

**GOOD NEIGHBOR****GOOD NEIGHBOR: JACQUIE OLIVERIUS: John Muir  
Emergency Dept. team wins prestigious award**

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WHEN SOMETHING terrible happens and someone you love is injured, the one thing that you really want to take for granted is that he or she will receive the best medical attention as quickly as possible.

What you might not know is that there is an award for hospital emergency department teams for doing their jobs at a top-notch level, and the John Muir Medical Center (JMMC)-Concord Campus recently scored one of those prestigious awards.

Congratulations to the Concord Emergency Department team on earning a 2006 Emergency Department Team of the Year Award. The honor was given by CEP (California Emergency Physicians) America, the national partnership-practice model of the CEP Medical Group, which operates in California.

"A CEP-staffed site since 2003, the Concord Emergency Department is among CEP's top performing sites," said Barbara Hepner, senior public relations associate. "Along with high marks for patient, nurse and physician satisfaction, the Emergency Department has maintained a superb average time to provider of 35 minutes."

Hepner also said that in relation to patient satisfaction, the Emergency Department team at the Concord campus ranked second in its volume group and ninth out of all CEP-staffed sites.

CEP America is not the only group honoring the team. The Press Ganey patient satisfaction surveys are nationally recognized and used by more than 7,000 health care facilities in the United States.

And the Concord Emergency Department team has a gold star on the surveys.

"The Concord Emergency Department has received high marks," said Hepner. "(It ranked) in the 98th percentile for overall rating of ED care, at the 97th percentile for satisfaction with the ED physicians and at the 91st percentile among their peer group for care by the ED nurses."

Hats off to all of the doctors, nurses and other medical personnel involved with JMMC-Concord Campus' Emergency Department.

Assistance League scholars

Members of Assistance League of Diablo Valley live throughout the county, from Richmond to Antioch, from Martinez to Alamo, and they serve the community through eight philanthropic projects.

One of those is the Scholarship Program, which provides "funding for high school seniors, community college students and Independent Living Skills Program (emancipated youths) participants," said Betty Miller, public relations/ communications chairwoman.

The chapter, which is based in Walnut Creek, presented its 2007 scholarship recipients in May. They cover a wide range of ages and backgrounds but all have the goal of furthering their education.

"(They) included a single mother, a young lady who not merely acculturated in a new world but excelled in it, an immigrant from Taiwan who worked as a summer camp counselor to earn school tuition, an aspiring financial planner who immigrated from Hong Kong, and the list -- of overcoming hardship with determination and a desire to improve the world -- goes on," said Miller.

The scholarship recipients included Traci Bernal, Geraldine Cabero, Anny Chien, Katherine Holding, Van Huynh, Jane Ng, Wai Hang Ng, Thuy Nguyen and Juan Rubio, Miller said.

Presenting the scholarships were chapter president Lesley Salo; vice president/philanthropic projects Joan Siltanen; and scholarships chairwoman Janice Adragna.

In addition to the scholarships, a special award was given to one of the recipients. Mardis Preciado was a longtime member of Assistance League of Diablo Valley, and after Preciado's death last year, the Mardis Preciado Memorial Scholarship was established, and an anonymous donor funded this award. Miller said the memorial award is a multi-year scholarship that provides financial help with tuition, books and supplies.

"This year, Thuy Nguyen, an Independent Living Skills Program participant, received the award," said Miller. "A student at the University of San Francisco, Thuy is a business major with a minor in Asian Studies.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners and to the Assistance League of Diablo Valley for its philanthropic efforts.

Home for stuffed animals

Do you happen to have some large pieces of leftover material from the time you made a blue dress, or a blue comforter, or a blue cape? If you do, the Martinez Women's Club will gladly take the fabric off your hands and turn it into ... a bear!

"Martinez Women's Club supports many good causes, not the least of which is making 'Blue Bears' for distribution to police departments and hospitals," said Pat Chase, publicity coordinator.

"These bears are made by club members to be given to children during times of stress, be it illness or abuse."

The club is asking for donations of any washable blue fabric -- it doesn't matter what shade of blue, just so it's blue -- and large enough to create a bear approximately 12 inches tall. Also needed is polyfill, which is used to stuff them.

"These bears bring comfort to these kids," said Chase.

Also, if you have new or "gently used" stuffed animals that need to find a home, the club members would be happy to arrange an "adoption" with a child.

For more information or a delivery spot, call club president Doris Bonham at 925-228-1959.

Now, if you have leftover fabric but it's not blue, the club members have a place for that, too.

"Other types of fabrics in various cheery prints are used to make pillows for use after breast cancer or heart surgery," Chase said. "These are passed out to patients upon admittance to the hospital, and they take them home."

Jefferson Awards

The Jefferson Awards for Public Service is a national recognition system, honoring community and public service in America and recognizing volunteers.

"Jacqueline Kennedy and Sam Beard founded this award in 1973 to honor adults who give service to the local/national/or global community," said Sister Dorothy Stack, with the Community Service Department at Carondelet High School. "In the past few years, there has been a concerted effort to bring this award to the high school level."

Last year, three Carondelet students received the award. This year, the number of students recognized increased to 11.

The 2007 Jefferson Award Student Service Stars from Carondelet were Ashley Coull, Meagan Cronin, Laura Davidson, Monica Mitra, Ellen Quigley, Morgan Wiley, Sarah Dolphin, Amanda Gilbert, Sarah Forde, Emma Thatcher and Courtney Gegg.

All the recipients, plus a large group of supporters, attended the May 16 baseball game between the Oakland A's and the Kansas City Royals at McAfee Coliseum, and during the game, the Jefferson Awards scholars from all schools were honored.

The Carondelet students were selected from two categories, said Sister Dorothy -- those students who give of themselves in a consistent way behind the scenes to family, church, community and/or school; and those students who choose to create a unique project that responds to the needs of society.

"The students in this (second) category focus their time in a concentrated effort to complete their service project," she said.

Carondelet plans for 2007-08 to identify students at all grade levels who serve in one of these two ways, and honor them monthly.

Congratulations to the 2007 Jefferson Award recipients from Carondelet.

#### Teen representatives

In Pleasant Hill, there are two councils -- the City Council, whose members are elected to represent all of the people, and the Teen Council, whose members volunteer to represent the young people in the community from sixth grade through college.

The Teen Council meets during the school year, from September through May. The Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District board of directors honored the youth board's members for their work during 2006-07.

"The Teen Council includes teen representatives from local middle and high schools, and helps plan activities, classes, dances, sports and trips for youth in grades 6 to college," said Carole Lucido, with the recreation district.

Working with the teens is Katrina Hunn, recreation coordinator/teens and special events, along with Dodie Jones, programs supervisor.

The members of this year's council were Ben Altman, Jordan Baldwin, Danielle Brasher, Nasreen Broomand, Brett Cantrell, Jillian Cary, Christina Dodson, Farrah Hussein, Allison Jones, Taylor Jones, Allison Maeyama, Jenna McBee, Kelly McBee, Julia Meilan, Katy O'Keefe, Anthony Ortolan, Christina Ortolan, Justin Pitcher, Sarah Power, Priscilla Rodriquez, Melissa See and Amanda Spark.

The Teen Council meets from 7 to 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of each month, excluding holidays, in the district board room, 147 Gregory Lane.

If you are in middle or high school and interested in serving on the Pleasant Hill Teen Council, contact Hunn at 925-682-0896 or at [KHunn@pleasanthillrec.com](mailto:KHunn@pleasanthillrec.com).

#### Better late than never

Congratulations to two women -- Dorothy Pinder and Julie Stamm -- and one beautiful dog who ties them together.

Pinder, a Concord resident, is a member of the Contra Costa County Puppy Raising Club, led by Jan Russell, and about a year and a half ago, she became the raiser/trainer for Honda, a lovable yellow Labrador retriever who was approximately 2 months old.

Her job was to socialize Honda by housebreaking him and teaching him all the ways to be a good canine member of the community. Pinder also exposed the puppy to new places and things, and when he was slightly older than a year, Honda was returned to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc. campus in San Rafael for formal guide dog training.

After he successfully finished his training, Honda was matched with Stamm, a blind student at UC Berkeley.

"The new person-dog team completes an intensive in-residence course, culminating with a graduation ceremony at which the (puppy) raiser formally presents the dog to the dog's new partner who is blind," according to Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc.

So, on Feb. 3 in San Rafael, Pinder watched as Honda "graduated" as an official guide dog and she presented him to Stamm.

For more information on the Contra Costa County Puppy Raising Club, visit the Web site at <http://www.cccprc.org>. And for more on Guide Dogs for the Blind, which is celebrating 65 years of creating person-dog partnerships, call 800-295-4050 or visit <http://www.guidedogs.com>.

Items for the column can be e-mailed to [goodneighbor@cctimes.com](mailto:goodneighbor@cctimes.com) or mail to Jacquie Oliverius/Good Neighbor, 2640 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Submissions to the "Good Neighbor" column about upcoming events must be received by noon Wednesday, at least one week prior to the event date. Due to space restrictions, non-timely items may not be immediately published.

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