Newsbreak
Nov. 23, 2016

To read the complete version of Newsbreak with photos, videos and web links, view this edition at chw.org/Newsbreak.

Key dates
Dec. 15 – Project SEARCH open house
Dec. 16 – Deadline to take Anti-bullying survey
Dec. 31 – “Stress Less” wellness activity deadline

Children's in the news

Children’s programs and experts often are featured in the news. Below is a sampling of recent stories about us.

In the News: Surgeon shares impact of treating gunshot victims
Surgeon Dr. John Densmore discussed what it is like treating child gunshot wound victims and the impact it has on him and his teammates, the victims and their families, and society as a whole. The story is part of “Precious Lives,” a two-year, 100-part series about young people and gun violence in Milwaukee.


Children’s staff, patient families promote Children’s as a cause in Milwaukee, northeast Wisconsin
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin is conducting its annual year-end donations campaign. A variety of executives, doctors and patient families appeared on TV stations in Milwaukee and Green Bay to share their experiences with Children’s and why it’s so important to donate to the hospital as a cause this holiday season.

• Director of Patient Amenities and Family Services Maggie Butterfield appeared Nov. 28, 2016.
• The Maikowski family, who has fostered and adopted, appeared Nov. 29, 2016.
• The Nembhard family, whose son was treated by neurology, appeared Nov. 30, 2016.
• The Rebholz family, who has seen multiple specialists, appeared Dec. 1, 2016.

• Fox Valley Executive Director Deb Franckowiak appeared Nov. 22, 2016.
• Drs. Matt and Becky Buelow appeared Nov. 28, 2016.
• Patient grandmother and fundraiser Amy Madson appeared Nov. 29, 2016.
• The Russom family, whose daughter is treated for spina bifida, appeared Nov. 30, 2016.
• The Van Asten family, whose son was treated by the Fetal Concerns Program and cardiology, appeared Dec. 1, 2016.

**Children's safety program saves $1.6 million, reduces hospital-acquired conditions**

Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin implemented a safety program two years ago that created a 30 percent reduction in overall hospital-acquired conditions and saved the hospital $1.6 million. Holly O’Brien, safety program manager, and Abby Dexter, director of business intelligence and data warehousing, will present on the program in Orlando in February.


**Psychologist develops kids' life skills through ‘Social Fitness Club’**

Dr. John Parkhurst, an adolescent psychologist, created a program called Social Fitness Club that develops teenage boys' life skills in the more natural, realistic setting of a gym opposed to a classroom or therapist's office. The eight-week sessions take place on Monday evenings at the Northside YMCA.


**ER doctor discusses battery safety**

With the holiday season in full swing, batteries are in all sorts of products like toys, decorations and musical greeting cards. Dr. John Cox, an emergency room physician, discussed the dangers of ingesting batteries and how to tell if your child has swallowed one.


**Marcus Theaters screening raises $70,000 for Children’s**

Marcus Theaters used the premiere of Harry Potter prequel “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” to raise money for the Hemma Heart Center at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin on Nov. 16. The event raised more than $70,000, and a matching grant will result in more than $140,000 to support the care the Hemma Heart Center provides.


Related story aired on WITI-TV (FOX 6), Nov. 23, 2016.

**Children's Community Health Plan provides access to quality care**

Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin is selling the Children’s Community Health Plan on the federal marketplace. The plan is based on income, and is available in six southeastern Wisconsin counties.

Story aired on WISN-TV (ABC 12), Nov. 29, 2016.

**Keeping the holidays a safe time for kids**

Jessica St. Onge, community health project coordinator for the Kohl’s Cares Grow Safe & Healthy Program, discussed holiday safety tips, including keeping guests’ purses, coats and suitcases out of reach; actively supervising kids; and cleaning up the leftovers.


**Patient mom grateful for hospital staff on Thanksgiving**

Malisa Mireles’ 10-year-old daughter, Elysia, is currently at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, recovering from her second bone marrow transplant. Despite being at the hospital on Thanksgiving, Mireles said
she and her family have much to be grateful for, including the nurses who danced to Kelly Clarkson’s “Stronger” in order to brighten Elysia’s day.

Story aired on WTMJ-TV (NBC 4), Nov. 23, 2016.

**Children’s celebrates Adoption Month**
Foster parent advocate Paulette Drankiewicz discussed Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin’s efforts to find children loving foster families, as well as how to become a foster parent.

Interview aired on WTMJ-Radio (620 AM), Nov. 27, 2016.

**Lakeshore Weekend was great success for Children’s**
2016 was the last year for Manitowoc’s Lakeshore Weekend, a three-day summer family event that raised money for Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Over the course of 26 years, Lakeshore Weekend raised more than $1.5 million.


**Former patient organizes toy drive**
Since beating cancer in 2014, Vance Wilks is still giving back to Children’s Hospital. For the third year in a row, the 9-year-old boy dropped off a huge donation of toys – nearly a thousand this year – which will be given out to patients staying at the hospital. Not to be outdone, his younger sister also put together hundreds of toiletry kits for parents.

Story aired on WDJT-TV (CBS 58), Nov. 24, 2016.

**Project ADAM initiative leads to AEDs in northern Wisconsin school**
The Manawa School District in Manawa, Wisconsin, received a $3,200 donation to help pay for two new AED defibrillators. Project ADAM was the lead agency in the collaboration between the school district and the donors.


**Music Garden opens in Rhinelander**
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin recently opened a “Music Garden” in Rhinelander that combines music and movement to help with children’s development. Deb Blackstone, prevention manager for Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services, discussed the benefits of the program, including language development.

Story aired on WJFW-TV (NBC 12, Wausau), Nov. 22, 2016.

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**What our families are saying**
See what patients and families are saying about us.

As seen on Bravo! – Reggie Drewek, RN

Appreciation is the glue that holds our organization together. So many of you take time to call out your colleagues through the tools provided on the Bravo! Recognition website to thank them for going above and beyond. Below is a submission from Michelle Ladwig, health unit coordinator, NICU, for Reggie Drewek, RN, NICU.

“Reggie, you stayed late on Thanksgiving to perform a newborn hearing screen so a baby could be discharged home to her parents. You were so selfless by sacrificing your time with your family on this holiday so another family can spend time with their family at home. Thank you for all your hard work!!!”

Learning and growing

Pediatric Grand Rounds

Population Health Management (PHM) – Pediatric roles in team-based care
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9
Briggs and Stratton Auditorium, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Educational objectives:
1. Describe examples of PHM
2. Discuss approaches to PHM
3. Discuss pediatrician’s roles in PHM

Speakers: John Meurer, MD, MBA, professor and director of the Institute for Health Society, Medical College of Wisconsin and Veronica Gunn, MD, MPH, FAAP, assistant clinical professor of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin
Pediatric Grand Rounds will be on hiatus for the holidays – resuming Friday, Jan. 13, 2017.

New job postings

New job postings are current as of Newsbreak’s deadline. For the latest information on these and other job opportunities at Children’s, log in to Employee Self Service on the intranet and click on Apply for Jobs under My Recruitment. Refer external candidates to chw.org/jobs.

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Wellness updates

What motivates you? Take a survey and help us choose giveaways!

To promote the Healthy Rewards program, we ask employees to submit stories and photos about their personal wellness journeys. Those stories are then featured on Children’s Connect.

In addition to the health plan discount or gift card incentives you can earn for participating in Healthy Rewards activities, we offer giveaways/prizes to encourage employees to share their stories with us – and we’d like to know what would best motivate you to do so! Please take a 2-minute survey to help select Healthy Rewards giveaways for 2017.

Enjoy healthy holidays this month!

We’re deep in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, but that doesn’t mean your progress toward weight loss, healthy eating, exercise, and managing stress needs to go out the window. Take a deep breath, be mindful, stay focused on what’s most meaningful, and be good to yourself this holiday season. Log in to chwhealthyrewards.org to learn how to stay on top of your goals this season – and while you’re there, complete this month’s put into practice activity: “Stress Less.” This activity is worth five credits and is only available through the end of December.
Caring for aging loved ones
LifeMatters can help you find resources to assist an aging parent. Call (800) 634-6433 or visit mylifematters.com. Children’s passcode is CHW1.

Mark your calendars to attend the December webinar:

What to Look Out for as Our Loved Ones Age
Those of us who have senior loved ones in our lives want to be sure they’re well-cared for. This webinar will address some of the challenges elders face as they age, and solutions that we, as caregivers, can put into place from near or afar.

Tuesday, Dec. 20
11 - 12 p.m.
2 - 3 p.m.

Register at: mylifematters.com/my/webinars

Note: If you are unable to attend the live presentation you may still register to get a link to the recorded version for viewing on your own time.

Walking meditation
Walking during the workday provides a great opportunity for mindfulness. Rather than allowing thoughts to rush through your mind about whatever challenges you’re facing, focus on your legs, your feet, your breath and the fluidity of motion.

This slows your mind down and allows a meditative state that can benefit your work or relationships when you arrive at your destination.

Portion size matters
This time of year, holiday treats are practically throwing themselves at you. Between family gatherings and coworkers bringing in tempting holiday dishes, you’re surrounded by some of the tastiest and highest-calorie treats of the entire year.

It’s fun and festive to enjoy special treats. Just keep the treats in balance with healthy meal choices built on reasonable portion sizes. Not sure what’s considered a normal portion size? This printable guide will help to keep you on track.

Tip: If you can’t gauge how much you should eat of a certain food, try eating half of what you would normally eat. You’ll cut your calorie consumption in half, but you’ll still enjoy these desirable foods without the guilt. You are also exercising control over what you’re eating. Win-win!

Managing holiday stress
The holidays can be a lot to handle. These tips will help keep the season more manageable.

Students spread the word about health literacy
High quality patient care depends on clear communication. To raise awareness for this issue, undergraduate nursing students from Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee participated in a health literacy poster competition held in conjunction with Health Literacy Month in October.
Working in groups, students were asked to feature concepts or techniques associated with low health literacy. Posters included information on using teach-back, plain language and Ask Me 3 among other critical practices. These types of communication techniques support patient safety and promote the best outcomes for patients and their families. Learn more.

The students created seven infographic-style posters, which were reviewed by the Health Literacy Special Interest Group. Karli Contreras and Kate Maxwell from the W9 clinical group and Lauren Linsmeier, Megan Ackeret, Kaitlin Kristalidis and Rachael Van Keulen from the W7 clinical group were selected as the winners. The winning posters and all submissions were exhibited in the Seven Sisters display in the Corporate Center.

UWM nursing students also had the opportunity to view weekly health-literacy displays at the Milwaukee hospital cafeteria during Health Literacy Month.

These efforts are crucial to make Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin a health-literate organization that makes it easy for people to navigate, understand and use information and services to take care of their health.

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**Surgicenter gives back**

To give back to our community this season, the Surgicenter team donated more than $500 in gift cards. Sue Forester, RN, led the team to organize donations for Townsend Elementary school in the Sherman Park neighborhood. Following the events in the Sherman Park neighborhood earlier this year, Sue felt a strong desire to help this area in particular, where many of our families live. The Surgicenter team responded generously.

The gift cards were for Pick ‘n Save, Target and Walmart. The school will use them to help families as needs arise.

How will your team give back this season? Share your stories with us at Newsbreak@chw.org.

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**Changes coming for remote access to Children’s email and systems**

On Jan. 2, Children’s will begin using 2-factor authentication (2FA), a new process that will add an additional security step for remote access to Children’s systems. Remote access means accessing Children’s systems (via citrix.chw.org, login.chw.org, and Cisco AnyConnect VPN) from **outside the Children’s network**.

Beginning Jan. 30, 2FA will be required when you connect remotely from citrix.chw.org and Cisco AnyConnect VPN. On that date, owamail.chw.org, a remote access point to Children’s Outlook mail, will no longer work for **remote access**. If you use a computer connected to Children’s network (including shared computers), you can continue to use Outlook Web Access mail through owamail.chw.org.

Remote access through login.chw.org will also be retired in 2017 – we will communicate the date once it’s been determined.
Next steps
No action is required of you at this time. This email is to inform you of the coming change so that you are prepared. Watch for details on enrolling in an upcoming Cybersecurity Update email.

For more information about 2FA, visit the Cybersecurity Connect page.

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Patient safety course on Milwaukee campus

Harm during medical care has been identified as the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Matt Scanlon, MD, will lead a six-week course that will cover basics of patient safety and safety science.

The class is available either through the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Graduate School or Clinical Translational Science Institute, if you’re not enrolled in the Graduate School. There is a $100 fee if taken for a certificate. The course is offered free to those who wish to audit. Space is limited.

**Dates:** Wednesdays, Jan. 3 - Feb. 10, 2017

**Time:** 5 - 8 p.m.

**Location:** TBA

Contact Dr. Scanlon to learn more and for information on how to register: mscanlon@chw.org.

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Paulette Drankiewicz, foster parent advocate, wins Standing Ovation award

Standing Ovation awards are given to Children’s employees who exemplify one or all of our values – Purpose, Collaboration, Integrity, Health and Innovation.

Three times a year, nominations are reviewed and a winner is presented at Bridge to Excellence, Peggy Troy, CEO’s leadership meeting. On Nov. 30, Paulette Drankiewicz, foster parent advocate-Community Services, was presented with the Standing Ovation award by Peggy Troy and Sarah Goldman, family case management supervisor, who nominated Paulette for the award.

Below is Paulette’s nomination submitted by Sarah:

Paulette Drankiewicz was hired by Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services in 2011 as the foster parent advocate. She serves as an objective and impartial agency representative to provide assistance and support for foster families and Children’s Community Services staff. Paulette herself was a foster parent with Children’s for ten years and provided a forever family through adoption to eight children.

Our agency values and guiding behaviors describe a Children’s employee with purpose as a ‘steward of the organization for the benefit of children’ as well as someone who ‘strengthens the community through improving the health of our children.’ I nominated Paulette for a Standing Ovation award because she is such a perfect example of what it looks like when our value of Purpose comes to life.
Paulette is a ‘foster parent advocate.’ One would think this role involves serving as a facilitator for our foster parent community – and it does. But Paulette has taken her role much further than that. Paulette is a support to staff, foster parents, biological families, and children – always doing more than could ever be expected of one human being. Let me share a few examples:

In May 2016, Paulette joined a case management team to travel to a different county and work with an outside agency to help salvage a placement for an incredibly complex youth. Paulette did not have to do that. She wanted to. She knew that she could only strengthen our greater community and the life of our client by being an educator and supporter in her liaison role. She took her own time away from her family to spend almost a full day traveling and meeting an outside treatment foster care agency’s foster parent to help benefit this child.

For another family, Paulette helped to exhaust numerous proposed guardians for an 18-year-old client with significant delays and in desperate need of someone who could sign his consents. After the child’s attorney denied all the proposed guardian options, it was then Paulette herself who stepped up to become the guardian of a ‘bouncing’ 18-year-old boy.

Our kid clients know Paulette not by her job title, but as the ‘fairy godmother.’ She has earned this nickname by visiting our little kiddos when they are patients at the hospital, reading them stories and keeping them company. She also earns it from the 17-year-old she invites to Starbucks for some much needed ‘girl time’ and impromptu mentoring.

These are just some ways that Paulette exemplifies the Children’s value of Purpose. She lives our purpose each day for anyone in need. Whether it is supporting a foster parent in the middle of the night, helping in a team meeting to bridge the gaps that exist in our complex system, helping parents of all kinds reach their capacity and yet learn their limits, finding the perfect fit for the perfect kid, or volunteering in the eleventh hour to take on guardianship of a young man in need, Paulette is a steward – always helping children to reach their potential in this complicated world.

Please join me in thanking Paulette and congratulating her on this award.

Photo:
Paulette Drankiewicz (second from right) is presented with the Standing Ovation award by Sarah Goldman, family case management supervisor, Laura Goba, out of home program manager and Peggy Troy, CEO at Bridge to Excellence Nov. 30, 2016.

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**Ani Grafwallner helps keep Core Lab on track**

If you need to be reminded of what Children’s stands for, take a look at the back of Ani Grafwallner’s lab coat, where it’s written in big, bright, red letters. And if you need to be reminded of what matters most, just have a conversation with her and watch her smile grow when she talks about how proud she is to have a job here.
Ani works as a laboratory aide in the Core Lab – a job she takes seriously. She knows that her coworkers depend on her to do good work and that no matter how small an action might be, it can have an impact on the care we provide to children and families.

After completing the Project SEARCH program in June 2016, Ani began her job in the Core Lab. “We actually created a casual position especially for her,” explained Laboratory Manager Karen Kutschenreuter. “Ani really fit in at the Lab during her first rotation and we knew she could do more and really help us.”

The Core Lab was Ani’s first rotation. Her other rotations included Orthopedics and West 5 in the hospital. During her rotations and time with Project SEARCH, Ani learned how to work hard, how to accept feedback, when she should give others space and when to focus on work time.

Her daily tasks include receiving tubes containing specimens from all over the hospital; stocking gloves; washing beakers, cylinders and other lab dishes; preparing microtainer tubes for testing; and prepping the cytofunnel for the lab techs. “Don’t forget checking my email every morning,” Ani adds.

“She completes a lot of prep work for the techs and helps them work more efficiently,” says Karen. “Turn-around time for the lab is always better when she’s here.”

When asked what her favorite part of the day is, Ani initially responded with “keeping an eye on the tubes,” but quickly listed almost all of her other responsibilities. Like every other Children’s employee, Ani is required to complete annual education, training and surveys. With the help of her Project SEARCH career coach, Hannah Morin, Ani makes sure she is a compliant employee. “Hannah helps me make sure I’m doing a good job for the lab and that I am good employee at Children’s,” explains Ani. They work together to complete things like the employee engagement survey and HIPAA training, and to make sure she’s meeting the expectations set for her in the lab.

Ani also had a lot to say when she was asked why she loved working at Children’s. She talked about being At our Best, how much she appreciates our value of Health and wanting to make it a safe place for the kids. She also shared one final thought, and a good piece of advice for all, “be courteous and be nice.”

Project SEARCH is a workforce and career development model for young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. The interns complete three 10-week rotations with different departments and learn competitive, transferable and marketable skills with the ultimate goal of employment.

To learn more about Project SEARCH and to network with our current group of interns, stop by the Annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 15 from 12:30 - 2 p.m.

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**Children’s Hospital receives four BizTimes Health Care Heroes Awards**

Each year, BizTimes Milwaukee gives out Health Care Heroes Awards to salute individuals making a positive difference in the world of health care.

Four recipients of the award this year are from Children’s:
Executive Leadership: Keith Oldham, surgeon in chief

Nursing: Rosemary White-Traut, director of nursing research

Physician: David Margolis, interim section chief for hematology oncology transplant, head of the bone marrow program

Volunteer: Mark Hogan, Children’s Hospital board

“When I think of the vision of Children’s Hospital and all we have accomplished toward that end, I don’t know where we’d be without the invaluable work of those four individuals,” said CEO Peggy Troy. “Keith’s vision, Rosemary’s pursuit of knowledge, David’s devotion to patients and Mark’s strategic guidance. Each and every one of them possesses unparalleled leadership, commitment and passion.”

Read more about the honorees below and congratulate them on this most-deserved honor.

Executive Leadership: Keith Oldham, surgeon in chief

Despite more than 5 million pediatric surgeries each year, up until this past year there was not a simple way for a family to know if a hospital was properly equipped to perform surgery on their child. Thanks to Dr. Keith Oldham, surgeon in chief at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, families now have a national standard they can look to and know their family is in the best possible hands.

Dr. Oldham led a national task force of the American College of Surgeons that created national benchmarks and a process for hospitals to receive designation. Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin was one of the first two in the country to achieve the highest designation, Level I. This means that the hospital can perform all types of procedures on the entire age range from newborns to young adults, including those with the most severe health conditions and birth defects.

Dr. Oldham led this charge because he believes every child in the United States should receive the surgical care they need in an environment that is matched to that individual’s medical, emotional and social needs. Wisconsin residents are fortunate to have a world-class medical center for children because of individuals like Dr. Oldham. We should be equally proud that the success here in Wisconsin contributed to a process that will benefit families across the country.

Nurse: Rosemary White-Traut, director of nursing research

For the last three decades, Rosemary White-Traut, PhD, RN, FAAN, a nurse scientist and director of nursing research at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, has been dedicated to improving care and outcomes for premature babies and newborns. White-Traut has worked on many topics – including pain relief in newborns, infant feeding issues, newborn stressors and the effects of multisensory intervention on babies’ growth. She is currently investigating ways to prevent infections in infants who have surgery.

White-Traut also inspires the spirit of inquiry in others, engaging and mentoring Children’s nurses as they investigate ways to prevent disease and disability, support child development, enhance child and family coping, manage patients’ symptoms and enhance end-of-life care. Children’s robust nursing research program is one of the reasons it has been designated a Magnet facility by the American Credentialing Center for three consecutive four-year terms. This achievement places Children’s in the top echelon of hospitals worldwide. White-Traut’s powerful contributions have elevated nursing practice at Children’s and beyond, empowering nurses to deliver the best and safest pediatric care.
Physician: David Margolis, interim section chief for hematology oncology transplant, head of the bone marrow program, Children's Hospital; professor of pediatrics, associate chair of pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. David Margolis has many titles, but the one that defines him and matters the most to him—after son, brother, husband and dad—is “Doctor.” Dr. Margolis is an unabashed patient advocate, taking on the system when necessary to help his patient. He is fiercely loyal, both to his patients and his fellow caregivers, who hold him in the highest regard. He can speak with the best and brightest in his field anywhere in the country, and he can communicate with a devastated parent whose life was turned over by a diagnosis of cancer.

As a leading bone marrow transplant clinician, Dr. Margolis sees kids who oftentimes have no other alternative. His caring manner assures and reassures kids and parents alike. He deals with the sickest kids and yet manages to bring fun to them in the process. He recently developed a Pokémon game in the hospital to get kids out of their rooms when they could to exercise. He lets the kids color his hair in his beloved Bucks colors when they make the playoffs. The day after the momentous Cubs win, he entered a Cubs’ fan’s room with a W flag and sang “Go Cubs Go” to make good on a bet.

Dr. Margolis is nationally renowned and could be working anywhere, but thankfully his love of family and his commitment to Children’s kept him close. He was trained by great pediatric oncology pioneers and is now a mentor to a new generation of clinicians who share his passion to help children.

Volunteer: Mark Hogan, Children’s Hospital board

For the last 12 years, Mark has been a fixture on the Children’s Hospital board of directors. Always eager to take on new responsibilities, Mark has held various roles on the strategic planning committee, the finance committee and the quality committee. No matter the position, Mark brought the same passion, dedication and relentless pursuit of improvement. He was a respected catalyst for change who is never satisfied with “good enough.”

Mark believes Children’s Hospital is one of our community’s most important assets and that belief is reflected throughout his work. Any major accomplishment the hospital has had over the last decade—the development and implementation of our first formal strategic plan in 2010, our efforts on population health, our “Care Closer to Home” initiative, the introduction of our electric health records system, to name just a few—Mark was there, providing invaluable vision and leadership, always encouraging everyone to think bigger and do better.

Mark has touched the lives of countless Wisconsin families. Thanks in large part to his tireless work, the financial and strategic future of Children’s Hospital is bright and we can be counted on to continue to provide compassionate, expert care to Wisconsin’s kids.

Delafield Clinic continues gingerbread contest tradition

Children’s Delafield Clinic celebrated the season with a tradition they began last year—a gingerbread-building contest among departments within the building.

Congratulations to the following departments who took top honors for their creative confectioneries:
First place: Specialty team
Second place: Physical Therapy team
Third place: Delafield Pediatrics and Audiology

See all the creations here.

How is your department celebrating the season? Share your stories with us at newsbreak@chw.org.

Having a groovy holiday in 1969

Employees laced up their go-go boots and twisted the night away at the Children’s Christmas party on Dec. 4, 1969. This photo captures them showcasing their grooviest moves to the latest tunes — like “Someday We’ll Be Together,” “Build Me Up Buttercup” and “I’ll Never Fall in Love Again.”

There was a lot to celebrate in 1969. Neil Armstrong charted new territory as the first person to set foot on the moon. Flower power ruled as 500,000 people traveled to the Woodstock Festival. The Beatles were creating a revolution. And Children’s celebrated its 75-year anniversary of bringing the best care to Wisconsin kids.

Children’s thinks “inside the box” to keep babies safe

Children’s Community Services is piloting an innovative new program designed to safeguard newborns during sleep. This initiative, called the Newborn Nest, supplies families with a sturdy, cardboard box that complies with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations, to use as a sleep surface for infants up to 4 months of age — along with two fitted sheets, a pacifier, sleep sack and safe-sleep board book. The program was funded by the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Foundation.

Each week, at least one Wisconsin infant dies in an unsafe sleep environment. Children’s hopes to help improve outcomes by promoting safer sleep practices.

“We know that many of the families we serve are at risk for sudden infant death,” said Karen Ordinans, executive director of Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin, a partnership between state government, Children’s and American Family Children’s Hospital. “The Newborn Nest gives families a way to keep their infants safe in real-life circumstances. For example, families may be transient, living in small quarters or taking baby to a caregiver. We give them a portable, firm, flat, dedicated and separate infant sleep space.”

The baby box, designed for use during the first few months of an infant’s life, is space-saving, lightweight, compact and easy to transport to other places—such as a grandparent’s house or childcare environment. Trained home visitors teach families how to use the Newborn Nest, provide instruction on the Sleep Baby Safe curriculum and follow up with families two weeks and two months after they receive the kit.

“The Newborn Nest enables moms and babies to share a room but not a bed. This keeps babies safe while supporting breastfeeding and mother-infant bonding,” said Kristin Kopcha, director of Family
Preservation and Support for Children’s Community Services. “The program also provides unique opportunities for our team to talk to families about safe sleep practices – including the American Academy of Pediatrics ABCs, which call for babies to sleep alone, on the back, in a crib and in a non-smoking environment.”

Community Services has distributed more than a dozen baby boxes to families in home-visiting programs, pregnant moms and moms with babies under 2 months of age. Recently, the program also began serving eligible families with babies discharged from the neonatal intensive care unit, emergency department and other Family Preservation and Support programs.

“Although the baby box hasn’t been studied in the United States, research from other countries has shown promising results,” said Kopcha. “We will be collecting data as an effort to quantify our findings and plan to share our results. Our goal is to make sure everyone has the best information and options available to give every baby the best chance to thrive.”

To learn more or find out how you can access the Newborn Nest, call Karen at 414-337-4561 or Kristin at (414) 231-4823.

Watch our Newborn Nest video.

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**Epic upgrade update from Carl Weigle, MD**

Dear Epic users,

Thank you for your contributions in making our Epic upgrade a success. As part of the change in Epic software, the background themes were also changed. Please know we understand your concerns about the background themes, especially related to the monochromatic look in general, the ability to distinguish between rows and columns in different screens, and how unvalidated/unfiled data appears. Based on the feedback we have received, we wanted to share the following:

- Epic designs the background themes; Children’s has no control over what they look like.

- Children’s experts such as our human factors systems engineer and chief medical information officer (CMIO), examine the choices of background themes sent by Epic in advance of an upgrade, with safety as our number one goal.
  - Considerations include examining each theme for contrast, font size and color blindness; along with other usability principles to select the safest themes to implement at Children’s.

- Our experts share your concerns about the themes that Epic provided to us.

- Our pledge is to collaborate with our Epic partners and other Epic clients to improve future background themes. In fact, Epic will be visiting soon to observe and hear about the background theme issues directly from you!

We appreciate all that you do to provide the best and safest care for our kids, and we will continue to work hard to support you the best we can.

Thank you,
Share your stories

We want to hear from you. Send us your stories.

Email us at newsbreak@chw.org.

Newsbreak is published Thursdays of pay week. Article submissions are due at noon on Tuesdays of the week of publication.

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