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March 1995

Dear Friend:

Even though President Clinton's plans to reform the healthcare delivery system in the United States stalled before Congress, there were dramatic changes in the way hospitals and physicians provide care to their patients.

1994 was an exciting year for Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center in meeting the challenge of changes to better serve our community.

The Medical Center has invested in significant improvements to both our physical plant and diagnostic equipment to enhance the quality of care to our patients. We have also launched additional programs that focus on keeping our community healthy.

I would like to present the Annual Report of Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center to the communities of the Greater Hazleton Area. This report will provide you with a valuable overview of what Saint Joseph's has been doing over the last year to meet the challenges of healthcare.

While the times are changing, the commitment of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters to provide the Hazleton Area with the best of care at the most reasonable cost, remains constant.

We hope that the year 1995 will be a healthy one for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Bernard C. Rudegeair
President and Chief Executive Officer
Building a house of care:
Hospital's roots date back to 1940s

St. Joseph's Hospital, now in its 46th year, started as the dream of the Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis in Reading.

The idea was born in the early 40s when the Rev. Mother M. Edmund, superior general of the community, and Mother M. Angela, her predecessor, decided it was time for the order to begin caring for the sick and infirm.

In 1943 they settled on Hazleton as the location for their hospital and three nuns, Sisters M. Bertilia, M. Killian and M. Salvatore arrived here to prepare for the facility. A year later, the Corrigan Maternity Hospital opened on North Church Street with Drs. John J., James, and Lawrence F. Corrigan serving on the staff.

It soon became obvious that the maternity center was critical to the community. With the post-war baby boom exploding in Greater Hazleton, the hospital admitted 4,400 women and delivered 4,341 babies in just four years.

On June 1, 1944, a tonsillectomy department opened. Meanwhile, Scranton Bishop William J. Hafey endorsed the Bernardines’ plans for a 150-bed general hospital, with an emphasis on obstetrics. The bed capacity of the proposed facility later was increased to 300, including adult and children’s beds, bassinets and incubators.

Thomas Kennedy, a Hazleton native who was international president of the United Mine Workers, was named vice chairman of a fund drive in December 1945. The next month he and general chairman Frank Correale announced a $750,000 goal. By the end of the month, the group had raised $375,425. At the close of the campaign, the Bishop's House of Charity contributed another $450,000, which included special gifts from individual citizens and the 23 parishes in the Hazleton deanery.

On Sept. 8, 1946, Mother M. Edmund came to town to help Bishop Hafey and Mr. Correale break ground for the new hospital. The Bernardines’ dream of healing was well on the way to becoming reality. “Today we stand here, united for a great purpose,” Bishop Hafey told the crowd. “We must not reach only for the hearts of men, but must likewise reach their bodies.”

In November 1949, the hospital was in full operation. Hazleton area residents, who until the 1950s had only the aging State Hospital to serve their medical needs, now had a choice. During the decade, St. Joseph Hospital’s staff of 350 cared for more than 700,000 patients.

St. Joe’s, as the hospital came to be known, kept pace with advances in medical technology. A new intensive care facility was added and a computer system was installed. The hospital’s board of trustees expanded St. Joe’s diagnostic, surgical and radiological facilities.

Hazleton’s suburbs continued to grow throughout the post-war years. At the same time, (Continued on page 9)
Economic Impact

St. Joe's pumping $millions annually into local and county economies

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center continued to serve the community in 1994, not only by providing the most conscientious and up-to-date health care available, but also by contributing to the region's economy.

St. Joe's is continuing to keep Hazleton area residents - and the community's economy - healthy.

The medical center's $13-million 1994 payroll goes to employees who live and spend their money in the community. In fact, St. Joe's 600 full-time staff members and the equivalent of 98 full-time physicians spend more than $3.8 million in Hazleton and $12.5 million in Luzerne County every year, according to a recent survey.

The survey, conducted by Tripp Umbach and Associates of Pittsburgh, showed that the medical center pumps more than $12 million into Hazleton's economy and nearly $30 million into the county's economy annually.

The medical center paid $13,367,522 in salaries and wages in 1994. In addition, it spent $2,698,230 on employee benefits.

While employees spend a good part of their income in the Hazleton area, they aren't the only conduit for the flow of finances into the local economy. The hospital buys goods and services valued at $2.68 million in Hazleton each year, the survey showed.

That amount is just a fraction of the nearly $7.7 million direct impact the medical center has on the city. Other components in that category include:

- $163,515 in staff expenditures for rental housing
- $720,066 in non-housing expenditures by staff residing in the city.
- $1,485,039 in non-housing expenditures by affiliated doctors residing in the city.
- $423,069 spent in Hazleton by affiliated doctors who don't live in the city.
- $1,038,776 in expenditures by staff members not living in the city.
- $563,455 spent by non-resident patients and visitors.
- $684,446 in expenditures by non-resident visitors.
- $1,485,039 in non-housing expenditures by staff members not living in the city.
- $3.8 million in goods and services purchased by the hospital.
- $4,470,959 in goods and services purchased by the hospital.
- $796,000 in staff expenditures for rental housing.
- $5,848,190 in non-housing expenditures by staff members living in the county.

Growing the economy

Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center pumps more than $12 million into Hazleton's economy each year and contributes nearly $30 million to Luzerne County's. In addition to its huge annual payroll, the medical center, and its employees, patients, and visitors spend millions in the community. The bottom line: local businesses, as well as the city and county governments have come to depend on St. Joe's for more than medical care.

The survey puts St. Joe's direct impact on Luzerne County business volume at over $18 million a year.

(Continued on page 10)
There's a new emphasis on outpatient care and it's evident at Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center.

Behind temporary walls on the second floor, construction crews are busy demolishing the old and replacing it with the new.

The former medical-surgical unit on the second floor is being converted into a modern outpatient center with chemotherapy treatment rooms, recovery areas, an eight-bed short procedure unit and an endoscopic suite, according to Bernard C. Rudegeair, President and Chief Executive Officer.

This project began in December and is expected to be completed later this year. It was started while finishing touches were being made on another major project, St. Joe's new Franciscan Skilled Care Center.

This transitional care skilled nursing unit was built for patients who no longer need acute care but just aren't ready to go home, according to Jeffrey N. Sackrison, Vice President of Operations.

The Outpatient Department is currently located on the first floor. Once renovations are completed, the department will be moved upstairs. Work is scheduled to begin on expanding the pharmacy department, which is adjacent to the present outpatient department.

Nearly all of the work on these projects is being done by medical center employees from the plant operations department, Sackrison said. The remaining renovations are being done by local contractors.

St. Joe's construction workers frame a new room on the second floor where the Outpatient Department will be moved later this year.
St. Joseph’s new Franciscan Skilled Care Center opened in January. The 11-bed skilled care center was designed to meet the needs of patients who no longer require acute care but aren’t yet ready to return home, according to Bernard C. Rudegeair, St. Joe’s President.

The center employs 18 people including an administrator, a director of nursing, registered nurses, licensed-practical nurses, certified nursing assistants and an activities director, according to Thomas Elliot, center administrator.

“The people who come here are going to be doing a lot of rehabilitation and occupational therapy, using adaptive equipment like walkers and canes,” Elliot said. “The average length of stay will be 15-20 days and 80 percent of the people who go through here will return to their own homes.”

Patrick J. Ward, Vice President of Community Relations for the medical center, emphasized that the center is not in competition with area nursing homes. Patients are admitted to the center only from the medical center and about 80 percent eventually return home.

Elliot said the full-time activities director works with residents depending on their diagnosis and abilities. The director works with the residents in group sessions and on an individual basis, tailoring activities to meet the needs of the residents. “Upon admission each resident receives an individualized care plan prepared by an interdisciplinary team including nursing, rehabilitation, dietary, social services and activities,” he said. “This plan of care is prepared with the idea of them returning home, if at all possible, and becoming as highly functional as they can.”

The skilled care center was certified by the state in January and received Medicare certification in February.
Pastoral program assists the elderly and sick in their homes

Reaching into the community to form a base of volunteers to care for the elderly, homebound, sick and disabled in their homes is the goal of the Hazleton branch of the Pastoral Outreach program begun in 1994 at Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center.

The program is especially helpful for the homebound and patients just being released from the hospital who don't have family members around to provide friendship and assistance and to help meet spiritual needs.

Planning began in January of 94, and following several months of laying groundwork, the first parish was enrolled, said Sister Paulette Berrang, RSM, the program's coordinator.

A group of 18 parishioners at St. Gabriel’s Church on South Wyoming Street became pastoral volunteers. They were trained to show friendship by just listening, trained to share by responding to the joys and concerns the elderly and sick have, trained to provide some spiritual presence, and trained to comfort in times of loneliness, illness and loss. The volunteers also learned how to make referrals for other services available in the Greater Hazleton community.

The Pastoral Outreach program was founded in Wilkes-Barre in 1989, and since that time 37 faith communities in five counties have joined the program.

With training at St. Gabriel’s completed, Sister Paulette is ready to begin with United Methodist Churches of Hazleton, she said.

“This is a collaborative effort with the health care community, churches and service organizations,” she said. “We’re going to be working quite closely with Lutheran Welfare Services for example.”

Further information on the program can be obtained from Sister Paulette. She can be reached at the medical center.

Members benefiting from Womankind program

One of the most comprehensive programs offered at Hazleton Saint Joseph Medical Center is one aimed at serving the health care needs of women.

And it’s no wonder that the number of memberships in the Womankind program continues to grow, considering all its benefits. And membership in Womankind is free.

This valuable program offers:

- Free educational seminars.
- A complimentary “Before the Stork” package for expectant parents.
- A quarterly newsletter filled with up-to-date information on women’s health care issues and information about programs of interest being offered at St. Joe’s.
- Discounts for St. Joe’s fitness center.
- Access to insurance hotlines.
- Discount rates for screening mammograms.
- Discounts on processing pap smears at St. Joe’s laboratory.
- Discounts on prenatal or heartsaver classes.
- Free prenatal vitamin supplements, calcium supplements, iron supplements and free physician referral services.

Sandra J. Sackrison, Director of Medical Imaging and Women’s Care, said more than 500 women are registered for the program. Twenty seminars on a variety of women’s issues have been held during the past two years.

In fact, topics for some of the upcoming seminars relate to family issues and men are also being encouraged to participate, Mrs. Sackrison said. “If our seminar is about how to deal with your adolescent daughter, that can be equally important to fathers,” she said, citing this as just one example.

Another new twist for members in 1994 was a bus excursion to Peddler’s Village. A bus trip for 1995 is being planned, but Sackrison said the destination has not yet been decided.

Anyone wishing to join the program can call Theresa Andras, Womankind Representative, at the medical center to receive an application.
Medical imaging department has latest technology

Diagnostic imaging is a rapidly changing science and Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center is keeping abreast of the latest technology. More than $2 million has been spent during the past two years alone on equipment which allows doctors to detect problems earlier.

Among the new equipment the medical center has put on line are a new SPECT camera, CAT scan, mammography, mobile x-ray, three ultrasounds and a radiographic fluoroscopic unit, according to Sandra J. Sackrison, Director of Medical Imaging and Women's Care.

More than 25,000 x-rays were made in 1994. There were 3,690 CAT scans, more than 1,800 nuclear medicine procedures and more than 2,600 ultrasounds.

Mrs. Sackrison has been director for four years. She heads a staff of 30 employees in the diagnostic imaging department.

One recent staffing change in the nuclear medicine field allows for emergency procedures 24-hours a day, seven days a week, she said.

For the CAT scan, a teleradiology system which allows images to be sent from one computer to another by telephone line, has been installed. Now, images can be sent to physicians' homes. This could mean quicker diagnosis in emergency cases since the ER won't have to wait until a radiologist can come to the medical center.

St. Joe's also has a school of radiologic technology. Each year another five students are enrolled in the two-year program.

A majority of the graduates obtain employment in the greater Hazleton area, according to Sackrison.

This program offers a complete clinical and scholastic schedule which prepares students to take the national registry examination in radiology. The program has been in operation since 1950 and has graduated more than 125 students. Sackrison is a 1984 graduate of that program.

*Hospital's history dates back to the 40s* (Continued from page four)

Pennsylvania was divesting itself of its state-run hospitals. In 1981, when Locust Mountain State General Hospital in Shenandoah closed, St. Joe's established its first satellite in that Schuylkill County community.

Not long after, residents of Weatherly began lobbying for better medical care. In response, St. Joe's opened a satellite facility in that community in 1984. Other satellites followed, in Conyngham, Sugarloaf, Tresckow, Ringtown, Freeland and Weatherly. Combining its satellite system with the Ambulatory Care Center, St. Joseph Hospital had brought to those communities medical services that until then had been unavailable.

Before the 80s ended, St. Joe's - now known as Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center - had opened a new Outpatient Rehabilitation Center and Fitness Center in the former Hazle Township High School building, a few blocks north of the medical center itself. The building also houses a cancer treatment center run by a group of independent physicians.

Across Church Street from the main hospital, St. Joe's constructed a medical arts building that provided a welcome convenience for physicians and their patients.

The medical center has continued to meet the needs of the community in the 90s with the establishment of such innovative programs as Senior Choice, Womankind, Kid C.A.R.E. and an occupational health program for area businesses and industries.

"St. Joe's is ready for the future, too," said Bernard C. Rudegeair, President and Chief Executive Officer. "We're proud of our legacy of service and we look forward to providing the community with the highest quality of medical care available for a long time to come."
Healthy Beginnings Plus provides important pre-natal care

Ensuring that every woman has the opportunity to have important pre-natal care for their unborn child is a goal of the St. Joe's Healthy Beginnings Plus Program. This minimizes the risks of complications during the pregnancy and at birth.

The program is Pennsylvania's effort to assist low-income, pregnant women who are eligible for Medical Assistance with their maternity care.

In the less than six months since it was reintroduced at St. Joe's, 40 clients have enrolled in the program, according to Sandra J. Sacknson, Director of Medical Imaging and Women's Care for the Medical Center.

In addition to providing medical care for the mother and unborn child, the Healthy Beginnings Plus Program offers important programs such as smoking cessation, parenting classes, nutrition, social services and home assessments.

Care is provided by physicians Conrad J. Sarnecki, Jr. and Scott D. Muir. They also operate Hazleton Women's Care Center in the Medical Arts Building across from the medical center on Church Street. Suzanne Lombardo, R.N., is Care Coordinator. The Healthy Beginnings Plus Program is based at the former Koval-Getter building at 1701 E. Broad St.

* St. Joe's pumping $millions (Continued from page five)

Did you know?

There's no doubt that Hazleton would be a much different - and poorer - community without Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center.

For example:

- St. Joe's contributes $7.69 million in direct business volume to the city each year, bringing an economic benefit of $12.3 million.
- City businesses that depend on income from the hospital have invested $866,034 in real estate and $1.28 million in business inventory to service the medical community.
- The hospital employs 686 people in Hazleton and had a 1994 annual payroll of $13.3 million. Spending by the hospital and its employees generates an additional 1,067 jobs in the city.
- The city of Hazleton receives $492,970 in annual revenues attributable to the hospital.
- HSJMC provides $77,298 in municipal-type services such as security, lighting and street maintenance that the city would otherwise have to pay.

- $235,707 spent by non-resident staff members.
- $5,566,914 spent by affiliated doctors who live in Luzerne County.
- $61,583 spent by affiliated doctors not residing in the county.
- $28,848 spent by patients who live outside of Luzerne County.
- $684,446 spent by business visitors to the hospital and to staff and affiliated doctors.
- $920,065 spent by business visitors to the hospital and to staff and affiliated doctors.

That all adds up to $18,612,712 in total direct spending in Luzerne County.

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Kid C.A.R.E. helps children get prompt treatments

It's every parent's nightmare. Deep into the snowy winter of '94, a Hazleton area couple leaves town for the weekend, leaving their child in the care of an aunt. The youngster becomes ill and the concerned aunt takes the child to the hospital. The parents can't be reached and the hospital can't treat the child without their consent.

This particular story had a happy ending because the parents had enrolled their child in Kid C.A.RE. at Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center. By completing a pre-authorization form, they insured that their child would receive prompt medical attention even though the parents were not available.

"It's a wonderful program," says Joan Warner, who, as insurance coordinator at St. Joe's, runs Kid C.A.RE. "It's really fine because most parents will say to me, 'I can breathe easier.'"

Kid C.A.R.E., directed by Janet Richie, Vice President of Nursing, was established by the medical center in 1993. It grew by leaps and bounds in 1994 as more and more parents realized the benefits the program offers. Parents registered 664 children in the first year and the program's administrators say 300 more applications are in the hands of parents, waiting to be returned.

When an ill child is taken to the medical center, officials make every effort to reach a parent. Without pre-authorization, medical care cannot be administered without parental consent unless the illness or injuries are life-threatening.

Often parents are at work when their children are taken to the hospital for emergency treatment. "If we can get the parent by phone, we can get permission," Warner says. "When we can't find the parent, it's a problem."

That's where Kid C.A.R.E. (Convenient Advanced Registration for Emergencies) comes in. Hospital officials check to see if the child has been pre-authorized for medical care and then proceed with treatment.

The program is free - in fact, St. Joe's even notarizes the pre-authorization form free of charge, making it a legal document.

Warner has been making the rounds to let Hazleton area residents know about this important program. She's spoken at more than a dozen school PTA meetings, Girl Scout events and children's week observances at the YMCA-YWCA and Insalaco's supermarket.

The word has gotten out and parents are responding. "I get a lot of phone calls and a lot of walk-ins," Warner says.

Young patients also are the focus of another program in which St. Joe's is participating. Blue CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) of Pennsylvania provides health care benefits to needy children who are not covered under other insurance plans.

The typical prospect is a child whose parent has been laid off, resulting in a loss of health insurance. Blue CHIP helps families who earn too much to qualify for medical assistance, but not enough to buy health insurance on their own.

In order to qualify, families must meet income eligibility requirements and the children must be 14 and under and must not be covered under any other insurance plan.

The benefits include:

- Routine checkups.
- Immunizations.
- Doctor visits when a child is sick.
- Emergency medical care.
- Surgery.
- Hospitalization.
- Regular dental exams and preventive care.
- Eye exams, including eyeglasses.
- Hearing services.
- Mental health services.
- Prescription medicine with a $5 co-pay.
- Choice of own doctor.
- Treatment in a private doctor's office.

Not surprisingly, Blue CHIP has attracted a lot of interest and Warner has been busy handing out applications. "I passed out so many, you wouldn't believe it," she said. "I try to push this because it's so important for children to be covered by health insurance."

Blue CHIP was established by the Caring Foundation of Northeastern Pennsylvania in coordination with Blue Cross and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
St. Joe's committed to Senior Citizens

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center continued to demonstrate its commitment to senior citizens in 1994 as the innovative Senior Choice program went into its second full year.

Begun in late 1992, Senior Choice was established to give the region’s sizable population of senior citizens a menu of specially designed health services, offered exclusively by St. Joe’s.

As summer drew to a close, 664 senior citizens had availed themselves of the free program that is coordinated by Cheryl Bubrowski, Program Coordinator and Intensive Care Unit Manager. An additional 50 applications were being processed.

Senior Choice is available to anyone 62 and over. Benefits include:

- Rapid registration at the medical center and its satellites.
- Free annual blood sugar, cholesterol and hearing screenings.
- A quarterly newsletter.
- Discount membership rates at the Saint Joseph Fitness Center.
- Monthly appointments with the medical center’s pharmacist.
- Quarterly breakfast programs dealing with health issues of interest

Free glaucoma screenings were part of a Senior Choice health fair. Paula Triano at a Hazleton Senior Center screening.

St. Joe's exclusive Insurance Hotline.

With the Hazleton area’s preponderance of senior citizens, it’s not surprising that Senior Choice is a success.

There was a big surge in enrollment when the program opened in December 1993. “Since then, it’s been steady,” Bubrowski said. “It’s a community program for the seniors. We hope that they choose St. Joe’s for their health care.”

Throughout 1994, Senior Choice gave Hazleton area senior citizens opportunities to keep healthy and informed. Quarterly breakfasts featuring speakers have been filled to capacity.

Last winter’s snowstorms played havoc with February’s breakfast which finally was canceled after being rescheduled three times.

In June, 130 members signed up to hear Sandra J. Sackrison and Joan Warner of St. Joe’s speak about insurance.

Each of the program’s blood pressure screenings, held four times a year, attracted about 50 Senior Choice members in 1994. The August screening, which was combined with an afternoon tea, attracted 70 members who heard James and Marlene Tumbach of Hazleton discuss the pros and cons of pre-arranged funerals.

In March, 70 members participated in a blood sugar and cholesterol screening at the hospital.

What’s the big attraction of Senior Choice? “A lot of people have problems regarding Medicare,” Bubrowski says. Program officials can help with those problems.

“Members feel like they have a friend,” Warner adds.
More than 300 businesses and industries choose St. Joe's for their health care

Since its inception in 1991, the Occupational Health Services Department at St. Joseph's has quickly become the number one provider of health care for area industries.

In 1994 alone, the number of treatments provided by the department rose more than 16 percent over those for 1993.

A staggering 300 business and industrial clients with some 20,000 employees chose Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center as their health care provider. These businesses come from within a 25-mile radius of Hazleton, according to Carl Seitz, Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

With the increase in cases for 1994, two employees were added to the occupational health staff, Seitz said. Seven employees including Dr. John Amentier, a physician's assistant, nurses and support personnel make up the department staff. Amentier has been with the program since it was founded.

Services provided include physicals, injury care, drug and alcohol testing, and flu and hepatitis vaccinations. The department also conducts health fairs and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance-education seminars.

A quarterly newsletter with important information on health and safety in the workplace is produced by the medical center for clients of the program.

Another important benefit is that representatives from about 30 companies serve on an advisory board offering advice to the medical center on which programs are needed. They also share ideas with each other about health and safety in the workplace.

Several employers considering or making moves into the area during 1995 have already been in contact with the department about having St. Joe's provide their health care needs. Seitz said several hundred more employees will join the ranks of eligible clients in 1995.

Rehabilitation

40,000 treatments completed by staff during 1994

More than 15,000 outpatient appointments to St. Joe’s Rehabilitation program were made during 1994, according to Carl Seitz, Director of the rehabilitation program. More than 40,000 treatments were administered during those visits.

Twenty one people are employed by the rehabilitation program, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, an audiologist, an exercise physiologist, a cardiac rehabilitation registered nurse and support staff. Several programs and services in the rehabilitation department are being upgraded in 1995. They include the purchase of hearing testing equipment for infants and children; new therapy equipment for hand and wrist injuries and an expanded work hardening program utilizing computerized evaluation methods for determining when injured workers are able to return to their jobs.

Services provided by the rehabilitation department include physical therapy, occupational therapy, work hardening, hand therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, speech therapy and audiology.
Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center, a Catholic health care facility established and sponsored by the Bernardine Sisters of Saint Francis and located in the City of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, is founded on the timeless ideal of Christian service.

It exists to extend Christ's mission of healing to all its patients and to bear witness to the compassionate messages of the Gospel.

By its concern for the dignity and well being of the unborn, the sick and the dying, Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center is an integral part of the healing mission of the Church and is committed to serving all who present themselves for care, especially the least fortunate among us, as we would wish to serve Christ Himself.

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center is an acute care community hospital committed to the provision of quality health care services, within the limits of available resources, for all who need care or treatment on an inpatient, ambulatory, or advisory basis. Reflecting a true Christian orientation which recognizes man's psychological, social, and spiritual well being as well as physical needs, Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center attempts to provide programs and services to care for the whole person in body, mind, and soul.

While acknowledging a contemporary responsibility to help maintain healthy lifestyles in today's cost-conscious environment, Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center recognizes that prevention and educational aspects of treatment, where feasible, are considered as important as therapeutic approaches to healing.

...every day...