

Community Benefits

August 2009

We can all play a part in making our world a healthier place. As a healthcare organization our hospitals are open 24 hours a day, but we know that's not enough to promote active, healthy communities. As a partner in building a healthier region, we also reach into the community to build partnerships with people and organizations that serve on the front lines of healthcare and education. This month's features reflect three dimensions of that mutual commitment to improve health, support education and expand access across our region.

Giving Back

Sentara supports the T.E.A.M. approach

On April 16, 2006, Laurel Duplessis underwent a heart transplant at Sentara Heart Hospital. A virus from a childhood case of chicken pox had emerged in her left eye in 1995, causing life-threatening cardiomyopathy, a condition that weakens the heart.

Soon after her surgery, she became involved in a group called T.E.A.M.

(Transplant Emergency Medication Assistance), a group that not only provides support to transplant patients but also raises money to help those who cannot afford the cost of anti-rejection medications that cost \$2,000-\$5,000 month. Even those who have insurance often can't afford the steep co-pays.

"The group provides wonderful support, as well as speakers on topics such as nutrition, memory loss and anti-rejection," Duplessis says.

The group sells crafts and special stamps, and holds bake sales and employee jeans days, when they pay \$5 to wear jeans to work. And Duplessis, an artist, started

"Sentara has always been here to support our patients."

— KAREN WOODHOUSE, SOCIAL WORKER

Art from the Heart Foundation that uses the sale of greeting cards and some of the proceeds from her artwork to raise money for T.E.A.M.

While the drug companies have a program to help provide the expensive drugs to those who can't afford the cost, there are gaps in coverage that the group helps to fill.

"We can't offer a long-term solution, but rather a way to help patients get to the next stage of their coverage," says Peggy Bradshaw, transplant clinics manager. Usually a patient will only need to use the T.E.A.M. resources once or twice, but it's a lifesaver — literally — when they need it.

"It takes away people's anxiety — it gets so high when they can't purchase the drugs they need," says Karen Woodhouse, social worker. "We've educated patients to know that they can always come back and we are here to help them."



Educate

Sentara's gift of building to become gift of education

The former site of Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital will transition from a place of healing to a place of learning as the home of the College of William and Mary's School of Education.

The college purchased the property in 2006 from Sentara for \$8.7 million, which represented a \$7.4 million gift in its appraised value. The new facility will open in June 2010, serving approximately 90 faculty and staff, 150 undergraduates and 650 graduate students.

In addition to educating students, the school provides professional devel-

opment to more than 20,000 educators across Virginia and is a campus leader in obtaining grant money.

The new location will allow the school to house all of its programs, classrooms and offices under one roof in a new 112,000-square-foot facility. In the past, the school has been located in just 26,000 square feet in Jones Hall. Education Dean Virginia McLaughlin said although they have desperately needed the space, the benefits of the new facility extend well beyond square footage. "The location and design of this fabulous building will give us new

stature as a professional school, helping us to recruit and retain the very best faculty, students and staff.

"Acquisition of the Sentara site has enabled William and Mary to provide a first-class facility for our School of Education," she says. "In recognition of the generous gift of property, William and Mary has named the lawn fronting the new School of Education 'Sentara Green.' Construction is progressing well, and we look forward to moving into the building on time."

Sentara Healthcare CEO David Bernd was presented the Botetourt Award on behalf of Sentara Healthcare at William and Mary's Charter Day on Feb. 7. The award recognized the gift-in-kind of the former hospital property.

When accepting the award, Bernd noted that the college's focus on education includes many of the same components of delivery of excellent care: "collaboration, teamwork and dedication." The Botetourt Award, named after Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt, a colonial governor of Virginia, has honored non-alumni individuals and institutions of exceptional integrity since 1997.



Making a Difference

Access Partnership covers healthcare gaps

When Sandra Betor's husband retired on disability, she had to retire to take care of him. That meant she lost her healthcare insurance, and she didn't qualify for either Medicaid or Medicare.

But when she needed her gall bladder removed six months ago, Access Partnership covered all the expenses except the surgeon's bill.



Access Partnership is a community collaboration of physicians, hospitals, charities, universities, churches, civic groups and other community organizations that works together to help uninsured families in Hampton Roads so they will not have to go without care. It provides an individual with an "access card," much like an insurance card, that they can present when they go to the doctor or for services at other medical facilities.

"This has been a lifesaver for me," says Betor. "I don't know what I would have done without it."



Executive Director Candice Driskell says Access Partnership is an umbrella organization that seeks ways to provide a safety net for those who fall between the cracks. "We support all the local healthcare organizations, and we all work together to address this problem — there is no competition," Driskell explains. While many healthcare organizations participate in Access Partnership, Sentara has been instrumental in the program's success.

"We are so fortunate to have Sentara," says Driskell. "Sentara was a founding member of Access Partnership and has been the only health system that's committed five years of funding." It funds many of the Partnership's programs and recently awarded Access Partnership a two-year grant to expand to Norfolk residents.

In addition to primary care and access to specialists, Access Partnership focuses on helping patients obtain prescription drugs through its Pharmacy Partnership, as well as dental care through the Oral Health Partnership of South Hampton Roads.

"We are fortunate to have Sentara as a founding member of Access Partnership."

— CANDICE DRISKELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Southside

Health Screenings

Cholesterol/BP

Tuesday, August 4, 9 am – Noon, \$20

**Bone Density Screening
for Women**

**Tuesday, August 11
9 am – Noon, Free**

Sentara Obici Hospital
No appointment needed.
More information
at 757-934-4720.

Sentara Living: Fall Prevention

Guest speaker Eric Thomas

Monday, August 10, 10 am – Noon

Bayside Presbyterian Church
1400 Ewell Road
Free. Open to all.

**Young Breast Cancer Survivors
Support Group**

**Thursday, August 13
7 – 9 pm**

Sentara Leigh Breast Center Conference Room
Free. For more information
call 757-261-5404.

**General Breast Cancer
Support Group**

Wednesday, August 26, 7 – 9 pm

Sentara Leigh Breast Center Conference Room
Free. For more information
call 757-261-5404.

**What You Need
To Know About Medicare
And How It Works**

Guest speaker Kathy McVey, Optima Medicare

Monday, August 17, 10 – 11:30 am

Sentara Bayside Hospital
Free. Registration required at
1-800-SENTARA (1-800-736-8272).

Diabetes Support Group

Wednesday, August 19, 7 – 8 pm

Sentara Bayside Hospital
Free. More information
at 757-363-6834.

“Choose Wise-Leigh”

**Open House at Sentara Leigh Hospital
Saturday, August 22, 9 am – Noon**

Celebrating Our Newly Renovated Emergency
Department
Visit Nightingale,
Norfolk Fire Dept. Fire Trucks,
Health Displays and Information
Free. All invited.

Peninsula

**Crohn's and Colitis
Support Group**

**Saturday, August 1
1 – 2 pm**

Sentara CarePlex Hospital
Free. More information
at 757-736-1234.

**Man-to-Man
Prostate Cancer Support Group**

**Tuesday, August 11
7 – 8:30 pm**

Sentara CarePlex Hospital
Free. More information
at 757-827-2438.

Weight-Loss Surgery Support Group

Wednesday, August 12, 7 pm

Sentara CarePlex Hospital

LapBand Support Group

Thursday, August 20, 6:30 pm

Sentara CarePlex Hospital
Free. For more information, call 1-800-SENTARA
or visit www.sentara.com/WeightLossSurgery

Sentara Living: Fall Prevention

Guest speaker Eric Thomas

Thursday, August 13, 10 am – Noon

Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center

Wednesday, August 19, 10 am – Noon

Sentara CarePlex Hospital, Conference Room B
Free. Open to all.

Colorectal Cancer Support Group

Wednesday, August 19, 1–2 pm

Sentara CarePlex Hospital
Free. More information at 757-736-1234.

**Bosom Buddies
Breast Cancer Support Group**

Tuesday, August 18, 7– 8:30 pm

Sentara CarePlex Hospital
Free. More information at 757-594-1939.

**Diabetes Support Group
Understanding Insulin**

Wednesday, August 19, 4 – 5 pm

Sentara Center for Health and Fitness
Free. More information at 757-827-2160.

**What You Need To Know
About Medicare And How It Works**

Guest speaker Kathy McVey, Optima Medicare

Friday, August 21, 10 – 11:30 am

Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center

Thursday, August 27, 10 – 11:30 am

Sentara CarePlex Hospital
Free. Registration required at 1-800-SENTARA (1-800-736-8272).

**Interested in Outpatient
Diabetes Group Classes?**

Call Central Scheduling at 757-736-7496 to
register for classes at Sentara CarePlex Hospital.

Get Social With Sentara



Visit www.sentara.com