



HUDSON VALLEY VIEW

A newsletter for and by employees
of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System WINTER 2008

Out of the Darkness... Suicide Prevention

VA Hudson Valley employees and veterans participated in the annual "Out of the Darkness Walk" on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at Croton Point Park. The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness, save lives and erase the stigma in addition to raising funds for research.

Former employee and VA liaison, Betty Gilmore, assembled employees and veterans for participation. Dr. Joseph Amato, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, presented a display and materials at the event.



Hey...Check It Out!

Be on the lookout...
HVVHCS has a new updated logo!



...to Mike Kelly!

Mike's logo and photo were chosen for our new employee newsletter. 56 suggested logos were received from fellow employees. A big **THANK YOU** to all who submitted! We look forward to more ideas and suggestions from all HVHCS employees...this is **YOUR** newsletter!



Kathy Hopper,
Lauren Incontrera,
Sharon Thomas,
Mary Farrell,
Kathy Smith & her
sister-in-law

On October 19th, 2008, the VA HVHCS participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at the Woodbury Commons. This 1.8 mile non-competitive walk sponsored by the American Cancer Society is an annual event to raise breast cancer awareness and funds to help fight this disease. Our team consisted of 10 employees and their family members. All agree that it was inspiration to be one of the 10,000 people who turned out to walk that day. Breast Cancer Survivor's, family members of people who lost their battle, schools and medical groups, all agree with the American Cancer Society, that we want breast cancer to be a disease of the past. We are proud to say we helped raised \$820,000 that day! We hope you will all join our team next year and help us fight against breast cancer.

**VISN 3
BRIDGES to the FUTURE GRADUATES**



Mr. Sabo, Kathleen Mones, Francine Frasier and Mr. Walton



Mr. Sabo, Angela Bottalico and Mr. Walton



HANDS and HEART AWARD

Ellen Varian, Recreation Therapy Assistant, has been awarded the 2007 Secretary's Hands and Heart award. Ms. Varian was nominated by Patricia Cole, CTRS, Recreation Therapy Supervisor, who could not stress enough Ms. Varian's dedicated work with the spinal cord injured veterans.

For the last seven years, Ms. Varian has unselfishly dedicated her time to taking on the role of "coach" for the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System SCI veterans as they gather from across the nation to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games which are held throughout the country and Puerto Rico.

She works tirelessly with community organizations to raise funds for the designated events, acquiring transportation and hotel accommodations for up to 25 veterans, caregivers, families and staff, taking into account each veterans special needs during the games.



The VISN Director, Mr. Sabo, visited with the Mental Health staff on Unit 4CD. Identified from **I to r**: Christine Alzapiedi, LMSW, Constance Quinn, Mr. Sabo, Dr. Stabinsky and Dr.

**VISN Director's Visit
December 3, 2008**



Ronald Texley, Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, shows Mr. Sabo the Mobile Low Vision Clinic.



Mr. Sabo went to the Charlie Delta Community Living Center and visited with Dr. Hasan, Dr. Bhatnagar and Nurse Manager Susan McEntire.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEE GRADUATES FROM THE VAHVCS EDUCATION PROGRAMS!



2008 SAW Graduates

- Angela Bass
- Bonnie Catalano
- Earnest Cooke
- Donald L. Crosby
- Samuel Dabbs
- J. Andre Douglas
- Laron Edmonds
- Lojuan D. Esters
- Carol Foster
- Shunta R. Garcia
- Teresa Geter
- David Jenkins
- Melissa L. Lewis
- Rodell Roberts
- Jessica Rodriguez
- Leontyne Skaggs
- Carolyn Y. Smith
- Anthony B. Williams
- Rudolph Williams

On Friday, August 15, history was made at the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System!

The 2007/2008 School At Work class celebrated their successful completion of the first Catalyst Learning Center program here with encouraging words of congratulation from Mr. Robert Walton, VAHVHCS Acting Director, Beverly Duncklee, Acting Education Program Manager, Kathy Mones, Head School At Work Coach, and coaches Valerie Johnson and Bette Merrill. Assistant coaches Laura Parker-Bey and Barbara Fraleigh joined in the graduation process as well.

Smiles abounded and hopes were high as the participants then continued their celebration with a lovely buffet and lively stories of the many struggles and accomplishments experienced throughout the SAW year.

The School At Work program concentrates on the basics in Language skills, Math, Human Anatomy and Medical Terminology. The course work was vigorous and challenging. The students met each challenge successfully, using the many resources available to them.

Goals were achieved and new goals are still being set as a result of the successes the students achieved. Congratulations graduates!



POSSIBILITIES GRADUATES

L to R: Regina Lucas, JoAnne Shields, Nancy Lopez, Mumianah Abdullah, Mink Karst and Lorraine Ventura, RN

SERVICE PINS

October 2008

John	Vargas	Mental Health	30 years
Jay	Buckiewicz	Mental Health	25 years
Elaine	Curtin	Nursing	25 years
Janice	Mahon	Nursing	25 years
Joseph	Dizon	Ambulatory	20 years
Craig	Crawford	Ancillary	20 years
Edwin	Hoernes	Engineering	20 years
Regina	Lucas	HAS	20 years
Juanita	Stephenson	HAS	20 years
Barbara	Ganzaroli	Nursing	20 years
Sonia	Molinari	Nursing	20 years
Debra	Lucas	COS	15 years
Edwin	Ramirez	Engineering	15 years
Joseph	Hickey	Ancillary	10 years
Dexter	Saunders	EMS	10 years

November 2008

Glenzy	Reeves	Mental Health	35 years
Catherine	Greene	HAS	25 years
Joel	Nisemson	Ancillary	20 years
Curley	Ware	EMS	20 years
Helen	Johnson	HAS	20 years
Thurman	Snead	Nursing	20 years
John	Joseph	Police	20 years
Beatrice	Riqueline	HAS	15 years
Jason	Orlowski	Hospital	15 years
Michael	Ventura	Engineering	10 years

December 2008

Donald	Smith	Engineering	40 years
Karen	Jankun	HAS	25 years
Kim	Freeman	Ambulatory	20 years
Debra	Edwards	Engineering	20 years
Sylvia	Williams	Nursing	20 years
Geralyn	Arno	Ancillary	15 years
Jacqueline	Corney	HAS	15 years
William	Beam	IRM	15 years
Douglas	James	Mental Health	15 years
Michael	Clay	Nursing	15 years
Vijaya	Dasari	Ambulatory	10 years

EDITORIAL BOARD

Barb DiCola, Dorothy Marcus, Bette Merrill,
Emmanuel Onyeobia, Carol Robinson,
Joan Weise & Nancy Winter

DIVERSITY

Clover Hamilton-Pusey with the African American booth serves some soul food to Castle Point employees.



Morjorie White gets some dessert while posing with Jo Ann Shields who headed the USA food booth at Montrose.

VA Hudson Valley held its annual Diversity Day which recognizes and celebrates the various ethnic backgrounds of its employees. The celebrations were held at the Castle Point campus on September 19th and at the Montrose campus on September 29th.

The events featured food samplings presented by over 40 Hudson Valley employees, representing 10 different ethnic groups and countries, who volunteered their time and talents to showcase their heritage through traditional fashion, music and artifacts.



HISPANIC HERITAGE

Front-L to R: Sylvia Estebanez, Nydia Febus-Rodriguez, Ivonne Hernandez, Nancy Lopez, Yvette Rodriguez, Aida Anderson, Vanessa Urgiles, Celeste Ortiz, Judy Battista, Tony Ramos. **Rear-L to R:** Carmen Santiago, Eric Arroyo, Mayra Reyes, Veronica Jones, Pedro Gonzalez

The achievements of today's Hispanic Committee are built upon dedication, pride of family's root and long time traditions shared in a day devoted to the culture. The celebration of the Hispanic culture is from September 15 through October 15. It's an opportunity to recognize the successes of many Latinos across our nation and our differences that make us the people we are today. The committee began in 1999 with only one member and today we have 11 members devoted to make our celebration a learning experience for all to remember.