



**TOP 5%
IN THE NATION
FOR QUALITY**

by **HEALTHGRADES®**
GUIDING AMERICA TO BETTER HEALTHCARE®
2009 & 2010 Distinguished Hospital
Awards for Clinical Excellence.™

extra

news for Owensboro Medical Health System employees

**1 of
ONLY 16**

IN THE NATION

Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence.™ 2009/2010
Patient Safety Excellence.™ 2010
Outstanding Patient Experience.™ 2010

WHAT'S INSIDE

Employees watch the
'Topping Out' live online
p.2

See pictures from the
'Topping Out' ceremony
p.3

Meet the candy man!
p.4



**Owensboro
Medical Health System**

March 3, 2011

Volume 2, Edition 7

**"We're approximately a year
into our journey. It has been
a good year."**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Merrill Bowers
Project Manager with
Turner Construction

Highest piece of steel placed on new hospital



Steel workers become part of history as they pose for a photograph in front of the highest beam to be placed in the new hospital.

The 'Topping Out' ceremony celebrated the hard work of the construction crew

Nearly 11 months after beginning excavation for its new 447-bed hospital, OMHS celebrated placing the highest piece of steel on the new hospital with a topping out ceremony. Merrill Bowers, project manager with Turner Construction talked about the project at Friday's ceremony.

"We're approximately a year into our journey," said Bowers. "It has been a good year."

Construction workers were on hand for the ceremony and approximately 250 OMHS employees and community members watched the 'Topping Out' ceremony live on OMHS.org. Several people spoke at the event including Bowers, OMHS' President and CEO, Dr. Jeff Barber, Frank Parker, the senior project superintendent from Turner, and Tom Broad from Midwest Steel.

"It was a great event," said Barber. "It's so important that we recognize those individuals who are working so hard everyday building the new home for quality care in our community."

"Any project of this size requires a huge amount of courage and commitment," Bowers said during his speech. "Not only from the folks tightening nuts and putting up steel, but for the folks who have made it a reality to start with."

The piece of steel placed during Friday's ceremony sits on about 4,000 tons of steel that has been erected over the past five months. Already work is being done preparing the building for roofing and walls according to Parker.

"This project will provide a magnificent facility with decades of healthcare to this community," he said.

(Continued on back page)

TOP 5% in the Nation for C



Upcoming Events at OMHS

Friday, March 4th

Dress in Blue Day

Support awareness for colon cancer by wearing something blue on Friday March 4th. Colon cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. Approximately 150,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colon cancer this year according to the Colon Cancer Alliance. Show your support by wearing blue.

Wednesday, March 9

Ash Wednesday Services

HealthPark Chapel - 10:00 a.m.
Parrish Campus Chapel - 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Cancer Center Chapel - 12:00 p.m.

March 8th – 10th

Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

This three day workshop provides the foundation to strengthen the human side of performance at the personal, managerial and organizational levels. To register for this class log into Lawson and go to the courses section.

March 22nd – 23rd

Seven Habits for Managers

This workshop provides specific applications for managers and includes many management tools and job aids to increase your productivity and performance. This course helps you put into practice what you learned in Seven Habits for Highly Effective People.

Do you have an OMHS related event you'd like to share in Extra? Send it to speck@omhs.org and we'll include it in the 'Upcoming Events' section!



One of the last pieces of steel made a stop at March's management meeting. Managers and directors took the opportunity to sign their name to the beam which will be put into place during the 'Last Piece of Steel' celebration on April 16th.

Be sure to sign...

Schedule of the final pieces of steel:

Beam "A"

March 2-4 Physician Lounge
March 4-11 Conference Center
March 14 – April 11 On display in Cafeteria

Beam "B"

March 3 Business Center
March 4 – 7 HealthPark
March 8 – 11 MultiCare Madisonville
March 11 MultiCare Ohio Co.
March 14 – April 11 On display in HealthPark Lobby



Employees at the OMHS Business Center watch Dr. Barber as he speaks during the 'Topping Out' ceremony last Friday at the new hospital site. Approximately 250 people tuned in via OMHS.org to watch the ceremony LIVE.



Construction workers and iron workers listen to speakers at last Friday's Topping Out ceremony.



The highest piece of steel was raised into place on Friday, February 25th. The beam was placed on the top floor of the structure, which sits 150 feet above the ground.



HIP!
Health
Improvement
Program

Health Improvement Plan

Sign up for a HIP screening now by going into Lawson.

New Information!

HIP participants can now go into Lawson and sign-up for a second quarter coaching session.

In addition to the first quarter screening, HIP participants need to complete the online Health Risk Assessment questionnaire.

Employees not covered by OMHS' insurance plan can now access the Health Risk Assessment questionnaire online.

All screenings will be held in the Ford Medical Office Building suite 201 during March. All participants will need to fast 10 to 12 hours before their screening.

If you have questions you can contact Nancy Velotta at 688-4881.

'Power Up Kidz' program receives grant

The Foundation For Health received a \$10,000 grant from the Green River Community Foundation that will be used to fund Power Up Kidz in after school programs. Four schools will participate in the program which will include exercise routines and healthy eating tips. Power Up Kidz helps children stay in shape through exercise and education about eating right.

Lactation team receives award

OMHS' lactation consulting team has been recognized for the excellence that has been demonstrated in staffing International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs). The lactation staff at OMHS was given the award by the IBCLC in January. The award was given because of the staff's promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding according to the IBCLC Care Award. In addition OMHS will be listed in the IBCLC directory for two years.

From front: Topping Out

While Friday's event celebrated placement of the highest piece of steel, an April 16 community event will recognize the finalization of steel work. Two beams, painted bright white and stamped with the OMHS and Turner logos, will be hoisted into place. Currently, the beams are making their way around OMHS locations. Employees can be part of the history by signing them and also receive a commemorative marker (see schedule, page two).

"We're excited for the April 16th celebration," Barber said. "This is the community's hospital, this is the employees hospital and on April 16th everyone will get a chance to see just how far we've come."

Meet OMHS' very own "Candy Man"



Oncology Unit nurses Pam Horton (left) and Robin Hedges enjoy some of the candy RD Rickard distributes to staff, patients and family throughout the hospital.

RD Rickard is a volunteer with the hospital and delivers candy to staff

Story and photo by
Mike Kublin, Volunteer Services

When Sammy Davis Jr. recorded "The Candy Man," a hit song in 1972, he might have had OMHS's Volunteer RD Rickard in mind.

He could have, RD was 50 at the time. Today, he's almost 89 and – for 13 of his 17 years as a volunteer – he has been providing candy to patients, families, nurses, doctors, staff and volunteers – while, to paraphrase the song, mixing it with love and making the world taste good.

RD's commitment to volunteering at OMHS involves a long commute, as he travels more than 27 miles (one-way) twice a week to work eight-hour shifts as a runner.

He makes the most of his trips back and forth. That's because, before leaving the hospital each day, he gathers up all of the left over

newspapers and takes them to be recycled; and, he stops at a bakery to pick up day-old bread that is donated to a shelter in Livermore.

His wife, Marjorie volunteered in the ICU/CCU Surgical Waiting Area until she passed away 13 years ago. It was then that RD began providing candy around the hospital in addition to his regular duties.

"You can't call me a sour puss," he said jokingly.

You can't call him a cheapskate either, as RD pays for all of the candy himself. RD may be the hospital's candy man, but he gets more out of dispensing the treats than he gives.

"I enjoy meeting and helping other people," said Rickard.

There is no question that they enjoy him too.

Do you have a story for Extra?
Send an email to
stuart.peck@omhs.org.