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LVHN Weekly-Pocono

Lehigh Valley Health Network



Cause for Celebration

“Let’s think about the patient.” You’ve likely heard me say that before. I utter those words frequently because I truly believe we will always make the right decisions if we first consider our patients’ needs. Colleagues throughout LVHN share my conviction.

We’ve been considering the needs of people who live in the western portion of Monroe County. They need and deserve convenient access to health care, and we’ve been working on a plan to give it to them.

Recently, the LVHN Board of Trustees approved our plan to create a new hospital campus along Route 715 in Tannersville. The new state-of-the-art facility will be called

Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Pocono West. It will open in the summer of 2020.

When determining the service that will be provided there, we carefully assessed the community’s needs. Based on that assessment, LVH–Pocono West will include the following:

- ▶ Emergency room
- ▶ Operating room
- ▶ Inpatient medical-surgical unit with all private rooms
- ▶ Advanced imaging services
- ▶ Medical office building
- ▶ Sleep Disorders Center

What are the next steps? We’re forming teams and creating a project timeline. The

teams will work on specific aspects of the project including designing the facility and determining the people and equipment we will need to provide the world-class care for which LVHN is known.

The announcement of LVH–Pocono West is cause for celebration. It demonstrates our commitment to the people of our community and reinforces that we have – and always will – consider their needs first.

As we continue our journey to create a new hospital in our community, I know that your commitment, expertise and compassion also are cause for celebration. Thank you for all you do, and for always thinking about and meeting our patients’ needs.



Elizabeth Wise

About me: “Wise Eyes” is blog written by me, Elizabeth Wise, President of LVH–Pocono. My last name, Wise, shares an uncanny trait with my favorite animal – an owl. I hope my 20-plus year career of leadership in health care combined with my curiosity can help us grow and learn together.

Out and About in the Community

Participants in LVH–Pocono’s Spirit Girls and Healthy Young Men

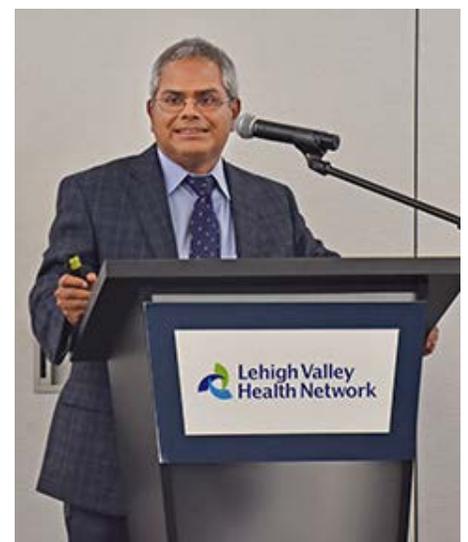
two programs designed to educate local youths on living healthy lifestyles and connecting with the community, were invited to the Dale and Frances Hughes Cancer Center on Nov. 9 and 16 to meet Louis Nardella, Clinical Medical Physicist. During a tour of the facility, Nardella explained services at the cancer center and the advanced technology of the Edge Linear Accelerator. “It’s important for the kids to be exposed to various professional careers in health care,” Nardella says. “It also helps them understand the types of technology and cancer treatments available in their community since they will likely know someone in their lifetime who will be diagnosed with cancer.” The youths were also treated to a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.



Shining a Light of Hope

As lung cancer diagnoses rise nationwide, LVH–Pocono continues to provide education and lung cancer screenings to community members, current patients and survivors through its annual Shine a Light event. Now in its fourth year, the event partners with Melanie Humphrey Breath of Life Fund to bring hope and assistance to families fighting the disease. Tanner Humphrey raised \$20,000 for families with financial needs in honor of his late mother. Suresh Nair, MD, LVHN Cancer Institute Physician-in-Chief, spoke during the event and noted that the strong

grassroots efforts for lung cancer education has led to successful screenings at LVH–Pocono. Lisa Whitaker, RN, Thoracic Nurse Navigator, noted hope was offered to 12 of 743 individuals who were screened and identified for early stages of lung cancer. Local high school students were also in attendance with posters they created to raise awareness, hope and education about lung cancer. “Once is not enough,” added Whitaker, who said screenings should take place often to detect lung cancer early.





Terry's Take: 'Yes' Can Save a Life

If you're like me, your day is packed with a full schedule of priorities. Most weeks go off without a hitch, and I move easily from one task to another. Yet when something goes wrong – like when the warning light suddenly appears on my car's dashboard – all my best-laid plans grind to a halt.

Car trouble has a way of reordering the day's priorities. Suddenly, the most important call of the day is to the mechanic. If he's too busy and can't get me in, I'll call someone else who can fix my problem right away. And if that shop does a good job by meeting my needs, I'll call them first the next time I have car trouble.

Health care is like that too. When patients have a health concern, they want and need to be seen right away. If we don't provide access when they need a diagnosis, test or treatment, they'll look for care somewhere else.

PROBLEM VERSUS OPPORTUNITY

Access is a problem and an opportunity for everyone in health care. When we can't see a patient today, tomorrow or the next day, we risk losing them to another provider or hospital.

No one should have to wait to have their health problem addressed or seek care somewhere else. When we "Just Say Yes" to the patient, we meet their needs, reduce their stress level and show them we care about their well-being.

Recently, I heard about a man who came to us for cancer care. He waited weeks for an appointment with a hospital in the Philadelphia area. As he waited, his condition worsened and his family became more distressed. Finally, the man reached out to colleagues on our radiation oncology team and they found him an appointment right away.

Pamela Tobias, Administrator of Oncology Services, recently met the couple during rounding. They were frustrated by the experience

in Philadelphia, and grateful that LVHN could meet their needs by delivering timely care close to home. Within two hours, the man had an appointment, tests and other care coordination in place so he could begin radiation treatment right away.

Providing care when he needed it lessened the couple's anxiety and made a difference in his quality of life. That's what patients expect from LVHN and what we must deliver every day.

CIRCLE OF CARE

Chances are, you chose a career in health care because you are compassionate and caring – you want the very best for the people in our community.

Recently, we held a leadership retreat to discuss how we can provide better access. We discussed how the key to serving our community is supporting you. Leaders are working hard to create the right conditions to give you the time and tools you need to do your job, and remove barriers in your way.

Life is a big circle that connects each and every one of us. At LVHN, the circle begins with you. We want to assure that your needs are met so that you can, in turn, meet the needs of our patients and families. We want you to enjoy coming to work every day to serve our patients and our community. So when people like our cancer patient call, we can get them in quickly, treat them with PRIDE and deliver the best care experience possible. Dr. Nester talked about how we're working to support you and our community in his recent State of the Health Network Address. A summary of his presentation will be shared with you in next week's LVHN Weekly–Pocono.

Just like the mechanic who understood my situation, diagnosed my car trouble and got me back on the road, let's keep driving our services forward so our patients can get back on the road to health.



Terry Ann Capuano

About me: My name is Terry Capuano, RN and I am the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). I have worked at LVHN for 30 years serving as COO for the last five years. I greatly enjoy meeting colleagues, sharing stories and enhancing relationships throughout the network.



LVHN Thanks Colleagues With Annual Turkey Toss

On Nov. 14, LVH-Pocono President Elizabeth Wise and a team of leaders distributed turkeys to colleagues on Lincoln Avenue in East Stroudsburg during the annual Turkey Toss event.

This was the first time colleagues at LVH-Pocono participated. To thank colleagues for their dedication, talent and teamwork, LVHN offers free turkeys to colleagues to enjoy during the holiday season. Members of the Pocono Food and Nutrition Department were also on hand for colleagues who preferred to donate their turkeys to the Salvation Army.



Where is it at LVH-Pocono?



◀ **The answer** will be given in the next issue of LVHN Weekly-Pocono. Happy guessing!

▼ **Last week's answer**



Free Foot and Ankle Screening

Patrick McDonald, DPM, presented an orthopedic foot and ankle screening event for the community on Nov. 15. Attendees were treated to free screenings and information.



POSITIVE PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

During recent PRIDE rounds, LVH-Pocono President Elizabeth Wise and LVH-Pocono Senior Medical Director William Cors, MD, received the following comments from patients:

- ▶ "The nurses bend over backwards to make it nice for you. You feel like you are part of the family. Dr. Douglas is terrific. She explained things to us at our level."
- ▶ "I love that person who makes the chicken salad sandwich. It is delicious. I eat one every day."