



# Teaming-UpDate

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For the Week of Dec. 27, 2011

Vol. 5, No. 52

## Lee Memorial Health System Generosity Extends to Co-workers and Community

Most people who choose a career in the medical field are intrinsically kind, compassionate, caring, gentle, and generous with their time, concern and support for others. That is certainly true throughout Lee Memorial Health System. Throughout this holiday season, our staff proved once again that they also are generous with their financial resources even in a difficult economic climate.

Lee Memorial Health System employees looked out for and took care of one another through our annual “Adopt a Lee Memorial Health System Family” program. Genny White, Human Resources Grant Coordinator, shares that 98 departments and individuals ‘adopted’ 137 families in need with more than 340 children receiving age-appropriate gifts this holiday. “This program was created many years ago, and each year it is wonderful to see our Lee Memorial Health System family step up to help make the holidays special,” Genny says. “This has been especially true these last few years when times have been tough for so many.”

Our staff at The Heart Group also demonstrated the spirit of the season when a patient gave a monetary gift to an employee at the end of a visit. Office Manager Valerie Downey explains, “Our employee attempted—on multiple occasions—to return the money, but the patient wouldn’t hear of it and insisted that the money be used to purchase a meal for the office. We decided to put out a vote for how we should spend the money.”

Valerie sent an email offering suggestions, like bagels or pizza, but a few employees recommended donating the money to a worthy organization. “Everyone agreed that we should donate the money to the Harry Chapin Food Bank,” Valerie says. “The \$50 for a treat for the office turned into \$300 worth of food for the Food Bank—because every \$1 donated to Harry Chapin turns into \$6 worth of food. Everybody is strapped this time of year, so it was awesome that our staff chose to spend the money on others.”

These are only a couple of examples of Lee Memorial Health System staff, physicians and volunteers helping others through the holiday season. It is wonderful to see our Lee Memorial Health System family experience the true spirit of the holiday season—giving for those who can help and receiving for those who truly need assistance. I am always proud of the compassion, generosity and care that our employees, physicians and volunteers continually show each other, our patients and our entire community—not just during the holiday season but throughout the year.

Thank you all for being *caring people, caring for people.*

Peace,

Jim Nathan  
President, Lee Memorial Health System