

InTouch

"Bringing Today's Medicine Close to Home"

Madera
Community
Hospital's
Quarterly
Newsletter

Spring 2008

InTouch, the quarterly newsletter of Madera Community Hospital, informing our readers of services, community benefits and current events.

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For questions regarding healthcare and/or the services offered at Madera Community Hospital please call the Community Relations Office at (559) 675-5503, e-mail rgomes@maderahospital.org, or write a letter to:

Madera Community Hospital
Attn: Community Relations
1250 E. Almond Ave.
Madera, CA 93637

We hope you enjoy *InTouch* and welcome your comments. ☐

Visit our website:
www.maderahospital.org

Message from the CEO - John W. Frye, Jr.



John W. Frye, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Madera Community Hospital

As we welcome the beginning of spring; we are happy to see the end of the winter flu season. The impact of this year's flu season was felt throughout the hospital as we set outpatient volume records in Family Health Services and the Emergency Department. We also experienced a very high inpatient census. We are very appreciative to our medical staff, employees and volunteers who all met the challenge with a caring team spirit.

Madera Community Hospital continues to invest in improving the quality of healthcare for our patients and their families. The Surgery Department

recently upgraded the facility with the addition of new surgical lights and three new state-of-the-art anesthesia machines. Diagnostic Imaging purchased a new ultrasound machine with a \$100,000 grant awarded to the hospital from the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians.

Additional capital expenditures are mentioned later in this edition of *InTouch*.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Medical Staff, employees and volunteers, thank you for your support of Madera Community Hospital and our mission to care for patients and their families. ☐

Madera Community Hospital Home Health Agency Ranked Among Top 500 of Home Health Providers in the Country for 2007

Gail Rowell, BSN, RN Madera Community Hospital Home Health Agency

Madera Community Hospital Home Health Agency announced that for the second year in a row it has been named to the 2007 HomeCare Elite, a ranking of the most successful Medicare-certified home health care providers in the United States. This annual review identifies the Top 500 of agencies, ranked by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement and financial performance.

In making this announcement Home Health Director, Gail Rowell noted that there are approximately 8,400 home health agencies in the United States. She said that to be ranked in the top 500 agencies in the

nation is an honor of which the entire organization is proud. Ms. Rowell attributes success to having a small but knowledgeable and experienced staff of nurses, therapists and support personnel for the company's ability to rank as one of the HomeCare Elite.

The 2007 HomeCare Elite is the only performance recognition of its kind in the home health industry. The data used for this analysis was compiled from publicly available information. The entire list of the 2007 HomeCare Elite agencies can be viewed by visiting the OCS web site at www.ocsys.com.

Madera Community Hospital Home Health Agency has been serving the Madera and surrounding commu-

nities since 1985. Medicare certified and state licensed, the agency serves 600 to 700 patients a year in their place of residence. The goal of home health care is to enable people to remain at home. Under the direction of their physician, home health staff teaches and assists the family and caregivers to provide the skilled care a patient needs to avoid hospitalization. Ms. Rowell notes that the ranking in the top 500 is partly due to the agency's ability to successfully keep patients in their home.

Information about Madera Community Hospital Home Health Agency can be accessed at 559-675-2000. For information on Madera Community Hospital log onto www.maderahospital.org ☐


Recent Improvements for Anesthesia, Surgery & Recovery

Several new pieces of medical equipment were purchased for Anesthesia, Surgery & Recovery departments. They are listed below:

- 2 laparoscopes used for Endoscopy procedures
- Sterilizer and Vacuum Steam Sterilizer
- 3 Anesthesia Machines and Monitoring Systems
- Surgery Light Replacement
- Painting and repairs for all surgery rooms, halls and waiting areas.


In keeping with our Mission Statement Madera Community Hospital is dedicated to actively promoting and maintaining the health and well-being of residents throughout the Central Valley. We are committed to identifying and serving our community's needs with compassion, concern, care and safety for the individual.

The Administrative Team at Madera Community Hospital and the Board of Trustees are very dedicated to keeping and maintaining a quality healthcare facility that the community can take pride in and continue to utilize for many years.

MCH opened in October of 1971, making it 37 years old this October. Improvements to the facility are on going, ensuring our patients and their family's quality healthcare. 

Wheelchair to Peru

Jan Zitek, MCH Board Member

In November 2007 several members of the MCH Staff and Board of Trustees participated in a wheelchair delivery in Peru. Since 2002 under the leadership of Bob Bitter 10 containers of wheelchairs through a partnership with Madera Sunrise Rotary and The Wheelchair Foundation have provided and sometimes delivered wheelchairs to Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, Pakistan, Afganistan, and Peru. This year the trip to Peru delivered wheelchairs to five locations in Peru as well as a visit to an orphanage where funds were collected to purchase commercial washers and dryers as the clothes were being washed by hand. The wheelchairs were distributed to a military hospital and church in Lima, to people in Huancayo City which is an 8 hour bus ride from Lima and where no outside aid had every been delivered, a hospital for children with Cerebral Palasy in Cuzco and the small town of Pueblo Libre outside of Lima. The funds for the wheelchairs are obtained by donations from the Rotary Clubs of District 5520 and private donations. The funds are then matched by The Wheelchair Foundation. If you look around our own MCH you will see an example of the red wheelchairs which were donated to the hospital by the Bitter family. Those participating in the delivery from MCH were: Dr. Arain, Dr. Naz, Dr. Singh, Dr. Bangash, Bob Bitter, Don Warnock, Jan Zitek, and Virginia Pacheco. 



Left to right: Jan Zitek, Mohammad Arain, M.D., Bob Bitter (partially bidden), Ishiaque Bangash, M.D., Virginia Pacheco, Don Warnock, Afiab Naz, M.D. and Kanwal Singh, M.D.

Medi-Cal Budget Cuts

California's Fiscal Emergency Puts Hospitals and Patients in Jeopardy

Madera Community Hospital, and many other hospitals throughout California, are on the front lines of our health care system - operating around-the-clock emergency rooms and providing life-saving trauma or emergency care to anyone who needs treatment. All patients depend on their local community hospitals for critical health care services, regardless of their ability to pay. But many hospitals are facing multi-billion dollar budget cuts and are dangerously close to shutting their doors.

California is facing a severe budget shortfall - now estimated at \$16 billion. To address this massive budget deficit, the Governor declared a "fiscal emergency," and signed a measure that delays and reduces Medi-Cal payments to hospitals by 10 percent. This represents a total cut of \$500 million to hospitals throughout the state, and a significant reduction of payments to Madera Community Hospital. The payment deferrals and cuts will take effect on July 1 and will impact the Medi-Cal patients that Madera Community Hospital serves.

To make matters worse, President Bush has proposed a \$94.4 billion cut from Medicare and another \$18 billion cut from the Medicaid program over the next five years. This could result in \$11 billion in losses for California's hospitals and health systems. California's 6.7 million Medi-Cal patients will suffer most from these severe budget cuts.

This reduction in funding will seriously jeopardize access to hospital care for California's working poor and uninsured as well as specialized services such as emergency and trauma care that we all depend on regardless of our insurance status.

Exacerbating the problem is a growing trend of doctors who no longer treat Medi-Cal patients because of the program's woefully low payment rates. When patients are unable to receive care from their doctors, they often turn to already overcrowded hospital emergency rooms - the most expensive setting in which patients receive care. Cutting Medi-Cal payments only worsens this dilemma.

Given the enormity of the state's fiscal problems, it is clear that all state programs - including those affecting California's hospitals - are going to face budget cuts. But we all must do everything we can to minimize the impacts of those budget cuts on our patients. If you would like to help Madera Community Hospital let our legislators know that these severe cuts will jeopardize patient care in Madera County, please send to a letter or call:

State Assemblyman

Michael Villines - Call 446-2029
6245 N Fresno Street Ste. 106
Fresno, CA 93727

Senator


Dave Cogdill - Call 253-7122
4974 E. Clinton Way Ste 100
Fresno, CA 93710

MCH Awarded Grant to Purchase Ultrasound Equipment


Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians and the County of Madera selected Madera Community Hospital as the recipient of an allocation in the year 2007 from the Community Grant Program in the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose of the purchase of a Toshiba Aplio XV Ultrasound Machine.

On February 14, 2007, the County of Madera and the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians agreed to establish the Community Grant Program, pursuant to which in Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians agreed to provide \$1,000,000 per year for ten years to be distributed to Madera County agencies, schools, and non-profits. The Community Grant Program is administered by the Tribal Council Advisory Committee. Applications are submitted to the County of Madera, and the County of Madera then forwards the application with its recommendation to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council determines the allocations.

Madera Community Hospital currently has four ultrasound machines and last year conducted 10,754 ultrasound exams.

In order to provide quality healthcare services to our patients MCH is continually monitoring and replacing medical equipment as needed. Modern technology changes rapidly. In order to keep up with current technology MCH continues to seek donations from our community and will continue to apply for grants as they become available. 

Blues & BBQ March 15, 2008

Madera Community Hospital Foundation held the 4th annual spring Blues & BBQ on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at Hatfield Hall, Madera Fairgrounds. MCH Custom Catering provided delicious tri tip and chicken barbecue with traditional trimmings, and the music of the legendary Elvin Bishop and local favorite Ron Thompson and the Resistors entertained the crowd of approximately 350 guests. Over \$17,000 was raised from this year's event, which contributes to the purchase of medical equipment for MCH. 




MCHF Vice President Jeannie Rodriguez and entertainer Elvin Bishop.

National Volunteer Week April 27 - May 3 National Hospital Week & National Nurses' Week May 3 - May 9

Grow Your Own Nurse program

Madera Community Hospital Featured in Advance for Nurses Magazine

With 11 more Madera Community Hospital (MCH) employees graduating from nursing in December, the total number of graduates will be 119 since the inception of the facility's "Grow Your Own Nurse" program. A total of 108 RNs and 11 LVNs will have successfully completed MCH-sponsored nursing programs since 1999 from California State University, Fresno; State Center Community College District (Fresno City College and Madera Center) and from other nursing programs. 

Gift of Life


Thank You Madera Community Hospital

Laura Stanford, Donation Services Liaison

Many of you were recently involved in caring for a 29-year-old who suffered a fatal brain injury as the result of a lack of oxygen. Her family wanted her to be an organ donor and we thank you for your support in making this happen.

Four People Received the Gift of Life

- A 69-year-old married woman from Hawaii received a new left kidney. It is unknown how long she waited for this life-saving gift; however she is now in stable condition and recovering at home.
- A 51-year-old woman from Hawaii received a new right kidney. It is unknown how long she waited for this life-saving gift; however she is now in stable condition and recovering.
- A 53-year-old father of one from Central California received a new liver. He waited one year and two months for this life-saving gift. He is doing well and recovering at home.
- A 50-year-old married woman from the Central Valley received a new heart. She waited seventy one days for this life-saving gift, and is now recovering at home.

On behalf of the recipients, their families and the staff of the Transplant Network, thank you for all of your support of the donation process. 

Thank You to our 2008 Blues and BBQ Sponsors

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Jack Frost Ice, Madera Chamber of Commerce, Charles Ugwu-Oju, M.D.,
Universal Data Tech, Donaghy Sales, U-Save Liquors, Constellation Wines U.S.,
MCH Junior Volunteers, Chowchilla High School Sober Grads.

Upcoming Foundation Events

• 24th Annual Foundation Dinner Dance

August 9, 2008 - Holy Spouses Hall

Our theme this year is "Picnic in Central Park." The dress is casual, however, the meal will be catered by MCH Custom Catering and promises to be quite elegant. Our servers are our very own MCH Volunteers and Junior Volunteers. The band is The Remnants, some of you may recognize the bass player, Debi Valorosi (maiden name Montanari). The band plays a wide variety of music, including Classic Rock and Blues, Country, Dance, Oldies and Jazz, and they take requests. Check out their website at www.fresnoremnants.com

The silent auction will take you on a stroll through Central Park, lots of garden items and art in the park just to mention a few attractions. Tickets are \$60 each. For more information and sponsorship opportunities call the Foundation Office at 675-5503 or go to our website at www.maderahospital.org

MADERA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

MCH - Giving Back to the Community

Betty Cates, Professional Services Coordinator

Most of us in the Madera community are well aware of the outstanding medical services provided by Madera Community Hospital (MCH). You or your family may have utilized the emergency department, available 24 hours a day/365 days a year for emergency care, the diagnostic services department with its state of the art equipment and technology or the many services offered in the maternal / child department. Without question, these achievements deserve to be recognized.

However, what often goes unrecognized are the countless ways in which MCH goes beyond the walls to further meet the needs of the community. In addition to providing millions of dollars of uncompensated care every year to patients who can't afford to pay, MCH also routinely sends staff members out into the community. They present health education classes, staff booths at local health fairs, and provide free health screenings to help identify those at risk for deadly diseases such as stroke, heart disease, diabetes and cancer.


MCH also hosts numerous educational events in Hospital conference rooms, often making staff available on nights and weekends so that community members can attend after work. MCH also offers the use of their facilities, free of charge, so that outside community groups, such as patient support groups can have a place where they can meet on a regular basis. In addition, on a daily basis, MCH does it's best to respond to all sorts of one-of-a-kind requests from the community inquiring about everything from specialized tours for student classes to support for local events.

In areas where an unmet community health need exists, MCH created new programs to help address the issues. MCH has established programs for new par-

ents including parent education and childbirth classes. Community health education and support is also provided through diabetes screening and educational support meetings, Better Breathers Meetings, and a Sleep Apnea support group.

In the fiscal year July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 Madera Community Hospital provided \$12,905,415 in Community Benefits to the local community. This amount encompasses a wide range of benefits and activities such as ...

- **Community Health Improvement**
- **Health Professions Education**
- **Subsidized Health Services**
- **Financial and In-Kind Contributions**
- **Community Building Activities**
- **Traditional Charity Care**
- **Government Sponsored Health Care**

One could easily fill an entire book with examples of how MCH serves the community outside the hospital walls. Day in and day out, MCH not only serves those in the community in need of immediate medical treatment or surgery, they also reach out to those with absolutely no medical issues at all - because MCH wants to help them stay that way. Although it is impossible to measure, without a doubt, countless lives have been saved simply due to the information and support provided through the valuable community programs offered at MCH. 

Madera Community Hospital

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