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Butterfly Pottery Art To Benefit Cancer Patient Fund

The NMMC Cancer Center is now selling the sixth in a series of original butterfly pottery to benefit cancer patients.

“This is a true ‘labor of love’ for me. It is wonderful to see how this project has grown over the years,” said Jennifer Hankins-Shelton of Midnite Pottery. “Being able to have a small part helping someone deal with cancer is very rewarding. It is always easy to get inspiration for a new butterfly knowing every sale helps an

individual who may be struggling financially because of cancer.”

As in years past each butterfly is accented with a unique wire, colored bead and metal “word of inspiration” tag. Some butterflies have a pink bead for breast cancer. Each butterfly sells for \$20, and each platter sells for \$60. Both benefit the NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund, which is administered by the Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi.

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Jennifer Hankins-Shelton (left) of Midnite Pottery and Paula Turner of the NMMC Cancer Center show off the 2012 butterfly series to benefit the NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund.

Salttillo Elementary Student Captures First Place For Hospice T-shirt Design



Dylan Allen, fifth-grader at Salttillo Elementary School, recently won an art contest sponsored by North Mississippi Medical Center Hospice. A contest was held among local third- through fifth-grade art students to design the 2012 NMMC Hospice butterfly T-shirt. The shirts are sold as a fundraiser for the annual memorial service, as well as the NMMC Hospice Patient Assistance Fund.

Allen received a framed copy of his artwork and four free passes to HealthWorks! He was recognized at the fifth grade assembly on Jan. 26.

His family was on hand for the presentation, including (from left) stepmom Ashley Allen, 19-month old sister Landry Allen, and father Shane Allen.

The T-shirts that Allen helped design are being sold for \$12. Visit www.nmhs.net/hospice.php for an order form. Ashley Allen is an RN at the NMMC Surgery Center.

Pottery Art Continued from page 1

“This year I went with more earth tone colors. I chose a mossy green glaze with a crystal and chocolate glaze in the center,” Hankins-Shelton said. “To top it off, I added a raised red heart to each piece. This year’s butterfly is a free form shape, which is different than what we’ve ever done before.”

The NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund assists an average of 115 patients each month for an annual cost of \$220,000. Monies are raised through several annual fundraisers as well as donations given by family members in memory or honor

of a cancer patient. NMMC employees also donate approximately \$7,000 each month through payroll deduction.

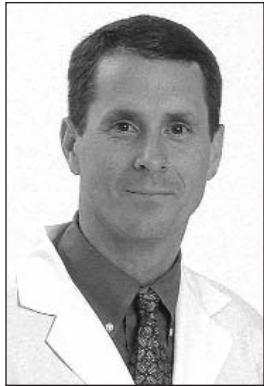
“The Patient Assistance Fund helps so many people,” Hankins-Shelton said. “You never know when it may be one of your family members or friends who is receiving the help.”

For more information about the butterfly pottery pieces, call Cindy Edwards, NMMC Cancer Center social worker, at (662) 377-4049 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). ■

MBJ Honors Health Care Heroes

Mississippi Business Journal honored two North Mississippi Medical Center physicians, a registered nurse and a volunteer among its 2011 Health Care Heroes.

• **Barry D. Bertolet, M.D.**, an interventional cardiologist on the NMMC medical staff. A native of Natchez, Dr. Bertolet attended the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. “During my cardiology rotations, I found I could use surgeon-like skills to ‘fix’ somebody and then use my medical knowledge to prevent recurrences,” he said. “Cardiology offered me this nice blend that suited my personality.” Dr. Bertolet completed his internship, residency in internal medicine and fellowship in adult cardiology at the University of Florida, followed by subspecialty training in interventional cardiology, heart failure and cardiac transplantation. He is actively involved with the Mississippi Healthcare Alliance, a volunteer group working to improve health care statewide.



Barry D. Bertolet

• **Karen A. George, RN, MSN**, nurse manager for NMMC-Tupelo’s 3 West oncology unit and interim nurse manager for 6 South. George joined the NMMC staff 25 years ago after earning her associate’s degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Alabama and a master’s degree from Delta State University. To better serve patients, she became a certified instructor with the Mississippi Stroke Education Consortium for stroke screening programs and a certified instructor with Emergency Management for Advanced Stroke Life Support, and



Karen A. George

completed the National Institutes of Health’s Stroke Certification Program.

• **Mary Moses**, NMMC-Tupelo volunteer. Since Moses began volunteering in March 2007 she has accumulated more than 2,000 service hours. She is unique as a volunteer in that she still works full-time as senior photometric lab technician at Philips Day-Brite, where she has been employed almost 23 years. She is assigned to the hospital’s information desk, where she looks up patient room numbers for visitors, forwards phone calls, gives directions and answer questions about local hotels, restaurants and more. “Sometimes people just want someone to talk to,” she said, “and we listen to them.” She was honored as NMMC’s Volunteer of the Year for 2010-2011.



Mary Moses

• **Sue H. Simmons, M.D.**, family physician with Maben Medical Clinic. As the only physician in a town of more than 800, Dr. Simmons balances caring for her patients with taking care of her family. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. She also holds a law degree. “Dr. Simmons is a wonderful physician and health care leader, but, in my experience, an even better person,” said David Barber, president of North Mississippi Medical Clinics. “Her commitment to providing the highest quality care and her dedication to the patients she serves is an inspiration to us all.”



Sue H. Simmons

Mississippi Business Journal honored its inaugural group of Health Care Heroes with a luncheon Oct. 27 in Jackson. ■

Employee Recognition

February 12-18 is Cardiovascular Professionals Week.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Becky Mitchener, FNP-BC, Joins Women's Group In West Point

Becky Mitchener, FNP-BC, has joined The Women's Group as a board-certified nurse practitioner.

A Columbus native, Mitchener attended Mississippi State University and Mississippi University for Women. After moving to Houston, Texas, she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Houston Baptist University in 1988.



She worked as a medical-surgical nurse at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jackson from 1989-1991. When she and her husband, Steve, moved to West Point in 1991, she joined the Labor and Delivery staff at North Mississippi Medical Center-West Point, where she worked until 1996.

For several years, Mitchener stayed home with her children – Will, 21; Rob, 19; Jack, 15; and Molly, 10. She then worked for Coggins Family Medical Clinic from 2005-2010 before returning to school.

She earned her master's degree in nursing and family nurse practitioner certification in 2011 from Mississippi University for Women. Working under the guidance of The Women's Group physicians, Mitchener can obtain medical histories, perform physical examinations, make diagnoses, order diagnostic tests, prescribe medications and treat/manage acute and chronic illnesses. Nurse practitioners also promote preventive care and are trained to recognize when patients should be sent to a physician for further help or specialized care.

Mitchener is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where she serves on the Parish Council and has taught Sunday School. She is a lifetime member of Junior Auxiliary of West Point and West Point Garden Club, and has served on the Oak Hill Academy School Board.

The Women's Group is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at 747 Medical Center Circle. For appointment information with Mitchener or Drs. Charlotte Magnussen, Charles Miles, John Shields or Timothy Whittle, call (662) 494-9466 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). ■

Clinic EOM Believes Job Is A Blessing

Bridget Logan, LPN at Calhoun County Medical Clinic, has been chosen as the December Employee of the Month for North Mississippi Medical Clinics.

She joined the clinic organization in June 2011. "Even though Bridget has been a part of the NMMCI family for less than a year, she has already made a big impression with her co-workers and patients," said David Barber, North Mississippi Medical Clinics president.

Logan is a graduate of Vardaman High School, and she received her LPN degree from Northwest Mississippi Community College in 2004.

"Bridget is a joy to work with," said a coworker who nominated her. "She is friendly, courteous and energetic. Her customers are always her top priority, and she keeps our spirits up."

"The best part of my job is that each day I get to help someone somehow, and that is truly a blessing," Logan said. "I love my job and my coworkers and I am proud to be a part of this organization. When you wake up and know you are going to a job that you love it is such a blessing."

She and her husband, Waylon, have two children; Landon and Layton. The family attends College Hill Baptist Church.

The Employee of the Month honor recognizes employees with exemplary job performance and customer service skills, as well as community involvement. ■



North Mississippi Pediatrics Honored

Edward Ivancic, M.D., and North Mississippi Pediatrics were honored Jan. 17 as a leader in Mississippi as an electronic health record (EHR) adopter. The clinic has been designated by the U.S. government and the Mississippi Regional Extension Center (REC) as the first health care provider in the state to be asked to join the Meaningful Use Vanguard (MUV).

This is an exclusive group of health care leaders who have demonstrated their commitment to transforming health care through the use of health information technology.

U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker participated in the ceremony along with Ivancic and Amy Price, M.D., and representatives from the Extension Center and MUV. The MUV designation was established by the Mississippi REC and the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to honor primary care practices

that have made the transition to EHRs.

North Mississippi Pediatrics is linked into North Mississippi Health Services EHR through Centricity. NMHS provides EHR services to 51 affiliated clinics, 28 private practice clinics and eight outpatient centers affiliated with NMMC.

The pediatric clinic contracted NMMC's services in 2009 when it opened a second location in Saltillo. This product was well suited for the nine physicians and one nurse practitioner's needs because it enhanced communication between the two locations and gave them access to NMMC's Emergency Department files as well as other clinics and the School Health Centers.

Clinics interested in learning more about the benefits of an EHR tied in with NMMC's system can visit www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal/emr.php or contact Lori Pruitt at (662) 377-7655 or lpruitt@nmhs.net. ■



Dr. Amy Price and Ed Ivancic (from left) of North Mississippi Pediatrics demonstrate their clinic's electronic health record (EHR) to U.S. Senator Roger Wicker. The clinic's medical records are linked to North Mississippi Health Services' EHR through Centricity.

Wellness Centers Director Earns Medical Fitness Association Honor

The Medical Fitness Association recently recognized Hank Boerner, director of North Mississippi Medical Center's Wellness Centers in Tupelo, Baldwyn and Pontotoc, with the 2011 Pioneer Award.

Presented during the 20th annual MFA conference in Orlando, the award recognizes an individual who has significantly advanced the medical fitness industry. Boerner joined MFA in 1993 and has served on many committees, including a 10-year stint on the board of directors as treasurer, chairman-elect, chairman and past chairman. He helped start the Mississippi Association for Hospital Health and Fitness Centers, which later became part of the South Central Region for MFA.



A native of Miami, Fla., Boerner spent most of his childhood in Rockledge, Fla., a small coastal community near Kennedy Space Station. There he enjoyed surfing, skateboarding, skiing and other nontraditional sports. In 1976 Boerner graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in physical education, which at the time was an unlikely course of study for someone who did not play traditional sports like football, baseball and basketball. After several internships in the public schools, he decided he was not ready to commit his life to teaching. He returned to school and earned a master's degree in exercise physiology in 1979.

After two years of searching, surfing and waiting tables, Boerner worked four years with The Sports Medicine and Fitness Institute in Birmingham, Ala. In 1985 he returned to Florida to work for the Bally Health and Fitness Center, Nautilus Fitness Centers of South Orlando and The Justice Aquatic Center before opening the Wellness Center at the Lakefront with a local group of physicians. This facility, which was his introduction to medical fitness, had a walk-in clinic, physical therapy, fitness center, day spa and food service.

In 1992 Boerner moved to Tupelo to serve as director of NMMC's Wellness Center. After 10 years in Tupelo, he realized his goal of offering wellness services at all NMMC community hospitals. In 1999 he helped found Project Hope, a local group that has raised close to \$1 million to help individuals with heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

During his tenure at NMMC, Boerner has helped the community add a skate park, three disc golf courses, a 5K cross country trail, two fitness trails and a fitness center at Tupelo High School. He also co-chairs the Healthy Tupelo Task Force to try to make Tupelo the healthiest city in Mississippi.

In 2010 the NMMC-Tupelo Wellness Center became the first Certified Medical Fitness Facility in Mississippi. After three decades in the fitness industry, Boerner still surfs, skateboards, runs, hikes and promotes non-traditional sports as a way to improve health. ■

Volunteers Are Needed For NMMC Hospice Program

The NMMC Hospice Program is seeking volunteers to help patients and their families throughout the 18 counties served.

NMMC will host a Hospice volunteer training workshop from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Feb. 22, at the NMMC Hospice Office, 422-A East President St. in

Tupelo. A light lunch will be provided. Volunteers can serve in their own communities.

Volunteers run errands, shop, prepare and deliver light meals, and provide companionship for those at the end of life. Chris Maynard at (662) 377-7074 or 1-800-852-1610 for further information. ■

Women In Red Luncheon Scheduled

North Mississippi Medical Center's Spirit of Women will sponsor a "Women in Red Luncheon" at noon Tuesday, Feb. 21, at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall as part of the Woman's Place Lunchtime Learning Series.

Cardiologist Barry Bertolet, M.D., and cardiothoracic surgeon David Talton, M.D., will discuss heart murmurs.

Participants are encouraged to wear red. Heart

disease is the No. 1 killer of American women, regardless of their race or ethnicity. Free blood pressure and stroke screening will be offered before the luncheon.

Lunch will be provided for \$5 for those who preregister by Wednesday, Feb. 15. To confirm your attendance or to learn more about upcoming lunchtime learning programs, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). ■

Occupational Therapy Patients Create Puppy Treats



Patients at North Mississippi Medical Center's Outpatient Rehabilitation Center at Longtown Medical Park recently made puppy treats for the Tupelo-Lee Animal Shelter as part of their occupational therapy. They used toilet paper rolls and a few kibbles of dry dog food to create a rattler. The puppies get a toy for stimulation and a bonus of an edible reward. Pictured here are (from left) occupational therapy patient Billy Botts, occupational therapist Melinda Lamon, patients Caleb and Cohen Haire, animal shelter employee Heather Cockrell, and occupational therapist Kristy Ford.

IMA-Tupelo Physician Earns Board Certification In Geriatric Medicine

Ashley Harris, M.D., who specializes in geriatrics at IMA-Tupelo, has recently earned board certification in geriatric medicine.



The exam is administered jointly by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Harris joins approximately 260 newly board-certified geriatricians this year and is certified until 2021.

“Geriatricians enjoy one of the highest job satisfaction rates among medical professionals,”

Dr. Harris said. “Caring for aging adults provides a sense of fulfillment while giving back to generations that have done so much for all of us.”

A Water Valley native, Dr. Harris graduated magna cum laude from Mississippi State University with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry. He received his medical training at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson, where he was a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He completed residency training at North Mississippi Medical Center’s Family Medicine Residency Center.

In 2011, Dr. Harris completed fellowship training in geriatrics at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, which is a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, in Boston, Mass. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

For appointment information with Dr. Harris, call IMA-Tupelo at (662) 377-5930 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). ■

NMMC, Lions Club Collection Glasses For Needy

North Mississippi Medical Center is teaming up with the Lions Club of Tupelo to collect eyewear for the needy throughout February, National Low Vision Awareness Month.

Collection boxes have been placed throughout NMMC facilities for used eyeglasses, sunglasses and reading glasses. The groups are also seeking magnification devices or any low vision equipment such as closed circuit televisions or large lighted

magnifiers to donate to those in need.

The Lions Club will distribute the eyewear to those in need in the United States and third world countries worldwide. For more information or to arrange pick up of large items being donated, contact occupational therapist Cheri Nipp at Baldwyn Nursing Facility, (662) 365-7840 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). NMMC’s collection drive ends March 23. ■

Several NMMC employees completed the Healthy, Well-thy Holiday Challenge sponsored by their local Wellness Centers and were rewarded for starting the New Year off right. These participants maintained their weight and earned at least 2012 points for various healthy activities throughout the challenge:

Hamilton - Jane Spooner (manicure winner)

Pontotoc - T.J. Pickering and Wende Mask

Tupelo - Hank Boerner, James Taylor, Lisa Murphree, Jessin Gillespie, Suzanne Long, Donna Loden and Angela Keith (massage winner).

West Point - Debbie Hargrove, Cathy Johnson, Michele Rowe and Brenda Wilson (all manicure winners).

Karen Koch Earns Promotion To Administrator

Karen Koch, Pharm.D., of Starkville has been promoted to administrator of organizational performance for North Mississippi Health Services.

“In recent years, there has been a growing realization that the single greatest opportunity to improve hospital care in the United States is to improve safety,” said Mark Williams, M.D., NMHS chief medical officer. “NMHS has always had an emphasis on the quality of care, but we now realize that we have a real opportunity to further improve care via various patient safety initiatives, including the Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program, the promotion of a Culture of Safety, reducing hospital-acquired conditions and many others.

As a demonstration of the organization’s commitment and affirmation of her individual contributions in these efforts, Karen Koch has been promoted to Administrator of Organizational Performance. In this new role, she will help coordinate the various patient safety and quality efforts and align these initiatives into our Baldrige performance framework.”

Koch, who was named director of the then

newly-created Patient-Focused Improvement Department in 2008, has 25 years of service with NMHS. She initiated clinical pharmacy services at NMHS and served as director of Clinical Research and the Institutional Review Board.

In addition to these responsibilities, Koch serves as coordinator of NMHS’ Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award activities. North Mississippi Medical Center received the Baldrige Award in 2006. The award, created by

public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognitions for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive.

Koch received her bachelor’s degree from the Rutgers College of Pharmacy in Piscataway, N.J., and went on to get her doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She later completed a master’s degree in health administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. ■



NMMC-Pontotoc Selects Employee Of Quarter

Shana Kidd, RN, was selected North Mississippi Medical Center-Pontotoc’s Employee of the Quarter.

Kidd has been with NMMC since 2005. She previously worked as a charge nurse on 3 South at NMMC-Tupelo. Kidd is a graduate of Pontotoc High School and earned her associate’s degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College in Fulton.

Kidd said her favorite part of the job is caring for patients. “I enjoy getting to know patients and their families and seeing them progress with their treatment and healing,” she said,

adding that she also enjoys her coworkers.

The staff praised Kidd for her hard work and compassion for patients.

“Shana consistently displays a kind, friendly and caring attitude to our patients, their families and to coworkers as well,” one person wrote in her nomination.

“She is always willing to help and never seems to mind helping others in order to get the overall effort completed in a timely manner,” another coworker said of Kidd.

She and her husband Jeremy live in Pontotoc and have two children; Cayden, 4, and Callie, 2. The family attends Longview Baptist Church.

In her spare time, Kidd enjoys spending time with her family, playing the piano, couponing and working out. ■

