

## Give the Gift of Life



At the July blood drive, members of South Nassau's staff assemble outside the Long Island Blood Services bloodmobile at the hospital's offsite at 2277 Grand Ave., Baldwin. From left, Janet Kahn-Scolaro, director of behavioral health clinical services and Roseanne Mitchell, home health aid, are all smiles as they prepare to donate. Mary Golden, human resources manager and blood drive coordinator, looks on. Seated, Georgette Toulis, administrative secretary, development, helps out with registration.

At the October 22 blood drive, South Nassau collected 326 pints of blood. Way to go, South Nassau!

But employees should not rest on their laurels. Since the demand for blood during the summer was high, says the New York Blood Center, the need for donations will continue through the upcoming holiday season and into early next year. Plan on donating in 2010 and mark your calendar with the following blood drive dates:

•January 14 •April 8 •July 8 •October 22

For more information or to register, call the department of human resources at (516) 632-4080.

## Intercom Introduces New Columns

Look for new columns in the December issue of *Intercom*. A column about your benefits package titled **"Your Benefits"** will help you understand your employee benefits or clarify any changes to your plan. Another column being developed, **"South Nassau in the News,"** will feature staff members who were interviewed by the media.

Also an *Intercom* **Advisory Committee** will be formed consisting of employees who represent key departments in the hospital. The committee, which will meet quarterly, will discuss topics of interest to staff members for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

## Information Services

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Michael Tsymbalyuk, coordinator of data center operations, places a new tape in a server, which backs up the data for the hospital's systems, including PATCOM, a patient billing system. PATCOM archives admissions, discharges and transfer data as well as

accounts payable and general ledger information. Each tape stores up to 35 terabytes. Says Mr. Mertz, "that's room for a lot of data."

tioning units that maintain room air at a temperature of 50 degrees. The chilly temperature prevents equipment such as the PrivacyShell server, Kronos, and PatientKeeper servers, which operate uninterrupted, from overheating. In case of a power outage, 40 huge car-sized batteries kick in to keep all the computer systems and the air-conditioning running until the generators turn on.

In addition to the data center, there are 31 so-called technology closets in the hospital and offsites that contain miles of fiber optic cable and computer equipment that keep hospital computers and computer-based clinical systems humming. All 31 closets feed into the main distribution frame or "hub," a 15 x 15 foot space on the ground floor of the hospital.

Inside, a visitor finds floor-to-ceiling shelves that contain the main server exchange (where old e-mails are stored); Internet intrusion detection devices (prevent hackers from prying into South Nassau's system); the ProofPoint device (blocks SPAM and encrypts protected health information in an e-mail); and Long Island Patient Information eXchange (allows medical staff at some Long Island hospitals to share certain patient data with South Nassau); and more.

At the end of each day, all the hospital's servers are backed up and weekly copies of the back-up servers for the offsite offices are stored under lock and key. The back-ups are critical and provide the hospital with the ability to recover its data following a disaster or system failure.

"Information Systems is the backbone of today's businesses and critical to the functioning of the hospital," Mr. Mertz said. "And as the hospital continues to grow, we will become more dependent on this technology and the staff that supports it."