CHA Recognizes Gaylord with the 2019 Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award

The Connecticut Hospital Association will present a Community Service Award to Gaylord for the care provided in Wallingford outpatient medical services to women with disabilities who require gynecological care. For 20 years, the team led by Anna Tirado, MD, has been able to deliver specialized care to women who have had spinal cord injuries, strokes, Multiple Sclerosis, amputations, developmental or mental disabilities. These women and their caregivers report the patients feel more comfortable at a clinic that offers adaptive equipment and care by a professional who understands and advocates for those with disabilities.

Dr. Tirado will also be recognized as a Healthcare Hero at CHA’s Annual Meeting on June 20.

Sonja LaBarbera, CEO and President, said “Thank you to Dr. Tirado and her team for being role models for all of us on what compassionate clinical care is truly all about” and called the program innovative and unique, a shining example of the Gaylord staff living our mission.

Accepting the award on behalf of the entire team were: Steve Holland, MD, Anna Tirado, MD, Tracy Ouellette, MA, and Sonja LaBarbera.

Ken Murphy Memorial Open a Success!

The Gaylord Sports Association hosted their annual golf tournament, the Ken Murphy Memorial Open on Monday, June 10, 2019 at the Farms Country Club. This event, which was started by Ken Murphy, the founder of the Gaylord Sports Association, brought together 20 golfers with a physical disability for a 9-hole competitive tournament filled with fun and camaraderie. Golfers included members of the Sports Association Adaptive Golf Club, returning golfers, and several first time tournament participants!

The tournament was followed by an awards luncheon which included golfers, volunteers, Gaylord staff, and members of the Murphy Family. Awards were given to the top 3 pairs and for two contests which included longest drive and closest to the pin. The first place team was David Allen and Matt Holland with a score of 36. Their names will be placed on the KMMO plaque which hangs in the recreation hall. Also, at the luncheon, the “For the Love of the Game” Award was presented to Todd Blosser. Todd is a long time Sports Association member who has shown his devotion to golf by participating in tournaments, being a member of the golf club, and volunteering at Sports Association golf clinics. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. Everyone is looking forward to the tournament next year!

Click here to see coverage of the event from Fox 61.
Where Will You Find Demonstrations of Using the CHAMP Safety Tools?

Security Officer Juan Garrido was asked by a transport bus driver to help an arriving visitor to the pool. Juan noticed that the visitor was pale and that his speech sounded slurred. Juan did not want him to proceed to the pool without being certain it was safe. Knowing he was nearby, Juan sought out Jacob Hunter to evaluate the visitor. Jacob asked Occupational ‘Therapist, Robert Anderson, and pool staff, Mike Moscato, and Daisy Yepez, to join the effort. Ultimately, it was determined that the individual’s blood sugar was low. After getting juice and some crackers he felt much better, although it was agreed that he should forego swimming for the day.

How easy it would have been for Juan to have not noticed the Aquacizer’s subtle physical signs, or to have assumed they would be noticed once the man got to the pool area. Whether he realized it or not, Juan was using CHAMP: He paid Attention to Detail, Practiced a Questioning Attitude, and Verified—when—he—could—not—Validate what he was observing. And, even though the Aquacizer was known to pool staff, he was assessed fully by Jacob, Robert, Mike, and Daisy to ensure he was safe. Great job by all!

Next Casual for Causes:
Friday, June 21

For a small donation, staff can dress casually for the day and help a local charity on Friday, June 21. Employees need a button or a Casual for Causes sticker to indicate their participation. Stickers can be purchased in the Cafeteria, Human Resources, Jackson 2 Outpatient, North Haven, Cheshire and the Servery. The cost of the sticker is $5. All proceeds benefits the Penny Dunker Scholarship.

Traurig House
Awarded $10,000 Grant
Thanks to Staff, Family and Friends of Gaylord

Safeco Insurance Co. has given Traurig House a $5,000 grant. They offered us an additional $5,000 if they got 250 “Likes” to the post on their Facebook page within one week. Not only did the Gaylord family beat the 250 “Likes” goal—they beat the goal in only one day. Thank you to everyone who helped us “Like” and Share the Safeco Insurance Co. grant post.

Leigh Golembiewski, Manager of Process Improvement and Project Planning at Gaylord said, “This generous support will help us upgrade some areas of the Traurig House that are in need.”

June

Casual for Causes
June 21

July

Casual for Causes
July 5

August

Casual for Causes
August 2

September

National Rehabilitation Awareness Month

October

Casual for Causes
October 4

November

Casual for Causes
November 1

6th Annual Gaylord Gauntlet 5k
June 22

Good Luck Runners!
Gaylord Celebrates its Volunteers!

On June 14, Gaylord hosted its Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon celebrating its volunteers! Brief words of thanks and gratitude were offered by many who attended including Sonja LaBarbera, President & CEO, Tara Knapp, VP of Development, PR and Marketing, Dorothy Orlowski, Patient Relations & Volunteer Services Manager, and Katie Joly, Sports Association Program Manager.

Recognized were the various volunteer groups that truly make an impact and difference in the everyday and post-discharge experiences for our patients. Included in the annual celebration were Hospital Volunteers, ABI Peer Mentors, Sports Association Volunteers, the Gaylord Golf Tournament Committee and Special Events Volunteers. Recognized this year was a volunteer from the Hospital Volunteer Group for her individual contribution to the organization.

Rose Ryan, a Transportation Volunteer on Lyman 2 celebrated 30 years of volunteer service and her volunteer retirement from Gaylord. Rose's commitment and dedication to our patients, their experience and our organization is an inspiration! Many thanks to Rose and to all of the volunteers who help make positive Gaylord experiences for all!

The 56 Hospital Volunteers provided Gaylord with 7,680 hours of support between May 2018 and May 2019! That is approximately 137 hours per volunteer across 23 various volunteer assignments and/or departments. In addition to those numbers, 147 Sports Association volunteers helped to provide 460 hours of adaptive sports programming this past year in 14 different sports. The Gaylord Golf Classic Committee hosted the annual golf tournament on June 3 at the Farms Country Club and raised over $72,000. This year’s Golf Committee member and co-chair Karen DelChiaro was recognized for her 20 years of volunteer services. The proceeds of the golf tournament directly fund the Sports Association's adaptive sports programs at Gaylord and help make it possible for individuals with a physical disability to discover their ability in sports!

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<td>Casual for Causes</td>
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<td>National Occupational Therapy Month</td>
<td>Better Hearing and Speech Month</td>
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Nurses

"Yazmin, Mariah and Bev were very good. Yazmin went above and beyond."

Meals

"Best food I ever had in a hospital."

Room

"My room was always kept clean."

Visitors & Family

"Greatest people in the world."

Overall Assessment

"I always felt welcomed and appreciated. We felt like Gaylord was a "home away from home."

Tests & Treatments

"Extremely caring."

Overall Assessment OUTPATIENT

"I was very comfortable with staff and therapy."

Physical Therapy OUTPATIENT

"I couldn’t be happier with Anne and Annette!"
Rehab Education on the Move

Dr. Jerrold Kaplan, Dr. Jonathan Woodhouse, Psy. D., ABPP-CN and Anne Pacileo, PT presented at the 2019 Workers’ Compensation Retreat for members of the Connecticut Bar Association in Cape Cod, Mass in May on traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries. Topics discussed ranged from the many different forms of cognitive therapy rendered, psychological treatment and diagnosis through rehabilitation and the use of Ekso and ReWalk assistive devices. Gaylord has been receiving referrals for outpatient services based on the education provided.

Looking for Volunteers to Help Create a Gaylord Parade Float for Wallingford's 350th Anniversary

The town of Wallingford will be celebrating it’s 350th anniversary in 2020 with a Jubilee Week from June 20 to 27. Part of the town’s celebration will be a parade. Gaylord Co-chairs Tim Polaske and Bob Hall are looking to recruit employees for a committee to help design and build a Gaylord float for the parade in 2020. Please contact Tim at extension 3435 or Bob at extension 3434 if you are interested in participating.

Nursing Services Brush Up on Their Skills

How is the Nursing Department working on providing the best of care to our patients? Nursing Services participated in skill validation day in the Brooker Lecture Hall and Lobby on June 12-13. Validation day provides staff a hands-on opportunity to refresh their skills and education on key components of patient care. Attendance is mandatory for all nursing staff. Special thanks to Nursing Educators Lindsay Donnelly and Caitlin Handley for arranging such a fun, organized, learning event for our nursing staff!