



“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise, be thankful to Him and bless His name.”

Psalm 100:4



The President's Message

The Critical Difference

I believe in the power of effective communication to further our mission of quality healthcare for all those we serve. The regional marketing for the SAHS was started on 10/25 with the phrase “The Critical Difference”. A very good question for SAMC-Baker City Associates is what does “the critical difference” mean here in our every day lives?



How can we share with our community the definition of “the critical difference” when it hasn’t been defined? My thought is that each Associate is defining the Baker City “critical difference” during each shift. I think our “critical difference” is demonstrated by your caring attitude, your friendly reaching out to those in need and a simple smile to brighten ones day. I am very interested in your thoughts regarding “the Baker City Critical Difference” so please share with me during my walk-about or drop me a note.

Another aspect of effective communication is having a process for the flow of actions and thoughts that is simple, yet involves everyone. The SAMC - Baker City communication

process was initiated during the October Board series. The flow of information will center around the Board meetings. As a team we will prepare for the board meetings, report and share during the Board meetings,

then report the results of the Board meeting during the Department Manager meeting, Managers will then share with their associates and involve associates in the process. Then we will refine our information

and continue the process – this process is really based on the performance improvement process of continual enhancements that have been used in healthcare for the last 25+ years. As we practice this formal process let me know how well it is working and how to improve it, because this is your communication process and your opportunity to enhance the Baker City “Critical Difference”.

Yours for communication clarity,

*Ray Gibbons,
President and CEO*

A Final Farewell

To the Associates of Baker City:
I want to thank each of you for sharing with me so many well-wishes and beautiful cards as I was leaving Baker City. I was so honored by the number of people who stopped by the reception or my office just to say "good-bye". The bracelet I received is gorgeous and will always bring wonderful memories to me of my time in Baker City. You are a strong, living organization with so much love and dedication to the community and to providing quality health care to the area. You have much to be proud of and I wish you all great success. I know that, along with your new partners to the Southeast, you will be building a healthcare system that I will read about in months and years to come. Enjoy the ride and remember to always lift your hands in the air when you think the bottom is falling out - it adds to the excitement and keeps it fun. God bless you all and keep you in His love.

Leanne

Thanksgiving Day!

This year we will again be providing a Thanksgiving meal for those who are scheduled to work on Thanksgiving Day. If you are one of those wonderful people (and we thank you for your willingness to serve on a day when many people are spending time with their families!), come down to the Sunrise Café (aka the cafeteria) between 11:00 and 12:20 and enjoy a wonderful bounty provided by our amazing Dietary department. We also invite you to bring a family member to share a meal with you as a part of our way of showing our gratitude to you and your families for their sacrifice as well.

For those working the night crew—we will put together a meal for you to pick up in your department and eat during your meal break.

Thank you for your contribution—and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Do the Can-Can!

It's been in my thoughts a lot over the past few months. That calculation that shows how many cans of food could be collected in our food bank if each associate could donate one can a month just blows me away! Could we really do it?

We are looking at Thanksgiving in a few weeks, and then it is only a few days / weeks before Christmas hits. There are forecasts of severe weather this winter, and a lot of people will be stretching their pay checks as far as they can. If we could do something to help just a little with a few cans of food, it would make a big difference to them.

So I encourage you to throw an extra can into the shopping cart next time you head to the grocery store. You'll hardly feel it, but it might make all the difference to someone in need.

Thanks!

"We must use time as a tool, not as a couch."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



December Birthdays!

Can you believe that we are already talking about the final birthdays of the year? Please do your part in helping these people celebrate their birthday in a grand and glorious fashion!

Lori S.	December 2	Betty L.	December 17
Carolyn H.	December 3	Anne N.	December 18
Kathie P.	December 4	Deborah I.	December 19
Toni S.	December 5	Sacha P.	December 19
Emma D.	December 8	Kelly K.	December 23
Aldona K.	December 10	Toni J.	December 24
Mandi W.	December 10	Dr. Gary D.	December 24
Dawn M.	December 11	Jesus	December 25
Shannon S.	December 12	Bill M.	December 26
Audrey B.	December 13	Rebecca S.	December 27
Annie T.	December 14	Laurie S.	December 28
Glenna N.	December 14	Kcia F.	December 31
Helen L.	December 15	James C.	December 31



Vision...

One of the most important things that an organization can do is to create and communicate a vision for its future. By definition, a vision statement specifically focuses on what an organization wants to become, what it wants to achieve, and how it will be guided to act in its community.

Saint Alphonsus Health System did not take this task lightly. Using representatives from all four facilities, it asked the hard questions, challenged thoughts, and forged a new vision statement for our system.

...and here it is:

Vision

United by our faith-based mission, Saint Alphonsus Health System will:

- Provide healing and hope, close to home
- Help our local communities grow and thrive
 - Be a trusted partner for life
 - Deliver value in everything we do.

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We're on the Web!

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Bits and Pieces, Odds and Ends

Did you know that Thanksgiving was the first American potluck? And ever since that day churches have carried on the tradition!

Did you know that Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the turkey the symbol of the United States instead of the bald eagle? He felt that the male turkey, when puffed out, was a stately bird. Does that mean if he had gotten his way we might be eating Thanksgiving eagle?

Did you know that on an average Americans spend 9 years watching TV by the time they turn 65? (yes, I realize that I reported that last month, but considering what most of us will be doing on Thanksgiving Day, I thought it was appropriate to share this information again! Maybe it's time to plan to actually go outside and throw that football around!).

Mission Moment

Thanksgiving.

For some it is the one day of the year when they can stuff themselves and then collapse on the couch to watch some great football games. For others it is a day spent cooking and baking and cleaning—and wishing that someone would step into the kitchen for a moment or two to help. And for others it is just another day.

Celebratory days are great because they remind us of how important it is to stop and enjoy the blessings we have. Whether it's a birthday or Christmas or Thanksgiving day, these intentional "pauses" help us to refocus on that really matters. It's a time to realign our lives to what is "true North."

But do we really need to have a day to remind us? Is it possible to cultivate an "attitude of gratitude," or learn to pause in the rush of life? Can we actually have the best of both worlds?

So here's a call out to all of you workaholics—let's intentionally pause and count our blessings. Let's take 10 slow breaths and say a little prayer. Let's remind each other that we do have so much for which to be thankful.

...and enjoy that pumpkin pie!

Jerry Nickell
VP Mission & Human Resources / LID

