The 2010 Cares of Kids Radiothon defied conventional wisdom.

“This year’s Radiothon took place during a recession, so while we had high hopes that we would do well, we were mentally prepared to break even. Instead, the generous souls of the CSRA pleasantly surprised us by being incredibly generous despite the financial hardships they and their families might be enduring,” said Catherine Stewart. Children’s Miracle Network Development Coordinator.

This year’s Radiothon raised $216,780, surpassing last year’s total by more than $35,000.

“Although our appreciation goes to those who generously shared their charitable dollars with us, we also want to recognize a number of teams who helped make the Radiothon a success by staffing the phone bank and bringing in those dollars,” Stewart acknowledged.

For the second consecutive year, the “Show Me the Money” award went to the Adult Patient Care Services team for the most overall amount of money raised prior to the Radiothon.

Pediatric and Adult Respiratory Services beat out last year’s champs – the Revenue Cycle team – to win the “Golden Telephone” award. If the phones were not ringing, the Respiratory team got on their cell phones to call and text friends, family and co-workers asking for their pledges. On top of that, Respiratory Services took home the “Spirit” award for the second year. The team wore matching t-shirts and shouted “Ho, Ho, Ho” every time a pledge was made.

“The team had more volunteers than we had phones, so the extras stood behind the phone bank and cheered on the others,” Stewart said.

Radiothon awards presented

Vice President for Adult Patient Care Services Teri Perry holds the “Show Me the Money” award won by her team.

Members of the Adult and Pediatric Respiratory Services teams, led by Jennifer Anderson, celebrate their big dual win – the “Golden Telephone” award and the “Spirit” award.
Sturton wins scholarship

StJohn Sturton, Senior Manager for Materials Management, recently became one of only two in the nation to receive a 2010 Robert “Bob” Majors Scholarship from Novation, the leading supply contracting company for University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) member organizations. The $2,500 scholarship is to be applied toward his continuing materials management education.

Sturton, who joined MCG Health, Inc., in 2007, has more than a decade of experience in materials management and is a Certified Material and Resource Professional. Sturton served as Chief of the Medical Material Management Branch with the U.S. Army’s 10th Division Support Command in Fort Drum, N.Y., and as the Company Commander at Weed Army Community Hospital in Fort Irwin, Calif.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Business Administration degree from Troy University.

Sturton is a member of the Association of Healthcare Resource and Materials Management; UHC Supply Chain and Clinical Resources Council; and the University of South Carolina Alumni Association.

Fundraising recognized by 2010 CASE award

GHSU Advancement and Community Relations recently received the 2010 Circle of Excellence Award for Overall Improvement in Educational Fundraising from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and WealthEngine.

“Successful fundraising is both a science and an art, and it relies on committed leadership, experienced staff, dedicated volunteers and engaged donors,” said Betty Meehan, Interim Vice President for the newly organized Advancement and Community Relations unit at GHSU, which raises funds for the university as well as clinical services. “In this new year, we’re fortunate to continue to benefit from this happy combination. With support from institutional leadership, our new division is poised to achieve ever higher goals. And we look forward to continuing to engage our volunteers and donors in GHSU’s leading edge education, research and clinical care.”

From fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2010, Georgia Health Sciences University saw an eight percent increase in overall giving.

CSRA Heart Walk kicks off

Planning for the 2011 CSRA Heart Walk recently kicked off and teams are starting to form. Have you formed and registered your team yet? To learn more, go to startwalk.csra@heart.org or call 1-888-988-2238.
The second annual “Living with Lupus” Symposium will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Mar. 5, 2011, in the Lee Auditorium. The event, sponsored by MCGHealth and the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, is free. Leading physicians will cover critical topics, including nutrition, symptoms and the impact on kidney and skin health and pregnancy. “There are many misconceptions about lupus,” said Dr. Alyce Oliver, rheumatologist. “It’s not hopeless. There are effective drugs and treatments that can improve a patient’s quality of life.”

The multidisciplinary Lupus Clinic at MCGHealth includes several specialists, and three of them – Dr. Oliver, nephrologist Dr. Michael Madaio and dermatologist Dr. Loretta Davis – will be at the symposium to answer questions from patients and families during a special Q & A session.

For more information or to register, call 770-333-5930 or visit lupusga.org.

The Augusta Lupus Support Group meets monthly at the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library. For more information, please contact Beverly O’Hara at 706-394-6484.

Trover named Supply Chain Director

Clayton Trover, PhD, has been named Director of Supply Chain Management. Before joining MCGHealth, Dr. Trover held progressively responsible positions for the U.S. Navy in San Diego; Deaconess Hospital in Billings, Mont.; Intermountain Health Care in Ogden, Utah; Cardinal Health in San Diego; Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie, Wyo.; Heartland Health in St. Joseph, Mo.; and most recently with the Broadlane Group at South Fulton Memorial Hospital in East Point, Ga.

Dr. Trover received a bachelor’s degree in Health Care Management from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and a master’s degree in Health Administration from Chapman University in Orange, Calif. He received his doctorate degree in Health Administration from Warren National University (formerly Kennedy-Western University).

He holds Certified Administrator Surgery Center credentials and is a member of the Association for Healthcare Resource and Materials Management.

Put your heart and sole into pediatric cardiology

The fifth annual Heart & Sole RunWalk and Evening Event benefitting Camp Strong Heart and pediatric cardiology at the MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center is set for Mar. 5. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the walk/run begins at 9 a.m. at the Children’s Medical Center. The evening event, which takes place at Marbury Center, is from 7 to 11:30 p.m.

The event has raised more than $75,000 for the MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center since 2007.

For more information, go to heartandsoleinc.org.

Symposium sheds light on lupus

The Augusta Lupus Support Group meets monthly at the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library. For more information, please contact Beverly O’Hara at 706-394-6484.
In March, the GHSU Wellness Center offers a $49 introductory package and 10 percent off all other packages. The discount applies only to members; the rate is $79 for non-members.

For further information, call 706-721-6800.

Students show cancer patients they care

Second-grade students at C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School assembled and decorated about 70 Valentine shoeboxes for patients at the MCGHealth Cancer Center.

Open Forum held

Saku Sundaram, PT, DPT, Augusta Multiple Sclerosis Clinic, asks a question about how the future management and organization of the clinical service lines during the recent Open Forum hosted by Dr. Ricardo Azziz. Dr. Azziz answered questions about parking, growth, compliance, global health, attendance policies, the tobacco-free initiative and diversity, among others. To listen to an audio capture of the forum, go to georgiahealth.edu/openforum.

Save the date

The fifth annual Patient Family Centered Care conference is scheduled for Mar. 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Mar. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Lee Auditorium. The agenda will be repeated on the second day to accommodate all schedules.

The conference theme is “Building Bridges in PFCC: Transitions.” The keynote speaker will be Jim Conway, a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Principal of the Governance and Leadership Group at Pascal Metrics.

Conway is an adjunct member of the faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health and a Trustee of Winchester (Massachusetts) Hospital. Previously, he was Executive Vice President and COO of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, after a 27-year career at Children’s Hospital in Boston.

For additional information, contact Family Services Development at 706-721-6838.

Students show cancer patients they care

The students presented the shoeboxes to (left to right) Oncology Nurse Marsha Fox and patients Lillie Tanskley and Michael Wiggins during a special ceremony. Each shoebox contained socks, tissues, lotions, gloves, pens, notepads, crackers and snacks as well as a personal Valentine letter. The boxes were distributed to patients throughout Valentine’s week.

Need a personal trainer?

In March, the GHSU Wellness Center offers a $49 introductory package and 10 percent off all other packages. The discount applies only to members; the rate is $79 for non-members.

For further information, call 706-721-6800.
The Anticoagulation Clinic, MCGHealth’s first hospital-based and Pharmacy-managed clinic, recently celebrated its first anniversary.

The clinic was formed to provide a focused, systematic method of managing patients on blood-thinning medications. “Our staff provides necessary education to help with initial adjustment to these medications and monitors the patients as needed to ensure that they remain within therapeutic ranges to maximize patient safety. The clinic has produced reliable, consistent results and its involvement in these patients’ care frees physicians to perform other duties,” explained Clinical Director Dr. Jaspal Gujral.

“Warfarin is among one of the most challenging high-risk medications to manage,” said Christina DeRemer, Pharm.D., BCPS. “There can be varied responses to complex dosing regimens and difficulty with monitoring patients as the drug itself has multiple interactions with a narrow therapeutic index. That is why we work very closely with physicians to care for patients on these medications.”

Kimble Keller, Pharm. D., BCPS, agreed: “Several studies have documented the benefits of having clinical pharmacists collaborate with physicians to manage this medication. We help provide continuity of care as our anticoagulation patients transition between care settings.”

INR, or International Normalized Ratio, is a test used to determine if the dose of blood-thinning medications is appropriate. The INR test is performed by fingerstick in the clinic. The patients prefer the fingerstick test because it is less painful than the traditional method of drawing blood from the arm, and they get immediate results. Fingerstick testing is optimal for the staff too, because it is efficient and allows changes to be made to dosage regimens at the point of care.

“The response has been outstanding, and our results continue to improve,” added the team’s newest addition, Hazem Elewa, RPh, PhD, BCPS. Of the 593 individual INR tests evaluated in November, 69 percent were in range. In December, 74 percent of 602 individual tests were within target INR range. These results are consistent with nationally published statistics of 65 percent within therapeutic range. The numbers of serious bleeding cases and hospital admissions have reduced significantly.

Happy anniversary, Anticoagulation Clinic! Here’s to many more years of reducing the likelihood of patient harm associated with the use of anticoagulation therapy.
Welcome new team members

Louisa Agosto, Pharmacy
Kathleen Calais, ER Observation Unit
Emily Carter, Emergency Medicine
Gregory Dawkins, Medical Staffing Office
Roleitha Hampton, Environmental Services
Marilyn Henley, Utilization Management
Richard Jones, Application Installation & Support
Joshua Jordan, Dietary
Christina Kaufman, Emergency Medicine
Kimberly Kirkbride, Recovery Room

Carleen Lankford, Environmental Services
Sylvia Lee, 5 South Oncology
Laura Lindsey, 3 North Neuro
Laura Lunsford, Emergency Medicine
Cherdrina McCray, 3 South Adult Psych
Kendra McNeal, 4 Pediatric Medicine
Robert Miller, Environmental Services
Daniel Nimmons, Supply Distribution
Adrian Nobles, Respiratory Care
Gerardo Osorio, 3 West Neurology

Amanda Owens, Patient Accounts
Tavitha Paulk, 5 Pediatric Surgery
Annette Perez, Neonatal ICU
Ruth Quiller, Staff Nurse
Tibias Rhodes, Environmental Services
Annyannah Ross, Environmental Services
Cara Tanner, 6 North Cardio Pulmonary Care
Jessie Turner, Neonatal ICU
Kristen Weidner, Emergency Medicine
Brandon Wiggons, Supply Distribution

Augusta flips for flap-jacks

The annual IHOP National Pancake Day fundraiser to benefit Children’s Miracle Network hospitals, of which the MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center is one, will be held March 1 from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Guests will receive a complimentary short stack of buttermilk pancakes as an incentive to make a monetary donation.

Participating IHOPs are located at 2525 Washington Rd. and 3125 Peach Orchard Road in Augusta; 4361 Washington Rd. in Evans; and 180 Aiken Mall Dr. in Aiken.

Last year, the event raised $3,161.

Last year, Amy Johnson and daughter Molly helped serve pancakes. Molly recently completed her last round of chemo at the Children’s Medical Center.