

The Building BLOCK



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OMCA Donates Over \$40,000 to the McCarty Center for Christmas

The Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association (OMCA) presented a check to the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities in the amount of \$40,510 during the annual OMCA Christmas party for the inpatients at the hospital.

The money comes from the proceeds of the 21st annual OMCA charity golf tournament in support of the McCarty Center. The donation is the single largest donation of proceeds from any fundraising event held on behalf of the McCarty Center. The golf event was held in September at Twin Hills golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.

"We were stunned," said Curt Peters, director and CEO of the McCarty Center. "OMCA had indicated that this year's proceeds would be substantially larger than last year, but we didn't dream it would be this big." Last year's donation from OMCA was \$26,000 which was the largest gift from OMCA to date.

OMCA has been hosting a Christmas party for the patients of the McCarty Center for about 40 years, long before the golf tournament began. For the last seven years Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, skillfully played by Don and Peggy Manning, along with Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, played by Meghan

Moore, and a growing cast of OMCA elves have delivered presents to the patients. Musical entertainment was provided by Mary Alice Koehn, wife of OMCA member Rod Koehn.

"Over the years, and particularly in recent years, the membership of OMCA has made it clear to me that the McCarty Center is their charity of choice," explained Rick Moore, executive director of OMCA. "I've had some of these rough tough ole contractors come out here to be an elf and help Santa give out toys, and then tell me later that the experience was life changing or that they will never miss another party for the kids. It's moments like this that remind us that as an organization we're doing the right thing. The members believe that by focusing on one charity they can truly make a difference."

Not only are members of OMCA involved, but their wives and children are involved as well. Many members view this volunteer opportunity as a valuable life lesson for their children and bring them along to act as Santa's helpers during the party. Many of the OMCA kids help Santa Claus acquire gifts for the party as well.

The Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association is the state's trade organization that represents contractors who work on local, state and federal municipal projects.



Curt Peters (on Santa's knee) accepts a check in the amount of \$40,510 on behalf of the McCarty Center from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. The Claus' brought the check to Peters on behalf of the Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association.

The Building Block is Back

After a long absence **The Building Block** newsletter has returned with a new look.

The Building Block is an external newsletter designed to keep various constituencies of the McCarty Center informed and up-to-date on things impacting the hospital and our patients.

Initially The Building Block is being distributed electronically. If someone has passed this issue on to you, and you would like to receive your own copy just send an e-mail to ggaston@jdmc.org. Type "The Building Block" in the subject line. We will add your e-mail address to our list of Building Block subscribers.

The Building Block will be a quarterly publication with distribution planned for March, June, September and December.

Clinical Notes from Nursing



by
Dawn Rosenberry, RN
Director of Nursing

What makes a nurse?

According to the Oklahoma Nurse Practice Act, the "practice of nursing" means "the performance of services provided for purposes of nursing diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems consistent with educational preparation.

"Knowledge and skill are the basis for assessment, analysis, planning, intervention and evaluation used in the promo-

tion and maintenance of health and nursing management of illness, injury, infirmity, restoration or optimal function, or death with dignity.

"Practice is based on understanding the human condition across the lifespan and understanding the relationship of the individual within the environment. This practice includes execution of the medical regime including the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by any person authorized by state law to so prescribe."

This definition applies to all levels of nursing including the Licensed Practical Nurse and the Registered Nurse, which are the two levels of nursing that practice here at the McCarty Center.

What makes a McCarty Center nurse?

Our nurse practice is based on the understanding of the human condition across the lifespan; even when the lifespan is shorter or more delayed than the typical patient for which one may usually care.

The lifespan of the patients that our nurses care for sometimes have healthy, strong, adult bodies, while their mind may be that of a 3 or 4 year old. Other patients have small, fragile bodies with minds of an older appearing patient. Nursing at the McCarty Center does practice based upon the understanding of the human condition across the lifespan, however, it does this with the flexibility and compassion that is necessary to care for patients with special needs.

To break down the definition of the nurse, the Oklahoma Nurse Practice Act states that "the practice of nursing includes the skills necessary for

assessment, analysis, planning intervention and evaluation." The working practice of the McCarty Center nurse incorporates all requirements of the working definition of the practice of nursing, with heightened expansion of the depth and understanding required to care for the patient population that is served.

Creativity in the ability to assess and care for a patient that cannot tolerate touch, administering medications to a patient that has a challenge with swallowing are some of the every day challenges that the nurses at the McCarty Center choose to work with. Our nurses communicate with patients in the way the patient is able to communicate, rather than the way the nurse is accustomed to communicating.

It is the ability of the nurses at the McCarty Center to open themselves up to their patients in order to understand their needs that make these nurses unique. Their patience with their patients, and the willingness to make themselves work for the patient without receipt of immediate results is what is remarkable about the nurses at the McCarty Center. Their genuine love for their patients is what makes nurses stay at this hospital for the duration of their career.

How lucky we, the nurses at the McCarty Center, are to be able to care for the patients that we care for. It is what brings us back every day. This is what makes a J. D. McCarty Center nurse.



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McCarty Center Physical Therapists Add Another Level of Teaching to their Resume

Physical therapists at the McCarty Center are very familiar with teaching. They teach patients how to strengthen their bodies everyday. They teach parents how to continue the patient's exercise program once they go home. And they teach students who are doing their pediatric clinical rotations here at the hospital.

Recently the McCarty Center physical therapy staff, lead by Sue O'Hare, director of physical therapy, added another level of teaching to their resume. The McCarty Center physical therapy staff taught the pediatrics section for the physical therapy assistant (PTA) program from the Caddo/Kiowa Technology Center in Ft. Cobb, Oklahoma. The Caddo/Kiowa Technology Center is the host facility for students who will receive their PTA associates degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma, or from Sayre Junior College in Sayre, Oklahoma.

Teaching PTA students as a part of their course work is very different than teaching students who are here for a pediatrics rotation," said O'Hare. "Teaching students in a clinical rotation is very situational with lots of opportunities for demonstration. Teaching course work means following a syllabus and preparing lectures. This was our first exposure to formal teaching and my staff embraced it."

The pediatric section taught by the McCarty Center PT staff not only covered the topics that would be covered in the students' national exam for licensure, but also covered several topics that the staff felt the students should be

exposed to before going into the work place. These topics included: the federal Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) for the school environment, assistive technology - why equipment is made the way it is and how it functions, treatment theories and the importance of evidence based practice.

"Evidence based practice is the driving force in physical therapy today," explained O'Hare. "We're doing physical therapy based on scientific and medical need and not just because it looks good. Physical therapy is becoming more and more research based, proving that our interventions work."

There were twelve PTA students here from the Caddo/Kiowa Technology Center program. They are nearing the end of their course work and will soon begin their clinical rotations. The feedback from the students and their instructor Brent Grimes, PTA, was positive.

"My students enjoyed the lectures and PowerPoint presentations," said Grimes, "but what they really liked was being able to hear the lectures and then see real examples using real patients. It really closed the loop for them."

One of the live demonstrations, set up by physical therapist Amy Morris, showed the students the typical progression of development of gross motor skills in children. Morris had five McCarty Center staff children on hand ranging in age from 10 weeks to 21 months old. Starting with the youngest and moving to the oldest, Morris demonstrated the differences in their progression based on what

each child could do in various positions ...lying on their stomachs, sitting up, lying on their backs and standing.

Another way of closing the loop for the PTA students was by showing them patients with different neurological impairments of cerebral palsy. "It's one thing for a student to learn the definitions of these different impairments of cerebral palsy, but it's another thing to be able to visually recognize the difference," explained O'Hare. "This is important because we treat each of them differently."

According to Grimes, he will be bringing his next class of PTA students back to the McCarty Center for their pediatric section class work, and according to O'Hare, the McCarty Center PT staff looks forward to sharing their pediatric expertise with his next class.

McCarty Center Hosts Free Child Safety Seat Check

The McCarty Center, in cooperation with Safe Kids Oklahoma and the Norman Police Department, hosted a free child car seat and booster seat safety check on Saturday, February 10. The car seat check was the culmination of

a four day course to train new child passenger safety technicians.

According to Michelle Carr, McCarty Center physical therapist and certified child passenger safety

technician, eight out of ten child car seats are not used or installed properly. "The whole purpose of this safety seat check is to educate parents and ensure that the seats are installed correctly, that the seat is compatible with the vehicle it's being used in and that the child fits correctly in the seat," Carr explained.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, child safety seats or booster seats should be used with children from birth up to 80 pounds in size. The ideal location for the safety seat is in the middle of the back seat away from passenger air bags. Infants must be placed in a rear facing safety car seat until at least age one and 20 pounds in size.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age four to 15. During 2004, there were 1,859 children from birth to 15 killed in passenger vehicle crashes. About 53% of these children were unrestrained in their vehicles. Also in 2004, an average of five children from birth to 15 were killed and 646 were injured every day in motor vehicle crashes.

"The use of a child safety seats reduces the need for hospitalization after a motor vehicle crash by 69%," said Carr. "Because of the proven effectiveness of child safety seats when properly used and installed a safety seat check is important for parents to do."



Kelly Hawkins places her baby Alex in the car seat stand while Michelle Carr provides direction.

Uwe's Corner



with
Uwe von Schamann
Director of Development

It's hard to believe that we have already spent our third Christmas at our new hospital, and I want to thank our donors, staff and volunteers that made this last Christmas the best we've ever had.

Now, that we've had a chance to settle into our new 80-acre campus, with its 18-acre lake, it's time to focus on our aggressive plans that we have to improve our inpatient and outpatient services for children around the state.

In the state of Oklahoma, there are no summer camps that have been specifically designed and built for children with developmental disabilities. The McCarty Center has plans on the drawing board right now to build such a camp, and a

fundraising campaign to finance the camp is underway.

The initial plans for the camp call for the construction of a multi-use activities center, a splash pad water park, a multi-use activities field, a 30' x 60' covered pavilion at the activities field, a campfire area with terraced seating and a lifeguard tower/lake storage facility.

The activities center will be named the Sammy Jack activities center, in memory of Sammy Jack Claphan. Sammy Jack was an offensive lineman from Stillwell, Oklahoma, who played college ball at the University of Oklahoma and pro ball with the San Diego Chargers. When he retired from pro football, Sammy Jack became a special education teacher in his hometown of Stilwell. Sammy Jack died unexpectedly at age 45, but thanks to friends and former teammates, Sammy Jack and his love for special needs children will be remembered and honored through this activities center to be built in his name.

The camp will begin with day camp sessions. As more money is raised to build cabins the camp will transition over from a day camp to a combination day and overnight camp.

Additional features of the summer camp will include: five eight-bed cabins, a terraced playground area, an observation tower, a climbing wall, a covered picnic pavilion, two fishing docks, nature trail and some covered observation and rest areas.

The summer campsite at the McCarty Center will be located on the north shore of an 18-acre lake on the hospital's

campus. Our current plans call for providing approximately 400 kids with developmental disabilities with a one-week camping experience each summer.

Building the infrastructure and features of a summer camp are just one-half of the equation. The other half of the equation is the operational cost.

A camp for special needs kids takes special staffing. Licensed therapists, nurses and other staff who are experienced in working with special needs kids will staff the McCarty Center camp. Having a camp connected to a pediatric rehab hospital for children with developmental disabilities has advantages for campers, but at the same time the camp must meet certain hospital requirements that contribute to the operational cost of the camp.

The cost to send one child to day camp for one week is \$1,350.

The cost to send one child to overnight camp for one week is \$1,750.

Because 90% of our potential campers will be Medicaid eligible, camp scholarships will be of the utmost importance. Without scholarships, most children with developmental disabilities would not be able to afford a camp experience.

There are several ways you can help a child go to camp:

- 1) You can provide a scholarship to one camper for one camp session.
- 2) You can provide a scholarship to one camper for one camp session on an annual basis.
- 3) You can contribute to an endowment fund that will provide several scholarships for campers each year.

For more information about our development activities visit our web site at www.jdmc.org.

Tax Deductible Donations

We are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hospital. Donation checks may be made out to the J. D. McCarty Center or the J. D. McCarty Center Foundation. The IRS has designated these donations tax deductible.

For questions about supporting the McCarty Center, contact Uwe von Schamann, director of development, at 405.307.2804 or uschamann@jdmc.org.

Donation Card

Thank you for your support of the programs, services and capital building needs of the J. D. McCarty Center. Please fill out this card, cut it out and mail it along with your check to Uwe von Schamann, Director of Development, J. D. McCarty Center, P. O. Box 490, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

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