

Celebrating National Hospital Week 2009

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National Hospital Week is May 10 to 16 and time to celebrate the devoted employees at St. Mary's Hospital that care for the needs of the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This year, the hospital is celebrating its employees based on a baseball theme.

In honor of the hospital's most valuable players — the employees — a weeklong series of events has been organized to recognize, award and educate the close to 1,200 employees that unselfishly dedicate their lives to the health care industry.

The high-intensity series features a health fair for employees; a Nurses' Appreciation Dinner with a food drive benefiting the Maryland Food Bank; an event honoring employees who also volunteer their time on behalf of the hospital; a gathering at a Blue Crabs baseball game; workshops on staying hydrated; a Nurse Tech Luncheon; and the powerful grand slam event: an Employee Awards Banquet.

At St. Mary's Hospital, the past year has brought advanced medical technology to meet the needs of the growing community. The hospital implemented a fully integrated electronic medical records system last July and it was the patience and dedication of the employees that made the technology changeover a success. Those same employees' actions every day have led to the hospital earning several awards over the past couple of years.

St. Mary's Hospital was one of four hospitals in Maryland and Washington, D.C., to win the 2008 Excellence Award from the Delmarva Foundation. The hospital's Café at Buena Vista received the Gold Star Award from the St. Mary's County Health Department. And most recently, the hospital earned the 2009 Workplace Excellence Award, the Health and Wellness Trailblazer Award and the EcoLeadership Award through the Alliance for Workplace Excellence.

During National Hospital Week, it is important to honor the people who keep the community hospital running smoothly and successfully: the employees.