

Buy Tickets to BlackOUT 10

The April 7 event at SteelStacks benefits our patients.

Free Admission to Lehigh Valley Auto Show

Print your voucher for the March 23 event.

Give Kids a Smile Day

Colleagues give free dental care to low-income children.

Colon-Rectal Cancer Forum

Get advanced access at 3 p.m. on March 28.

NYC Trip, Phillies Tickets

Book your spot on these recreation committee trips.

Collective Goods Sale

It's at LVH–Muhlenberg March 16 and 17.

Photo Chosen for National Exhibit

It shows a children's hospital patient and colleagues.

New Approach to Identify Sepsis

It has a dramatic impact on mortality rate.



Information on LVHN Weekly is for LVHN colleagues only and cannot be accessed on smartphones or computers outside of LVHN's network.

Buy Tickets to BlackOUT 10

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · MARCH 7, 2017

It's one of the Lehigh Valley's most talked-about events, the dance party where everybody dresses in fashionable black attire. It's also being held at the hottest venue around – ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks.

It's BlackOUT 10, which benefits the patients of the AIDS Activities Office and Hepatitis Care Center of LVHN. It will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight on Friday, April 7, with dancing in the Musikfest Café. Tickets are \$40. You must be 21 or older to attend.

Tickets will be on sale every Friday in March from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the following locations.



- LVH– Cedar Crest, in front of the main lobby gift shop
- LVH–17th Street: in front of the cafeteria
- LVH–Muhlenberg: in front of the café

You can also [purchase tickets online](#). For more information, call 610-969-4999.

[Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Free Admission Available to Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Show March 23

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · MARCH 7, 2017

Do you – or does someone you know – have a passion for cars? Are you looking for a new automobile this year? Then it may be time to attend the 2017 Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Show. As an LVHN colleague, you can attend the show for free on Thursday, March 23. Plus, you can bring three friends, family members or guests with you. Here's how:

- [Download this voucher.](#)
- Print it.
- Show it at the door.

The voucher will give you and up to three guests free entry to the auto show. Here are details about the event.



Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Show

March 23, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Lehigh University's Stabler Arena, Bethlehem

More than 250 cars and trucks from 27 manufacturers will be on display.

- 1 [Share](#)
- [Print Email](#)

LVHN's Dental Department Gives Free Care During "Give Kids a Smile Day"

BY [ROBERT STEVENS](#) · MARCH 6, 2017

It's the second of two days of dental care for kids.

Eight-year-old Uyen Ly was all smiles as she and her father, Phuong, strolled into the dental clinic at LVH–Muhlenberg on Feb. 23 for her first-ever dental appointment. Even her sweater matched the occasion: SMILE is spelled in a variety of colors.

Dentist Christopher Low, DMD, and Susan Chaikowsky, dental assistant, gave Ly an oral exam, cleaned and polished her teeth, took X-rays and applied fluoride to them. They made the experience easy, painless and

even fun for their patient, who smiled throughout her visit.



Protecting kids' smiles for years

Ly, a second-grader from Allentown, was one of 25 kids from the community who received free dental care at the annual “Give Kids a Smile Day,” sponsored by LVHN for the past 13 years. The dental clinic at LVH–17th Street held its day earlier in the month, providing care to 18 low-income children from the community. The total value of free care provided by LVHN over the life of the program exceeds \$202,000.

“Our dentists volunteer their time at the clinic to provide services that sometimes get pushed to the back burner by families when things are difficult economically,” says dentist Michele Pisano-Marsh, DMD, who runs the clinic at LVH-Muhlenberg. “In addition to the free care we give, we become their ‘dental home’ for all their lives. It’s part of our community service.”

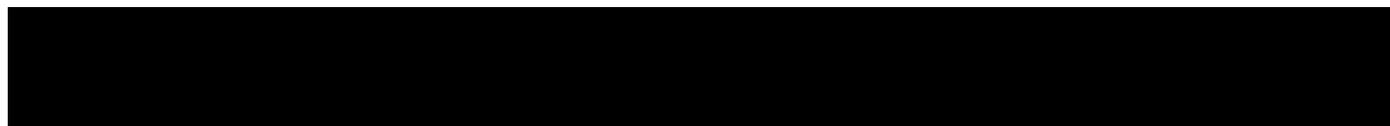
Toddler gets star treatment

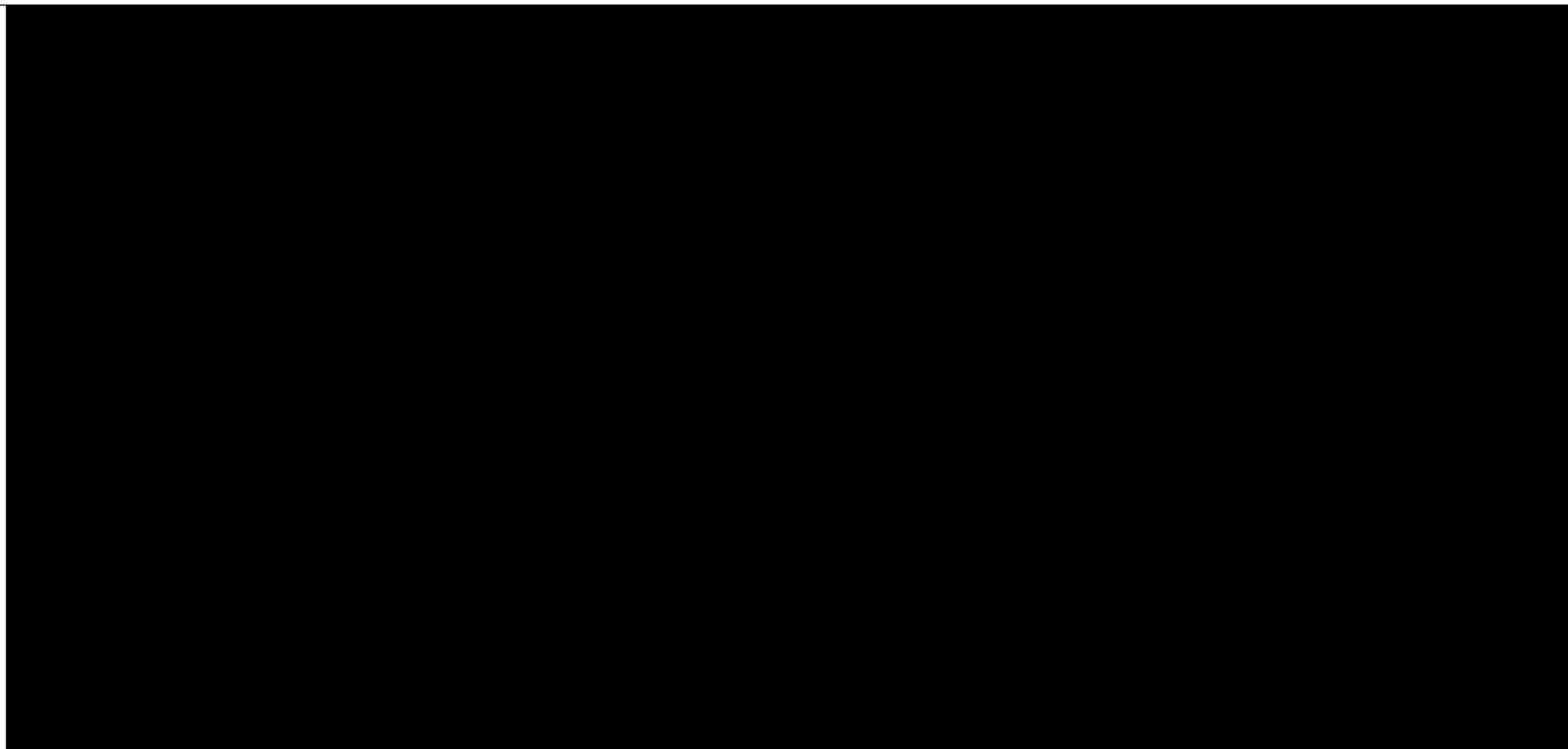
This was Mason Bisher’s first time at the clinic, as well. Accompanied by his mother, Domilys Rosario, the 2-year old was initially shy but soon warmed up to dentist Steven Fenstermacher, DMD, and Ruth Usino, dental assistant, as they treated him like a celebrity and encouraged him during his treatment.

“You’re doing so good,” Fenstermacher said. “You’re teeth look great!”

Besides healthy teeth, the real payoff for Bisher was the Beanie Baby stuffed toy he picked out of a gift bag after his appointment for being such a stellar patient.

The video below will only play in Google Chrome. If you are using Internet Explorer, click [here](#) to watch.





3 [□ Share](#)
[Print Email](#)

Take a (Colon) Walk at the Colon-Rectal Cancer Forum

BY [EMILY MITCHELL](#) · MARCH 8, 2017

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to stroll through a supersized colon? All right, maybe not. But at this year's Colon-Rectal Cancer Community Forum you can experience it firsthand by taking a journey through a colon and see what polyps, diverticula, colitis and Crohn's disease look like. It's a view that will bolster your courage (and reasons) to get a colonoscopy.

This year's Colon-Rectal Cancer Community Forum is open to the public and colleagues. A light dinner will be served. Tell people you know about the event and mark your calendar for:

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 5 p.m. (Registration



requested—see below for contact information.)

LVH—Cedar Crest Kasych Family Pavilion

Richard Fleming Educational Conference Center, Medical Imaging of Lehigh Valley rooms 7 and 8

Advance access for colleagues: The walk through colon will be available for colleagues beginning at 3 p.m. No registration required for the colon exhibit.

In addition to the special colon exhibit, the forum includes a speakers' panel. One of the speakers is a cancer survivor who will talk about the cancer journey. Other speakers from LVHN will address screening, minimally invasive surgical options, genetic assessment, clinical trials and disease management teams. Our speakers are:

- David Bub, MD, Colon-Rectal Surgeon
- Candace Peterson, Genetic Counselor
- Usman Shah, MD, Hematologist Oncologist
- Robert Sinnott, DO, Colon-Rectal Surgeon

For more information or to register for this event, call 888-402-LVHN or visit

LVHN.org/coloncancerevent.

Take a New York Gourmet Shopping Trip; See the Phillies Take on the Padres

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · MARCH 6, 2017

New York Gourmet Shopping Trip

May 21, 2017

Spend the day in New York City visiting gourmet shops such as Zabar's on Broadway, Dean and DeLuca's in SoHo, Fairways Market, Citarella's and Ferrera's Pastry. Have lunch on your own and shop in Chinatown and Little Italy. Be sure to bring a cooler to safely bring home all of your purchases.

Price: \$35 per person



Contact [Roberta Meckes](#) for more details and a reservation form.

Phillies vs. San Diego Padres

July 7, 2017

Join your LVHN colleagues in seeing Maikel Franco, Tommy Joseph and the new look Philadelphia Phillies take on slugger Wil Myers and the San Diego Padres in a Friday night game at Citizens Bank Park, beginning at 6:35 p.m. Enjoy the spectacular Xfinity fireworks display immediately after the game.

Price: \$75 per person

Contact [Nicole Maranki](#) for more details and a reservation form.

2 [Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Collective Goods Sale at LVH–Muhlenberg

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · MARCH 9, 2017

Over the years, the Lehigh Valley Hospital–Muhlenberg Auxiliary has supported the hospital by operating the Camille gift shop and conducting a variety of fund-raising events and activities. Here is what the auxiliary has scheduled in March:

Collective Goods Sale

LVH–Muhlenberg cafeteria hallway

March 16 and 17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

***The history of The Lehigh Valley Hospital–
Muhlenberg Auxiliary***



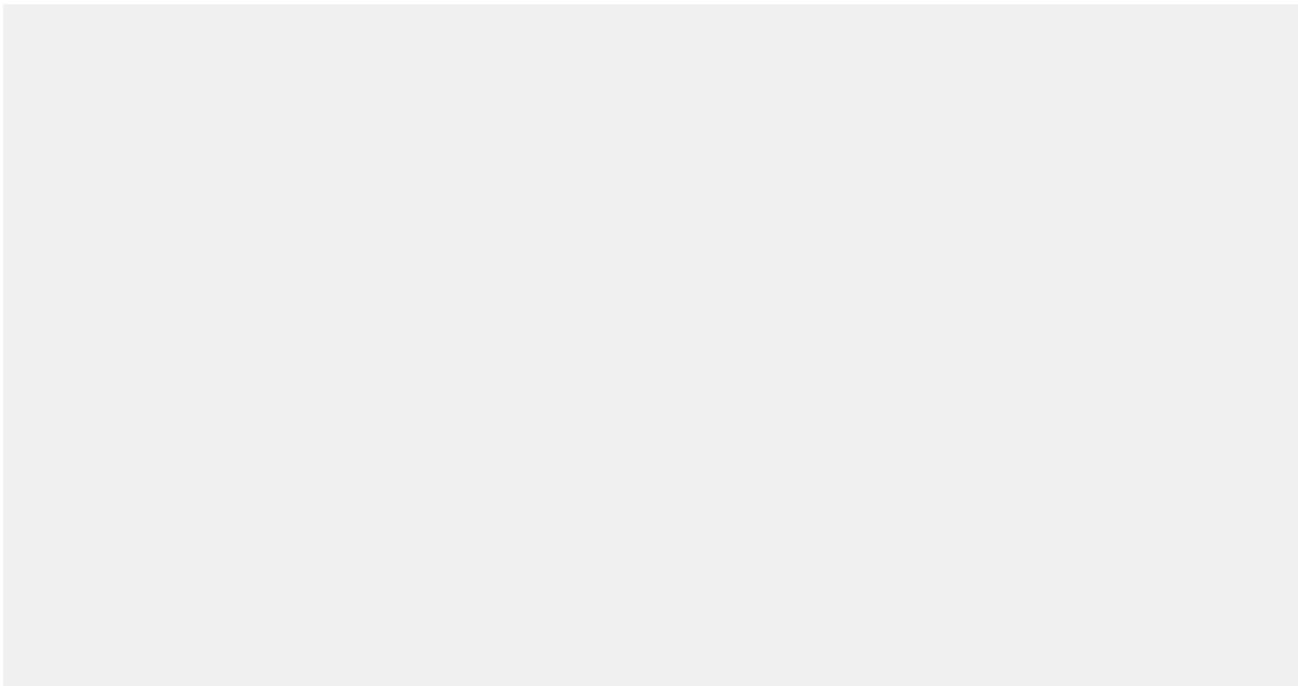
When a group of Lutheran clergy purchased a 102-acre alfalfa field and set out to build a new hospital for Bethlehem in the late 1950s, a group of women who became The Auxiliary of the Muhlenberg Hospital Center went to churches all over the Lehigh Valley to gather members and funds in support of the project. By the time the hospital was dedicated in 1961, it was one of the largest auxiliaries in the country.

[□ Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital Photo Chosen for National Exhibit

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · MARCH 10, 2017





(L-r) Meg Ressel, RN, mother Mihaela Costache, patient Victoria “Vivi” Costache, Vanessa Gramm-Mackey, Child Life Specialist, and Michele Dzomic, RN.

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.

A New Approach to Identify Sepsis Has Dramatic Impact on Mortality Rate

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · MARCH 10, 2017



Speaking at a Colleague Forum in September, Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, LVHN President and CEO, mentioned the remarkable turnaround the health network reached in its overall mortality rate in just one year.

In fiscal year (FY) 2014 and 2015, LVHN drifted to the bottom third in mortality rate among the members of the University Health Systems Consortium, 130 academic health systems that work together to focus on data-driven quality and accountability. Then in FY 2016, LVHN rose to the top quarter overall and for some measures, to the top 10. Nester called it a remarkable achievement.

But how did it happen? Large credit goes to a recently implemented algorithm that triggers an alert for sepsis shock, a life-threatening complication from an infection. It's a process that's been embraced by everyone involved, from first responders through LVHN caregivers.

"I don't think anyone realized what sort of impact it would have," says Katie Best, RN, Patient Care Specialist at the LVH–Cedar Crest Emergency Department. "We've had algorithms in place for stroke and MI (myocardial infarction) for quite some time, but since we put the process in place for sepsis management we've gotten more alerts than the other two combined."

Interprofessional team redefines sepsis strategy

The urgency for the sepsis alert algorithm came about because of a FY 2016 LVHN core measure as identified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). There are three levels of acuteness for sepsis – sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock. The goal was to prevent sepsis from advancing if possible.

An interprofessional team was formed in January and worked on a sepsis alert process for four months. Then committee members spent a month educating colleagues across the health network before the system was put in place May 1.

"We're thrilled with how successful it's been," says Lindsay Houck, RN, Director, Patient Care Services, Emergency Department, LVH–Cedar Crest, who joined Best on the multidisciplinary team. "The focus is

to recognize sepsis earlier and respond aggressively. It's a much more proactive approach than the reactive measures used previously."

Getting ahead of sepsis

The algorithm adopts the best elements of sepsis processes used in LVHN emergency departments as far back as 2008, and also includes sepsis "best practices" used at hospitals around the country. Since reducing sepsis-related deaths was a CMS directive and a health network initiative, it presented an opportunity to implement an improved sepsis alert system network-wide.

The process calls for the use of IV fluids and antibiotics when sepsis is suspected – *before* it has the opportunity to advance. From there, lab work is utilized to get a better picture of the situation. It sounds like a simple approach, but the results have been amazingly positive. In some cases, sepsis patients have not required admission thanks to early intervention.

"It's really more of an awareness now," Houck says. "Someone presents in the waiting room with a fever, a fast heart rate or some other criteria that could indicate sepsis, the charge nurse is notified right away that this could be a sepsis alert. It now becomes a time-sensitive process to get ahead of a possible problem rather than reacting to symptomology that clearly indicates a sepsis complication."

Compelling results

Back in 2014, LVHN reached a high of 5 percent mortality rate for sepsis at one point. Since adopting the algorithm, it's at 0.3 percent, ranking the health network among the very best nationally.

"The clinical staff at the bedside were the real reason for the success," Best says. "The education was very involved and needed to be spread quickly to more than 500 colleagues. All the committee members spent time educating. Dr. Matthew McCambridge, co-leader of this initiative, invented the use of 'bucket' rounds to bring goodies to staff and educate at the same time. He was our role model and paved the way for a best practice to bring the information right to the staff. And it was those clinical staff who ran with it."

3 [□ Share](#)

[Print Email](#)