

Giftgiving the Needy at South Nassau and Beyond

During the holiday season hospital staff showered needy families in Nassau with more than 1,100 donations of toys and games. Hundreds of gifts went to several community organizations, including the Long Beach and Rockville Centre Head Start programs, Freeport PACT (Parents and Children Together) program, Interfaith Nutrition Network and Rockville Centre Economic Opportunity Council.



Robin Grass, R.N., director of community education and coordinator of the program, poses with assistant Kathy Simonetti.

For the second consecutive year, several hospital departments stepped up to help their colleagues in need. Primary Care in Bellmore donated food to South Nassau's pantry and "singlehandedly restocked our shelves with the likes of canned vegetables and fruits to pasta and soup," said Mary Gillespie of Social Work. "It was like a church food drive," she said. "It was great."

In lieu of giving gifts to one another, the staff of D1-East and Home Care Intake donated cash to the hospital's food pantry. The Laboratories and Pathology Department along with the Endoscopy Unit "adopted" two South Nassau families, providing them with clothes, gift cards and sporting goods. Finance and Home Care also brightened the holidays for two needy families in the community by donating clothes, accessories, gift cards and toiletries.

Physicians Bring Holiday Joy to Pediatrics

Instead of sending colleagues a basket of cheer or a carton of Florida oranges during the holiday season, Dean Pappas, M.D., chief of colon and rectal surgery, and Surgeon Jules Garbus, M.D., decided to do something different: throw a New Year's day party for the children in the Pediatric Unit in honor of the physicians they would have given gifts to.

So, on Wednesday, December 30 at 11:50 a.m., the countdown to the New Year began (albeit early) and so did the party. The unit's staff, headed by Lynn Bert, distributed hats and noise makers to the children and their families. Participants feasted on pigs-in-a-blanket, buffalo wings and sliders. After ushering in the "new year," the children jotted down their wishes for 2010 on cardboard stars that now adorn the unit's playroom door.

"We are very grateful to Drs. Pappas and Garbus for their generosity," said Lynn Bert, nurse manager. "They transformed what could have been just another day in the hospital into a fun-filled and exciting event that the children will remember for years to come."



The staff of the Pediatric Unit celebrates the New Year with a patient.

Don't Forget...

The hospital's food pantry is open year-round, not just during the holiday season. If you are in need or would like to make a donation, call Mary Gillespie, Social Work (day shift), at extension 4087. During the evening and night shifts, call Dawn Keiley, R.N., assistant director of nursing, at extension



3910 or 4051, and Beryl Harrison, Patient Care Services, at extension 3910 or pager 915, respectively. All calls are confidential.