

Gold Plus Awards for Heart Failure Care

Both LVH-Schuylkill hospitals again received the Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. It is the eighth consecutive year the American Heart Association recognized both hospitals for achieving such status.

The award recognizes LVH-Schuylkill for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Foundation's secondary prevention guidelines for patients with heart failure.

Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure is a quality improvement program that helps hospital teams follow the most up-to-date, research-based standards with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing hospital readmissions for patients with heart failure. Launched in 2005, numerous published studies have demonstrated the program's success in achieving patient outcome improvements, including reductions in 30-day readmissions.

LVH-Schuylkill earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart failure. These measures include evaluation of the patient, proper use of medications and aggressive risk-reduction therapies, such as ACE inhibitors/ARBs, beta-blockers, diuretics, anticoagulants and other appropriate therapies. Before patients are discharged, they also receive education on managing their heart failure and overall health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

"We are very proud of this program and what it means for patients," says Cathy Sophy, RN, Administrative Director of Quality. "LVH-Schuylkill is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our patients with heart failure. Implementing the American Heart Association's program helps us to accomplish this goal by tracking and measuring our success in meeting internationally respected guidelines."

Both hospitals also received the association's Target: Heart FailureSM Honor Roll. Target: Heart Failure is an initiative that provides hospitals with educational tools, prevention programs and treatment guidelines designed to reduce the risk of patients with heart failure ending up back in the hospital. Hospitals are required to meet criteria that improves medication adherence, provides early follow-up care and coordination, and enhances patient education. The goal is to reduce hospital readmissions and help patients improve their quality of life in managing this chronic condition.



Building the Future of Health Care

It's a tradition that has been around nearly as long as our hospitals. It's also an opportunity for youth to see if health care is a calling for them. It's our Junior Volunteer Program and it is now underway.

About 20 high school students from all over Schuylkill County underwent orientation this week to prepare them for the eight-week program. Students learned about the history of the hospitals and the merger with LVHN. They received an overview about careers in health care and heard presentations on fire safety, HIPAA, infection control, PRIDE behaviors and customer service.

"This is very exciting for students as they consider health care as a possible career path," says Mary Bardell, Director of Volunteer Services and Auxiliary Liaison. "Many colleagues began their health care journey as a member of our Junior Volunteer Program. We are excited to have these students here and look forward to helping them."

Students will be donating their time in various areas of the hospitals assisting and learning more about health care. Onboarding Junior Volunteers follows a similar process to that of new colleagues. Volunteers are oriented to hospital and department policy, sign a confidentiality agreement and are required to have proper immunizations.

The Junior Volunteer Program runs through August and concludes with an end-of-summer luncheon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Keeping Kids Active During Summer

Free Community Lecture
Wednesday, June 21, 6 p.m.
LVHN Rehabilitation Center-Schuylkill
300 Schuylkill Medical Plaza
570-621-9500

EMT Training in Schuylkill County

FREE Information Session
Lehigh Carbon Community College
Tuesday, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15
Held at Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing
450 Washington St., Pottsville, Pa.
610-799-1703 to request a brochure

LVH-Schuylkill Golf League

9-hole league
Thursdays at Hidden Valley Golf Course
Details: **570-739-4455**

Elizabeth Wise Named President at LVH–Pocono

This message is from Terry Capuano, LVHN Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.



During her time as Acting President of Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Pocono, Elizabeth Wise, MSN, MBA, FACHE (pictured), has proven to be a focused and forward-thinking leader. She consistently demonstrates her commitment to always putting patients and their families first, a testament to her nursing background. Elizabeth is just as

passionate about supporting colleagues, ensuring she is always available for and open with them. She is a valuable member of the LVHN team. That is why I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth has been named President of LVH–Pocono effective immediately.

During the last 20 years of her career, Elizabeth has sharpened her leadership skills, recently as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer at Pocono Health System. Since the merger on Jan. 1, 2017, Elizabeth navigated LVH–Pocono through challenges, transition and integration with our health network. She and the LVH–Pocono team have accomplished a great deal. Here are examples:

► **Communication and leadership visibility** – Elizabeth understands the importance of keeping colleagues informed through open and honest communication, and she is fulfilling her promise to do so. Town Hall meetings, leadership rounding, the LVHN Weekly–Pocono newsletter and Elizabeth’s blog “Wise Eyes” are among the communication resources introduced to give colleagues the information they need to be at their best and enhance the high quality care we already provide at LVH–Pocono.

► **Growth and enhanced access to care** – At LVHN, it’s our obligation to give people access to the services they need. That is why new staffing models were introduced to increase patient access for outpatient heart care, physical therapy, home care

and hospice services. Edge radiosurgery was introduced to give people access to minimally invasive surgery to treat a variety of cancers with great precision. A team of colleagues worked to enhance the patient experience in the ER. Monroe County’s first ExpressCARE opened at the Health Center at Blakeslee. The Health Center at East Stroudsburg will open this summer, and LVH–Pocono’s first inpatient rehabilitation facility will open in June.

- **New providers** – New physicians are being added to meet the community’s needs for specialized care. A neurosurgeon, cardiac surgeon and ENT specialist will join the medical staff in the months ahead, and work continues to bring new specialists to the area.
- **Enhanced quality** – Continuous improvement is a hallmark of LVHN’s culture. LVH–Pocono is advancing trauma care by taking steps to move from a Level 3 to a Level 2 Trauma Center. The hospital was re-accredited as a Primary Stroke Center and received the Stroke Gold Level Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. The Leapfrog Group awarded LVH–Pocono with an “A” grade in hospital safety for the third consecutive year.

These impressive achievements clearly show why Elizabeth is the right person to move health care forward in the Poconos. In the months ahead, she will continue to provide the leadership needed to further the financial progress already being made at LVHN’s newest hospital. She’ll also oversee the launch of Epic – LVHN’s electronic medical record system – in our ambulatory and physician practices in the Poconos.

Elizabeth earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Seton Hall University and a master’s degree in nursing and business from Rutgers University.

We are fortunate to have Elizabeth leading as President of LVH–Pocono. Please join me in congratulating her on being named to a position she truly deserves.

While You Were Sleeping

Keeping a hospital up and running is a 24-hour task, not only for our clinical providers but for our support teams as well. This week, members of our Facilities Management Team (Maintenance) and a regional electrical contractor were on site during the middle of the night Thursday to continue enhancements to a transformer.

“We try to find the most appropriate time to do work like this that will cause the least possible disruption to colleagues and patients,” says Richard Blakeslee, Director of Facilities Management. “In this case, we felt completing this project overnight would cause little or no interruption or inconvenience. As always, we had a back-up plan in place if things did not go as designed, but we were fortunate that everything went according to plan.”

Blakeslee appreciates and recognizes the members of the Facilities Management Team for putting patients and colleagues first





LVHN Opens Health Center at Easton

LVHN took the first step in enhancing its commitment to the people of Northampton County on June 9 with grand opening ceremonies of the Health Center at Easton at the site of the former Bimbo Bakeries on 2401 Northampton St. in Easton.

At the event, LVHN Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Terry Capuano told the community, “We’re bringing important health care services closer to you because you asked for better access to them in this part of eastern Northampton County.”

“LVHN is planning to create some smiles here at the Health Center at Easton,” said Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FCOEP, LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer. “The purpose of our health centers goes beyond our mission to heal, comfort and care for all of our communities. We’re also here to become part of the fabric of this neighborhood. When the people here need care, it’s our job to have them know instinctively that we are right around the corner to help.”

The Health Center at Easton opens on Monday, June 12. Services available at the two-story, 40,000-square-foot center will include:

- ▶ **ExpressCARE:** Walk-in care without appointment for minor illnesses and injuries available 365 days a year. If needed,

we’re able to connect with LVH–Cedar Crest via telemedicine to assess a patient’s situation and determine an appropriate treatment plan.

- ▶ **LVPG Family Medicine–Easton:** Primary care for the entire family, birth through adulthood
- ▶ **LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology–Easton:** A complete array of women’s services, adolescent through adulthood
- ▶ **LVPG Pediatrics–Easton:** General pediatric care for children through age 21

OTHER SERVICES AT THE HEALTH CENTER INCLUDE:

- ▶ **Adult rehabilitation services:** Physical therapy offered on-site
- ▶ **Imaging services:** X-ray and ultrasound testing at a patient’s convenience
- ▶ **Laboratory testing** from Health Network Laboratories

LVHN also is honoring the long, storied bakery history at the site with a Heritage Wall, which is located across from the registration desks in the health center lobby. The wall will feature historical photos of the bakery through the years.

Tour LVH–Muhlenberg’s New Family Health Pavilion

Want a sneak peek inside the new Family Health Pavilion at LVH–Muhlenberg? You’re in luck. All colleagues are invited to attend our Colleague Open House event on June 19 from 2:30–4 p.m. You’ll get to tour the new Inpatient Rehabilitation Center on the first floor, and the Family Birth and Newborn Center on the second and third floors.

If you cannot attend the Colleague Open House in the afternoon, you’re welcome to attend the Community Open House later that same day. Stop by from 5–8 p.m.

Please enter the new pavilion from Westgate Drive on the south side of the hospital campus. Parking is available adjacent to the building. Light refreshments will be served.



Tour the Health Center at Palmer Township

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE: JUNE 14, 5–8 P.M.

- ▶ Free health screenings, giveaways and family activities are included, as well as tours of the new facility. Get more information at LVHN.org/PalmerEvent.
- ▶ Location: 3701 Corriere Road (Route 248), Easton, just behind Applebee’s
- ▶ Open for business: June 15

Health care services: The health center will have a special concentration on children, with the region’s only Children’s ExpressCARE, LVPG pediatrics provider services and four pediatric subspecialties. There also is an adult ExpressCARE, a dozen adult provider services, a full array of rehabilitation, imaging and diagnostic testing services for both adults and children, and laboratory testing from Health Network Laboratories.

Visit the Bronx Zoo

When its doors first opened to the public in 1895, the Bronx Zoo offered 843 animals and 22 exhibits. Today it is the largest metropolitan zoo in the U.S., home to more than 4,000 animals of 650 species, as well as a wide variety of changing exhibits and attractions across 265 acres. More than 2 million people visit the zoo every year. Spend a day with LVHN colleagues at a truly amazing place.



AUG. 5, 2017

7 a.m.–Bus leaves from LVHN–Mack Boulevard

9:30 a.m.–Arrive at the Bronx Zoo

6 p.m.–Bus leaves the Bronx Zoo

Price: \$28–53 per person, depending on age

Cost includes admission and unlimited access to special rides and attractions available during your date of visit. These may include the 4D Theater, Jungle World, Shuttle Rides, Wild Asia Monorail, Children’s Zoo, Congo Gorilla Forest, Butterfly Garden and the Bug Carousel. Some rides and attractions are open seasonally.

[Complete a registration form](#) on the LVH–Schuylkill intranet or contact Latoya_S.Mitchell@lvhn.org for details.