

## COMMUNITY

Opelousas General Health System is very committed to the partnerships we hold with our community. We are dedicated to the continual reinvestment in not only ours, but the future of this great community in which we reside. Opelousas General provides financial contributions, sponsorships, volunteerism and support to various local charities and non-profit organizations in our community. Since 2006, the OGHS Foundation provided over \$250,000 in scholarships to students who were academically qualified for admittance to an accredited college or vocational school and who were interested in pursuing careers in healthcare. This year marked the first MMRB Scholarships offered by one of our board members, Mr. Pat Morrow. Through his law firm, Morrow, Morrow Ryan and Bassett, he gave four \$2,500 scholarships to students in St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes. He plans to make it an annual event. In addition, the OGHS Foundation's Employee Gifts Committee (Special People In a Caring Environment, SPICE) which consists of OGHS employees, donated to the following organizations: the Autism Society of Acadiana, the Boys & Girls Club of Opelousas, the Cerebral Palsy Clinic, Miles Perret Cancer Services, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and Camp Bon Coeur which is a summer camp for children with heart defects. This year, contributions from S.P.I.C.E. funded digital communication boards throughout both of our campuses to keep our employees and public informed about events and health education. A benevolent fund which provides financial assistance to employees during times of crisis such as a death or personal tragedies is also available through the OGHS Foundation, and funded by the S.P.I.C.E. Committee. This year marks the beginning of our three-year campaign.

Annually, OGHS celebrates hospital week by providing free screenings and health information to our community. Screenings for cholesterol, diabetes, hypertension, sleep disorders, hearing, pulmonary function and many more are given. The Annual Life4Life Health Fair is held at our South Campus location in April. In October, OGHS celebrated "Paint the Town Pink" which is a fundraising and educational campaign for breast cancer awareness. We raised \$50,000 through sponsorships and t-shirt sales to be used to provide education on breast cancer awareness and to assist underprivileged women and men in St. Landry Parish to receive free mammograms. The Surgical Services Department donated two Thanksgiving baskets and two Christmas baskets to the needy in our community. Opelousas General Health System offers "Sudden Impact" classes in conjunction with the Louisiana State Troopers to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is designed to teach the dangers of impaired and distracted driving. We also offer a free pre-natal class series every other month for 3 Wednesdays. The series covers delivery, breastfeeding and infant care, as well as a tour of the Labor and Delivery Unit. Partners and support persons are encouraged to attend with the moms. 2014 marked the second annual "Community Baby Shower", in conjunction with "National Breastfeeding Month," which was an event to educate new mothers about breastfeeding and infant care. We continue to televise a commercial to encourage and promote the practice of "Skin to Skin" with mother and baby immediately following birth to our

community. In February, during National Heart Month, OGHS co-sponsored a smoking cessation educational event with the cardiology group, C.I.S.

Health information is also provided to the seniors of our community through the Life's Champions program. This group, which usually numbers 150, meets every three months at OGHS for a luncheon. A casual meeting is held and one of our physicians on staff is invited to be the guest speaker. He/she delivers educational information about a health topic. A quarterly Life's Champions Newsletter is also mailed to approximately 1500 recipients advertising upcoming events, volunteer and educational opportunities. OGHS also offers volunteer opportunities to members of our community. They are able to gain new skills, social networking and explore various volunteer opportunities. Opelousas General Health System participates yearly in the Sheriff's Office Elderly Protection program, called TRIAD and in the Elderly Awareness Program sponsored by the police department. This year, OGHS was invited to participate in another elderly program in Port Barre. Our Education Department offers a "Safe Sitter" course in June for young teens interested in becoming baby sitters. CPR classes are also offered through our Education Department. Opelousas General Health System serves as the meeting site for a support group for co-dependent and recovering chemically dependent individuals facilitated by Margie Quebedeaux, LPN and employee.

OGHS participates in the St. Landry Immunization Coalition for Kids monthly which provides free immunizations for children. We host students from St. Landry Parish high schools every summer during the "AHEC of a Summer" program. The students visit the hospital, rotate through various departments and listen to guest speakers who have careers in health care. This program counts as a ½ credit toward their high school curriculum. The program is for students who are interested in healthcare. We believe that it is a great way of recruiting future employees who are interested in the medical field. November marked our eighth anniversary of "World COPD Day", an event that offers education and awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to members of our community. In conjunction with St. Landry Homecare, our joint venture, we provide community education events within the community covering various health topics. In March, OGHS participated in "Read Across America," an event put on by the local school board to promote literacy.

Opelousas General Health System also provides a student work program for local high school and college students. We employ these students for a six-week period during June and July. Approximately 50 students earn minimum wage on a part-time basis working 32 hours a week. During their employment, they are required to attend a one-hour mandatory career education class each week, which educates them on the various career opportunities available in a hospital. We also provide a summer camp alternative to children who suffer from asthma. "Camp Azzie" provides recreation and education on asthma and this June will mark 30 years of service. Through our Wellness Works department, 24 hour assistance with scheduling of medical services is provided to the businesses who are members. Health screenings and education is also provided to these businesses upon request.

In April, OGHS in conjunction with the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency held a ceremony and raised the LOPA flag during National Organ Procurement Month.

In May, the Louisiana Hospital Association recognized two OGHS employees who placed in the state's Geaux Lite Weight Loss program.

Dr. Hunt deBlanc was elected as Chief of Staff by the active physicians on staff. He will hold this position for two years, expiring in September, 2016.

Dr. Jamie Collins, Family Practice physician and Dr. Geneva LeJeune, Pediatrician, were both welcomed to the staff of OGHS in 2014.

OGHS was awarded the "Path to Excellence" award by National Research Corporation for improving the patient experience in September. Also in September, the Cardiovascular/Pulmonary Rehabilitation program was recertified by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR).

March of Dimes and the Louisiana Hospital Association recognized OGHS for giving more babies a healthy start by eliminating non-medically indicated elective deliveries in October.

Opelousas General Health System keeps reinvesting in our community and takes great pride in the associations and relationships we hold. We are privileged to be involved with the community that we serve.