



Cyrus Farreh M.D.

# Connection

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## Cardiac Leader Celebrates Retirement

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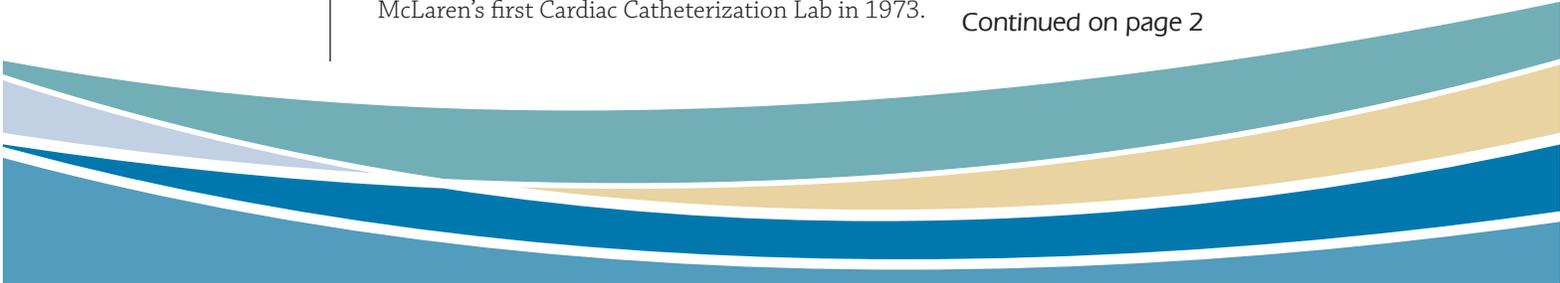
For 40 years, Cyrus Farreh, M.D., has kept pace with the evolution of cardiac care without missing a beat. Dr. Farreh, a board certified interventional cardiologist, has been instrumental in the creation and evolution of the cardiac program at McLaren Regional Medical Center. After four decades of service devoted to heart health, he is now hanging up his stethoscope and looking forward to new projects in his retirement.

In 1969, soon after completing a fellowship in adult and pediatric cardiology, Dr. Farreh settled in Flint where he joined the medical staff of McLaren General Hospital and began his cardiology practice. Dr. Farreh was asked by the hospital to create McLaren's first Cardiac Catheterization Lab in 1973.

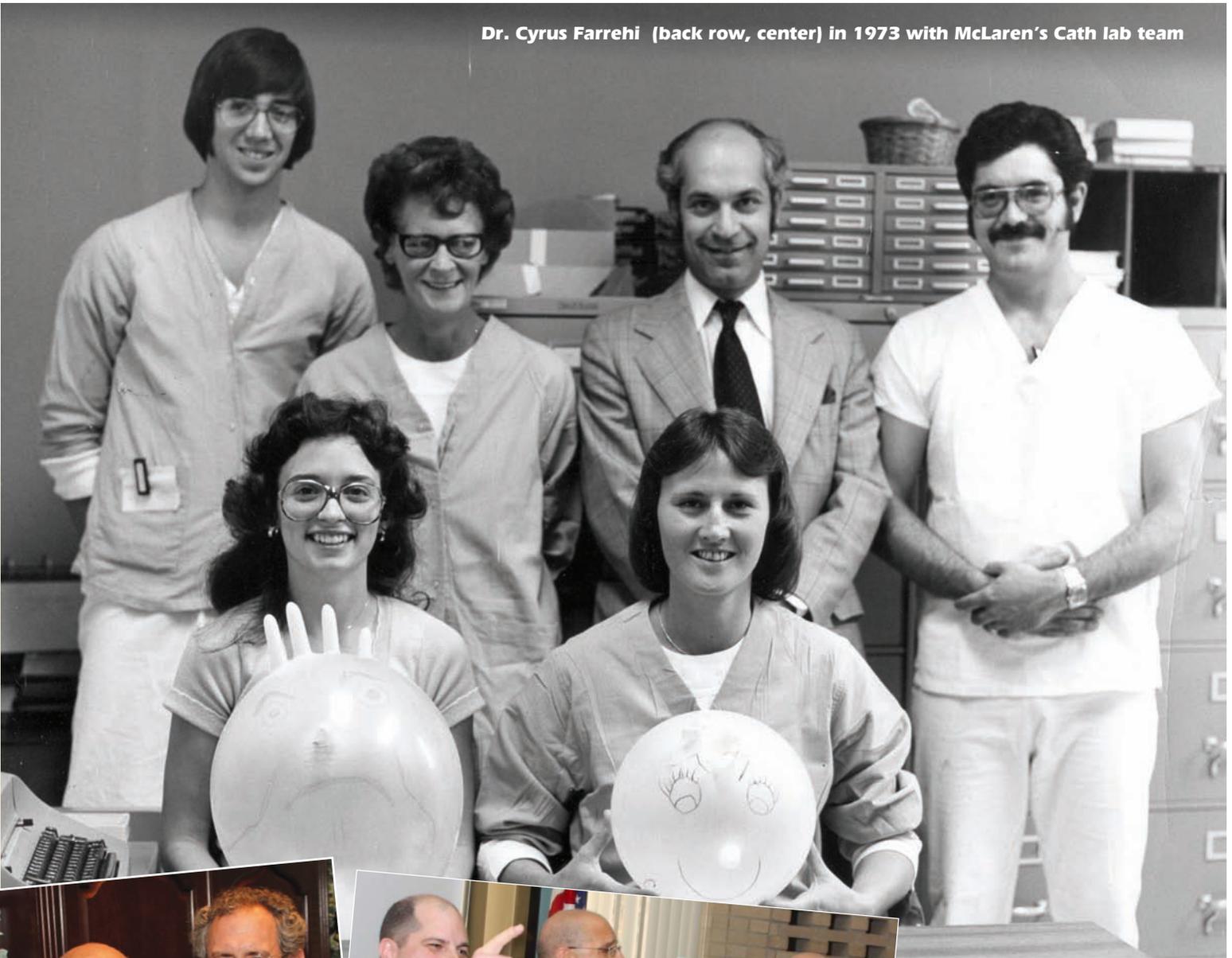
"I remember that setting up the Cath Lab was more than just buying the equipment and hiring the right people," recalled Farreh. "In order for the Lab to be successful, the structure of operations had to be self-contained. Together with the administration, radiology and nursing, we came up with a structure in service of patients and the medical staff."

He then set up the Non-Invasive Lab, the first of its kind in the area. The Lab offered multiple ways of studying the heart with no need to insert a needle. The Pacemaker Clinic at MRMC is another notable contribution by Dr. Farreh to the cardiac program. Dr. Farreh began the Pacemaker Clinic in 1975 to track the function, dysfunction, longevity and

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Dr. Cyrus Farrehi (back row, center) in 1973 with McLaren's Cath lab team



Right Photo: (left to right) Peter Farrehi, M.D., John Chahbazi, M.D., and Cyrus Farrehi, M.D. performed a dance to "Stayin' Alive" before nearly 300 guests at Dr. Farrehi's farewell Roast on October 30.

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Above: Richard Hennig, DO, took extra care to make Dr. Farrehi feel as if he were among the family (in the new office).

time of replacement of implanted pacemakers. The clinic also follows the patients' conditions at the medical center. The Pacemaker Clinic is still functioning and located on 2 North at MRMC.

Over the years, Dr. Farrehi has witnessed exciting advances in cardiac care such as innovative

medicines, safer devices, and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) This procedure made coronary angiography a therapeutic procedure, not just a diagnostic tool. The introduction of stents and drug-eluting stents were also major innovations. As the landscape of cardiology evolved, so

did the options for Dr. Farrehi to consider for his patients.

"Throughout my years in practice, I have considered treating a patient with heart disease a special privilege and a cherished gift." he noted. "In the back of my mind, I frequently say, 'what else can I do for Mrs. Jones or Mr. Smith to make them

## Cardiac Leader Celebrates Retirement

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better?" It is a lot to think about for 40 years."

Dr. Farrehi's patient care commitment extended to leadership roles including Chairman of the Department of Medicine (1971-1973), Chief of Staff at McLaren (2001- 2003) and president of Genesee County Medical Society (1999-2000). Dr. Farrehi also shares his knowledge with young physicians as a clinical professor of medicine with Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. And, despite a clause allowing him to opt out of call coverage for McLaren's Emergency Department due to his age, he continued his usual on-call schedule.

"I have always felt very privileged to be one of a limited number of people who are called to the hospital in the middle of the night for a vital task," said Dr. Farrehi. "To me, that is an honor and responsibility that I have never taken lightly nor am tired of."

Dr. Farrehi welcomed his son, Peter Farrehi, M.D., to his cardiology practice in 1999. They remained in practice together until August of 2009, when Peter accepted an academic and clinical position at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In August, Dr. Cyrus Farrehi relocated his practice to the office of fellow McLaren cardiologist, friend and cohort, Richard Hennig, D.O. Dr. Farrehi appreciated Dr. Hennig's commitment to caring for all of his patients exclusively at McLaren. Dr. Farrehi, with the assistance of his staff, continued to accommodate his patients in their new environment until his official retirement on November 1.

A Retirement Roast was held in his honor on October 30. Ballenger Auditorium was standing room only as nearly 300 guests attended the event to wish him well. Colleagues, administration and patients shared their fond and funny memories of his tenure at McLaren.

Dr. Farrehi is pursuing some non-clinical interests in retirement. He is currently enrolled in classes at U of M-Flint preparing for study in the field of health policy. He and his wife, Jane, remain active with many educational and nonprofit organizations in the greater Flint community. ■



## Monica Haubenstricker Recognized for Adaptive Golf

Congratulations to Monica Haubenstricker, Recreational Therapist at McLaren Regional Medical Center, for receiving the Ronald G. Kremski Accessible Recreation Award. The Disability Network presents this award to an organization, recreation facility, or person who has advocated and developed services that demonstrate a commitment to accessible recreation for people with disabilities. According to the Disability Network, "the award is designed to stimulate the development of accessible recreation experiences that invite, welcome and support the inclusion of all people of all abilities."

Monica started the McLaren Adaptive Golf Program and has been a tireless champion of the local program and its extension into a statewide program.

Monica and the McLaren Adaptive Golf Program were recognized for:

- Consistently and diligently working to ensure people with disabilities have an opportunity to golf in our community.
- Acquiring funding for accessible golf carts.
- Developing training for people with disabilities and professionals to learn about adaptive golfing.
- Securing access to a local golf course for people with disabilities.

The award ceremony took place at Kearsley Park Pavilion and was held on the 19th anniversary of the enactment of the "Americans with Disabilities Act." ■

## Announcements



Ben Wolbert



Linda Ross, RN



Jack Urben, PharmD



Tom Altenberger

**Ben Wolbert** has been named nurse manager of 12T. Ben served as interim nurse manager since June and has been employed at MRMC since August of 2006 as a staff nurse in CCU. Ben was a nursing supervisor for two years and then became the assistant nurse manager on 10T in 2008.

**Linda Ross, RN**, has been named manager of the Rehab Unit on 5 North. Linda has worked with Rehab for the past eight years as the Admissions Coordinator. Prior to her Rehab experience, Linda was the Manager of McLaren's Transitional Care Unit for two years. Also, Linda has past leadership experience as the Director of Nursing at Clio Convalescent Nursing Home.

**Jack Urben, PharmD**, is the new Clinical Manager of Clinical Pharmacy Services at the McLaren Regional Medical Center in Flint, Michigan. He is an Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy at Ferris State University.

Dr. Urben's pharmacy experience includes more than 30 years in hospital, long term care and community pharmacy. Since 2007, he has served as Director of Pharmacy, clinical pharmacist and a special project coordinator with Pharmacy Systems, Inc. Dr. Urben earned Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida.

**Tom Altenberger** has recently joined McLaren as Assistant Director of Pharmacy. Altenberger graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. He was accepted as a Pharmacy Resident at The Toledo Hospital and completed an 18 month General Pharmacy Residency. He also earned a Masters of Business Administration Degree from the University of Toledo with a focus on Health Care Administration.

Altenberger has worked for a home infusion pharmacy for the last 10 years starting as an Operations Manager and progressing to Regional Operations Manager in his last 5 years. Prior to his home infusion experience, Altenberger worked for a 700-bed teaching hospital in Toledo, Ohio. He held several positions during his tenure starting as Clinical Pharmacist for the Drug Information Center, Lead Pharmacist-Home Infusion Services, and finally Lead Pharmacist-Operations. ■

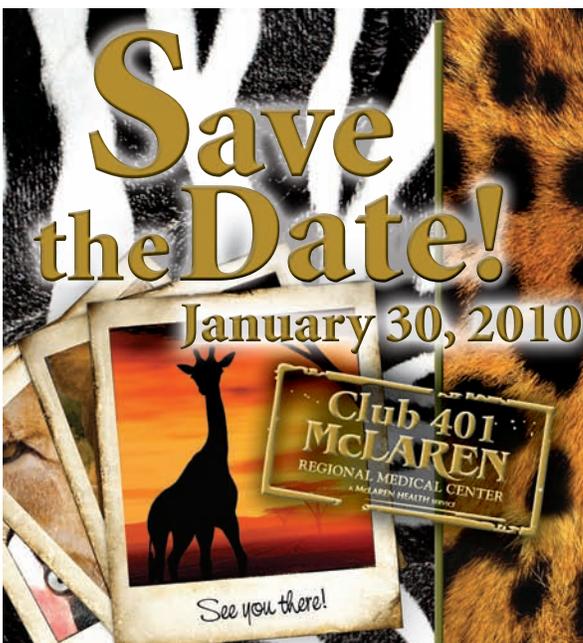
### McLaren Club 401 Goes on Safari

A night of adventure awaits guests on Saturday, January 30, 2010 when McLaren Regional Medical Center presents its annual charity gala, Club 401, at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in Flint.

This year's fundraising gala is titled "Starlight Safari" and features a social hour, dinner, auction, and entertainment and dancing by "Chez'zam," a 10-member troupe from New York City. All proceeds from the event fund the Child Evaluation Clinic housed at McLaren Regional Medical Center.

This is the region's only clinic that provides medical and psychosocial examinations of children who are suspected victims of child sexual abuse. The Clinic works closely with area court systems, law enforcement agencies and the Child Advocacy Centers in Genesee and Lapeer Counties.

For more information on sponsorship and ticket packages, contact (810) 342-4475 or visit [mclarenregional.org](http://mclarenregional.org). ■



Barbara Worrell happily holds her recognition plaque while flanked by members of the Beyond the Stars Customer Service Team.



## 2nd Quarter Beyond the Stars Recipient Named

Congratulations to Barbara Worrell, Administrative Assistant, Marketing Communications, who was selected as MRMC's second quarter 2009 recipient of the Beyond the Stars award. The Beyond the Stars Program was established to recognize outstanding performance on behalf of McLaren Regional Medical Center. Recipients of the award go beyond simply satisfying

a customer. Recipients of the Beyond the Stars award make a personal commitment to providing exceptional customer service. Barbara's nominator said, "Barbara's success can be attributed to her positive attitude in the workplace." She is recognized for always being willing to answer questions and offer help with a smile, particularly to our lost visitors. Barbara goes

out of her way to escort our visitors who enter the building via the service elevator to their destination. Barbara has been a valuable asset to MRMC for over 14 years in her role as Administrative Assistant for the Marketing Communications area." Congratulations, Barbara! ■



Barbara Worrell,  
Marketing/  
Communications

## Congratulations



Ed Gullekson, M.D.

**Ed Gullekson, M.D.**, recently retired as Vice President of Medical Affairs at MRMC but he remains active at the Medical Center. He is working three days a week as an independent consultant to MRMC in the areas of Blood Conservation and Coding. Dr. Gullekson continues his work with the Child Evaluation Clinic and remains a member of the medical staff as he moves into a new area of service with McLaren. Dr. Gullekson served as vice president of Medical Affairs at MRMC since 1993 after spending 30 years in private practice as a primary care physician. Dr. Gullekson's connection to McLaren goes back to his childhood. His parents brought him to the grand opening of the new McLaren General Hospital in 1950, and he completed his medical internship at the facility as well. Dr. Gullekson has represented MRMC in several community programs during his tenure and was an integral part in the inception of the Child Evaluation Clinic at MRMC, which provides physical examinations for area children who are suspected victims of sexual abuse. He was recognized earlier this year for his contributions to the enrichment of the Flint-community as a recent recipient of the Clement A. Alfred Humanitarian Award. ■

# Patient Satisfaction Service Excellence Award Winners

At MRMC, we are focused on providing patients with quality medical care combined with excellent customer service. One measure of patient experience is our patient satisfaction survey. All departments at MRMC give these survey results a high priority. Quarterly awards are given to the departments showing the greatest increase in patient satisfaction.



Staff from the Emergency Department were recognized for achieving the biggest increase in patient satisfaction scores over the past year for the second quarter of fiscal year 2008-2009. Pictured l-r are: Don Kooy, President and CEO; Annetta Wilbon, Manager Customer Service, Patient Relations and Pastoral Care; Hollie Green, Assistant Nurse Manager; Jeri Garfield, RN; Tammy Hunt, ER Tech; Jacob Stohon, ER Tech; James Parkin, ER Tech; Courtney Robinson, RN; Sue Wendell, Student Nurse Tech; Rebecca Rogers, RN; and Ken Deighton, Director Behavioral Health Services and past chairman of the Customer Service Council.



Staff from 11 South were recognized for achieving the biggest increase in patient satisfaction scores over the past year for the third quarter of fiscal year 2008-2009. Pictured back row l-r are: Annetta Wilbon, Manager Customer Service, Patient Relations and Pastoral Care; Kate Robertson, Nurse Manager; Sarah Perry, RN; Don Kooy, President and CEO; Ken Deighton, Director Behavioral Services; Sheri Myers, Nursing Director Medical/Surgical. Front row l-r are: Aldina Rhodes, RN; Sateesha Poplar, Monitor Tech; Connie Miller, RN; Regina Childress, Nurse Assistant; and Cynthia Edwards, Nursing Assistant. ■

# Top Honors Awarded to Residents and Faculty

The following residents received awards at the American College of Physicians Michigan Chapter meeting held September 24 - 27 in Traverse City.

## **Rohit Bishnoi, M.D.**

Internal Medicine, PGY -II

Category: Best CQI/EBM Poster

Topic: Improvement in immunization status by the introduction of a screening form.

Contributing authors: Besur S, Bishnoi R, Gupta N, Smith S, Bagadi K, Sud P, Deocampo E, Kakarala R.

## **Kavitha Bagadi, M.D.**

Internal Medicine, III

Category: Third place oral presentation

Topic: A retrospective study evaluating the relationship between admission blood glucose and morbidity and mortality in STEMI in non-diabetic patients.

Contributing authors: Bagadi K, Besur S, Sreedharala V, Chavan S, Gadiraju G, Kakarala R, Hasnie A.

In related news, **Dr. Naveed Klair**, a third year Internal Medicine resident, presented his case report at the American Medical



Rohit Bishnoi, M.D.



Kavitha Bagadi, M.D.



Dr. Naveed Klair

Association-Resident Fellow Section Research Symposium on Nov 6, 2009 in Houston, Texas. Dr. Klair's oral presentation was entitled, "Purulent Pericarditis due to Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Leading to Cardiac Tamponade". Other contributing co-authors on the report are: E. Decampo, K Bagadi, S. Talluri, R. Kakarala, and J. Chambers. This is a significant accomplishment for Dr. Klair and McLaren, since only a few abstracts were selected for this national oral presentation. ■

## Nursing Scholarship Recipients Named

The following MRMC employees were awarded this year's McLaren Nursing Scholarships:

- Tina Stroub, RN, BSN completion
- Nichole Lynch, Lab, Career Ladder
- Christopher Thompson, Dialysis Tech, Career Ladder
- Malinda Currie, RN, Senior Year Scholarship
- Stacy Luttrell, CNA, Senior Year Scholarship
- Annisa Kilbury, Unit Clerk, Senior Year Scholarship
- Audra Whitt, RN, Senior Year Scholarship
- Kyle Krupa, CNA, Senior Year Scholarship
- Susan Wendel, Student Nurse Tech, Senior Year Scholarship

Recipients, Amanda Matvelwicz and Patrick Jeans will join the nursing staff at MRMC upon completion of their nursing program.

- Amanda Matvelwicz, Nursing Student, Senior Year Scholarship
- Patrick Jeans, Nursing Student, Senior Year Scholarship

For more information about McLaren nursing scholarships, contact Yolanda Lemmer at 342-2533 or yolandal@mcclaren.org. ■



Tina Stroub



Nichole Lynch



Christopher Thompson



Malinda Currie



Stacy Luttrell



Annisa Kilbury



Audra Whitt



Kyle Krupa



Susan Wendel



Amanda Matvelwicz



Patrick Jeans

# Patient's Success Demonstrates McLaren's Commitment to become a Certified Center of Excellence for Stroke

Jim Toscano, age 52, of Flint Township, may not fully realize the incredible progress he has made as a stroke survivor but many McLaren clinicians could not be more excited for him. On June 17 of this year, Jim was in the Cardiac Rehab gym getting his routine underway when he felt light-headed and his left leg would not move. Jim was taken to the McLaren Emergency Department where tests confirmed that Jim had suffered a stroke. He was assessed right away to see if he would be a candidate for the drug tPA (tissue Plasminogen Activase) a clot busting medicine.

When it comes to stroke, a Cat Scan is the number one diagnostic tool to identify what type of stroke is occurring as there are two; Hemorrhagic and Ischemic. Only Ischemic can be treated with tPA. Ischemic strokes have a three-hour window from onset of symptoms (time last known well) to be assessed and evaluated for clot busting therapy; tPA to be given.

If the time the patient last known well cannot be confirmed, or if the Cat Scan confirms bleeding in the brain, tPA cannot be administered. Jim suffered an Ischemic Stroke, which means he had a blood clot in his brain, qualifying him as a tPA candidate.

This special drug has been around for many years and is considered "best practice" medicine for Ischemic Strokes across the country. At McLaren there has been a re-emphasis on this treatment option as the Medical Center works toward becoming the only Joint Commission Accredited Center of Excellence for Stroke Care in the region. If the medicine works,



**Pictured l-r are: Stephanie Francart, Occul Therapist; Jim Toscano, Patient; and Kellie Stites, Recr. Therapist. Jim's therapists and wife took him to Applebees to see how he would do outside of the hospital setting. The therapists assessed how well Jim could function compared to the goals set earlier.**



# Summer Fun Leaves Lasting Gifts for GLCI-McLaren

Community Events Assist Cancer Patients



## Jimmy Fields Golf Outing

Friends and family of Jimmy Fields enjoyed a fun day of golf and dinner in his honor at the Jimmy Fields Memorial Golf Outing. Eighty-seven golfers played in the event and 127 people attended the dinner. All proceeds were donated to assist patients at the medical oncology office at GLCI-McLaren. On hand to present the check to Dr. Trevor Singh were (left to right) Ray and Judy Heaton of Clarkston and Judy Fields Piowarczyk of Fenton.



## Riding 4 the Ribbon

The Davison Eagles Riders have once again hosted a big event that benefits breast cancer patients in a big way. Proceeds from the group's annual Ride 4 the Ribbon motorcycle ride are distributed to the local cancer treatment programs and the American Cancer Society. This year the group donated \$4,000 to GLCI-McLaren. The donation is used to help breast cancer patients with extra financial needs they may incur during their treatment such as transportation, nutritional supplements, and medicine. Many cancer patients struggle to make ends meet during their treatment, and GLCI-McLaren is able to help more of these patients as a result of the generous donations from the Davison Eagle Riders. ■

# Community Connection



**Prostate Cancer Screening**

## Prostate Cancer Screening

Free prostate screenings were held at GLCI-McLaren in early September. Over 100 men attended one of the two screenings. On display during the screening was the newest version of the daVinci robotic surgical system. McLaren is the only Flint-area hospital equipped to perform robotic-assisted prostatectomies. The public was given the rare opportunity to experience surgical robotics from the “driver’s seat”. A simulation was set up for people to visualize a robotic-assisted surgery from the surgeons console and remotely maneuver the surgical instruments.



**Baby Shower**

## Women’s Expo 2009

Representatives from the McLaren Bariatric Institute, Surgical Services, the McLaren Imaging Center, Heart and Vascular Services, LDRP, McLaren’s Stroke Program, McLaren’s Women’s Program, McLaren Visiting Nurse and Hospice, and McLaren Medical Group spent time interacting with participants at this annual two-day event. Physician speakers from McLaren included Veena Kalra, M.D., OB/GYN, and Sunita Tummala, M.D., neurologist.

The da Vinci robotic surgical system was on hand on Friday for attendees to “test drive.”

## Spine Express

A free Spine Express program was held for the community in Ballenger Auditorium on September 24. Speakers were neurosurgeons Hugo Lopez, M.D., and Jawad Shah, M.D. They discussed spinal cord stimulators as a pain management option and minimally invasive surgical options for the spine.



## Baby Shower

McLaren was a community partner in the Genesee County Great Start Baby Shower on September 26 at the Great Lakes Technology Center. The Baby Shower served as a way for expectant parents and parents with children under the age of five to learn about free community resources in Genesee County which aids parents in providing a safe and healthy start for their children.

## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

More than 200 MRMC staff members, patients and friends of GLCI-McLaren had a strong presence at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event October 10 by collecting pledges and walking, or manning informational tables. MRMC held a Pink Flower sale on October 7 to raise money for the event. A total of \$1,204.00 was raised from t-shirt and flower sale proceeds.

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# Community Connection

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**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**



**Community Resource Day**

## Breast Screenings

Each year during October, McLaren participates with the Genesee County Cancer Connection, in hosting free breast cancer screenings in the community. The breast screening event held at GLCI-McLaren screened forty women on October 5, representing an increase in participants from last year. Of the 94 people screened community-wide, fifteen had suspicious results from the screening and were recommended for a mammogram. Assistance for those in need of a follow-up mammogram is provided.

## Community Resource Day

McLaren's Case Management Department celebrated Case Management Week by hosting a Community Resource Day that was open to McLaren employees as well as the public. The event took place in the lobby on Monday, October 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Representatives from 15 agencies participated. It is estimated that about 200 people stopped by as well as ABC 12. Informational handouts from some of the agencies were available in the lobby all that week. ■

# Connection

A bimonthly publication for employees and friends of McLaren Regional Medical Center.

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### Mission Statement:

McLaren Health Care, through its  
subsidiaries, will be Michigan's best  
value in healthcare as defined by quality  
outcomes and cost.

**McLAREN**  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
A McCLAREN HEALTH SERVICE

Better doctors. Better care.<sup>sm</sup>  
[mcclarenregional.org](http://mcclarenregional.org)

