Volunteer Nominated for Caregiver of the Year

Edyth Martin’s daughter, Adrienne, was well into her first pregnancy in 1992. What a joyous time for the grandmother to be. Then, tragedy struck. Adrienne was stabbed three times in the back and Edyth’s grandson, Joey, was born with severe disabilities. Joey has Reactive Airways Disease, seizure disorder, cerebral palsy, mental retardation due to perinatal asphyxia, gastroesophageal reflux, obstructive hydrocephalus, scoliosis, hypothyroidism and more. At last count, Joey is taking 17 different medications daily. As caregiver to Joey, it is little wonder that she was recently nominated for the Family Caregiver of the Year award given by CARENET, an organization affiliated with the Rosalynn Carter Institute. Martin was nominated by the MCG School of Nursing Healthy Grandparents Program.

Martin is an active volunteer with the Medical College of Georgia and MCG Health System. She has been a member of the MCG Children’s Medical Center Family Advisory Council for about 11 years and served as the group’s chair for one term. She also has been active in other MCG Children’s Medical Center groups such as OR Buds, LIFE Family and Family Faculty. She also was a volunteer baby rocker and served as a patient advisor to the Customer Service Communications Team.

“We have been patients at the MCG Children’s Medical Center since Joey’s birth. When you spend as much time here as me and my family, you want to make sure that it is as comfortable as possible. That’s why I have been actively involved in all aspects of MCG’s patient-and family-centered care philosophy,” she said. “I just work where I’m needed. I wish I could do more.”

The nine-year-old MCG Healthy Grandparents Program serves families and children in Columbia and Richmond counties. Three years ago, a similar program — the Kinship Care Center — was formed to serve those in Burke, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington and Wilkes counties. Together the two programs provide services to 160 families with 300 children in 14 Georgia counties.

MCG Health System Gets $30,000

Bi-Lo awarded MCG Health System a $30,000 grant to purchase new equipment as part of the Pediatric Hem/Onc Clinic renovation. Each year Bi-Lo holds a Charity Classic Golf Tournament to benefit hunger relief programs, children’s charities and educational organizations in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. The 25th annual tournament awarded more than $102,000 to nine non-profit organizations in the CSRA.
With Thanksgiving behind us, we are well into the holiday season – Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Years. This is a time of great joy, a time of fun, food and fellowship. It is a celebratory, almost magical time of year, and I hope you enjoy it.

During my holiday celebrations, I plan to, as the saying goes, ‘live in the moment’. However, as I enjoy many joyous moments, I’ll also keep an eye on the future. This is the time of year in which I resist the temptation to think about ‘What if?’ and instead focus my attention on asking “What’s next, what opportunities, promises and challenges will the New Year hold for MCG Health, Inc.? I’ll tell you what’s next: even greater achievements than those we accomplished the past calendar year. As the comic strip character Pogo once said, “We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities.” That’s how I feel about our health system and the year ahead... that we have opportunities so plentiful that it will be difficult for us to overcome them.

We have the opportunity to:

• Reach even greater heights in patient care, quality and safety.
• Have all of our units exceed the 60th percentile in patient satisfaction.
• Keep our costs low by avoiding waste and making strategic purchasing decisions.
• Be the outright winner of the NRC’s Hospital of Choice Award (not tied with University Hospital).
• Meet or exceed our financial goals.
• See one of our centers of excellence selected for the “America’s Best Hospitals” list published by U.S. News & World Report.
• Launch Project 2008, which will mean much-needed renovations and expansions to some of our facilities, new high-tech medical equipment, a free-standing outpatient Cancer Center, additional suites for various procedures and surgeries, new environmental enhancements for greater patient comfort and additional IT infrastructure.

In brief, this is my wish list for the coming year. As you can see, I have very high expectations for your performance and what it means to our organization when you give your very best. After all, no one rises to low expectations, as motivational speaker Les Brown says.

So please have safe and happy holidays and return to work in the New Year full of determination to make our organization the best that it can possibly be, if not better.

Sincerely,

Don Snell
President and CEO
Service Anniversaries Celebrated

A luncheon is scheduled to be held at the Alumni Center to celebrate the service anniversaries of 91 employees with a total service record of 755 years.

Five Years
Emily Adams, Emergency Room Observation Unit
Marguerite Barnard, CP Blood Bank
Mildred Bennett, Emergency Room Observation Unit
Johnnie Boatwright, Facilities Operations
Melissa Brown, Trauma Coordination
Ingeborg Buchanan, Cardiology Administration
Isaac Butler, Operating Room
Leonard Canalejo, Pain Management
Barbara Carter, ENT Clinic
Keith Clay, Facility Operations Building Maintenance
Michelle Coleman, Neurology EMG
Gwendolyn Colvin, Emergency Medicine
Dessie Cooper, ACC Sterile Program
Lori Culberson, Diagnostic Radiology
Robyn Cullars, Diagnostic Radiology
Anthony Damm, Radiology Neuro
Rata Dasgupta, HIMS
Golie Davis, III, Application Installation & Support
Evie DeLoach, Recovery Room
Marsha Edwards, Emergency Room Observation Unit
Felicia Ford, Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Zenna Foster, CMC Float Pool
Tammy Foster, Corporate Finance/Accounting
Leslie Gibb, Information Security
Felicia Green, 3 West Neurology
LaWanda Haney, Dining Services
Debra Hartshorn, Kidney Transplant Program
Sam Henry, 7 South
Eva Howard, Environmental Services
Christian Huggins, HIMS
FeNacia Jones, Desk Operations
Deardira Kelly, Operating Room
Charles Kelly, Jr., 4 West Surgery
Thomas Knight, Psychiatry Administration
Sarah Lamb, Emergency Room Observation Unit
Nancy Morris, NICU
Marciette Perdue, SCC Radiology
Dorothy Pilcher, Sports Medicine Clinic
Angeline Pratt, Operating Room Administration
Jennifer Sanders, Respiratory Care
Pamela Saxon, Financial Quality
Berkley Shields, 3 West Neurology
Kay Solomons, Operating Room
Debra Stokes, Shock Trauma
Susan Taylor, Adolescent Clinic
Frankie Thomas, Nursing Administration
Jackie Varnadore, Operating Room
Deborah Watts, Technical Support
Frank Whitfield, 9 North Child Psychiatry
Miriam Williams, Registry Services
Vicky Wingrove, Emergency Medicine
Christopher Wright, Technical Support

Ten Years
Alethia Albright, Facilities Services
James Baggett, Technical Support
Cindy Buxhoeveden, Client Services
Joseph Caldwell, 7 South
Paula Cato, Patient Accounts
Robin Dunn, Compliance Office
Teresa Dye, PICU
Marcus Dye, NICU
Jann Gapuzan, Application Installation & Support
Altermease Godbold, Medicine
Denise Griffis, 7 West Obstetrics
Cherickia Henderson, HIMS
Michelle Newman, HIMS
Tara Pringle, Client Services
Purnima Purohit, HIMS
Julie Sharpton, Pharmacy
Freddie Turner, Environmental Services
Erwin Veale, Pastoral Counseling

Fifteen Years
Ruby Barnes, NICU
Bethany Bissell, 5 South Oncology
Debra Borchelt, Quality Management
Mary Ann Eubanks, CP Blood Bank
Betty Fletcher, 4 West Surgery
Kevin Foutch, Pediatric OR PACU
Gloria Gallop, 3 West Neurology
Darrill Greene, Safety & Security
Denise Harris, Emergency Medicine
Cynthia Howard, Financial Quality
John Johnson, 5 CMC Pediatric Surgery
Veronica Lack, 4 CMC Pediatric Medicine
Carolyn Medina, Financial Counseling Program
Susan Middleton, Recovery Room
Blanche Mitchell, HIMS
Charlotte Nestell, Cancer Clinic
Diana Prope, Environmental Services
Edward Ramsey, Environmental Services
Joel Shaw, Technical Support
Patricia Walker, Financial Counseling Program
Marilyn Yarmon, GRTC
MCG ALS Clinic Receives National Certification

The MCG ALS Clinic recently became the 31st nationally certified ALS practice site in the United States and the only one in Georgia. The certification announcement was made at the ALS Association of Georgia’s 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. Dr. Michael Rivner accepted the award on behalf of clinic faculty and staff. The ALS Association of Georgia also gave him the Collaborative Partner Award for demonstrating great compassion and exceptional commitment to serve those affected by the disease.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis is commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

One of the on-site surveyors from the ALS Association of Georgia commented: “Dr. Rivner and his excellent team are to be commended for establishing a highly effective multidisciplinary clinic for the care of patients with ALS. The clinic staff is obviously experienced and works well together. There was ongoing communication among the different therapists during the course of the clinic. The clinic operations generally flowed smoothly and efficiently.”

The ALS Association of Georgia also held its inaugural patient education symposium the same weekend. Dr. Rivner was on hand to present “Later in the Journey: Future Decision-Making.” He was joined on the program by Charlotte Chatto, PT, and Ben Hertz, OT, who presented “Mobility, Exercises and Activities of Daily Living.” MCG neurologist Dr. Edward Hartmann answered questions during the “ALS 101” audience Q&A.

The MCG ALS Clinic was formed in 2004 through a partnership between the MCG Neuroscience Center and the ALS Association of Georgia and serves patients from Georgia and South Carolina. Because ALS patients lose the use of their muscles, it becomes difficult for them to make multiple trips for several appointments. So, the clinic features a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated approach to patient care in which patients can see their physicians as well as physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, augmentive communication specialists, social workers, dieticians and respiratory therapists on the same day.

Facts About ALS

ALS is a terminal disease that attacks the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord causing muscle weakness and atrophy (loss of muscle) although brain function remains intact.

Lou Gehrig first brought national and international attention to the disease in 1939 when he abruptly retired from baseball after being diagnosed with ALS.

Most commonly, the disease strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time.

Notables with ALS include:

- Hall of Fame pitcher Jim “Catfish” Hunter
- Senator Jacob Javits
- Actor Michael Zaslow
- Actor David Niven
- Creator of Sesame Street Jon Stone
- Television producer Scott Brazil
- Boxing champion Ezzard Charles
- NBA Hall of Fame basketball player George Yardley
- Pro football player Glenn Montgomery
- Golfer Jeff Julian
- Golf caddie Bruce Edwards
- British soccer player Jimmy Johnstone
- Musician Lead Belly (Huddie Ledbetter)
- Photographer Eddie Adams
- Entertainer Dennis Day
- Jazz musician Charles Mingus
- Former U.S. Vice President Henry A. Wallace
- U.S. Army General Maxwell Taylor
- NBA Hall of Fame basketball player George Yardley
Move to Stoney Celebrated

The Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Department recently held an open house to celebrate the department’s move to its new quarters — the former Stoney Nurses Home of the Lamar School of Nursing and most recently the home of the MCG School of Nursing. The event also was a homecoming reunion for a group of nurses with very fond memories of their former dormitory.

The move means greater privacy and comfort for patients. Patient and family advisors were instrumental in creating the enhanced healing environment of the new outpatient facility.

United Way Campaign a Success

MCG Health, Inc.’s United Way campaign raised more than $93,000 at press time. This represents a 9.4 percent increase over last year. Last year’s campaign raised $85,000.

Participation was also up this year by 5 percent over last year. Participation this year was 25 percent. For the first time, the campaign permitted online giving, which represented 13 percent of donations.

Campaign Chair Rumame Samuels, Director of Compensation, said: “I want to thank all of those who gave for their generosity. The United Way of the CSRA has been effective in providing critical human services to those in need in our community.”

Payroll deduction will begin January 2008 for those who selected that option.

Social Workers Seek Donations

The Social Work Department is soliciting donations of toys, winter coats, baby items and stocking stuffers for families in need. Donations will be accepted until December 17. Contact Rolanda Hudson at 706-721-0737, Lara Tucker at 706-721-4725 or Eileen Cranford at 706-721-4724.
We Are Pleased to Welcome Our Newest Team Members

Neva Beatty, Shock Trauma
Sandra Booker, 6 South Telemetry
Angela Borasky, NICU
LaTricia Boseman, Histology
Latonya Bowman, 3 West Neurology
Courtney Brookins, Indigent Care Trust Fund
Demetrice Brooks, Cardiology Practice Site
Catherine Buck, 5 West Medicine
Sheena Carpenter, Adult Hemodynamic Lab
Chinkara Dooley, Desk Operations
Dabney Edson, Pediatric Respiratory Care
Sherrie Fryar, Environmental Services
Luciana Geiselhofer, Operation Services Supplies
Kerry Hill, Environmental Services
Nikia Hill, Orthopaedic Practice Site
Betty Holsonback, Family Medicine
Tiffanie Holloway, Desk Operations
Cheryl Jenkins, 4 South Surgery
Melanie Kent, PICU
Andre’ Lacey, 4 South Surgery
Cherryl Laserna, 6 South Telemetry
Aveldia Mays, 4 South Surgery
Brandi McGowan, Electrophysiology Lab
Janeen Mohr, 4 South Surgery
Tamara Montgomery, CP Blood Bank
Rhonda Norman, 6 South Cardiac Care
Rebecca Okkerse, Adult Hemodynamic Lab
Denise Parrish, Public Relations
Susan Rowland, PICU
Kimberly Simpson, CP Blood Donor Program
Mary Spake, 3 South Adult Psychiatry
Elizabeth Stewart, Applications Installation and Support
Liz’Anne Varnado, Centralized Scheduling
Gloria Warren, Dietary
Trena White, Dietary

YOU ARE INVITED

104.3 WBBQ
and 102.3 The Bull

Care for Kids Radiothon

WHEN:
December 13, 14 and 15
WHERE:
Lobby of the MCG Children’s Medical Center

SPECIAL GUESTS:
Murphy, Sam and Jodi

Volunteer Nominated
continued from page 1

The Healthy Grandparents Program provides these caregivers with the support and services they need to rear their grandchildren to be healthy, well-adjusted, productive citizens. The Kinship Care Center performs a similar service to aunts, uncles and other relatives who are taking care of a family member who is not their child.

Now on Sale

12 Bands of Christmas CD
Ferns and Fossils gift shop
Little Store gift shop
$12 (includes 1 concert ticket)

2008 Holiday Schedule

New Year’s Day
January 1, 2008

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 21, 2008

Memorial Day
May 26, 2008

Independence Day
July 4, 2008

Labor Day
September 1, 2008

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27 and 28, 2008

Christmas Holiday
December 24 and 25, 2008