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LVHN news

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First Baby of 2020 Brings Hope – PHOTOS

by [Jenn Fisher](#) · January 2, 2020

When Destiny Shakespeare started having contractions in the early morning hours of Dec. 31, she wasn't sure if this was the "real thing," because her baby's due date was Jan. 6. But by 10 a.m. on New Year's Eve, as she experienced more regular contractions, she and her family left

for LVH–Cedar Crest from their Hamburg, Pa. home. Just 30 seconds after midnight (12:00:30) on Jan. 1, 2020, Destiny's first child, a daughter, was born: Hope Louise Shakespeare, weighing in at 6 pounds, 3 ounces. Hope was the first baby of the New Year in the Lehigh Valley, and the first baby born across LVHN.



Destiny Shakespeare and her daughter Hope Louise Shakespeare

[7](#)

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Baby Athena Wu, born at LVH–Schuylkill on New Year’s Day 2020, is surrounded by her family, mother Sherri Lu, father Guocheng Wu, and her brothers, Alfred Wu, age 8, and Klaus Wu, age

5.



Racquel and Shawn Olson hold their newborn son, Nolan, born at 3:56 a.m. on January 1 at

LVH–Pocono.

Welcome Baby Hope

Hope Shakespeare's birth and status as the first baby of the New Year in our area was prominently featured by [WFMZ-TV](#), as well as by [Lehigh Valley Live](#) as part of their New Year's Day news coverage. Lehigh Valley Live also included the first birth at LVH–Muhlenberg in their story. We extend our congratulations to the Atherly family of Kunkletown who welcomed daughter, Leah Elizabeth at 4:40 a.m. on New Year's Day at LVH–Muhlenberg.



Isabell Roman holds her newborn son, Ace, who arrived at 4:23 p.m. on New Year's Day 2020 at LVH–Hazleton.

New Year's Day babies were also welcomed at LVH–Pocono, where Racquel and Shawn Olson welcomed their baby boy, Nolan, at 3:56 a.m., LVH–Hazleton where Isabell Roman delivered her son, Ace, at 4:23 p.m., and LVH–Schuylkill where Sherri Lu and Guocheng Wu and sons greeted their newest family member, daughter Athena, at 8:35 p.m.

After her interview with WFMZ, Destiny Shakespeare expressed her thanks to the care team at the Family Birth and Newborn Center at LVH–Cedar Crest. "Everyone has been wonderful," she says.

Behind-the-scenes

Thanks goes out to labor and delivery nurses and mother-baby unit nurses at LVH–Cedar Crest, LVH–Muhlenberg, LVH–Pocono, LVH–Hazleton and LVH–Schuylkill who all answered questions about baby birth times, handled media consent forms, and more, to make same-day and day-after news coverage possible.

In addition to helping coordinate information about New Year's Day babies, the care teams at our Family Birth and Newborn Centers provide all families with helpful parenting information. One key educational message is about safe sleep for babies,

which includes always placing baby on his or her back to sleep, not using pillows, bumpers or loose blankets in cribs, and not sharing a bed, couch or chair to sleep with a baby. In 2020, we will further encourage safe sleep by providing all babies born at our hospitals with a wearable sleep blanket. This gift, from Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital (the only children's hospital in the area), helps keep a baby warm and comfortable without needing a separate blanket (which can pose a suffocation risk).

LVHN: Your motherhood partner

Lehigh Valley Health Network is actively promoting its LVPG obstetrics and gynecology practices and our Family Birth and Newborn Centers as your best choices in motherhood care – we're your motherhood partner. If you or someone you know is expecting (or hoping to have a baby in 2020), visit

[LVHN.org/motherhood](https://www.lvhn.org/motherhood). While there, download our free Motherhood Partners informational guide and make an appointment with an LVPG OB-GYN.

Do Not Park in Patient and Visitor Parking Areas

by [Bill Kent](#) · January 3, 2020

This email is from Bill Kent, President, Lehigh Valley Hospital.

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Based on patrols and monitoring by the LVHN security team, we know that many LVHN colleagues are parking in patient parking areas. This is directly affecting our patients' care and experience. No patient should have to walk long distances to reach the hospital, receive delayed care or miss an appointment because of the inability to find suitable parking.



As construction continues on the new LVH–Cedar Crest emergency department, our priorities remain the same. This includes providing convenient access to care and delivering an exceptional experience for all patients and visitors.

To resolve this issue, we are taking steps to reinforce our parking management plan. As a reminder, parking violations will result in disciplinary action.

- First violation: You will receive a disciplinary warning notice and a township parking citation.
- Second violation: You will receive a disciplinary final written notice and the application of a vehicle immobilizing “boot” or windshield obstruction device (“Barnacle”).
- Third violation: You will be subject to *Termination from LVHN employment* and receive a township parking citation.

You can also help us to address this issue by reporting offenders to your supervisor, security colleagues or your human resources representative.

For pre-planned special events and meetings at LVH–Cedar Crest, please contact security at 610-402-7700 to ensure parking needs can be accommodated. They are also available to answer any parking questions you may have.

Thank you for doing your part to give our patients and visitors the experience they expect and deserve when visiting LVH–Cedar Crest.

Refer a Physician or APC, Earn \$2,500 or \$1,000

by [Kirstin Reed](#) · January 2, 2020

All LVHN colleagues are eligible to earn \$2,500 for referring a physician and \$1,000 for referring an advanced practice clinician (APC) who is hired by the health network.

The referral award is paid through the payroll process within 90 days after the physician or APC starts working.

[Download this flyer](#) and share it with your colleagues.

Send candidates to Dina Givler, Physician Recruiting, at Dina.Givler@lvhn.org.



□ 1

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Unrivaled Partners

by [Katie Cavender](#) · January 3, 2020

As we begin our unrivaled partnership with Coordinated Health as part of LVHN, we are excited to introduce a new marketing campaign to the community. Across northeastern PA and into New Jersey, people will see print ads, billboards and various other media displaying our partnership and our commitment to deliver exceptional care together.

[4](#)

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UNRIVALED PARTNERS



COORDINATED HEALTH IS NOW PART OF LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

Together, Lehigh Valley Health Network and Coordinated Health have the highest orthopedic success rates in the region and the most fellowship-trained orthopedic sports medicine specialists. We are proud to deliver exceptional health care with a passionate partner by our side.

What does it mean to be unrivaled? It not only represents collaboration, it's being incomparable. It means:

- The highest orthopedic success rates in the region
- The most fellowship-trained orthopedic sports medicine specialists, caring for everyone from pee-wee players to Division I and pro athletes with unmatched expertise
- CH established the first sports medicine program in the region, and CH sports medicine physicians dedicate more than 1,000 hours annually to "on-field" coverage, providing injured athletes the fastest access to the best care.
- Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest is the community's only nationally ranked hospital in orthopedics on U.S. News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" list.
- LVHN has been recognized for having the lowest complication rates in the state for knee and hip replacements by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP).

- For 30 years, CH has been a regional leader in orthopedics, sports medicine and workplace injury care in the Lehigh Valley and consistently ranks in the top 5 percent nationally for joint replacements and spinal fusion by Healthgrades.
-

Questions About Gympass? Check This Out

by [Kirstin Reed](#) · December 31, 2019

We recently [announced Gympass](#), a discounted fitness benefit for eligible LVHN colleagues that aligns with the My Total Health goal to give you convenient access to programs and services that allow you to thrive.

Get answers to frequently asked questions below.

What is the benefit to joining Gympass?

Gympass gives you access to up to 10,000 gyms and studios at up to 75 percent off market prices. By joining Gympass, you will have a gym membership to all of the gyms within the network according to the level of benefit that you choose. Plus, colleagues will receive their first seven days free! Please note that dependents are not eligible for the seven-day free trial.

Can I look up the gyms in the Gympass network before signing up with Gympass?

You can [review the list of participating gyms on Gympass' website](#). To access the list, you just need to create a free account. No credit card information is required to create an account.

How do I log in to the Gympass website or app?

You will log in using your LVHN SUI (user ID). If you are prompted to enter an email or employee ID, enter your LVHN SUI in that field.

Can I share Gympass with my family members?



[1](#)

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Yes. Once you activate your plan, you will see a button to refer dependents (up to five), including your spouse, domestic partner and dependent child. You can add three dependents on the Gympass app/website and will need to call Customer Experience to add the fourth and fifth. Simply complete their information, and dependents will receive a welcome email from Gympass. Each member can choose their own plan and complete their purchase. Dependents do not have to choose the same plan as the colleague. LVHN colleagues will need to pay for their dependents, however, there is an option to enter in a separate credit card for this purchase. Dependents will receive the same pricing options as colleagues. Please check the policy of the gym/studio the dependent child is interested in accessing before enrolling them to ensure they are eligible for classes or services.

How do I use Gympass to access a venue?

Once you have an active plan, book a class on Gympass or read the venue's instructions on how to attend. Once there, use the Gympass app to check in at the gym's reception desk. It's a quick three-click process. You must use a smart device to check in at a gym studio when you arrive at a gym.

Can I go to a facility in the morning and then do a class in the evening?

Currently, Gympass is restricted to one use per day. However, you are not restricted to only using one gym. You can visit the same gym or studio (or a different one) every day. It's up to you; choose the best option for your routine.

With Gympass, do I only have access to full-service gyms?

You have access to both gyms and studios. The Gympass network has boutique studios for boxing, cycling, CrossFit, yoga and much more.

I'm already a member of one of the facilities within the Gympass network. Can I transfer my membership over to Gympass?

We are unable to merge a current contract with a Gympass plan, as we have no control over individual gym/studio contracts. Depending on the terms of your contract, you may need to finish out your current membership and then sign up for Gympass, or keep both active and use Gympass at other partner facilities. Please note that Gympass does not buy out contracts or pay any cancellation fees for an

individual membership.

How do I book a class/activity?

Simply visit the specific fitness facilities page via the Gympass app or website (gympass.com), and follow the instructions provided for each facility. Many classes can be booked right through the app, but for some locations you may need to call or email the gym or studio.

What happens if I do not show up for a class/activity?

If you sign up for a class/activity, but are unable to attend, you will have used your daily check-in, and will not be able to check into another facility. If you cannot attend a class you have booked, please make sure you cancel within the cancellation window specified on our website. If you cancel within the facility's cancellation window, you will have a daily check-in available to use for that day.

Can I delay the start date/activate my account at a later date?

Plans are activated instantly upon payment receipt. We recommend purchasing on the day you want to begin membership.

What type of payment is accepted?

Gympass uses a "Direct Bill" model, where an LVHN colleague can use either a credit card or debit card for payment (the systems doesn't distinguish between the two). They do not accept checks.

How do I pay for Gympass?

Payment is deducted automatically from your credit card. Once you enroll in a Gympass plan, you will enter in your credit card information and begin your plan. As a reminder, an LVHN colleagues' first seven days are completely free and you will see that reflected within your enrollment terms.

Do I have to sign up and provide my credit card information before using my seven-day free trial?

You will be asked to provide payment information in order to start your free trial. You

may cancel your subscription at any time through your account.

Can I change my plan? If yes, how often may I do so?

Yes. You can make changes to your plan at any time by logging into “My Account” on the Gympass app or website and selecting “Change or cancel your plan.” If you need assistance or have questions, contact help.me@gympass.com. The active plan at the time of cancellation will continue through the end of the monthly billing cycle. Any upgrades during your monthly billing cycle will be prorated.

Can I change my payment date?

Once you sign up, you are not able to change the date that your plan is renewed. If you need to make a change, the best option is to cancel your current plan, then repurchase on the date you want regular payments to be taken.

What is the membership cancellation policy? Is there a charge?

You can cancel your plan or participation at any time, at no charge. Log in to “My Account” on the Gympass app or website and go to “Change or cancel your plan.” You will be able to access fitness facilities as normal until the end date of your current billing cycle. Monthly billing will end once you have confirmed cancellation. Plans renew monthly (and vary by individual), with no minimum term or contract length.

I’m going away for a while, can I freeze my membership?

This feature is currently unavailable. However, you can always cancel and then restart your membership whenever you are ready. There are no penalties or fees associated with cancelling or restarting.

After the billing date, if I forget to make any changes to my plan is there a grace period?

There is no grace period. Colleagues who sign up will assume the responsibility to manage their account. We encourage users to set a notification in their calendar 29 days from purchase of plan, in case they need to alter their plan prior to the next monthly billing date.

My favorite gym/studio is not part of Gympass network, can I add it?

Gympass takes referrals. Their Gym Partnerships team is working to expand their growing network. Send your referral via your Gympass account. Whether on the Gympass app or website, click on “My Account” and scroll down until you see “Refer a gym.” Share any information you have and Gympass will update you if it is added to the Gympass network.

How quickly will my referred facility be included in the Gympass network?

Your request is sent to the Gympass team and you will receive an email notification if the facility has joined the Gympass network. Network additions vary from gym to gym. There are no guarantees that a gym will be added to the network but Gympass will try their best.

What happens if my employment ends?

Once we receive confirmation that your LVHN employment has ended, you will receive an email from Gympass explaining any changes to your membership. You will keep your discount until the end of the current billing cycle. Once you have reached the next monthly billing date, you will have the option to purchase Gympass plans without the company discount. Gympass will reach out to you and provide options during this time. Please contact Gympass Customer Support for more details at help.me@gympass.com.

Who do I contact if I have more questions about Gympass?

You can contact Gympass through email, phone or through their app.

Email: help.me@gympass.com

Phone: 1-844-478-4744

Chat via the app or on [gympass.com](https://www.gympass.com).

Wellness Dollars

When will I no longer be able to be reimbursed with Wellness Dollars?

Wellness Dollar reimbursement will end as of June 30, 2020. Any services obtained on or after July 1, 2020 will not be reimbursed.

May I use Wellness Dollars for Gympass?

No, you may not use Wellness Dollars for your Gympass membership.

Eligibility

Who is eligible for Gympass?

Gympass is not currently available to LVH–Pocono colleagues or union colleagues at LVHN sites in Hazleton and Schuylkill County.

Who is eligible for Wellness Dollars?

Wellness Dollars are not available to colleagues at LVH–Pocono, LVH–Hazleton or LVH–Schuylkill.

Additional Questions?

Please contact the My Total Health team with questions not addressed in the FAQs.

Email: MyTotalHealth@lvhn.org

Call: 610-969-0009

Message your Health Coach in the My Total Health portal at mytotalhealth.lvh.com.

Patients' Families Use Technology to 'EASE' Concerns

by [Katie Cavender](#) · January 2, 2020

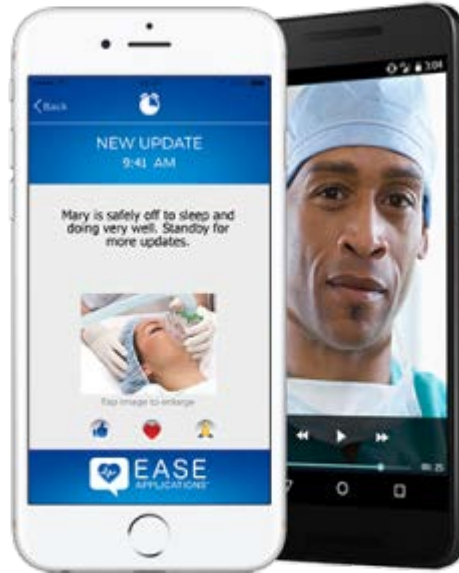
Waiting. As a family member of a loved one who is receiving a procedure or care in a hospital, waiting can be agonizing. In an effort to provide comfort during that time, LVHN implemented the aptly named smartphone application, [EASE](#) (electronic access to surgical events), in June of last year.

Due to the positive patient response, LVHN has introduced EASE to other units across the health network, including:

- Operating rooms (all sites)
- Cardiac catheterization labs (LVH–Cedar Crest, LVH–Muhlenberg and LVH–Pocono)
- Interventional radiology (LVH–Cedar Crest)
- Neonatal intensive care unit (LVH–Cedar Crest, LVH–Muhlenberg and LVH–Pocono)
- Pediatric intensive care unit (LVH–Cedar Crest)
- Critical care units (piloting at the open-heart unit and neuroscience intensive care unit at LVH–Cedar Crest)

How does EASE work?

Using a secure smartphone application downloaded from either Apple's App Store or Google Play, a patient's loved ones can receive real-time text messages on the status of the patient during their stay or procedure. Increased communication with the care team significantly reduces the anxiety of patients' loved ones. Messages are deleted one minute after the messages are reviewed.



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To view more detailed instructions for downloading and using EASE, visit

LVHN.org/ease-app.

Service Anniversary List – January 2020

by [Rick Martuscelli](#) · December 31, 2019

Happy anniversary to these colleagues celebrating a career milestone at LVHN in January 2020. Congratulate them on their years of service.

[1](#)

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45 years

Sandra Kutz, HIM Facility Based Coding

Dorothy McGinley, PACU

Elaine Walz, Infection Control and Prevention

40 years

Loretta Gogel, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Donna Gollie, Children's Clinic

Elaine Holmes, LVPG Bariatric Medicine-1243 Cedar Crest

Monica Michalerya, Cancer Center Multi-Purpose Area

Patricia Pavelco, Outpatient Burn Center

Nancy Schlener, Operating Room

Thomas Toth, LVPG Orthopedics Specialty

35 years

Kim Deluca, Inpatient Diabetes Education

Shirley Oravitz, Center for Counseling

30 years

Kyle Campbell, Financial Services

Ann Hurson, HIM Documentation Content

Carol Maurer, LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology-Valley Center Parkway

Carol Montes, Hospice Home Health Aides

Joan Shea, Preadmission Testing

Lori Yackanicz, Information Services

25 years

Lisa Filloy, Oncology Clinic

Joleen Gober, SMG

Tricia Schiavone, HIM Provider Based Coding

Heather Unangst, Obstetrics

20 years

Nicole Achenbach, Radiology

Joann Badolato, Quality and Safety

Keith Brooks, Linen Services

Haley Caponigro, Clinical Social Work

Miriam Colon, LVPG Pediatrics-West Broad

Ruth Dulaney, Care Management

Nadine Ernstam, Radiology-Diagnostic

Donnel Frantz, Perioperative Services Float Pool

Deborah Gorski, LVPG-Schuylkill

Lori Kelly, Cancer Center Financial Support

Stephen Lobko, Lehigh Valley Anesthesia Services

Pamela Palko, Home Health Care

Robert Voskuhl, Spiritual Care

Dara Wesneski, Information Services

John Willoretta, Information Services

15 years

Jessica Ayers, Regional Burn Center

Tina-Marie Bernini, Breast Health Services

Carmen Campione, Special Procedure Unit

Diann Claar, LVH–Hazleton Administration

Virginia Coleman, LVHN Fitness

Kimberly Dottery, Physician Assistant

Katie Ehrhardt, Physician Documentation

Marie Everhart, Nurse Staffing Office

Maria Flores, ICO Staging & Recovery

Mario Gentile, G&A

Michael Hartman, Lehigh Valley Anesthesia Services

Helen Holland, ICU

Cynthia Hughes, Network & Provider Services

Sharon Hyndshaw, LVHN Fitness

Joann Johnson, LVPG Family Medicine-Bangor

Timothy Kelly, Nursing Float Pool

Barbara Kozak, Regional Heart Center–Medical

Ann Leidheiser, Information Services

Kimberly Macher, Clinical Documentation

Holly Marakovits, LVPG Family Medicine-Laurys Station

Timothy Marakovits, Information Services

Jeffrey Mathieu, Family Medicine Education

Susan Mathieu, Family Medicine Education

Crystal Mousseau, Transitional Skilled Unit

Daniel Mulcahy, Hospitalist Program

Maria Plamenco, PACU

Maura Price, Cancer Program

Krista Rimmel, LVPG Neurology-1250 Cedar Crest

Mary Beth Rusiewicz, Volunteer Services

Coleen Schmick, Epic

Peggy Shaw, LVPG Urology

April Shea, Revenue Cycle Systems

Debora Solensky, LVPG Anticoagulation

Barrie Jean Souilliard, LVHN Fitness

Lorraine Spikol, LVPG Neurology-1250 Cedar Crest

Michele Taglioli, OR Centralized Scheduling

Dana Tucker, Emergency Department

Maryann Vanya, Rehab Sservices

Jay Varrato, LVPG Neurology-1250 Cedar Crest

Donna Volkert, LVPG Cardiothoracic Surgery

Tryllis Weinstein, LVHN Fitness

Danielle Wessner, Interventional Radiology

Janet Wolfgang, LVPG Family Medicine-Frackville

Pauline Worman, LVHN Fitness

10 years

Mary Boland, HIM Facility Based Coding

Susan Butala, LVHN Obstetrics and Gynecology-Alliance Drive

Suzanne Carroll-Kelly, ExpressCARE-Pocono

Donald Deluca, Lehigh Valley Anesthesia Services

Jessica Gieniec, Pharmacy

Erin Howerter, Obstetrics

Michael Jabbour, Plant

Michelle Jennings, LVPG 0Family & Internal Medicine-Alliance Drive

Beth Kalyan, Housekeeping

Jennifer Kaminsky, Rehab Unit

John Kerprich, Mental Health Nursing

Rubina Khokhar, Financial Services

Lynn Koch, Inpatient Rehabilitation Center–Cedar Crest

Anita Kurt, Department of Emergency Medicine

Zarifa Lawson, Patient Transport Services

Deborah Leeck, ABCFP/Rice PHYS Capacity Pilot

Kellie Leymeister, Operating Room

Lisa Makhoul, Child Life Department

Heather Metric, Rehab Unit

Rebecca Miller, Emergency Department

Anita Muth, HealthWorks

Massiel Ortiz, Administration

Michael Patton, Lehigh Valley Anesthesia Services

Brittany Reeger, Respiratory Care Services

Mary Ann Rother, Occupational Therapy

Susan Rutt, Outpatient Burn Center

Jessica Schmitt, Critical Care Unit

Annie Singh, HealthWorks

Brian Spadt, Emergency Department

Brenda White, Emergency Room

Sandra Witman, Clinical Service Video Monitor

5 years

Heather Adams, Emergency Department

Judy Ashley, HIM Facility Based Coding

Anita Bock, Cancer Center Multi-Purpose Area

Tina Boncher, Group Health Administrative Services

Janel Bullard, LVPG Family Medicine-Macungie

Ashley Burton, 3A IPCU

Jessica Carroll, Patient Transport Services

Joanne Ciampi, LVHN Obstetrics and Gynecology-Alliance Drive

William Combs, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Irena Connelly, HIM Facility Based Coding

Maria Cooper, Operating Room

Ashley Dalberto, Physical Therapy

Stacey Daubert, Central Scheduling

Rebecca Demjan, Execution ROI Rev Cycle FY16

Marcia Dialectakis, Perinatal Unit

Tracy Drosey-Carter, Home Care – Physical Therapy

Mary Ebinger, Hospice Skilled Nursing

Afsaneh Flaherty, Heart Station

Gustavo Gomez, Patient Transport Services

Bianka Gouck, Emergency Department

Brenda Greenwood, Labor and Delivery

Amber Gregory, Pharmacy

Lisa Hageman, Case Management

Kayla Hein, Emergency Service

Susan Horton, Risk Management

Joshua Iachini, Lehigh Valley Anesthesia Services

Mackenzie Joyce, Emergency Room

Debra Khateeb, Office of Philanthropy

Colleen King, Administration

Bryan Kluck, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Daniel Knappenberger, Sports Performance

Jean Korczak, Hospice Skilled Nursing

Christina Kuriakose, Inpatient Rehabilitation Center

Lisa Lasko, Behavioral Health Specialty Float Pool

Jane Leary, Human Resources

James Leonard, Supply Management

Margaret Macmahon, Operating Room

Norman Marcus, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Prasanthi Marella, LVPG Internal Medicine-Nazareth Road

Joy Marshall, Nursing Float Pool

Stacy McDonald, Transitional Trauma Unit

Melissa Mee, Guest Services

Donald Miller, Orthopedics

Kerry Moore, LVPG Neurology-1250 Cedar Crest

Kristal Ortiz, LVPG Endocrinology-Bartonsville

Vanessa Pacheco, Adolescent Psychiatry Unit

Lorenzo Peterson, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Louise Prohaska, Pharmacy

Diane Prosper, Behavioral Health Specialty Float Pool

Dzanan Ramic, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Slade Rankin, LVPG Urology

Daniel Rodriguez, Information Technology

Randther Rodriguez, Operating Room

Carola Rodriguez Chumbiauca, 7B

Jean Sales, Children's Specialty Float Pool

James Sandberg, LVPG Cardiology-1250 Cedar Crest

Dianna Schoenen, Rehabilitation

Jennifer Schultz, LVPG Orthopedica Medicine-Muhlenberg

Yuriy Shevtziv, LVPG Internal Medicine-Nazareth Road

Scott Stephenson, Wound Care

Julia Strunk, 3B (3N)

Virginia Valianatos, LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology-Pond Road

Christie Waddell, Population Health

Brian Wallace, Emergency Department

Melissa Wambold, Cardiac Diagnostic Center

Todd Wesser, Home Care Central Business Office

Mary Whitlock, LVPG Pediatric Endocrinology-17th Street

Monet Wiggins, 4T

Peter Yaswinski, LVPG Gynecology-East Brown Street

Cheryl Zang, Breast Health Services

Amber Zigmont, Pharmacy

Rachel's Roundtable: Everybody Matters to Street Medicine

Colleagues

by [Rachel Lefebvre](#) · December 30, 2019



□ 7

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“Everybody matters.” As an LVHN colleague, you demonstrate this every day through your care and commitment to our patients and to each other. For LVHN’s Street Medicine team, however, this statement has even deeper meaning.

An estimated 16 percent of patients served at LVH–17th Street are experiencing homelessness. Each year, the Street Medicine team provides basic primary care and social services to more than 2,000 people experiencing homelessness. The care is provided wherever patients are: in shelters, soup kitchens, under bridges or in the woods. All care provided – including medications, laboratory tests and diagnostic studies – is free. In addition, the Street Medicine program allows our health network reduce barriers for vulnerable populations, as stated in the [Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan](#), by providing health care to individuals experiencing homelessness.

As Street Medicine’s program director Nani Cuadrado explained, the program is about building trust between the health network and patient. These regular visits help patients feel a connection to others, that they are cared for, and that they matter.

However, the program isn’t limited to health care. This year, the Street Medicine team partnered with the LVHN postmaster to establish a mailing address for patients experiencing homelessness. Street Medicine staff now deliver mail to their patients during regular rounds. With a mailing address, patients can enroll in Medicaid and collect Social Security benefits. With Social Security benefits, they

can apply for housing assistance. Truly a life-changing experience.



Image 1 of 8

Any LVHN Street Medicine patient in the Lehigh Valley experiencing homelessness is eligible for the services and any LVHN medical resident, provider, nurse or colleague can help. In fact, colleagues from across the health network stepped up in December to support Street Medicine patients through an annual Street Medicine collection coordinated by LVHN's Professional Excellence Council Community Engagement Workgroup. One full truckload of donated tarps, pillows, sleeping bags, blankets and other supplies were collected from hundreds of generous colleagues at LVH–Cedar Crest, LVHN–Mack Boulevard, LVH–Muhlenberg, LVH–17th Street, LVHN–One City Center and LVPG. Colleagues at LVPG Family Medicine–1251 Cedar Crest donated gift cards to Street Medicine rather than exchange gifts with each other. It was a phenomenal act of giving! LVHN colleagues donated more than \$3,000 worth of products and gift cards to benefit individuals experiencing homelessness. The donated items were distributed to Street Medicine patients during regular rounds as you can see in the pictures above.

Members of LVHN's Professional Excellence Council Community Engagement Workgroup, colleagues from engineering and some LVHN volunteers helped collect and distribute the items to Street Medicine.

Even though the official Street Medicine collection has ended, you can still help. Walmart and Amazon gift cards of any amount are needed year-round to purchase shoes, boots and other items. If you'd like to lend a hand, contact Nani Cuadrado at 610-969-2382 or Nani_M.Cuadrado@lvhn.org.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel M. Lefebvre".

About me: My name is Rachel Lefebvre, MBA, MSHA, FACHE, and I'm honored to be the Vice President of Operations at LVH-17th Street. I joined LVHN in 2017 after serving our country for nearly 26 years in the United States Air Force. Now, it is a true privilege to work closely with such dedicated and passionate colleagues at LVH-17th Street. This blog highlights the stories of LVH-17th Street and celebrates the partnerships that support our mission to heal, comfort and care for our community.

Enter our March of Dimes T-shirt Contest and Help Design a Healthier Future for Babies

by [Rick Martuscelli](#) · December 31, 2019

Premature birth is rising around the globe including in the United States where one in 10 babies are born too soon. You can help shine a light on the issue of prematurity and birth defects by entering our March of Dimes T-shirt design contest. The winning design will be worn by the LVHN team during the Annual Walk and Run for Babies on April 26, 2020 at ArtsQuest.



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Here's how you can participate:

- Create a design that depicts healthy babies.
- Create your artwork on paper or digitally.
- Email your submission or send it via interoffice mail to Marketing and Public Affairs. (See contact information below.)
- Make sure your design arrives no later than Jan. 3, 2020.

All LVHN colleagues and their families are eligible to participate. Please email your submission to Tracey Sechler at tracey.sechler@lvhn.org or send through interoffice mail to Marketing and Public Affairs, LVHN-Mack Boulevard.

Winners will be announced in late January. Please be aware that the submitted design will be altered to fit LVHN brand standards.