Connecting with qualified, potential new colleagues seeking professional opportunity was the goal of LVH–Schuylkill's participation this week in a community job fair. LVH–Schuylkill was among the more than 85 local businesses participating in the Schuylkill Career Link T-102 Radio Job Fair held at Fairlane Village Mall.

“We had contact with dozens of potential applicants including nurses, therapists, housekeepers, food service workers and others,” says Tom McPhillips, Director Human Resources, LVH–Schuylkill. “This event gave us a good opportunity to show that jobs are available here in our hospitals.” We also educated the community that available positions are listed on our website, LVHN.org/schuylkill, and that applications are also available online.

LVH–Schuylkill, like the rest of the health network, uses numerous recruitment efforts such as newspaper ads, online listings, college visits and job fairs.

“We should have a better idea in the next few weeks how successful our participation in this week’s event was,” McPhillips says. It is critically important that as a hospital and as a health network, we attract colleagues who will be true to our mission to heal, comfort and care, and embrace the values and principles we exhibit each day.

Transitions in Nursing Administration

Effective March 1, Stacey Kelly BSN, RN, transitioned to Director of Medical Surgical Services. She now has leadership responsibility for Stine (Nursing), 6N, 5N and the float pool staff.

Arlene Dutcavich, BSN, RN, is now Operations Manager for LVH-Schuylkill, replacing Stacey Kelly.

Jane Plachko, RN, has accepted the Interim Director of Surgical Services position. She has been functioning in that role since the beginning of January 2017.
The Message Sent to Those We Serve

If the saying “perception is reality” is true, then what we do and how we present ourselves as an organization holds a lot of truth about us and the message we send to those we serve.

By now, all colleagues should be aware of the many positive changes we have seen these last six months. A new emergency department, a new interventional radiology suite, and a new and expanded radiology reception area are just a few of the physical areas where we have seen positive change. New OR lights, a colleague walkway and new medical carts are a few more. And we are just getting started.

Not all projects are big-ticket, multi-million dollar projects. Colleagues should be noticing ongoing efforts on both campuses to improve what our patients and visitors see when they come to our campuses. These improvements include, but are not limited to, painting and refreshing areas of both hospitals (starting first with the high-traffic areas), waxing, polishing and sealing of floors. These projects extend to our parking facilities and grounds as well.

Remember, it is not just how we look, but what we say each day. The way you greet patients and visitors helps set the tone for the experience people will have with us.

Presenting as well as we can is very important to our patients, visitors and community. It also serves to make for the best experience possible and lends itself to improved safety.

When a Picture Is Worth More Than Words

If you ever want to get Victoria “Vivi” Costache to show off a smile that will light up a room, a really good way would be to go online and play the popular 2014 Taylor Swift song “Shake It Off.”

It certainly worked in October when the 5-year-old visited the pediatric unit at Lehigh Valley Children’s Hospital for outpatient treatment of her Niemann-Pick disease, type C, a metabolic disorder for which she receives drug therapy every two weeks. Vivi and her mother, Mihaela Costache, joined Meg Ressel, RN, Michele Dzomic, RN, and Child Life Specialist Vanessa Gramm-Mackey in rocking out to the Taylor Swift song while passing the time during treatment in the 4C pediatric unit treatment room at LVH–Cedar Crest.

The moment was captured in a photo by Olaf Starorypinski. It is one of 48 photos that have been selected to the Children’s Hospital Association’s 2017 photo exhibit, which features similarly heartwarming photos from hospitals across the country. The exhibit, which is sponsored by Kimberly Clark, maker of HUGGIES, will be on display in communities across the U.S. beginning in the spring.