

MARCH 2009

## A South Nassau Connection

Christopher Natri's connection to South Nassau began the day he was born—in the hospital's Labor and Delivery Room. But that was only the beginning of the X-ray technologist's lifelong link to South Nassau.

The Natri family settled in Oceanside, just opposite the hospital's entrance on Washington Ave. Young Christopher attended Oceanside School No. 5 and played on the hospital's grounds and in the lobby, an extension of his backyard.

"I remember running around the parking lots and lobby and in and out of the elevators with my cousins," said Mr. Natri. "Willie Wright [lead transporter] was a security guard then, and he would tell us to leave."



Christopher at age 7.



Christopher Natri on a break in the Radiology Department.

When he was five, his kindergarten teacher, Candy Misner, a former board member and past president of South Nassau's Central Council Auxiliary, took his class to the hospital's Teddy Bear Clinic, where he learned about health and safety.

Through the years, Mr. Natri, now 24, his two older sisters and parents turned to the hospital across the street for their health care and to the Emergency Department for the garden-variety ailments, bruises and scrapes.

When he came of age, the Dietary Department hired the teenager to man the tray line in the kitchen and then the cash register in the cafeteria. The jobs provided pocket money while

he was attending Nassau Community College, where he studied liberal arts and aspired to a career as an X-ray technologist. While he was certain he would pursue radiography, he wasn't sure where he would prepare for his new role.

Enter Suzi Blaufarb, an instructor at the Robert J. Hochstim School of Radiography, and Gina Collins, the school's director of education, who frequently bumped into him in the cafeteria and then recruited him to become a student, he recalled.

Soon he was enrolled in the school and decided to take a part-time job in the telemetry unit as a technician. When the call went out for volunteers to work in the hospital's Teddy Bear Clinic, he jumped at the opportunity.

*continued on page 4*

### In This Issue

- Caring for Patients in Africa page 3
- Horses Provide the Therapy page 4
- The Baby Photo Contest Winner is... page 8