



St. Elizabeth Health Services

September 2010

Volume 12, Issue 9

“ACT JUSTLY,  
LOVE MERCY,  
AND WALK  
HUMBLY  
WITH YOUR  
GOD.”

Micah 6:8



### *The President's Message*

I've been busy trying to clean out my office. It's amazing how much “stuff” you can accumulate in a matter of a few short months. Every piece of paper reminds me of an event or experience that is a part of the mosaic of my time here. In many ways I feel like I am traveling back through time.

I was reminded that I have been at St. Elizabeth since November 12, 2008. When I came I didn't know much about St. Elizabeth Health Services and very little about eastern Oregon. As a “stranger” from Kansas I quickly I appreciated how welcoming you all were, and even though I thought I was only going to be here for a few months I knew I was going to enjoy my time.

Looking back, it is mind-boggling how many changes we have weathered together! We started out as a rather independent critical access hospital that was part of the CHI system, and now we are a member of the Trinity Health family and an integral part of our local Saint Alphonbus Health System. Together we went

through the transition with all of its challenges and surprises. Many times it was like a roller coaster ride where you couldn't see what was around the next bend, making it both unnerving and exhilarating! Yet through all of the changes we were optimistic about our future.

I want to thank you all for your dedication to this organization and for the support you have given me over the past 22 months. I will always think warmly of my time here and the many people that I now consider friends.

I encourage you to show Ray Gibbons the same support you provided me as he steps into the role of CEO.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives. You will always be a part of mine.

*Leanne Irsik, Interim CEO*

### *Associate Celebration—September 14*

On September 14, at 7:30 am and 12:00 noon we will be holding Associate Celebrations in Conference Room 15. As part of our Mission Week and our union with the new Saint Alphonbus Health System, all

facilities will be using this week to celebrate our future together. You will have a chance to hear about the new branding initiatives and view a video that demonstrates how we are all one.

Refreshments and recognition gifts will be provided as well. Please see Jerry Nickell if you have any questions.

Thank you for your part in making this mission possible!

## *HIPAA Privacy-Incidental Disclosures and Oral Communications*

Health care providers often need to discuss patient information in places where privacy and confidentiality are difficult to achieve, such as the Emergency Department, Nursing Stations, or a semi-private room. From time to time these discussions may result in an "incidental" disclosure of PHI (protected health information).

The goal of the HIPAA regulations is not to prevent discussions related to treatment, but rather to require that the Ministry Organization- and its associates and workforce members-are doing what is reasonable to protect a patient's PHI. Whenever possible, conversations containing PHI should be avoided in public places

such as hallways, lounges or cafeterias. We should also remember, that if it is necessary to communicate regarding a patient in a public place (such as a hallway or nurses station) that we use our "quiet" voices so that conversations are not heard by others who do not have a "need to know".

Thank you in advance for helping us to demonstrate our value of Respect by keeping our patients' and residents' information safe.



*Jeri VanVickle  
Privacy Officer*

## *Medical Plan Discount Program*

The Mission of Trinity Health calls us to treat body, mind and spirit of those we serve. That includes our associates. In order to increase access to health care and treatment for all, Trinity Health has developed a medical plan discount program.

Here's how it works: Full or part time benefit-eligible associates that are enrolled in a Trinity Health medical plan are eligible if they meet certain household income requirements. A portion of their premium will be paid through this program (25 or 50 percent of the premium cost is covered, depending on the amount of income and the number of covered dependents).

You will find out more information on this plan in October. If you have questions please see Jerry in the OTE/HR department.

## *Organizational Integrity Program*

As part of our transition to Trinity Health we are training all of our associates in the new Organizational Integrity Program (referred to as the "Our Values and Ethics at Work" program with CHI). There is a presentation that we would like all associates to attend, so we have scheduled 9 sessions during the week of September 13 through 17. These sessions will only take approximately 30 minutes, so will be easier for staff to leave their departments and cover their shifts.

The sessions will be held in Conference Room 15 (located in the Care Center / Admin area). The times for the sessions are

listed below for your convenience:

**September 13**  
8:00—8:30 a.m.  
11:00—11:30 a.m.  
3:00—3:30 p.m.

**September 14**  
11:00—11:30 a.m.  
4:00—4:30 p.m.

**September 15**  
2:00—2:30 p.m.

**September 16**  
9:00—9:30 a.m.  
6:00—6:30 p.m.

Please see Jerry if you have any questions.

## *Payment Options*

Since changing our insurance to Aetna, when it comes to our medical costs our associates have noticed an increase in our out-of-pocket expenses. To help us all out, I wanted to make you aware of the options that are available to us now.

First, we have payroll deduction available to all benefited associates. We can set up a payment plan that will be an automatic deduction from payroll every two weeks. The guidelines are a minimum of \$25 monthly payment and accounts need to be paid off in 18 months. This is a less-painful way to address our medical bills.

The second option is our Financial Grant Application. This is an assistance plan for lower to mid income people/families. Applications are available at any registration desk.

Third, if you are 100% uninsured and do not meet the Financial Grant Guidelines there is a Self Pay Discount that is also available.

Be aware that the Financial Grant Application and the Self Pay Discount are available for all of our patients, not just our associates.

Please see any financial representative in either the admitting area or the professional billing office (located in the specialty clinic) with any questions you may have regarding these options or to discuss your accounts.

*Michelle Paoletti*  
*Patient Access Manager*

## *Happy, Happy Birthday!*

It's time to recognize the people that are celebrating their birthdays in October. It's the beginning of a new fiscal quarter, so I would imagine that these people will be expecting presents.... (and maybe some black cats)!

Claurita R.	October 4
Melissa R.	October 8
Brenda C.	October 10
Carl H.	October 11
Dr. Neal J.	October 14
Dr. Barbara T.	October 15
Stephanie P.	October 19
Verlynda H.	October 21
Pamela S.	October 22
Julie I.	October 23
D. J. N.	October 24
Melanie D.	October 27
Gina G.	October 27
C. Suzette P.	October 28
Victoria B.	October 31



## *Benefits Fair Coming to Baker!*

A Benefits Fair is coming to St. Elizabeth Health Services in October! We will have representative from many of our providers to talk to us about our options before we have Open Enrollment, which will give us some time to weigh our options.

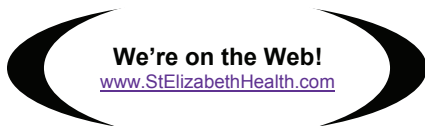
Keep your eyes open for more information via email and flyers!

## St. Elizabeth Health Services

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*“Where Miracles Happen”*



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## *I May Never See Tomorrow*

I may never see tomorrow. There's no written guarantee and things that happened yesterday belong to history. I cannot predict the future, I cannot change the past. I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely, for it soon will pass away, and be lost to me forever as part of yesterday. I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet, be a friend to the friendless and make an empty life complete. The unkind things I do today may never be undone, and friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won. I may not have another chance to be thankful for this day.

*(This reading was taken from the “Reflections” section of the Trinity Health Intranet (Nexus). If you ever have a need to find a reflection for a meeting or just some thoughtful time on your own, take a few minutes and check out this resource. It will be time well spent!)*

## *Mission Moment*

I've been thinking about how one person can have a life-changing effect on another person. I like to refer to it as the “Human Butterfly Effect.”

You remember what the “butterfly effect” is, don't you? It is a theory that says that when a butterfly flaps its wings in South America that the “ripples” can have a universal effect, such as causing a tropical storm in Florida.

I'm not saying that I completely agree with that theory, but I do believe that each person we encounter can potentially have an eternal impact in our lives.

Take a Bible story for example. What if David had missed with his sling shot and Goliath had won that battle? Just a stumble when he released the stone and the story would have been so much different. And think of all of the people that came through the lineage of David

(including Christ). How many lives would have been affected?

The point is—right now you are having an effect on someone. It could be positive or perhaps negative. Think about the power and responsibility that lies within your grasp—in every word you say. It's sobering to say the least.

I guess the reason I am thinking of this today is because someone that has made a positive impact on me is leaving our organization. Through her kind and honest ways she has demonstrated what a true leader should be, and for her example I will be forever grateful.

God bless you, Leanne. And thanks for all your time here with us!

*Jerry Nickell  
VP Mission & Human Resources / LIO*

