SSM Health Care-St. Louis wants to know what they can do to support you in your job; which questions you would like answered; and to better understand your satisfaction level with the organization. They plan to do this on a face-to-face basis as a concept called "Conversations with Leaders" is rolled out.

Senior executives — including presidents, regional and network vice presidents — are fanning out on a regularly scheduled basis to randomly visit units, departments and floors across the network for feedback.

"Leadership needs to know what their coworkers are thinking and feeling more than just once-a-year at employee survey time," explains Regional Vice President, Human Resources Debbie Walkenhorst. "These 'conversations' will check the pulse of the organization, but also lead to a

more personal relationship between senior leaders and employees.

"Ultimately, we hope employees feel more comfortable about initiating discussion with senior leadership whenever they see them."

The conversations may include discussion about department and individual goals for 2009 and how each individual contributes to the network vision of "best care, best results." "We want to hear what's going well, what you need for you to do your job better, and what you can do to address challenges," says Walkenhorst.

Leadership will not be able to reach every unit, department or floor. But, says Walkenhorst, "This should enable a large percentage of employees to better understand what SSM-St. Louis is doing and why we are doing it." ●



The new year has brought a new blog to SSM's corporate Web site. Alan Wesley, corporate communications, has agreed to start a weight loss blog called "Keep Your Chins Up." The blog is filled with Alan's zany sense of humor, and he'll be receiving support from Tammy Fumusa, a dietician at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, who will be blogging with him.

**Check it out!**

## PR Has Moved!

The Public Relations and Marketing office has moved from the "Lawyers Building" to an office between the St. Charles Room and the Chapel. The office is located straight down the hallway past the Troy Room.



In the process of moving some things from the old building, your submissions to *Connected* may have been "temporarily" misplaced. If that's the case, please resubmit them. And, as always, readers want your news and information. Now it's easier than ever! Just stop by... Or, you can e-mail or drop your news in the mail.

## We Are Smoke-Free Inside and Out!



As a reminder, all SSM campuses are tobacco free. Smoking is prohibited on any corner or in any building on our campuses. We appreciate your adherence to this policy, as it is a courtesy to non-smoking employees, physicians, patients and visitors.

For those of you who smoke, and would like to become non-smokers, there's help. Both St. Joseph Health Center and Healthy Communities St. Charles County offer smoking cessation classes. For more information, call the St. Joseph Community Cancer Care at ext. 5009, or visit the Healthy Communities Web site at [www.hcssc.org](http://www.hcssc.org).

## St. Joseph **CONNECTED**

*Connected* is produced for the employees of SSM St. Joseph Health Center, SSM St. Joseph Medical Park and SSM St. Joseph Health Center-Wentzville by the Public Relations & Marketing Department.

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