

# Illiana News

*"Proudly Serving Those Who Served"*

Department of  
Veterans Affairs  
Illiana Health Care System  
Danville • Decatur • Mattoon • Peoria • Springfield • West Lafayette

November/December 2010

## VAIHCS Breaks Ground for Two Green Houses (story on page 2)



**Access ★ Veteran Satisfaction ★ Employee Satisfaction ★ Quality ★ Stewardship**

## *Executive Corner*

Patient Care Services encompasses eight clinical areas that provide direct and indirect care to our Veterans. These areas include: (see photo on page 4)



Chaplain Service, Patient Centered Care, Nutrition & Food Service, Nursing Service, Recreation Service, Social Work Service, Sterile Prep and Decontamination and Voluntary Service. As a whole, we represent 48% of the VAIHCS workforce.

### ***Our Mission***

To use a collaborative and patient-centered approach in the provision of high quality, innovative and evidence-based care that improves the health and well-being of our Veterans.

### ***Our Vision***

As health professionals and administrative staff, we strive to anticipate and respond to the needs of our Veterans by rendering patient-centered services. Our actions are guided by collaboration, facilitated by expert technical competence, and inspired by compassion.

We embrace inclusion, clinical innovation and customer satisfaction. We ensure that our practice is caring and empowering, and is based on a foundation of effective leadership and teamwork.

***Alecia Coe  
ADPCS/Nurse Executive***



## **VAIHCS Breaks Ground for Two Green Houses**

A ground breaking ceremony was held for two homes that will provide a new and innovative approach for Veterans needing skilled nursing care. More than 250 attended the ceremony on Tuesday, October 12th, at the site of the construction which was once a golf course on the VA campus. This initiative is a \$4M construction project. The homes will be called: Freedom and Liberty Homes, while the street is called Heroes Lane and the neighborhood will be called Veterans Village. VAIHCS has been the leader for VA to adopt the Green House® Project model.

Mr. Hamilton, Director said at the ceremony, "We have been working towards this goal for a long time and are finally breaking ground. This is definitely the future of skilled nursing care and we are proud to be the Leader in VA. We believe this transformation of care will dramatically enrich our Veterans lives and the lives of the next generation of Veterans."

Dr. Christa Hojlo, Director of the Community Living Centers (CLC's) in VA Central Office spoke about this new approach to care. "This new approach is part of the cultural transformation of patient centered care we are moving towards in the CLC's." Hojlo added, "Naming the first two homes Freedom and Liberty has such a powerful meaning for those of us working in VA and of course to the Veterans who have made the sacrifices so we can enjoy the liberties and freedom we have today."

Bill Keane, a Project Guide for the Green House® project, noted the "VAIHCS is the first to go boldly where no one has gone in the history of the VA."

Freedom and Liberty homes will be completed by summer of 2011.

VAIHCS was also approved for four more homes to be designed in 2011 and constructed in 2012.



## New Chief of Staff

Dr. Nirmala J. Rozario is the new Chief of Staff at VA Illiana Health Care System. Dr. Rozario comes to us from the Jackson, Mississippi VAMC where she was the Associate Chief of Staff for Performance,

Productivity & Efficiency. She has been with the VA for several years and held numerous positions including being Chief of Staff at the Spokane VAMC in Washington.

Dr. Rozario will be a member of the executive management team and will oversee all clinical programs and services and is in charge of all clinical and medical staff. She received her MD and Ph.D. from Osmania University in India. Dr. Rozario has published several papers in scientific journals in biochemistry.

Dr. Rozario feels it is a privilege to serve our nations heroes and being part of a learning and growing organization like the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

In her spare time Dr. Rozario likes to read and travel.

Dr. Rozario and her husband John, who is a clinical psychologist, will be residing in Danville.

**Welcome Dr. Rozario!**

## Chief Nurse of Operations

Robin Gordon became our first Chief Nurse of Operations. This is a new position and will oversee nursing at the CBOC's, escort, wound care, safe patient handling, nursing performance improvement and IV therapy. Prior to coming to VA Illiana Health Care System Ms. Gordon was the Chief Nurse Executive of the Paris Community Hospital in Paris, Illinois.



She received her RN degree from Lakeview College of Nursing; her BSN from Purdue University and her MBA from the University of Illinois. Ms. Gordon will work closely with the Chief Nurse of acute care/mental health and Chief Nurse of community living center.

Ms. Gordon is a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives; she belongs to the American Organization of Nurse Executives and is the President of Region 3B for the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders.

Ms. Gordon is a Danville native and likes to play the piano, spending time with family, knitting and quilting. Ms. Gordon and her husband Raymond, who is a minister with the Central Park Church of Christ, have three children.

**Welcome Robin!**

## Elementary School Raises Money for Veterans

The Warrensburg Latham Middle School wanted to do something for the Veterans in honor of Veteran's Day. So they had a competition between the classes at the school to see who could bring in the most pocket change and whatever was collected would be donated to help the Veterans through the VA. They actually raised \$1,300 for the Decatur VA Outpatient Clinic!

**Congratulations to the students on an amazing accomplishment!**



(pictured left to right) Dr. Kate Fair, Psychologist at the Decatur Clinic and also a Veteran along with Sara Vernia, Medical Administration Supervisor accept a check for \$1,300 from Ann Mathison, Principal of the Warrensburg Latham Elementary School.

**Access ★ Veteran Satisfaction ★ Employee Satisfaction ★ Quality ★ Stewardship**

## VA Illiana Health Care System Receives National Recognition

VA Illiana Health Care System completed 26 Root Cause Analysis'(RCA) during fiscal year 2010 with 100% of the RCA's conducted within the established timeframe of 45 days and at least one intermediate to strong action development for each event.

RCA is a process for identifying the basic or contributing causal factors leading to an adverse event or a close call. Consistent use of the RCA process increases the quality and safety of care provided to the Veterans.

This display of commitment to patient safety led VA Illiana Health Care System to be recognized nationally as a recipient of the Gold Level award, the highest level within the Cornerstone Program. The Cornerstone Program measures each facility against the same standard criteria and recognizes the facilities according to their level of achievement.

VAIHCS has earned this recognition for three consecutive years which, demonstrates our continual work to ensure safe care for the Veterans we serve. Congratulations!

**Sandy Hart,**  
**Patient Safety Coordinator**

### Patient Care Services *(continued from Executive Corner)*



Pictured left to right, front to back: Janet Lawson, Adam Bange, Teresa Ard, Cindy Liffick, Vicki Winters, Christen Shaffer, Samantha Fye, Robin Gordon, William Breeding, Ray Cheek, Thomas Mills, Rana Shouse, Bob Sprouls, Adiodun Raimi, Vicki Goblirsch, and Alesia Coe.

## Angel Wings Volunteers Bring Healing Presence to Dying Veterans



Frank was a Vietnam Veteran who arrived to the Danville VA palliative care unit after complications from a long illness. He was intermittently responsive enough to talk with staff when he arrived. The palliative care team discovered he had three children whom he hadn't spoken to in over 20 years. As the end of his life was nearing, he wanted to reach out to them and they were so glad that he did. When the oldest son in Iowa received a call from the Palliative Care Chaplain that their Father was in the palliative care unit in the VA in Danville, he immediately got into the car and drove eight hours to see him, for what would be the last time. All three children were able to visit and show their Dad pictures of his grandchildren. They cried and laughed together as they shared stories and took one last family photo together. The children were extremely grateful for those final hours with their Father. After several days of visiting, and with great sadness, all three children returned to their jobs and families out of state.

Unfortunately, the Veteran had no friends or family locally. Although the palliative care staff spent as much time with the Veteran as they could, they felt that as people come into the world in the nurturing support of others, so too, they should leave the world in this way, with someone there at the bedside. Because of Frank and other Veterans dying alone it was clear something more needed to be done. Fortunately, a caring team led by Palliative Care Nursing Assistant, Kari Drollinger, decided to bring an innovative program that had started at a hospital in Oregon, to Danville.

With the support of her Nurse Manager, Sharon Buchanan and Teresa Ard, Chief of Volunteer Services, Kari took on the challenge to implement No One Dies Alone at the Danville VA. She sought out input from many different people to make the program successful.

The first class of 10 "Angel Wings" Volunteers for the No One Dies Alone program were commissioned on October 20, 2010. Thanks to all of the wonderful Volunteers, Veterans will be able to

receive a most precious gift, a reassuring presence and dignified death.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an Angel Wings Volunteer please contact Teresa.Ard@va.gov or Karie.Drollinger@va.gov or call Volunteer Services 217.554.5700 to learn more.

**Ann Petry**  
**Palliative Care Coordinator**

Reflections of our Past . . .  
Provide Directions for our  
Future!



### As a result of the All Employee Survey for 2010...

During the development of the action plan, one of the work groups brought up concerns about co-worker satisfaction. This group has already implemented one of the strategies to improve interaction with coworkers.

Health Information Management staff held a section picnic on September 23rd in the picnic grove. Coding staff treated their coworkers to a hot dog lunch complete with all the fixins. A good time was had by all!

One concern brought up by Pharmacy Service was the communication of changes and initiatives. The Service has begun publication of a quarterly Pharmacy Newsletter for broader circulation within the facility.

Nutrition and Food Service brought up concerns with job satisfaction. Systems Redesign staff will be working with the service to improve operations on the tray line in order to improve job independence and ownership.

Education and Research staff raised concerns regarding the fragmentation of office locations for several staff members. Currently, the Nurse Educators are moving to Building 101-5 to help the consolidation efforts in the service.

**Amy Ferree**  
**HR Specialist**

## Congratulations to Lab Staff for CAP Accreditation

Recently we were awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologist (CAP), based on the results of a recent onsite inspection.

Dr. Roberts, Chief of Pathology & Laboratory Service was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. VAIHCS Clinical Laboratory is one of more than 7,000 CAP accredited laboratories worldwide.

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, as well as the laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and record, in addition to the overall management of the laboratory. This stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients.

Congratulations to Dr. Roberts and all the Lab staff!

---

### Dr. Dax Gay achieves Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry!



Dax Gay was named a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry at Academy 2010 San Francisco on November 20, 2010, in San Francisco, California.

Dax Gay graduated from the University of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry. He has practiced since 2001 at VA Illiana Health Care System. He has been in the VA hospital system since 1998, including his residency.

### Congratulations Dr. Gay!

### Mark D. Triboletti, PharmD, BCPS receives board certification!



On November 26, 2010, Mark received board-certification as a pharmacotherapy specialist under the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS).

### Congratulations Mark!

---

### RN Satisfaction Survey

Congratulations to the first five RNs to complete the RN Satisfaction Survey:

Sharon Buchanan  
Angella Kotcher  
Tonya McCune  
Janette Meers  
Mori Williams

The winners will receive a restaurant gift card. Thank you for your participation!

## Director's Listening Post

We have received several comments/suggestions from employees over the first few weeks of this program. Here are a few we have received and the response. Please keep sending in your comments/suggestions...thanks!

### Comment/Suggestion:

Could you please do something about the ginkgo tree outside the entrance to Bldg. 98. It smells the entry way and hallways of 98 and people track it into the buildings.

### Response:

Engineering removed tree on 11/30/10.

### Comment/Suggestion:

I have a suggestion, today CLC 101-1 & 2 floors are being waxed. It will look really great, but the smell is really bad. I think it would be great if this could be planned ahead and maybe on wac day, the Veterans could watch a movie in the SAR or have refreshments in the dining area.

## Ahhhh.....RETIREMENT!

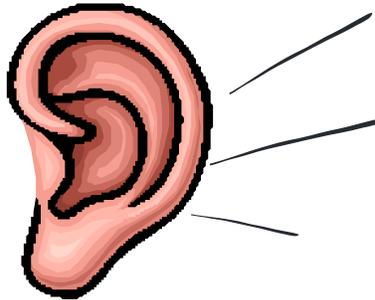


**David Lohnes**, Quality Management Section, will be retiring at the end of December after 32 years of federal service!

**We wish you a happy retirement!**

### Response:

EMS, Nursing and Recreation Therapy will work together in the future with floor cleaning schedule and do something like what was suggested above.



### Comment/Suggestion:

I have been in this service for 28 and a half years. I became a supervisor in April 2009. This is my second year of doing evaluations, which takes quite a long time to do and uses so much paper. I am one for recycling. I recycle at home and am very concerned for our

environment. I have an idea that we have all of the appraisals entered in the computer and the employees use their signature codes to sign . . . this would save a lot of paper.

### Response:

VA Central Office is currently working on e-Performance. Under this program, all appraisals will be entered and signed electronically and then "flow" to e-OPF. This is hoped to be rolled out in the next couple of years.

Jim Cullum, Chief, Engineering Service says "Happy Retirement" and as he does, he loses 213 years of employee service and dedication among seven staff members!



**213 Years of Federal Service!  
Congratulations  
and Best Wishes!**

Seated Left to right: Mike Davis (Electrician, 22 years); Johnny Davis (Motor Vehicle Operator, 18 years); Jim Chinn (Motor Vehicle Operator, 37 years).  
Back row left to right: Jim Bryant (Pipefitter, 30 years); Mike Coons (Supervisor, Plumbing, HVAC & Boiler Plant, 40 years), Jim Cullum (sorry, Jim -- you have to stay); and Bob Stein (Maintenance Mechanic, 41 years). Not pictured, Ed Hester, (Maintenance Supervisor, 24 years)

## Healing Garden for Veterans Completed

In an ongoing effort to combine Planetree and Veteran Centered Care initiatives to provide physical environments that can enhance healing, health and well-being, we had a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new Healing Garden. The Healing Garden is located between Buildings 101 and 125 and incorporates access to nature in a therapeutic setting for the Alzheimer's and Community Living Center (nursing home) residents of Building 101.

The Healing Garden began as a Veteran Centered Care funded initiative championed by then Patient Advocate, Jennifer Gerrib, the Veteran Centered Care Committee, Dr. Par and the Culture Change Committee for the patients of Building 101, Wards 7 & 8. It culminated with the Chief of Engineering, Jim Cullum tasking Engineering Tech, Tonya Moore, with designing, bidding and finally managing the construction of an environmentally conscience, 12,000 sq. ft. Healing Garden for Veterans, families, and staff to enjoy, relax, recharge, and appreciate. Tonya Moore took the original suggestion and quickly realized that a great deal of additional space between Buildings 101 and 125 could be converted for the project's needs and would relieve the VA Engineering Staff of maintaining a difficult area. The Healing Garden now encompasses Wards 5-8 and features a picnic pavilion, water feature, gazebo, pergola, patio seating, multiple bird feeders, squirrel feeders, garden benches, as well as providing a small basketball court (with adjustable rim), a putting green, and a shuffleboard court. There are raised flower beds for Veterans in wheelchairs to work with plant materials as well as "green" roofs with vines which will continue to grow from the rain and sun and require no additional maintenance.

Special attention was paid to maintaining a flowing "wandering" path that loops continuously throughout the entire garden and is designated by colored concrete to prevent stopping points that may be confusing to the Alzheimer patients. This path remains level throughout the garden and is fully accessible to wheelchairs. There are benches along this path so that Veterans and their family may rest while they are walking through the garden.

The Danville Garden Club Four Season Study Group has adopted the Healing Garden as their community project for 2011 and will work with Voluntary Services and Engineering to assist with maintaining this beautiful addition.

A "Special Thanks" goes to the numerous Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's) and individuals that donated to help make this happen.





***Access ★ Veteran Satisfaction ★ Employee Satisfaction ★ Quality ★ Stewardship***

# VAIHCS Photo Album



A Fall concert was held for our Veterans on October 21st. Entertainment was provided by the Joni Dreyer Trio.

## Diversity Day at West Lafayette



The West Lafayette CBOC celebrated "Diversity Day" with displays and some wonderful food! Employees brought in items from their families or culuture to share with others. Dr. Choi entertained the staff with a questionnaire about different cultuers. Everyone had a chance to learn something new about another culture within in the clinic. It was a great time of sharing and learning out their fellow co-workers!



B Company, 634, Champaign National Guard held a Run for Vets while they were deployed in Afghanistan. This resulted in \$3000.00 in donations which the National Guard used to purchase winter coats for Veterans served by VA Illiana Health Care System.

## Annual Monster Bash!



## Children from Edison Grade School in Danville honored Veterans by putting up the state flags for Veterans Day.



## Decatur CBOC Opens Optometry Clinic



Jessica Johnson, O.D., takes Mr. Hamilton on a tour of the new exam rooms and explains the use of the high-tech equipment.

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on November 12th to officially open the Optometry Clinic.

The VAIHCS Employee Association partnered with the Kennekuk Road Runners to re-stock the pond for the enjoyment of our Veterans.



Even our Director, Mr. Hamilton, couldn't escape getting the flu shot!

**OUCH!**



Y-Teens volunteer their time to decorate trees for the holidays.

## DHS Madrigal Choir performs for our Veterans



## Springfield CBOC Donates Thanksgiving Baskets!

Caring and charity are exhibited every day at the Springfield CBOC. These traits transcend the various patient roles along the healthcare continuum. That was evident when MAS staffer Pam Clark suggested we provide baskets to some of our Veterans as a Thanksgiving tribute.

HBPC Nurse, Donette Owens, was able to identify some particularly needy Veterans. Since she visits them in their homes, she was also able to quantify their resources and abilities.

Despite the short time frame, generous SCBOC employee response necessitated modifying the basket concept to a bag concept. This allowed each recipient to receive provisions not only for a nutritious holiday meal, but also for future sustenance.

Pictured above, along with a small portion of the donations, are just some of the Springfield CBOC staffers who participated. This was our Springfield community way of giving thanks for our veterans and our way of giving back to our veterans.



**Front row: Dr Diane Bontke, Donette Owens, Amanda Huston**

**Back row: Jamie Hammitt, Pam Head, Cathy Beiler, Byrle Brunton, Lesley Grayson, Pam Clark, and Laurie Dermody**

---

## Music Therapy Celebrates 30 Years!

The origins of Music Therapy have close ties with the VA. It was by the efforts of many dedicated musicians and physicians during World War II and its aftermath that the healing powers of music were recognized to a significant degree. The War Department provided official instructions on the use of music in military hospitals for their wounded personnel. In essence, this was the beginning of the modern music therapy profession. At VA Illiana Healthcare System the first music therapist was hired in 1984. Thirty years later the music therapy program continues to touch hospitalized veterans, improving their health and quality of life.

Guitar lessons or sharing musical talent gives structure and meaning to excess free time; favorite music lifts spirits; soothing music helps relax and comfort; marches and Big Band tunes get feet tapping and hands clapping. The Music Therapy program continues to provide interventions and resources on the wards and in the clinic at the service of our Veterans.



Veteran Curt Thomas enjoys refreshments as Music Therapist Paula Payne speaks on the history of Music Therapy at VA Illiana Health Care System.

**Paula Payne  
Music Therapist**

## Community Clergy Outreach Event

On November 4th, 2010 Chaplain Service hosted a Community Clergy Outreach event at the Bremer Center. The purpose of the event was to provide local clergy with a basic understanding of some of the needs facing Veterans of all eras with a focus on Veterans returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The theme was "Healing Presence."

One participant remarked, *"I enjoyed the time learning how to better serve the service (men/women) in my congregation.*

*(The Community Clergy Outreach event) was well planned to have it before Veteran's Day. God Bless in your continued work."*

The goal of the "Healing Presence" was to help local churches and their leaders provide the best spiritual support to our Veterans here at VAIHCS and in the surrounding communities. Chaplain Service provides for the spiritual, religious and emotional needs of Veterans while at our facilities. When Veterans return to their congregations or places of worship, they are often misunderstood. The Community Clergy Outreach event was designed to provide local



clergy with the basic tools to assist in the continuum of spiritual care for our Veterans.

"Healing Presence" was sponsored by VA Illiana Chaplain Services (and the VA National Chaplain Center, Hampton, VA) with the following workshops led by some of the VA Illiana Health Care System Chaplains and Staff: Mental Health/Substance Abuse, PTSD, Palliative Care/"No One Dies Alone", Suicide Prevention/Veteran Justice, Eligibility, Seamless Transition, & Homeless Veterans. The day-long conference concluded with an inspiring panel discussion led by five area Veterans

sharing their own spirituality and how they can best be served by the community clergy.

Please contact Chaplain Service at 554-4531 if your local church or congregation is interested in having one of VAIHCS's Chaplains to provide training for your congregation.

**Brian Manigold  
Chaplain**

**Clinical Positions Available at VAIHCS**  
(For more information contact Twana Rodgers in HR/ext. 44377)

**Audiologist \* Cardiologist \* Hospitalist Acute Care \* Medical Technologist \*  
Occupational Therapists \* Psychiatrist \* Physician (C&P Exam) \***

**Access ★ Veteran Satisfaction ★ Employee Satisfaction ★ Quality ★ Stewardship**

# ***BRAVO Award Recipients!***



## **Ambulatory Care**

Patsy Green  
Pam Swaim-Mejia

## **Dental Service**

Beth Smothers  
Donald Tigchelaar

## **Education & Research Service**

Joyce Deboer

## **Engineering Service**

Sue Auter  
Joseph Brown  
Don DeMoss  
Shawn Farr  
Jennifer Kupick  
Howard Montgerard  
Greg Reynolds

## **Environmental Management Service**

Stanley Crawford  
Jim Downs  
Robert Frazier  
Phillip Howard  
Jim McCrone  
Marshall Stone

## **Fiscal Service**

Steve Bragorgos  
Pam Hale  
Judy Walag

## **Geriatrics & Extended Care Service**

Chuck Burkowski

## **Human Resources Service**

Latisha Bell  
Janic Harmon Colby  
Lana Foley

Amy Ferree  
Debbie Lewis  
Twana Rodgers

## **IRM**

David Perry

## **Logistics Service**

Jan Cash  
Patty Edington  
Ken Merrill

## **Medical Administration Service**

Cathy Cintella  
Priscilla Clark  
Laurie Dermody  
Latosha Draper  
Janet Fender  
Danielle Fitzgerald  
Nancy Gorton  
Lesley Grayson  
Glenda Hackman  
Shawnette Marbury-Jones  
Carol Roderick  
Doris Schultz  
Jacob Serd  
Julie Wahls  
Cheryl Wakeland  
Stephanie Welsch

## **Medical Service**

Carrie Adams  
Mia Leverenz

## **Mental Health Service**

Rhonda Davis

## **Nutrition & Food Service**

Kristy Powell  
Ericka Hoskins  
Toccaro Brooks  
Nick McFarland  
Margo Cornwell  
Trina Hyatt

## **Pathology & Lab Service**

JoAnn Boles  
Joni Kincaid

## **PCA/Nursing Service**

Diane Barr

Sharon Buchanan  
Diane Coleman  
Terri Francis  
Marcie Fultz  
Carla Grissett  
Mary Beth Haase  
Shirley Hinchman  
Christina Jones  
Linda Kelsey  
Christina Kraemer  
Dixie Leemon  
Morgan Lincicum  
Emma Ludeman  
Tracy Meyers  
Roxie Newell  
David Pratt  
Lynn Railey  
Susan Schwartzkopf  
Alice Sollars  
Janet Smith  
Kay Taylor  
Karen White  
Rachel Wireman

## **Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service**

Brett Jacobs  
Kathryn O'Melia  
Dr. Keith D'Souza  
Linda Smith

## **Police Service**

David Reed

## **Social Work Service**

Hilary Edgerly  
Mattie Engel  
Mike Reed

## **SPD**

Dizer Brown  
Tasha Draper  
Anita Pittmon  
Kim Sollars

## **Surgery Service**

Debra Underwood

## **Utilization Management**

Mary Ann Acord

## Gains

**Clarence Abella** - Physician - ACOS  
**Jordan Bailey** - Orthotist/Prosthetist (Peoria) - Prosthetics  
**Ronda Baldwin** - Nursing Assistant - Nursing Service  
**Michelle Barker** - LPN - Nursing Service  
**Deborah A. Bounds** - LPN (Springfield) - Nursing Service  
**Amanda Brooks** - Physical Therapist - Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service  
**Rhonda K. Christian** - LPN (Peoria) - Nursing Service  
**Caleb Davis** - Social Worker Trainee - Social Work Service  
**Larry DePedro** - Physician - ACOS  
**Rachael E. Dietkus** - Social Worker - Social Work Service  
**Johathan H. Duke** - Nursing Aid - Nursing Service  
**Donna Emmons** - RN (Peoria) - Nursing Service  
**Stephanie Ericksen** - Psychologist - Mental Health Service  
**Shawn Harper** - Police Officer - Police Service  
**Amanda Huston** - RN (Springfield) - Nursing Service  
**Walter Huyck** - Electrician - Engineering Service  
**Hoshang M. Irani** - Physician Assistant - Medical Service  
**Erica Johnson** - LPN - Nursing Service  
**Breeann Kelley** - Student Trainee - Social Work Service  
**Kari Larimer** - LPN (Mattoon) - Nursing Service  
**Penny Michele Metcalf** - LPN (Springfield) - Nursing Service  
**Michelle L. Miller** - Medical Technician (Decatur) - Pathology & Lab Service  
**Paul R. Miluk** - Physician - Medical Service  
**Kathleen A. Moore** - RN (Peoria) - Nursing Service  
**Dennis F. Mullins** - Medical Support Assistant (Peoria) - Medical Administration Service  
**William Niemeyer** - Physician Assistant - Medical Service  
**Monique M. Phagan** - Program Support Assistant - Medical Service  
**James Preston** - Housekeeping Aid - EMS  
**Thomas Robinson** - Housekeeping Aid - EMS  
**Fernando J. Rosado** - HR Specialist - Human Resources  
**Nirmala Rozario** - Physician - Chief of Staff  
**Deborah Scherer** - LPN (Springfield) - Nursing Service  
**Constance Schimmel** - RN (Peoria) - Nursing Service  
**David J. Sevilla** - Social Worker - Social Work Service  
**Christine L. Smith** - Nursing Aid - Nursing Service  
**Julia M. Smith** - LPN (Peoria) - Nursing Service  
**Lisa Sternberg** - Health Technician (Decatur) - Surgical Service  
**Alana N. Sykes** - Medical Support Assistant - Nursing Service  
**Bridgette Trumbo** - RN (Springfield) - Nursing Service  
**Erin Weiss** - LPN (Springfield) - Nursing Service  
**Tommie White** - Plumber - Engineering Service  
**Karen S. Whitley** - LPN (Mattoon) - Nursing Service  
**Glenna Woodcock** - LPN (West Lafayette) - Nursing

## Service

**Joshua R. Youngblood** - Police Officer - Police Service  
**Patricia Zavala** - Pharmacist - Pharmacy Service

## Losses

**Yolanda A. Crider** - Student Trainee/Supply - SPD  
**Aubrey R. Dokos** - Creative Arts Therapist - Recreation Therapy Service  
**Lisa Duncan** - Health System Specialist - Director's Office  
**Angela Hires** - Nursing Assistant - Nursing Service  
**Eromonselle Idahosa** - Physician - Ambulatory Care Service  
**John-Paul Jenkins** - Housekeeping Aid - EMS  
**Heather R. Ketchem** - Program Support Assistant - Social Work Service  
**Karen Mills** - Medical Records Technician - Medical Administration Service  
**Carol Moten-Crawford** - Nursing Assistant - Nursing Service  
**Benjamin T. Penn** - Food Service Worker - Nutrition and Food Service  
**Angela L. Rowe** - RN - Nursing Service  
**Sandra L. Rowell** - Administration Support (Peoria) - Ambulatory Care Service  
**Vera E. Rusk** - Program Support Assistant - Medical Administration Service  
**Glenda R. Withers** - Medical Support Assistant - Medical Administration Service



**Candle Safety**

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

**"CANDLE WITH CARE"**

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

**CANDLES AND KIDS**

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

**IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...**

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

**FACTS**

- On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 30 minutes.
- Roughly two-fifths of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

**Your Source for SAFETY Information**  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169  
[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

## Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

### PICKING THE TREE

- ❗ If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- ❗ Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

### PLACING THE TREE

- ❗ Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2" from the base of the trunk.
- ❗ Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- ❗ Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- ❗ Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

### LIGHTING THE TREE

- ❗ Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- ❗ Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- ❗ Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- ❗ Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

### AFTER CHRISTMAS

Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

### FACTS

- ❗ Each year, fire departments respond to an average of **210** structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
- ❗ **48%** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ❗ A heat source too close to the tree causes **27%** of the fires.

 Your Source for SAFETY Information  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



## Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- ❗ Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- ❗ Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- ❗ Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- ❗ Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- ❗ Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- ❗ Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- ❗ Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- ❗ Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- ❗ Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- ❗ Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- ❗ Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- ❗ Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

### BEFORE HEADING OUT OR TO BED

❗ Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



### FACTS

- ❗ December is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- ❗ **Roughly two out of five** home fires start in the kitchen.
- ❗ Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires.

 Your Source for SAFETY Information  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

## Service Pins

### 35 Years

**Sherrie L. Kuzian**  
Education & Research



### 30 Years

**Connie M. Ford**  
Nursing Service

**Vicki L. Frazier**  
Medical Administration Service

**Yan-Ho Liem**  
Surgical Service

### 25 Years

**Chrisann Odle**  
Nursing Service

**Connie C. Ostrander**  
Nursing Service

**Delores A. Wenzel**  
Nursing Service

### 20 Years

**Lisa Clark**  
Nursing Service

**Carla P. Johnson**  
Environmental Management  
Service

**Jeanette L. Lomax**  
Pathology & Lab Service

**Henry T. Luchtefeld**  
Pharmacy Service

**Mary E. Thorpe**  
Pharmacy Service

**Richard A. Varns**  
Police Service

### 15 Years

**Christopher P. Myers**  
Chaplain Service

**Shelley L. Whitman**  
Nursing Service

### 10 Years

**Vonda S. Kuchenbrod**  
Medical Administration Service

**Sarah B. Birk**  
Ambulatory Care Service

**Lisa M. Boyd**  
Nursing Service

**Richard M. Colby**  
IRM

**Kathryn M. Copelen**  
Nursing Service

**Shawn W. Farr**  
Engineering Service

**Tracy J. Meyers**  
Nursing Service

**Lea M. Morgan**  
Pharmacy Service

**Janet M. Palmer**  
VISN Director's Office

**Susan E. Schwartzkopf**  
Nursing Service

**Eugene G. Snapp, Jr.**  
Nutrition & Food  
Service

**Monique T. Townsend**  
Nursing Service

**Leana S. Walsh**  
Nursing Service