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extra

News for Owensboro Medical Health System Employees



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Working to educate the public is the right thing to do.”

Dr. Jeff Barber
on Community Health Needs Assessment website

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Food drive helping residents feed their families during the holidays



The shelves in the Help Office food pantry. Sharon Sharp, the office's executive director says food donated now will be gone by the first few weeks in January.

Drive continues through December 16th; look for donation boxes in your area.

A slow economy hasn't just impacted individuals and businesses in the United States; it has also hit those organizations which offer assistance to those in need. In Owensboro the Help Office has felt the strain seeing fewer food donations and a thinning volunteer base but still a higher demand for assistance.

“We aren't just helping the same people every week and every month,” according to Sharon Sharp, executive director of the Help Office of Owensboro. “Food stamps aren't going as far and we're seeing new families, new people who hadn't previously come to us for help but now have no place else to turn.”

OMHS employees are helping to keep the shelves at the Help Office filled and food on the tables of those who need that assistance most. The drive started in mid November and runs until Friday December 16th and already employees are helping fill trucks with food and other necessities like cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

“The hospital is a place people go for help,” Sharp said. “When OMHS called and told me we had been selected as the recipient for this year's food drive, I cried.”

From the beginning of January through the end of September, this year, the Help Office had provided approximately 75,000 meals and they expect that number to go over 100,000 before year's end. When a family comes in needing assistance, the charity provides enough food for three meals a day for every member of the family for a week. Sharp explains that can add up fast if they see between 10 and 15 families a day.

She explains that the food donations received around the holidays are usually gone by the second or third week in January. That's why the hospital's support will make such a gigantic impact according to Sharp.

“The holiday season is typically a busy season,” she said. “That's a time for family and I can't imagine a Thanksgiving or Christmas without having food.”

(Continued on back page)

Dec. 5, 2011

Upcoming events at OMHS:

Now – Dec. 16th

Holiday Food Drive

OMHS is partnering with the Help Office of Owensboro to provide food and other essential items for people in need this holiday season. Please bring your items and place them at the collection drop point for your unit or department. The items will be collected on a weekly basis to be delivered to the Help Office. To see a list of needed items look on the back page of this week's Extra.

December 8th

Lights for Life Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Lights for Life Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Thursday, December 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the OMHS Conference Center.

The event will feature a concert by the OMHS Choir, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and the first official lighting of the Lights for Life Tree. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be making an appearance. If you have questions you can contact Lauren Osowicz at 688-2350.

December 13th

Business Center Soup Day

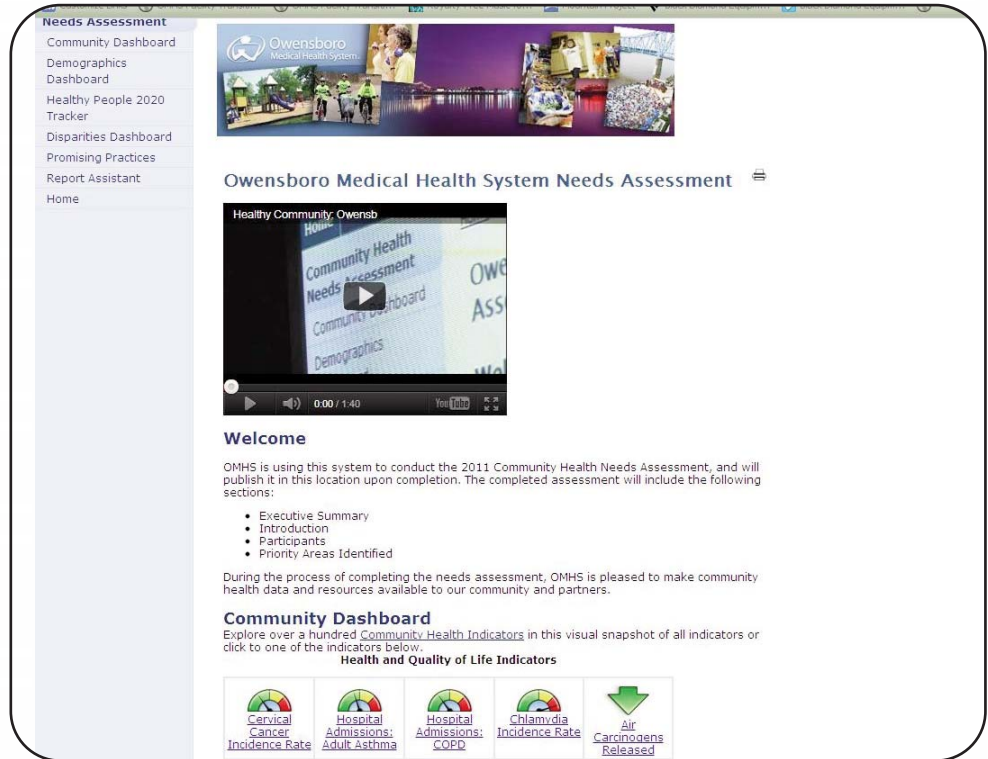
Business Center departments are invited to participate in a soup day. Bring 1 or 2 crock pots or stock pots of a favorite soup; smaller departments could opt for purchasing and donating crackers and plastic bowls. You may purchase a bowl of soup and crackers for \$2.00. All proceeds will go toward purchasing toiletries and food items for the annual Holiday Food Drive.

December 18th

Winter Wonderland

OMHS, Morrison and valet employees, as well as volunteers and physicians, are invited to Winter Wonderland on December 18th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. There will be skating, crafts and food at the event.

Community health needs assessment website now live



The public is encouraged to look at the health and wellness of our community by visiting the Community Assessment website at www.omhs.org/healthassessment

OMHS and the Green River Area Health Department partnered to create this website and educate the community about our health issues.

OMHS President and CEO, Dr. Jeff Barber as well as representatives from the Green River District Health Department spoke at a press conference on Tuesday November 29th. The purpose of the meeting was to unveil a new website that will give people the chance to take a look at the health of Owensboro and Daviess County.



Dr. Barber talks about the new website and how it can benefit local agencies.

“Working to educate the public is the right thing to do,” said Dr. Barber at the announcement. “What we want to do is put into place systems that address the glaring health needs in our

community. We want to collaborate with our community.”

The ‘Community Health Needs Assessment’ website has a number of different tools to show visitors how Daviess County is doing in certain

areas such as access to healthcare, nutrition and health conditions. According to Steve Johnson, executive director of Governmental, Community and Legislative Affairs this site will help OMHS and the health department gauge the areas we need to focus on to improve the health of our community.

Part of healthcare reform requires OMHS to do a needs assessment every three years.

You can visit the website by going to www.omhs.org/healthassessment.



Ham or Turkey?



Ham or Turkey? That was the question employees heard as they lined up outside the Materials Management entrance to OMHS in mid November. Chief Operating Officer, Greg Strahan hands a ham to an employee as they drive up.

OMHS Home Care passes survey

At the beginning of November, OMHS' Home Care team successfully completed the state Licensure and Regulation survey. The surveyor was very complimentary of the staff's overall knowledge and with the care staff provided during the eight home visits the surveyor observed.

"I want to recognize the work of Clinical Supervisor, Janet Phelps and Performance Improvement Nurse, Jane Hughes as they did an outstanding job of coordinating the survey in the absence of a Home Care Manager," said Joy Everly, director of extended care services.

"It does not surprise me that the survey went well and that you were all commended for the quality you provide and the knowledge you have," said Greg Strahan, chief operating officer. "Excellent job to all."

OMHS will accept Medicaid patients from two MCO's

Medicaid patients have until January 31st, 2012 to change their Managed Care Organization (MCO).

On November 1st, 2011 Kentucky began the process of transitioning to a new system of managed care for Medicaid patients. Now Medicaid, in Kentucky, is being managed by a Managed Care Organization or MCO. OMHS has contracts with two MCO's – WellCare of Kentucky and CoventryCares of Kentucky.

These plans will be accepted by the hospital and at all OMHS facilities for all services, including clinics and physician practices operated by OMHS Cooperative Health Services. As always OMHS is committed to quality healthcare to all of its patients and we understand how important Medicaid is to the people who use it. OMHS will continue to provide emergency services to all patients regardless of insurance and ability to pay, in accordance with federal law.

If patients have questions or want to change their plan you can direct them to contact the Kentucky Medicaid Services Hotline at 1-855-446-1245. That hotline is available weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The deadline for Medicaid patients to sign up for an MCO is January 31st, 2012.

Healthy lifestyles



We are currently in the fourth quarter of this year's HIP program which ends December 16th.

A new year of HIP will begin soon and this year employees will not need to sign up for the HIP program during open enrollment. However, starting in January, make sure you go into Lawson and sign up for a screening session. ALL employees are eligible for HIP this year. Employees can begin to register for next year's health screening the last week in December. Like in years past, spouses still need to contact Nancy Velotta at 688-4881 to sign up for a screening date and time for the program.

Smoking Cessation programs available:

With OMHS going smoke-free January 1, 2012 several opportunities will be offered to help employees kick the habit. Opportunities are as follows:

Wednesday, December 7th
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

MultiCare Madisonville – Conference Room

*These do not count for HIP credit.

Updates on...

The New OMHS Hospital

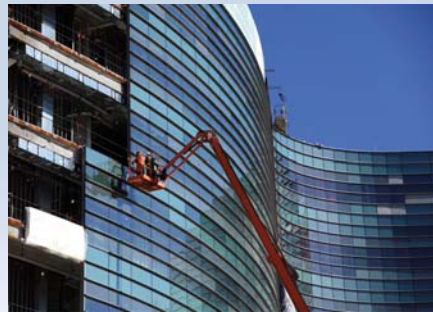
The New Home for Quality Care



Visit www.omhs.org and view the live webcam to follow the construction progress on the new hospital.



The wood paneling has been installed and the new women's courtyard is taking shape at the new hospital site on Pleasant Valley Road.



Crews continue work to put up the glass exterior on the building.



Progress continues and soon construction will get underway on the new medical office building which will be attached to this end of the patient bed tower.

From front: Food drive

The Help Office also does a lot to help people who are unemployed by helping those people find employment but Sharp says even that's been tough and they haven't been getting many calls from the employment agencies.

"I just think that people are really feeling the pain," said Sharp. "Somebody [OMHS] knowing this little charity mattered was so important."

In Madisonville, MultiCare is coordinating their food drive to benefit the Christian Food Bank of Hopkins County.

Some of the items needed for both locations include peanut butter, dry cereal, dry milk, canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, pasta, oatmeal, and cleaning supplies such as dish soap, sponges, fabric softener, laundry detergent, and all purpose cleaners. Toiletry items are also needed including diapers, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, baby wipes, dental floss and mouthwash.



The Help Office in Owensboro, located on Fourth Street, sees a number of people every day in need of assistance with food and paying bills.

If you have questions about what items are needed or where you can donate items contact your department representative or Debbie Zurner Johnson at 691-8270 or email her at

debbie.johnson@omhs.org. You can call Materials Management at 688-2820 if you have full boxes that need to be picked up.