Celebrating 18 Years of Service

by Erin Rogers, Marketing Project Manager

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

- Alan Lakein

Since its founding in 1993, the Providence Foundation has been committed to upholding the Daughters of Charity's tradition of healing care, advocacy of the poor and commitment to the community, by raising funds to support the medical services provided by our dedicated physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals. Philanthropy is vital to Providence’s commitment to excellent healthcare, and due to the generous hearts of many donors, the Providence Foundation Board of Trustees has approved 239 spring and fall grants to various departments and divisions throughout the Providence ministry. Over the past 18 years, the total amount of funding through spring and fall grants adds up to over $6 million. Each gift, big or small, can lead to reduced suffering, cured diseases and saved lives. No doubt, the generous hearts of our donors make the grants a reality each and every spring and fall, but the forward thinking of a few leaders who, 18 years ago, developed the Foundation, created a framework to ensure that such generous donations would continue to prosper for years to come.

In the mid 1980s, the Texas economy had experienced a downturn when investments declined and the hospital had to place a freeze on capital spending for medical equipment. The Board of Trustees, including five Daughters of Charity, John Sheehy, Terry Stevens, Dr. Gary Becker and Kent Keahey, discussed the need for vital medical equipment, and board member Terry Stevens recalls a defining moment:

Terry commented, “Wouldn’t it have been nice had someone started a foundation 20 years ago so that we would not have to worry about a capital spending hold caused by the ebb and flow of the current economy!”

John [Sheehy] leaned forward and said, “Terry! Let’s be sure that people don’t say that about us 20 years from now.”

From that moment, an 18 month process began to secure the 501(c)3 nonprofit charter. And in 1993, the Providence Foundation was established, with Terry Stevens as Providence Foundation Board of Trustees Chair.

February is Heart Month!

by Rita Kuehl, RN, Cardiac Care Coordinator

Did you know that every 25 seconds an American has a coronary event and every minute someone dies as a result? In 2010, there were an estimated 785,000 new heart attacks and some 470,000 recurrent heart attacks. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. Created in 1963, “American Heart Month” aims to renew the nation’s commitment to fighting heart disease and increase public awareness of how to prevent cardiovascular illness.

Providence’s commitment to providing comprehensive and reliable care to patients with chest pain was recently recognized. In November 2011, The Society of Chest Pain Centers granted full accreditation to the hospital. Each accredited facility designates a reperfusion strategy to indicate how patients who present with ST-elevation myocardial infarction are treated. Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) is Providence’s reperfusion strategy for patients with this very dangerous type of heart attack. This ensures that patients receive rapid treatment to open a blocked artery as quickly as possible and minimize the risk of death or disability.

A critical part of a successful Chest Pain Program involves educating the public to know the risk factors for heart disease and to recognize the signs and symptoms of heart attack.

SYMPTOMS:
- Chest pain
- Pain in other areas of the upper body (one or both arms, the neck, jaw, back or stomach)
- Shortness of breath, with or without chest pain

RISK FACTORS:
- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Tobacco abuse

Celebrating 18 Years of Service, continued on page 3...

February is Heart Month, continued on page 8...
During this past holiday season, I didn’t have to go far to find glad tidings of comfort and joy! These familiar words, “comfort” and “joy” from “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” seem to encapsulate what we most need during the hustling and bustling of holiday seasons ... with all the family gatherings and yes, even the holiday work schedules in healthcare! As I contemplate the resources a ministry like ours requires ... one that never closes ... one that never rests ... I find a lot of comfort and joy in the people we are privileged to serve with at Providence Healthcare Network! For it’s our people who offer comfort and joy to those most in need of healing!

I was so moved by these lyrics that I did a little online research for myself ... and found that the words were first published back in 1833; however, by that time, these lyrics were already nearly 400 years old and research shows that the author of these lyrics remains unknown today.

The next time you have a minute, take the time to discover your own comfort and joy by clicking on http://www.carols.org.uk/god_rest_ye_merry_gentlemen.htm ... there are seven full stanzas of truths simply waiting to refresh your soul today!

By the time you read this issue of The Spirit of Providence, we will have passed the state inspection for our Women and Newborns Center waiting room, baby express elevator and our continuous-care nursery ... and we will have all heard more echoes of Brahms’ Lullaby in our hallways! As your President and CEO, I am particularly pleased with the completion of this portion of our construction project—and, am very thankful to all who contributed so generously. Construction will continue room by room on 5 North and we anticipate completion this summer!

I’d like to congratulate my good friend, Terry Stevens, on his tenure as our Providence Foundation Board Chair ... you’ll find a complete story on the cover and page 3 of this issue. And I’d also like to recognize our very own, Dr. Falcone, who has been recognized for his excellence in research—read more on page 8.

You’re going to enjoy reminiscing over the holidays with the flip of nearly every page of this issue! You’ll find amazing testimonies of the season as you read about our Toys for Tots ... as you glance through the photographs from our associate Christmas meal ... and as you see pictures of our carolers from our adopted school, Brook Avenue. All of this, and more, will bring you “glad tidings of comfort and joy,” I assure you.

Kent A. Keahey, FACHE
President & CEO
Put on your most fabulous shoes and get ready to have a great time for an even greater cause! The 2012 Providence Champagne Luncheon and Style Show will be held on Friday, February 24 at the Extraco General Exhibits building. Sponsorships are available, and public ticket sales begin February 3. This fundraising event is hosted by the Providence Foundation, whose mission is to raise philanthropic support in order to help advance Providence’s mission to provide quality healthcare services to all Central Texans, with particular attention to the sick, poor and vulnerable. Since the Providence Foundation’s inception in 1993, nearly $20 million has been granted to the Providence Healthcare Network in state-of-the-art equipment, facilities and continuing education funding.

Spring represents renewal... and we have some exciting updates for this year’s show. Many local boutiques are participating, so there will be an incredible variety of looks on the runway. Participating retailers include Ann Taylor Loft, Baby Wait, The Bear Mountain, Chesney’s Boutique, Chicos, Dillard’s, Georgia’s Bridal and Prom, JoS. A. Bank, Plum Boutique, Prefontaine, Rock Bottom Boutique, Roots Boutique and Soma. Stylish scenes will showcase over 100 looks, such as wear-to-work, sport and resort, date night, cocktail, gala and bridal, plus many more!

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m., and we encourage everyone to take advantage of our complimentary valet parking service. Upon entering, you will be treated to a spring bellini reception prior to the delightful champagne luncheon, with on-site boutique shopping and an incredible luxury raffle in the reception area.

The luxury raffle will give everyone, not just event attendees, an opportunity to buy raffle tickets online or at the show for a chance to win luxury items including, but not limited to, a “His and Hers” set of Tag Heuer watches, generously donated by Boozer’s Jewelers and valued at over $4,000! Raffle tickets will be $20 each or 6 for $100 and purchasers can choose what items they want to purchase raffle tickets for in order to increase their odds of winning those items. Providence Volunteer Services will also have an on-site boutique where guests can get their shopping fix by picking up the latest fashion accessories and gifts before the show!

We invite you to support Providence and join over 850 of your favorite fashion devotees at the 2012 Providence Champagne Luncheon and Style Show. For sponsorship, luncheon ticket or raffle ticket information, visit www.providence.net or call the Foundation office at 254.751.4762.

Celebrating 18 Years of Service

Terry had been involved in community service beginning at a young age, and after serving on the Woodway City Council, and as mayor of Woodway, he wanted something different.

“I am always looking for something purposeful, meaningful and successful,” Terry said. “I knew that it was the right fit. I never thought I would want to know, or need to know, as much about the healthcare system as I do now!” Terry said.

He took about a year to make a decision about his next step, and became a member of the Providence Advisory Board. Soon after, President and CEO Kent Keahey asked him to consider being a member of the PHN Board of Trustees as one of the two laymen. After serving on the PHN Board of Trustees for nine years, Terry transitioned to Chairman of the Providence Foundation Board of Trustees, as its first chairman.

Terry’s vision for the Foundation was to establish lasting fundraising efforts to grow the then $1 million corpus to $5 million. The 1990 gala was Providence’s first fundraising event, followed by the annual casino party. Later, the Foundation partnered with Volunteer Services in hosting our annual golf tournament. They studied Seton’s Foundation and learned that engaging young professionals was a model of success for our community. Thus, The Forum, made up of young men and women who donate their time during special events, was established. The Founders Society, made up of individuals who make an annual donation of $1,000 or more, has also been an integral part of the Foundation’s growth. The two groups have grown over the years to 116 and over 160 members, respectively.

Due to the leadership of Chairman of the Providence Foundation Board of Trustees Terry Stevens, the commitment of the entire Foundation Board, the faithfulness of our generous donors, and above all, the favor and grace of our Lord, the Providence Foundation has experienced tremendous success. And now, 20 years later, the question of “what if” can no longer be asked.

“When the economy goes down, we are still able to grant money in a way that will truly make a difference in this hospital and for the patients we serve,” Terry said.

And what a difference the Foundation’s fundraising efforts have made: Including the $6 million in grants, the Foundation has raised nearly $20 million, and funds major capital projects including the establishment of the Providence Park endowment fund, the renovation of our two heart cath labs, the Geriatric Unit at DePaul, the Providence Joint Camp, the Providence Breast Health Center, the F.M. and Gloria Young Tower, and most recently, the Women and Newborns Center—all debt free construction projects made possible by capital reserves and generous donations from our community. This past fall, Terry passed the torch to Scott Felton, our new Chairman of the Providence Foundation Board of Trustees.

“I don’t know of many other things that have been more rewarding. The work we have accomplished over the years, the special friendships I’ve made... are all very meaningful to me,” Terry said.

So after an 18 year tenure, what is his next step? Terry will serve as Chair Emeritus on the Foundation’s Executive Committee. His vast experience and knowledge will be immensely beneficial to the strategic plan and direction of this ministry.

Thank you Terry, for your lasting commitment to Providence!
New Outpatient Infusion Unit

In January, Providence opened an outpatient infusion unit, located on the 3rd floor of the health center. This will allow patients to receive intravenous (IV) treatment, including chemotherapy and IV therapy, on an outpatient basis. The unit is staffed by Andrea Swanson RN, Reba Wise, RN and Kerey Patterson, RN. They are experienced registered nurses who are dedicated to providing quality care with a compassionate touch. They can be reached at 751-4340.

A Year of Giving

Thank you to all of our blood donors who donated blood throughout 2011. Your donations help save the lives of the patients we care for. During 2011, Carter BloodCare collected 283 donations—each donation can help save the lives of 3 adults….that means your donations helped 849 people!

We finished up the year strong during our December blood drive with 36 units collected.

Congratulations to Trent Brown, Business Services, who won the “Touch Someone’s Life—Donate Blood…Donate Blood—Win an iPod Touch!” iPod raffle drawing. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Mark your calendars for our 2012 Blood Drives:

- February 17
- April 18
- June 13
- August 10
- October 12
- December 14

All drives are held from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. in the classrooms across from the InProv Cafe.

If you would like more information about our blood drives, or becoming a blood donor, please contact Erin Rogers: erogers@phn-waco.org

“I’m blessed”

Did you ever notice how “friendly” we are at Providence? I have heard this from many people in the “outside world,” if you will. They say, “there’s just something special about this hospital.” And I think the fact that we greet visitors and each other is part of that.

Now, you and I both know how many times you can say, “Good morning.” “How are you doing?” “Hot enough for you?” “What’s new?” etc. It would make for an interesting study to start at the Plaza Pharmacy one day and walk all the way to the Wellness Center and count how many times one says, “Good morning, how y’all doin’?” I’ll bet it’s a lot!

Some may say that it’s not a good question because the answer is usually, “Fine,” “OK,” “Doin’ great,” or something like that. And if there were something really bad we wouldn’t have time to listen to each one.

Well, true enough, but it is a traditional way of just acknowledging each other’s presence which is worth something in itself.

So what is my point, you may ask—well I’ve been thinking about this because I speak about it to new associates at orientation each Monday as an example of how to live out our core values (all of them!)—just greet people, acknowledge their presence in our facility—they are important to us!

But lately I’ve been touched by an answer I have received from a number of our associates who answer the question, “How are you?” with two powerful words, “I’m blessed.” Isn’t that wonderful? “I’m blessed!” I think that response goes right to the heart of God. I know it goes to my heart and lifts me up.

We are blessed; blessed to be called to minister to the sick here at Providence—we know God is present here, and we are blessed.

So I thank everyone who reminds me of this each day as I greet you. Thank you for making my day!

How are y’all doing?
We are blessed
See you in the halls!

Providence Foundation Forum Christmas Party

by Heather Beck, Providence Foundation Development Officer

Providence Foundation Forum Members gathered together to celebrate the Christmas season on the evening of December 2 at the beautiful home of Foundation Board member Bill Schroeder and his lovely wife, Pat. As always, Forum members enjoyed celebrating with friendship, great food, and of course, “festive” Christmas sweaters!

We had a fine selection of Christmas sweaters to consider during “The Bold and the Beautiful Christmas Sweater” awards. The winners were Mark Felton for boldly wearing a genuinely scratchy, 80s-era ladies Christmas sweater, and Jeff and Jenny Peel, for beautifully coordinating in their velvet elf costumes. We appreciate the winners’ unwavering commitment to outstanding holiday fashion.

We presented our outgoing Forum President, Jim Greenwood, with a special gift to thank him for his service during his two year term. We then welcomed our new Forum President, Ellen Derrick and our new Forum Vice President, James Nelson. We look forward to an incredible two years under their dedicated leadership.

Forum members brought over 50 new toys to the party as donations for Mission Waco’s Christmas Toy Store, which enables struggling parents to purchase new toys for their children at an 80% discount. Thank you Forum, for your generosity and spirit of giving!
The Providence Foundation, the Providence Healthcare Network and their Board of Trustees have developed a special group of dedicated individuals committed to the mission of Providence: “to serve the sick-poor.” The Founders Society is a select group of major benefactors who are devoted to providing gift support for capital, service and training needs throughout the Providence Healthcare Network. Anyone contributing or pledging an annual gift of $1,000 or more automatically becomes a Founders Society member. There are many ways that gifts can be made to Providence. To learn more about the Founders Society or to become a Founders Society member, please call the Providence Foundation at 751-4762 or go online at www.providence.net

The Providence Foundation wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to these current Founders Society members:

- American Classifieds
- AT&T
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ayers
- Mr. & Mrs. Mary Evelyn Ayers
- Mr. & Mrs. M. Brian Ayner
- Mrs. Penny Ayner
- Mr. & Mrs. T. Marc Barrett
- Dr. & Mrs. Ryan Beck
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- Mr. & Mrs. William Schroeder
- Mrs. Jane Scruggs
- Mr. & Mrs. Rocky Sehon
- Mr. John P. Sheehy, Jr.
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- Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Sives, Jr.
- Dr. Harry W. Slade
- Mr. Ed & Dr. Kathleen A. Sorensen
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenny T. Stevens
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry W. Stevens
- Mr. Richard N. Stout
- Judge & Mrs. Ralph T. Strother
- Mr. & Mrs. Jody R. Taylor
- Ms. Patricia Ann Thompson
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Tillery
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- Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Young
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary B. Young
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth J. Young
- Mrs. Sophie J. Young
- Mr. & Mrs. Ben Zilka

The Providence Foundation wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to these current Founders Society members:

- Providence Volunteers Celebrate Christmas with a Festive Party!
Providence Celebrates Christmas with a Stroll and a Holiday Meal!
Texas Healthcare Trustees
Installs 2012 Board of Directors

AUSTIN (Jan. 2, 2012) - Sharon Joseph, a member of the board of the Hill Country Memorial Hospital Foundation in Fredericksburg, has been named chair of Texas Healthcare Trustees, a statewide organization for those serving on the governing boards of hospitals and other health-related organizations in Texas. Her one-year term began Jan. 1.

Randy Clapp, J.D., chairman of the board of El Campo Memorial Hospital, is chair-elect of the group; Levi Davis, a member of the board Methodist Health System in Dallas, has been named treasurer; and Lilia Escadaga, a member of the Northwest Texas Healthcare System board, is secretary. THT’s immediate past chair is Jimmy Wynne, a member of the board Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Kaufman.

District representatives installed to serve two-year terms on the board include Romeo Lopez, chairman of the board of Starr County Memorial Hospital in Rio Grande City, District III; and Ron Wensel, chairman of the board of directors at Hunt Memorial Hospital District in Greenville, District V.

At-large representatives elected to serve new two-year terms on the THT board include George Farris, board member at Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in Houston; Steve Lackey, board member at Bellville General Hospital; Francine Rowe, member of the board of managers for Electra Hospital District; and Kim Wyatt, board member at Navarro Regional Hospital in Corsicana.

District representatives continuing on the board of directors include Steve Odillo, board member of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital Foundation in San Antonio, District VIII; and Kevin Thomas, member of the board of directors at OakBend Medical Center in Richmond, District IV; and Virgil Tremer, member of the Ector County Hospital District board (Medical Center Hospital of Odessa), District II.

Members-at-large continuing on the board include Barry Blackman, board member at Methodist Healthcare System of San Antonio; Bobby Dyess, chairman of the Baylor Medical Center Waxahachie board; and Tracy Yellen, vice chair of the board of managers for University Medical Center of El Paso.

Two hospital executives representing the Texas Hospital Association and the Texas Organization...continued on page 10

...continued from cover

February is Heart Month!

If you suspect a heart attack, don’t delay...call 9-1-1 and seek medical attention immediately.

If you have any of the risk factors or especially if you have more than one, consider talking with your doctor about controlling your risk.

The following behaviors can reduce your risk of developing cardiovascular disease:

• Stop smoking Smoking damages the blood vessels and makes the blood more likely to clot. Ask your doctor for help to QUIT!

• Eat a heart healthy diet Limit foods that are high in fat; especially fried food. Cut back on salt which raises blood pressure and can make you retain fluid. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Choose low fat dairy products.

• Exercise 20-30 minutes of exercise on most days of the week can reduce the risk of a heart attack. Additionally this can also help with losing weight or keeping it off.

• Reduce stress Stress increases work on the heart by raising blood pressure and pulse rate. Avoid stressful situations and ask your doctor if you need help.

For further information contact: Rita Kuehl, RN, BSN, Cardiac Care Coordinator; phone (254)751-4007; email rkuehl@phn-waco.org.

Research Excellence:
Finding Better Outcomes for Patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease

by Erin Rogers, Marketing Project Manager

Peripheral Arterial Disease (P.A.D.), commonly referred to as hardening of the arteries, causes narrowed arteries and reduced blood flow, resulting in pain in the legs, and potentially even stroke or heart attack. There are many different methods to removing plaque and improving blood flow, including medications, balloon angioplasty, stents and plaque removal devices such as The SilverHawk Plaque Excision System. According to Dr. M. Wayne Falcone, there is currently not any comprehensive scientific data that identifies any one procedure more effective than another. The Definitive LE study, sponsored by ev3, is designed to look at the long-term benefit of using the SilverHawk system to minimally invasively cut and remove plaque from the artery, versus other procedures.

“This head-to-head comparison will allow us to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the SilverHawk system, and ultimately find the best outcomes for our patients,” Dr. Falcone, Medical Director of Cardiology and Principal Investigator, said.

The research is a multi-center study including approximately 40 hospitals across the United States and Canada and 800 patients. Dr. Samina Ali and Shannon Cross, RN are important team members and play a key role in driving the study progression. Once the 12 month study comes to a close, the data will be collected from all 40 participating hospitals and submitted for publishing.

Such excellence was recognized by the study sponsor, ev3, who selected Providence for the Definitive LE study for “patient enrollment, follow-up and quality data.” In their December newsletter, the work of Dr. Falcone and the research team was featured in the site spotlight.

In Memoriam of David E. McKee
by Dave Guyer, CFRE, Vice President, Development, Executive Director, Providence Foundation

David E. McKee Sr. passed away suddenly on November 29, in Kingwood, Texas. He was 83 years old. David, a resident of Temple, was a generous and faithful donor to the Providence Foundation since its inception in 1993. He was a Founders Society member all of those years and had made several major gifts in support of Providence, his hospital of choice. Recently, David made a major gift benefitting the Providence Breast Health Center. He did this in honor of his wife Carolyn, who died from breast cancer complications in 2008. They were married for 49 years. David is survived by three children, Bonnie Bouknight, David Jr., and Kevin. He had eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. The Foundation staff will miss “doing lunch” with David at his favorite restaurant, La Fiesta, hearing about his Las Vegas adventures and about his career in the U.S. Coast Guard. Most importantly, we will miss seeing David’s ever smiling face below his U.S. Coast Guard ball cap. He was a man who enjoyed life to the fullest and blessed the lives of many. Memorial gifts may be made in David’s name to the Providence Foundation, 6901 Medical Parkway, Waco, Texas, 76712.
As a member of Ascension Health, we are committed to a high ethical standard of individual conduct, and dedicated to carrying out responsibilities in a manner consistent with the Ascension Health mission, vision and values. In support of these commitments, the Board of Trustees of Ascension Health has established a Corporate Responsibility Program to:

- Promote good corporate citizenship
- Identify high-risk areas
- Prevent and detect ethical violations
- Comply with federal, state and local laws

Standards of Conduct

Six standards have been established to serve as practical extensions of Ascension Health’s mission, vision and values. They more clearly state the expectations for how associates should conduct themselves in order to promote and protect the integrity of Ascension Health. Use the Standards of Conduct to help guide you in your decision making.

Quality of Care — provide competent and compassionate care to the patient with respect, and provide the information needed to make informed decisions.

Laws and Regulations — operate in accordance with all laws and regulations.

Human Resources — cultivate a work environment where associates are highly regarded.

Business and Ethical Practices — conduct business with integrity and in accord with federal and state laws and regulations, and in a manner consistent with our Mission, Vision and Values.

Confidentiality — operate in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA, Title II), and professional guidelines in order to protect the privacy of patients and to maintain the security of their protected health information (PHI).

Conflicts of Interest — act in a manner that is in the best interest of the organization and the patients it serves, without using positions to profit personally or at the expense of the organization.

As responsible associates, it is our right and duty to report any situation we believe may be unethical or may violate laws or the Ascension Health Standards of Conduct.

Values Line: 1-800-707-2198 or online at: www.ascensionhealthvaluesline.org

Your Corporate Responsibility Officer is Karen Richardson, CFO/CRO, can be reached at ext. 4731 or you may call Diana Holub, Director of Corporate Compliance, at 254-751-4771.

Thank you for your continued commitment.

Our Symphony Journey Continues...

As our Symphony Journey Continues and we move towards the Deployment Phase of the Symphony initiative, our Providence team continues to be committed to keeping our Ministry informed of important milestones through regular updates. Good communication is crucial to the success of any major initiative, and Symphony is no exception. We will continue to communicate with you in several ways:

- In our dedicated Symphony Notes section in each issue of The Spirit,
- On our interactive Symphony Notes intranet page on Focus where you have the opportunity to submit and find general questions and answers,
- Provide education through ongoing workshops and trainings,
- The ability to visit www.ascensionhealth.org/asksymphony or 877-636-4788 and finally,
- Your manager, who should be your first source for answers.

Most recent updates:

- The three major payroll changes reported in our last issue were effective January 6, 2012.
  1. Pay funds available on Friday of pay week,
  2. All pay periods will end on two-week intervals every other Saturday and,
  3. Direct deposit required for payroll distribution.
- The two Beta sites - Saint Thomas Health in Nashville, Tennessee and Providence Hospital in Mobile, Alabama went “Go Live” with the Symphony technology and workflow changes on January 1, 2012.
- Our Ministry’s “Go Live” date has been changed from August 2012 to September 2012 to accommodate financial close activities.
- Our Ministry will also “Go Live” with St. Vincent Health in Indianapolis, Indiana and Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital in Binghamton, New York.

Through the end of 2014, 26 Health Ministries will deploy the new Symphony tools and technology. The remaining deployments will be completed in waves of three to six Health Ministries at a time.

As the Symphony Journey Continues...integrating planned changes in to our day to day operations will require time, patience, focus, discipline and rigor from each of us. And as you remember...Mr. Keahey reminded us in his “Go Live” announcement memo last year that “Above all, our Mission remains unchanged. We are committed to Healthcare That Works, Healthcare That is Safe, and Healthcare That Leaves No One Behind, For Life! Our commitment to Symphony will help enable the achievement of these great goals, and will help us sustain and grow our Ministry for years to come.”
Texas Healthcare Trustees Installs 2012 Board of Directors

of Rural & Community Hospitals also serve on the THT board. J. Patrick Murray, FACHE, CEO of Peterson Regional Medical Center in Kerville and a member of the Executive Committee of the THA Board of Trustees, is the THA representative. John Henderson, administrator of Childrens Regional Medical Center and chairman of TORCH, represents that organization on the THT Board. Stacy Cantu, CAE, is president/CEO of Texas Healthcare Trustees.

About Texas Healthcare Trustees

Austin-based Texas Healthcare Trustees is a statewide association whose members serve on the governing boards of Texas hospitals, health systems and health-related organizations. THT provides education, resources and leadership opportunities for its members. Membership includes more than 450 governing boards and represents nearly 4,000 trustees. THT is the oldest trustee organization in the country, founded in 1961, and is affiliated with the Texas Hospital Association.

For more information about THT, visit www.tht.org. or contact: Amy Gayhart at 512/465-1013 agayhart@tha.org

In the Trenches

"Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil for You are at my side..." (Psalm 23:4)

My dad was an infantry officer and part of the “greatest generation” who served in World War II. Do you know what the infantry is? The infantry is the front lines of encounter, the “trench fighters,” so to speak. That’s where much of the action takes place and it is those troops who engage in that action. We are in an era now in which we respect and honor our military personnel and veterans, much like our country did after WWII, and rightfully so. Thank God that many of our service men and women have returned to their families and homes. My dad returned from his tour of duty after WWII, wounded and a hero. He remained disabled for the rest of his life and he remains my hero forever. But that’s another story.

Everyday, chaplains observe frontline troops, all of you, who give it your very best and we compliment you. I would like to recognize some of you in particular. We see frontline encounters as you, the code teams (the infantry), respond to emergency situations in which patients experience physical crises that necessitate CPR or codes such as code STEMI, code SMART and code Blue. Your purpose is to save a life. You do it with precision and professionalism, with a keenness and intensity that is beyond description. Nevertheless, I’ll attempt to describe it. At these ground zero encounters, your objective is to save the life of a human being who you most likely do not know. It’s as pure a mission as I’ve ever seen. You attack the enemy, which is death, regardless of the patient’s gender, age, social status, wealth, religion, ethnicity or any other trait. The patient could have long hair, short hair or no hair; have blue eyes, brown eyes or crossed eyes. It doesn’t matter in the trenches. Your objective is purely to save the person’s life. You are all heroes in my estimation.

As in battle, some of you become wounded. In our profession we call you wounded healers. Fr. Henri Nouwen wrote a marvelous book about “wounded healers.” I recommend that you acquaint yourselves with it, if you so desire. I hold all of Providence in highest esteem but I’ve wanted to write about you, the front liners, the infantry, the trench fighters for some time now and say, “Thank You.” Take care of yourselves and be careful out there.

Congratulations!

Linda Waller, RN, ICU, retired after 39 years of service. Thank you for your years of dedication and compassionate, excellent care you provided to our patients.

It’s a boy! Providence Healthcare Network Welcomed its first baby of the New Year. Alonzo Loera was born at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce. In celebration of his arrival, Sr. Cecile Matushek, Vice President of Mission Affairs, Donna Robinson, Director of the Women and Newborns Center and Brittainy Lee, RN, presented proud mom, Clarissa Martinez, with a gift basket filled with bathing accessories and toys for the new infant. The basket was generously donated by Providence Volunteer Services.

Cute as a pumpkin….sweet as pie! Edith Henderson, Nutritional Services, dressed as pumpkin to promote Togo’s special Thanksgiving cakes and pies.
The Spirit of Providence

This holiday season, our Providence family gave an amazing gift to our Waco community. During the annual Food for Families Food Drive, Providence Healthcare Network collected 8,376 pounds of non-perishable food items. This blew last year’s donation out of the water, as we more than doubled it by over 4,000 pounds! These generous donations help stock the shelves of 10 food pantries throughout McLennan County which provide food to those in need year-round.

During a reception held at the Salvation Army Community Center, Sr. Cecile Matushek was presented an award which recognizes Providence for collecting the most pounds of food within our category.

The spirit of giving continued during our Christmas toy drive benefiting the Mission Waco Toy Store. From stuffed animals and dolls to basketballs and board games, our Providence family donated several hundred items that will benefit the Mission Waco Toy Store. The Mission Waco Toy Store offers struggling parents the opportunity to purchase new toys at an 80% discount. Thanks to our generous donations, hundreds of Waco community families were blessed this year!

Thank you to our environmental services team who worked together to collect all of the food and toy donations from each department, and to our DME team who delivered the food donations to KWTX.

Providence DePaul Center showed Christmas spirit as they gathered toys to donate.

Providence associates donated hundreds of toys for the Mission Waco Toy Store.

Linda Erlandson, Director of Lab, and Ron Kuykendall, Director of Environmental Services

Jack Brinkley (in truck), Gary Jones (left), Rickey Pass helped Sister C gather toys from departments across the network and load them into the truck to be delivered to Mission Waco.

Associates work together to gather food donations.

Michael Houpt, Providence Home Care, Steven Taylor and Charles Harris, Environmental Services, and Davel Leffand, Providence Medical Equipment fill the truck to the brim with food donations.

Providence associates shared Christmas joy with our troops in Afghanistan this holiday season. 78 pounds of goodies, including toiletries, warm socks, blankets, gloves and more, were shipped to the female soldiers of the 236th Engineer Company deployed to Afghanistan.

Thank you to Norma Perkins, Karen Richardson, Sr. C., Karen Faris, Donna Blanket, Sandra Sims, Melinda Maza, Annette Ayers, Debbie Kucera, Medesta Barnett, Edith Henderson, Jennifer Auba and Michael Cohman for your generous donations. And, thank you to Alan Trindel, Kevin Owens, Drew Dickinson, Tommy Sutton, Bud Pink, Mike Gregory, Chuck Doss and Billy Jackson’s Ives Acoustic & Tile Co. for funding the postage of the three large boxes!

Amanda Hance, March of Dimes Division Director, visited our 5th floor team to say a big “Thank You” for their partnership in “working together for stronger, healthier babies.”

Admitting associate, Crissy Soehneman, along with her mother, Rosemarie, and daughter, Kelsey, presented the emergency department team with a beautiful gingerbread house creation—handmade with love.

Our Partners in Education from Brook Avenue Elementary, visited the health center to spread holiday cheer throughout our halls. The carolers for many Providence departments and even got to share their musical talents with our patients in cardiac rehab and cardiology. With 26 students, this was the biggest choir ever. Following the caroling they gathered for a special lunch and Christmas craft.
The Joy of 400 Smiles

by Loraine Ehlinger, PIE Coordinator

In December, Providence made its annual visit to Brook Avenue Elementary with Santa and Mrs. Claus. It was a huge success! Our Education Department and Providence volunteers were honored by the smiles of 400 children as they received their goody bags filled with books and items that were donated by our Providence associates.

The kids squealed with joy as they opened the bags filled with candy canes, candy cane pencils, Christmas pencils, Christmas erasers, coloring books and crayons, stickers and a pair of socks. Thanks Sister C., for the wonderful sock idea!

Now you may ask…did they like their socks? The answer is, ABSOLUTELY! A second grader remarked, “Santa, how did you know I needed socks?”

A very special thanks to our Volunteer Services for their generous donation so that every student received their very own Storybook Christmas book. They loved the books!

Thank you to everyone, for all you do to make Partners in Education such a success.