

focus on. caring



Oneida Healthcare Center Community Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2007

www.oneidahealthcare.org

2nd Floor Renovation to Start in '07 New ORs and ICU Among the Planned Improvements

Focus on Caring is a publication of the Oneida Healthcare Center

A little history...

When the current hospital opened on Rt. 5 in 1972, it signaled the start of an exciting new era. The hospital had previously been located downtown on Broad Street since 1906 and there was little else up on the Rt. 5 site, which was donated by the Fields family. Since then, the Broad Street hospital was converted into the original Extended Care Facility (ECF) (1974); a new ECF was built behind the current hospital (1993); Oneida City Hospital became Oneida Healthcare Center (1996); the old Broad Street building was replaced by the Rehabilitation & Wellness Center (1999) and all the while, that vacant hillside on Rt. 5 has been transformed into a busy healthcare campus with many and varied services to support and complement the hospital and ECF.

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Search Underway For New CEO Richard Smith Retiring, Will Stay On During Transition

Oneida Healthcare Center Chief Executive Officer, Richard G. Smith, will be retiring in 2007. In making the announcement, Board of Trustees Chairman, Victor Sirchia, noted "Dick Smith has been a stalwart cornerstone of our hospital management for more than 29 years and during his tenure...our advances in patient care, our investments in state of the art medical equipment and technology and, most of all, Dick's development of a team-oriented approach to hospital management has truly improved the lives and confidence of our patients, our physicians, all of our nurses and technical staff, executive management team, employees and most important our community. People don't solve problems in silos by themselves, but work together as a team and I think this has been a major cultural



change here that has served us well. He has always brought three values to bear on any of the myriad of tough problems that we have faced: What is best for our patients? How can

we support the hospital's mission? And is this good management? It has been a real privilege to work with Dick. He has been a most effective executive and he is leaving behind one of the strongest, tightly-knit hospital organizations in our area and we thank him for his contributions," Mr. Sirchia concluded.

Mr. Smith was initially hired by Oneida City Hospitals in October of 1977 to serve as

Administrator of the original Extended Care Facility (ECF) on Broad Street. He was named Hospital Administrator in March of 1985. Change and growth are among the hallmarks of Mr. Smith's tenure with the hospital and nursing

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Hospital Brings the World's Most Advanced CT System to Local Residents

Noninvasive CT Scans Completed in Seconds vs. Minutes Increased Diagnostic Accuracy, Improved Patient Comfort and Safety

Oneida Healthcare Center (OHC) is joining the ranks of the country's premier healthcare providers that offer patients access to the world's most advanced computed tomography (CT) system. Featuring sophisticated multi-slice technology, the hospital's new Toshiba Aquilion™ 64 can capture precise images of any area of the body in as little as a ten second breath-hold. The fast scanning capabilities and unmatched image quality offer significant benefits for a quick and accurate diagnosis of trauma patients experiencing



chest pain or stroke. Additionally, chest exams, which take 20-30 minutes with a standard CT scanner, can now be performed in just 19 seconds with images that allow physicians to see internal injuries and disease in greater detail than ever before.

“Area residents will soon have access to state-of-the-art CT imaging technology and we’re proud to be the first and only ones with it in Madison County,” said CEO, Richard Smith. He noted that the new CT scanner is expected to be on line by March 20. Neuroradiologist Dr. Robert Goldberg, the hospital’s

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Big Effort Pays Off With Big Check!

The Oneida Healthcare Center Auxiliary’s “Follies” concluded on October 21st with a full house at the Oneida High School Auditorium. The OHC Auxiliary earmarked the proceeds from the popular community fundraiser for the 2nd floor construction project at the hospital. Follies is a major undertaking that is presented approximately every three years and involves the entire community coming together in support of their local hospital. “It’s always an amazing thing to watch unfold,” CEO, Richard Smith, told the closing night’s audience. The commitment of time, the dedication and support of so many people involved here on stage, behind stage, with the fund raising, selling ads and tickets...and many of them have been doing it for every Follies!” he said. Sue LaLonde of Oneida served as General Chair of the eleventh edition, which was dedicated to long-time OHC Volunteer Director, Jackie Keller, for all of her work with every Follies and for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Auxiliary.

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Outgoing Auxiliary President, Marty Mallery, right, presented a ceremonial check to Mike Healy, OHC's Director of Community Relations and Volunteer Director, Jackie Keller, to whom the eleventh edition of Follies was dedicated.

OHC Welcomes Two New Board Members

Amanda Gebhardt and Steven Potter have joined the Oneida Healthcare Center Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Gebhardt currently serves as President and Trustee of The Gorman Foundation, a private, family foundation founded in January 2003. She is responsible for managing approximately \$20 million in assets along with making grants totaling approximately \$1 million per year to organizations in the Central New York area.



The Alice M. Gorman Imaging Center was made possible with a \$1.2 million contribution from the Gorman Foundation to Oneida Healthcare Center.

In addition to her seat on the Oneida Healthcare Center Board, she is a member of several other non-profit

boards of trustees including: Skidmore College and the Oneida Community Mansion House. She also belongs to the Oneida Rotary Club and the Greater Oneida Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Gebhardt resides in Sherrill with her husband, Peter, and their daughter.

Mr. Potter serves as Vice President –

Business Banking Officer for Oneida Savings Bank. He is responsible for developing and managing full-service banking relationships in the business community.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley YMCA, Madison County Children's Camp, Greater Oneida Chamber of



Commerce, where he also serves as Treasurer, and Oneida Area Industries. He is also a member of the Oneida Rotary Club, Oneida Elks Lodge, Canastota Lions Club, and the Citizens Hose Co. #1. Mr. Potter resides in Oneida, with his wife, Deborah, and their four children.

Search Underway for New CEO

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home. In 1995 he oversaw Oneida City Hospitals' change of governance to a private voluntary not-for-profit corporation, Oneida Health Systems, Inc., which officially began operating under the name of Oneida

Healthcare Center on January 1, 1996 with Mr. Smith named as Chief Executive Officer. Today OHC is a \$60 million dollar a year operation with more than 800 employees and is recognized as one of the more successful healthcare systems in the region.

Numerous construction projects have been completed

on Mr. Smith's watch, including the Wee Care Day Care Center (1988); a new 160 bed skilled nursing facility (ECF) and Bess Chapman Diagnostic Center (both in 1993); the Rehabilitation & Wellness Center at the former hospital/ECF site on Broad Street (1999); the Lullaby Center OB/GYN unit

(2003); the Alice M. Gorman Imaging Center (2004); an on-campus Laundry Facility (2005) and, of course, the most recent project combining the separate Hospital and ECF Dietary operations into

one department.

Significant expansion of outpatient and primary care services has also occurred under Mr. Smith's leadership.

Those include the Harden Blvd. Health Center in Camden; the Northside Medical

Building in Oneida; the Canastota-Lenox Health Center and Chittenango Family Care. A third-floor Endoscopy unit has been very successful in facilitating the prevention and diagnosis of Colo-Rectal Cancer and other conditions.

The hospital's fiscal stability and progressive

philosophy are big drawing cards for medical professionals and Mr. Smith is credited with recruiting dozens of physicians and several additional specialty practices, which have greatly augmented the complement of services available locally.

In a memo to employees, he said, "I sincerely appreciate the support, loyalty, encouragement and dedicated hard work that all of you have exhibited during my tenure...I will be forever in your debt for this support." Mr. Smith credits his management team with OHC's success. "I've been able to surround myself with some really outstanding individuals in their respective fields and that makes me look good," he said, with characteristic modesty.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sirchia said that the board's search committee is currently interviewing candidates for the CEO post and he expects a decision to be made in a few months. Mr. Smith will remain on staff as a consultant during the transition.

"I've been able to surround myself with some really outstanding individuals in their respective fields and that makes me look good."

New Physicians Join Medical Staff

Fadia Baladi, MD has joined Oneida Medical Associates in the practice of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Baladi received his Medical Degree from Aleppo Faculty of Medicine, Syria and completed his Residency Training at the Medical Center/University of Massachusetts. Prior to coming to Central New York, he served as a Primary Care Physician at UMass/Memorial in Worcester, MA and Assistant Professor at UMass Medical School. Dr. Baladi is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and appointments may be scheduled by calling Oneida Medical Associates at 363-1345.



Wael Muakkasa, MD has joined CNY Urology in the practice of Adult and Pediatric Urology at 357 Genesee Street, Oneida.

Dr. Muakkasa received his Medical Degree from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. He completed his Surgical Residencies at the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo and St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland and his Urology Residency at the University of Maryland Hospital. Dr. Muakkasa is Board Certified by the American Board of Urology and is a member of the American Urological Association. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 363-8862.



David Gordon, MD and Douglas Halliday, MD, Ph.D. have joined the Surgical Staff at Oneida Healthcare Center.

Dr. Halliday received his Ph.D. and Medical Degree from SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. He completed his residency in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at SUNY, Syracuse and received his Education Observational Fellowship training for the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery in Chicago, IL. Dr. Halliday is a member of the National Academy of Facial Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery; American Academy of Otolaryngology; American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and is Board Certified by American Board of Otolaryngology.



Dr. Gordon received degrees in Medicine, Philosophy and Physiology from the University of Toronto, where he also completed his Residency in Otolaryngology. He is Board Certified in Head & Neck Surgery by the American Academy of Otolaryngology and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgery of Canada. Drs. Halliday and Gordon offer a full range of Otolaryngology services, including Audiology, Allergy, Head and Neck Surgery, General Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery and Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Their Oneida office is located in Suite C of the Orchard Hill Medical Building, 201 Genesee Street. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 363-5421.



OHC Awarded Accreditation From Joint Commission

By demonstrating compliance with the Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Oneida Healthcare Center has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™. Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission is dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation. The Joint Commission's on-site survey of the hospital occurred this past summer. "Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says

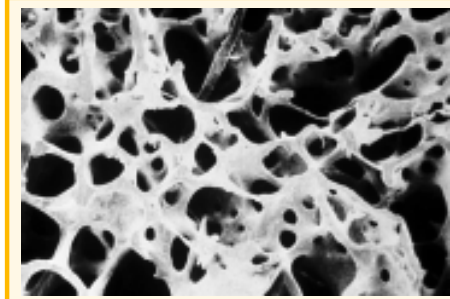


Darlene Christiansen, executive director, Hospital Accreditation Program, Joint Commission. "The community should be proud that Oneida Healthcare Center is focusing on the most challenging goal — to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels." Richard Smith, CEO, spoke of his pride in a staff whose members ask what needs to be done to be accredited by the Joint Commission. "In addition, they appreciate the educational aspect of the survey and the opportunity to interact with the team of surveyors."

He called the accreditation, "proof of an organization-wide commitment to provide quality care on an ongoing basis."

Osteoporosis & DEXA Testing is Important

Osteoporosis is an emerging health threat for an estimated 44 million people in the US. It is estimated that 10 million people in the US already have the disease and as many as 34 million have low bone mass putting them at risk for it. Of the 10 million, 8 million are women and 2 million are men. While those 50 years and older are at risk, Osteoporosis can strike at any age.



Normal Bone

What is Osteoporosis?

It is characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration—porous bone—that leads to fragile bones and an increased susceptibility to fractures, especially of the hip, spine, and wrist. It is responsible for over 1.5 million fractures a year. One in two women and one in four men over age 50 will have an osteoporosis related fracture in their lifetimes.

Osteoporosis is sometimes called a “silent disease” because it often occurs without symptoms. People may not know they have osteoporosis until their bones become so weak that a fracture occurs from a bump, strain or a fall. Sometimes a patient may experience severe back pain when their vertebrae collapse which indicates loss of bone mass. They may also begin to lose height or their posture may become stooped.

How is it detected?

A bone density test is the primary way to identify the presence of osteoporosis. The test measures the amount of calcium and other bone minerals that are packed into a segment of bone. The higher the mineral content, the denser and stronger your bones are, and the less likely they are to break. Generally two x-ray tests are used to confirm osteoporosis: dual energy x-ray absorption (DEXA) and quantitative CT Scan. DEXA is a low dose x-ray that measures the

bone density at the hip or spine. A patient lies on a padded platform for a few minutes while an imager passes over the body. The imager does not touch the body, and it takes a few minutes to complete. The x-ray dose is about 10 times less than that of a chest x-ray.

A quantitative CT exam takes about ten minutes and the patient lies on a moveable couch that is guided into the CT Scanner tube shaped gantry to scan the spine. The x-ray dose is much higher than a DEXA. According to the Mayo Clinic, DEXA offers very precise results and is the preferred test for diagnosing osteoporosis. Many of us have seen the smaller machines that measure bone density in the heel of the foot. These devices often are found in pharmacies and can be helpful screening tools, but a definitive diagnosis must come from either DEXA or CT.



How can it be prevented?

Although there is no cure for osteoporosis, the National Osteoporosis Foundation recommends five steps to be taken to prevent it:

- Get your daily recommended amounts of

calcium and vitamin D

- Engage in regular weight-bearing exercises
- Avoid smoking and excessive alcohol
- Talk to your healthcare provider about bone health
- Have a bone density test and take medication when appropriate

How is it treated?

Generally medications are prescribed to either prevent or treat osteoporosis. They either reduce bone loss or increase bone density to reduce the risk of a fracture. Medications include Fosamax, Boniva, Actonel, and require a physician's prescription. Other treatments include estrogen therapy and hormone replacement therapy, and bone forming

medications such as Forteo, which stimulates new bone formation and increases bone mineral density.

As with any medication, there could be side effects, and being under the care of your physician or healthcare provider is essential.

How can OHC help?

One of the fastest growing imaging studies performed at OHC over the past three years is DEXA for diagnosing bone mineral density. During this time frame, annual volume of these studies has increased from a little over 200 a year to over 900. OHC offers both DEXA and CT Scanning, but virtually all of our patients undergo low dose radiation DEXA on one of our Bone Density scanners. DEXA has become the diagnostic choice because it is easy to use, quick to perform, extremely precise, and has a very low x-ray dose exposure. Skilled and experienced Radiology Technologists are available at OHC and a well trained and expertly skilled Radiologist assure that you will receive the highest quality testing available in the area. For more information about bone mineral density testing, speak with your physician or call OHC's Department of Radiology at 361-2035.

RSVP Honors OHC Volunteer Program

Oneida Healthcare Center's Volunteer Department and its Director, Jackie Keller, were honored at the annual Madison County RSVP Volunteer Recognition Dinner. OHC's Community Relations Director, Mike Healy, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, which was attended by more than

350 volunteers and guests. OHC has approximately fifty volunteers registered with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and each was presented with a certificate.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the "Program Impact Award" to Jackie



1st row seated - Jeanne Dapson, Fran Roehm, Barbara Cukierski, Helen Helt, Marge Simpkins. Standing - Jackie Keller, Judy Parker, Donna Clark, Charles Shlotzhauer, Nancy Stratton, Dorothy Warner, Gladys Romoli, Nancy Lighthall, Grace Jones, Agnes Brown, Beverly Myles, Pat Caron, Betty Tarry Florence O'Dell

Keller for her outstanding job of recruiting, training and managing a complement of well over one hundred volunteers.

Oneida Healthcare CEO, Richard Smith, was also on hand to recognize Jackie's twenty-five years of dedicated service and countless hours of "above & beyond" work at all

times of the day and night on behalf of the hospital and Auxiliary. In addition to the certificate of appreciation from RSVP, Jackie and OHC also received



L-r: Judy Parker, RSVP Program Coordinator; Richard Smith; Jackie Keller; Mike Healy

New York State proclamations from Senator David Valesky and Assemblyman Bill Magee. Congratulations to Jackie Keller and thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers whose unselfish efforts make a big difference for OHC and for the people we serve!

Students Have Fun Exploring Health Careers

"It was cool! Lots of fun! The baby was sooo cute!"...These are a few of the comments made by participants of this year's MASH Camp at OHC.

MASH (Medical Academy of Science & Health) Camp is a unique career exploration program sponsored by the Central New York Area



Health Education Center (CNYAHEC) and Excellus Blue Cross & Blue Shield. Camps are held at several hospitals in the region. Thirteen 7th, 8th and 9th grade students from area schools spent two days at OHC learning about different careers in healthcare and having a lot of fun while doing it. They all seemed to

get something out of the activities and genuinely appreciated our staff's involvement and time. MASH Camp is an ambitious program that wouldn't happen without the great support of our organization.



"Edible Cells" cookie frosting Lab activity is always a favorite.



Thanks to everyone – The Lullaby Center, Respiratory Therapy, Cardiopulmonary, PT/OT, PACU, Radiology, Staff Development, Laboratory, ACF Nursing, Pharmacy, Central Supply, Laundry, ECF Activities, Volunteers and Dietary – for making the commitment to plan activities, host the students and share your knowledge and expertise with them.

Pediatricians Come to Chittenango

Oneida Pediatrics Group is now seeing young patients in the Chittenango Family Care building on Rt. 5, across from Rite-Aid. The full-service practice also includes a Pediatric Gastroenterologist as well as a Pediatric Endocrinologist for the care and treatment of Childhood Diabetes, portable insulin pumps, etc. Oneida Pediatrics Group accepts most insurances and appointments can be scheduled by calling 510-6737. For added convenience, the Oneida Healthcare Center Laboratory also operates a walk-in lab draw station at Chittenango Family Care.

(Photo bottom row: Mildred Montalvo, MD General Pediatrics & Pediatric Gastroenterology, Deborah Staple, RPAC Physician Assistant General Pediatrics. Top row: Kapriel Danadian, MD General Pediatrics and Pediatric Endocrinology, Catherine (Taylor) Docous, RPAC Physician Assistant General Pediatrics, Rezkallah Toro, MD General Pediatrics.)



2nd Floor Renovation

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Back to the future...

2007 will be another milestone year for Oneida Healthcare Center (OHC), as work begins on the final construction project of a multi-phase program to renovate the 1972 hospital and to meet the standards and expectations of the 21st century.

The main focus of the so-called "2nd Floor" project will involve the construction of five new Operating Rooms, a new Recovery Area and a new Intensive Care Unit, as well as expansion of the Laboratory. Also affected, will be the Emergency Room Triage/Waiting and Patient Registration areas at the "Bess Chapman" entrance.

"It's an ambitious and particularly challenging project," said CEO Richard Smith. "Obviously, all of the affected services can't be interrupted during the process so the planning and staging will be crucial."

"Can you tell me where to find..?"

Currently, the hospital has two main entrances; the aforementioned Bess Chapman entrance on the second floor and

the familiar front lobby entrance on the first floor. This can be the source of considerable confusion when people come in on one level and end up on the other and then are unsure where they are or where they need to go.

Smith said that a key element of the project design will be to relocate the first floor entrance and create a natural and convenient flow between the two levels while

integrating a new lobby and elevator access common area.

"Hospitals - even small ones - are big, confusing and intimidating places; one of our goals with this (project) is to become as visitor-friendly as possible," he said.

a comfortable waiting area. Underutilized third floor space was converted into a highly successful Endoscopy Unit. The third floor Maternity Unit was completely redone in 2003 and "The Lullaby Center" is now recognized as one of the finest birthing centers in the area. A new Laundry building with increased capacity was built behind the hospital in 2004 and OHC currently provides laundry services to Rome Memorial Hospital.

Timing is everything...

The hospital actually spent much of 2006 getting ready for the 2nd floor project. It all began when the new "Station Break Café & Grille" opened midway between the hospital and ECF. The new facility serves the nutritional needs of hospital patients and nursing home residents while providing a pleasant atmosphere and varied menu for

visitors and employees of both buildings. Meanwhile, the space that was the hospital kitchen and cafeteria is now serving as temporary office and storage space as some of the 2nd floor departments are relocated for the project. "We will be adding some new space and modifying existing space to make it all happen. The real trick is to do all that and keep everything going at the same

time," Smith concluded. Work on the approximately \$15 million project is expected to start in the spring of 2007 and continue into 2008.



The ribbon cutting for the new Station Break Café & Grille signaled the start of preparations for the 2nd floor project.



Last but not least...

As we mentioned, this latest project will be the culmination of a multi-phase program to renovate the entire hospital. The fourth floor Medical/Surgical Unit has been updated with redecorated rooms, new nurses' stations and

Nursing Home Employees Honored Their Awards Mark a "First"

Two Extended Care Facility employees have been singled out for their contributions to Long Term Care. Each year the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHS) asks for a single nomination from each facility for their annual "Employee of Distinction Award".

Dawn Garlington, LPN, was a 2006 recipient.

Dawn has worked on the 3rd floor of the ECF for six years in a quiet, professional manner. Her nomination noted that she is kind hearted and often opts to stay extra hours in order to care for her unit's residents. Dawn reaches out and touches the hearts of our residents and is truly a wonderful asset to our facility. Anne



Bryan Ehlinger, Dawn Garlington, Carl Young

Hite, Director of Social Services said "It's difficult to put into words how Dawn Garlington enhances the quality of care of life for the residents of the 3rd floor. She is more than a nurse; she is a family member, advocate and 'guardian angel' all rolled into one."

Lori Schilling was the recipient of a 2005 Employee of Distinction Award. Lori is a COTA (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant) who began employment at

the ECF in April of 1994. She shares her exuberance for life with all and is loved for it. ECF Nursing Home Administrator, Bryan Ehlinger's, nomination stated that she is an advocate for the residents and their needs. "She makes the Occupational Therapy clinic seem like a

home where all are welcome. As a result, it has become a service that residents *want* to attend, not just *have* to attend. Lori serves as the model for dedication to quality care and customer service."



Lori Schilling

Lori and Dawn are not the only ECF employees to be so honored but there is a special significance to these two, in particular. NYAHS President, Carl Young, explained that it is the first time that the same facility had an Employee of Distinction recipient in two consecutive years. "It's unprecedented and even more impressive, he said, when you realize that these selections are made by a completely independent committee with no ties to

the ECF or to NYAHS." Dawn Garlington and Lori Schilling are two shining examples of the hundreds of dedicated and caring ECF professionals to whom so many area families entrust the care of their loved ones.

World's Most Advanced CT System

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Chief of Radiology, can't wait to begin using the new system. "With this 64 slice technology, we can see more anatomical information than previously thought possible, which means we will be able to diagnose problems like blood clots, infections and cancer in greater detail and with more clarity. As a result, we will have the ability to make an accurate diagnosis at earlier stages, which means that patients can begin receiving treatment sooner for potentially better outcomes."

And the benefits to patients and physicians don't stop there. With the coverage and speed capabilities of the Toshiba system, a

wider range of patients also may have more options to undergo noninvasive procedures. For example, the system can be used to more accurately visualize soft plaque and measure coronary stenosis for the detection of heart disease, which has historically required more invasive or surgical procedures to confirm a diagnosis. Dr. Goldberg said that another benefit is reduced radiation exposure to patients, as well as to hospital staff. "The system's dose control features provide up to a 40 percent total dose reduction for the patient to make exams as safe and comfortable as possible." He also noted that the system

accommodates the scanning of both larger and taller patients with the ability to expand its field-of-view to accommodate specific patient sizes and clinical needs. "We're very fortunate to have this highly sophisticated technology available in Oneida and we appreciate the community's continued support. This really widens the gap between us and the other area imaging centers. In fact, I would expect that anyone who needs a CT exam will now want their physician to schedule it here at the hospital because anywhere else wouldn't necessarily be in the best interest of the patients," he concluded.

Changing of the Guard

The entire Oneida Healthcare Center “family” extends our most sincere appreciation to outgoing Auxiliary President, Marty Mallery. Marty’s leadership and inspiration has taken the Oneida Healthcare Center Auxiliary to new heights. Her



*Incoming Auxiliary President Barbara Chamberlain (left),
Outgoing Auxiliary President Marty Mallery (right)*

dynamic personality permeated the entire organization and motivated the Auxiliary Board to take on an unprecedented variety of ambitious projects in support of the hospital and Extended Care Facility missions. Indeed, the fund raising achievements realized during her

tenure were truly remarkable. We will be forever grateful to Marty for her exceptional accomplishments and contributions on behalf of Oneida Healthcare Center.

Fortunately, the Auxiliary remains in very capable hands with Barbara Chamberlain of Oneida succeeding Marty as President. Barb brings her own impressive resume of community involvement and leadership as well as a “can do” attitude that will keep everyone motivated. With Barb at the helm of a dedicated board with an outstanding record of success, expectations remain high.



OHC Auxiliary Board. Seated: Toni Crisifulli, Jane Ernenwein, Grace Remis Jones, Cindy Colway. 2nd Row: Marty Mallery, Florence Meakin, Jane Dygert, Loni Petrie, Carol Kinney. Back Row: Betty Tarry, Virginia Seminaroti, Pat Ferranti, Sue Miller, Barbara Chamberlain, Jackie Keller, Lynda Cole, Louise Thompson, Cindy Whipple

Big Effort Pays Off With Big Check!

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Some of our more “distinguished” healthcare professionals were among those who performed in “Follies”.

Director, Ronnie Treece, produced a lively and very entertaining variety show that showcased many talented (and not-so-talented) members of our community who sang, danced and did “whatever” for laughs, all three nights. Of course, there were many hours of rehearsals at the First United Methodist Church, lots of leg work soliciting ads and patrons and countless hours devoted to fundraising events, publicity, etc.

When all was said and done, outgoing Auxiliary President, Marty Mallery, was able to present the hospital with a ceremonial check for \$100,000 at the final night intermission.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to everyone involved with this outstanding effort!

e-Focus on Caring Coming to a Computer Near You!

Like the air we breathe, information about health is everywhere. But how do you find just what **you** need? If you've ever come up empty-handed after hours of searching the library, the bookstore, the Internet—here's good news. Oneida Healthcare Center will soon offer you easy access to current information on the health issues that matter most to you—from many of the nation's most credible health resources.

e-Focus on Caring from OHC will let you decide just which information you want. Then—and only with your permission—**e-Focus on Caring** will deliver just what you asked for. Now, instead of searching for hours, what you're looking for will come e-mailed directly to **you**. It's unlike any other health information resource. **e-Focus on Caring** is easy to use. It's private. It's secure. And it's all medically reviewed.

Here's what you'll find:

- **My Health Newsletter** - When you subscribe to this free e-mail newsletter, you pick the health topics that matter most to you and your family. Then, each month

we'll e-mail you up to three current articles drawn from more than 350 of the nation's leading health publications and journals—on the specific topics you chose.

- **My Health Reminders** - To subscribe, just enter your age and gender. We'll e-mail you free, timely reminders for all of the key health screenings and exams you need to maintain good health. You can sign up everyone in your family if you like!

- **My Baby Expectations** - If you're a soon-to-be new parent, subscribe to this free, monthly e-mailed newsletter that steps you through pregnancy, delivery and baby's first year. Each monthly installment tells you what to look forward to that month, timed to your due date.

- **My Health Links** - Click here for a regularly updated directory of other authoritative health-related sites.



Of course your own doctor who knows **you** is your best guide to good health. Yet we know that more than 50 million Americans regularly turn to the Internet for health information and the number is growing all the time! We want to be your partner in good health by making sure the information you get there is both current and informative. **e-Focus on Caring** can help.

Visit our website at www.oneidahealthcare.org often and watch for announcements about the start-up of **e-Focus on Caring**. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. You'll have the information you need to be sure you're making the best decisions for your good health.

We look forward to being part of those decisions and we're proud to bring you this valuable new service because **Caring...is Our Business!**

Nursing Director Cited for Work Ethic, Making a Difference

Extended Care Facility Director of Nursing, Sherrill Boyce, was honored with the Oneida Rotary Club's "Bill Fariel Award". Each year the club recognizes individuals who exemplify the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" and who exhibit the qualities for which the late Bill Fariel is remembered. "Bill was such a special man," said Mike Healy, who chairs the club's Vocational Service program. "He was the quintessential example of how everyone should try to conduct themselves in their professional and personal lives."



Bryan Ehlinger, Sherrill Boyce with her award

Nursing Home Administrator, Bryan Ehlinger, nominated Sherrill for the award and made the presentation to her. "As Director of Nursing Sherrill personifies what a nurse should be. Her knowledge of the long term care industry is boundless, which inspires others to listen. She is good natured and amiable, flexible when conditions allow her to be, stern and firm when they don't. She is (as one would expect of a nurse) caring and compassionate. Sherrill Boyce has a unique exuberance for her profession. Her demeanor inspires others to follow, she has the wisdom to accept the worth of the entire healthcare team. In this she has gained respect and reinforced the sense of team. I believe that Mr. Fariel and Sherrill Boyce carry much of the same spirit: the sense of community, concern for the welfare of those in her keep and the ability to inspire others," he concluded.

Bryan also talked about Sherrill's idea to give the ECF conference room more of a sense of home. "She recommended a quilt. In her 'spare time' she has developed a quilt that she is working on as a project with the residents. It incorporates the local area and residents past and present. When complete, the quilt will contain pictures and designs made by the residents and past postcard designs of Oneida and the surrounding area pressed into the fabric."

Coincidentally, Bill's wife, Jeannine, lent the ECF his extensive postcard collection for the project and Mrs. Fariel was on hand for the Rotary award program, which made it even more special for Sherrill.



Foundation Honors Scholarly Employees

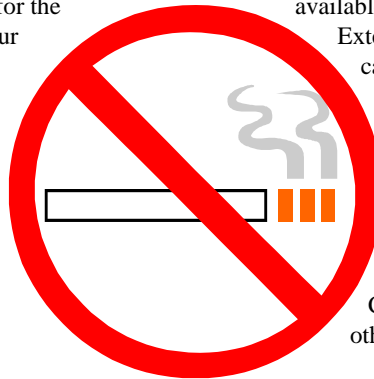
In 2006, the Oneida Healthcare Foundation awarded \$14,750 in nursing scholarships to OHC employees and \$1,750 (\$250 Scholarships) to eight area high school seniors pursuing health related studies. Pictured are OHC employee nursing scholarship recipients. Seated: Trish Hart, Keith Brandis, Dana Cox, Diana Hughes, Mike Urban. Standing: Lynn Miles, Linda Lang, Sue Marshall, Audrey Horning, Melissa Britton, Marguerite Jennings, Shawn Chase.

OHC is Going Smoke Free!

As a healthcare facility, our first concern is for the health and well being of our patients and our community. Last year Oneida Healthcare Center announced plans to make all of its facilities and grounds completely smoke-free, effective July 1, 2007.

The first phase involved establishing a single designated smoking area behind the hospital and since then, all employees, visitors, physicians, etc. have been permitted to smoke only at that location or in their personal vehicle.

On July 1st even those options will no longer be



available and no smoking at all will be permitted on the hospital and Extended Care Facility campus. We are also asking our campus neighbors and tenants to join us in this important public health initiative and everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

Recognizing that this is a difficult transition for many people, the plan has also included the dissemination of educational materials as well as the provision of Smoking Cessation services to our patients and employees. If you would like to quit and want to learn more about Smoking Cessation classes and services provided by OHC and our other community partners, please call 361-2075.

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