



connections

A newsletter for the staff, physicians, volunteers, residents and students of St. Joseph's Health Centre

MARCH 1, 2010

Inspiring Our People and Using Our Resources Wisely

SJHC Foundation - Lori's Legacy Walkathon, QueenWest MusicFest and the Annual Fall Classic - an Event for Everyone!

Thank You!

On Friday February 19, 2010, '25 Days', a benefit for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, was held at The Assembly Hall. Over twenty artists performed for a sold out audience and raised over \$5,000 in support of St. Joseph's Health Centre's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The Foundation would like to congratulate the cast and crew of Crow's Feet Theatre! Thank you to everyone in attendance for their support and we hope you enjoyed this professional and unique performance. Go to the Foundation website for video from this great event www.foundation.stjoe.on.ca.

Upcoming Events

Lori's Legacy Walkathon - The 11th Annual Lori's Legacy

Walkathon will take place on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at Humber Bay Park West. Join us for a day of family friendly activities and a free BBQ! To register, or for more information, please go to www.lorislegacy.org.

QueenWest MusicFest – For the first time, St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation has the honour of being the designated charity of choice at the second annual QueenWest MusicFest!

This free outdoor concert featuring independent rock music acts straight out of the Queen West area will benefit the new Our Lady Of Mercy patient care wing.

This family-friendly event will be held on Sunday, August 22 at Trinity Bellwoods Park. Details can be found on their website at www.queenwestmusicfest.com

Fall Classic – The 8th Annual St. Joseph's Health Centre Fall Classic has moved to a new venue for 2010! The event will be held at prestigious Islington Golf Club on Monday, September 20, 2010. Designed by renowned golf architect Stanley Thompson, Islington is a proud partner of the 2010 RBC Canadian Open.

Join us for a day of golf, on course activities, lunch and dinner all in support of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the new Our Lady Of Mercy patient care wing.

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Enhancing the Health of the Communities we Serve

St. Joseph's Health Centre's Smoke Free Environment: Update from the Task Group

Rick Edwards, Chair, Smoke-Free Environment Task Group

St. Joseph's has implemented a number of measures over the past year to become smoke-free. As part of these measures, St. Joseph's Health Centre's official Smoke-Free Environment policy was approved in December 2009 and is accessible to all SJHC staff, physicians and volunteers through SJNet in the Administrative Manual.

It is expected that all employees will help to communicate this Policy to the hospital community and direct those people who wish to smoke to the 'Butt Stop' areas where cigarette receptacles (cigarazees) are located around the property.

With these 'Butt Stops', we have tried to accommodate those people who want to smoke, while still aspiring to make St. Joseph's grounds smoke-free. Having made these accommodations, special attention will be paid to ensuring policy compliance.

Members of the Smoke-Free Task Group will be conducting regular monitoring 'walk-about's to record the number and location of smokers on and around St. Joseph's. This information will be forwarded to Security Services to assist them with their external patrols.

To ensure Policy compliance, the role of Security Services in enforcing the Policy has been clarified. While on patrol, Security Services will enforce the Policy in several ways:

On a first violation, a smoker will be informed of the SJHC policy and the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. In the interests of supporting smoking cessation, patients will be encouraged to speak with their health care provider at St. Joseph's about their tobacco use. If asked, the provider may then refer the patient to an Addiction

Service worker for a comprehensive screening which will determine the need for nicotine replacement therapy and/or brief psycho-social intervention.

Staff will be encouraged to approach Occupational Health for smoking cessation resources.

A second violation will result in further education and documentation of the violator.

A third non-compliance by a patient will be documented and reported to the appropriate Patient Care Manager.

A third violation by a staff member will be documented and the staff member will be reported to their manager, resulting in disciplinary action under St. Joseph's Discipline Process Policy # SJ-08-01-20.

At the Security Guard's discretion, any person, other than a patient or employee, who refuses to comply with the hospital policy and/or refuses to identify him/herself may be asked to leave St. Joseph's property. Failure to do so may result in charges under the Trespass to Property Act.

The Toronto Smoking By-Law Officer will conduct occasional patrols of the grounds, independently and with Security staff. Good communications have been established between Security Services and the By-Law Officer, and joint patrols already conducted.

We recognize that there is a balancing act between the larger good that comes from a smoke-free environment and the right of individuals to smoke. We are trying to achieve that balance through our Policy and enforcement procedures, while tipping toward the smoke-free end of the scale.

Upcoming Events

St. Joseph's Health Centre is Turning Out the Lights in Support of Earth Hour 2010

St. Joseph's Health Centre is a proud participant of Earth Hour this year and we need your help!

On Saturday, March 27th, between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. we are asking all staff, physicians and volunteers to help reduce the amount of energy we are using by:

- Turning off non-essential lighting that will not impact patient care, such as corridor lighting/nursing stations
- Turn off your office lights when you leave on Friday, March 27th
- Turn off your computer (power it down completely)

Every thing that we can turn off or power down without impacting patient care will help us save energy. For example, by turning off one computer, you will save 180 watts of electricity!

For more information visit www.earthhour.org or continue to read *Connections* for more details.

Social Work Week: "Poverty: There are Solutions - Social Workers Make a Difference"

National Social Work Week, taking place March 1 - 7, 2010, is an excellent opportunity to let the social workers, case managers, discharge planners, and mental health clinicians that you work with know that their work is appreciated and valued.

Please join us for a panel presentation on poverty in our community.

Panel Presentations by:

Victor Willis, Executive Director, Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre
John Richmond, Social Worker, Assertive Community Treatment Team

Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Education Centre A

Come and learn from Victor and John about current initiatives (such as access to healthy, local, and affordable food) that are making a difference for low income people in the Parkdale area.

The Centre for Clinical Ethics, St. Joseph's Health Centre, invites you to attend:

Ethics Grand Rounds

Topic: Physician Aid-in-Dying: Part of the Problem, or Part of the Solution?

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2010

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Education Centre A

Presenter:

Giles Scofield, JD, MA
Clinical Ethicist, Centre for Clinical Ethics

Learning Objectives:

1. To read and study Private Member's Bill C-384.
2. To think critically and concretely about the legalization of physician-assisted suicide.
3. To understand what the legalization of physician-assisted suicide is and is not about.

Putting Patients First by Providing the Safest Care

Patient Safety Culture Survey Begins Today!

As an organization we are committed to Putting Patients First by Providing the Safest Care. Moreover, we have established a corporate 'big aim' to reduce adverse events by fifty per cent by March 31, 2011.

Culture is widely recognized and accepted as a significant driver in changing behaviour and expectations in order to increase safety within organizations thus; sustaining a just culture naturally advances patient safety which directly impacts the care patients receive.

A key step in this process is the ability to measure the presence and degree of the safety culture. This provides valuable insight into staff perceptions of patient safety, as well as an indication of areas of strength, areas of improvement, and metrics in order to monitor changes within an organization.

Completion of the Patient Safety Culture survey is also a requirement of Accreditation Canada and must be completed once per three-year cycle. In alignment with this, we will be completing this survey, from March 1 – March 31, 2010.

The survey will be accessible online through the SJNet, which will have a direct link to the Accreditation Canada portal. All staff and physicians will be provided with a generic password to complete the survey, which is anonymous.

For those wishing to complete hard copies, the survey can be printed but must be returned to Quality, Safety and Performance Excellence before March 28, 2010. The return address is Patient Safety Culture Survey c/o Helen Fong, 7th Floor Sunnyside, Room 7S29. On midnight March 31, 2010, the portal will automatically close, thereby preventing any further survey submissions to Accreditation Canada.

We urge you to participate in this survey, so that together we can continue to ensure that we are Putting Patients First and Advancing a Culture of Patient Safety.



Connections is the official newsletter for the staff, physicians, volunteers, students and residents of St. Joseph's Health Centre. This is your newsletter and we'd like your feedback. For comments or questions about this issue, or if you would like to contribute to a future issue, please contact the editor, Gillian Brunning, Junior Associate, Corporate Communication & Public Affairs, via e-mail at brunning@stjoe.on.ca

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