During the holidays, we all look for ways to help others. But for some, it’s a year-round way of life. That was evident last week, when a team at The University of Kansas Hospital made sure that one homeless man from Salina, Kan., was not forgotten.

“It was a total team effort,” said Kim Templeton, MD, who performed surgery on the patient Dec. 12 to remove a malignant tumor. “Everyone – from the nurses to Social Services to the KUMC Police – took extraordinary measures to make sure this man got to the hospital and received the medical treatment he needed.”

After a Salina physician referred the man to Templeton, her nurse, Missy Erwin, RN, worked with the Social Services Department to make arrangements for the man to come to Kansas City by bus the evening before surgery.

A taxi had been reserved to pick him up at the Greyhound Bus Terminal in downtown Kansas City, Mo., and bring him to the Emergency Department. Special arrangements had been made for him to spend the night there because he had nowhere else to stay.

But when the man took a later bus and missed his taxi, he became confused and afraid and spent the night in the bus terminal. When he did not arrive at the hospital Friday morning for his scheduled surgery, Beverly Young, RN, Same Day Surgery, went into action.

Sergeant Kevin Faust and Officer Richard Linneman responded to the call to locate a homeless and lost patient.

The surgery was successfully performed a couple of hours later than planned, and the patient was safely returned by bus to Salina the next day. “It was likely the patient would have died without this surgery,” said Templeton.

“Many people worked together to create a positive outcome for a homeless person who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks and been forgotten.”
Purchasing gifts for 409 area children for the annual holiday “Adopt a Child” program is just one of the many ways university and hospital employees show their commitment to the community in which they work.

This “good neighbor” philosophy has been embraced by the entire KUMC campus over the last few years, as it has developed partnerships with the Rosedale neighborhood and Wyandotte County.

Many of these partnerships are coordinated by the Alumni and Community Relations office and supported by volunteers from both the hospital and university.

“During a season of giving, it’s a good time to remember the many opportunities that exist for volunteering and assisting others right here in our own backyard,” said Kim Cuda, director, Alumni and Community Relations.

For example, KUMC provides the Rosedale neighborhood with two KUMC Police officers who serve as designated “community police” and regularly patrol the neighborhood. The officers also work with the schools to create positive relationships and strengthen ties between students and police. These efforts were originally funded through a federal grant, but today they are totally funded by the campus.

KUMC Police Officer George Kemper has coordinated the Feed a Family program since 1987. Each year, the annual holiday food drive provides meals to about 20 families in the Rosedale neighborhood.

Christmas in October is another annual program benefiting the Rosedale neighborhood that is supported by KUMC volunteers. In 2003, nearly 150 KUMC employees worked on 10 homes and volunteered more than 1,000 hours of their time.

Habitat for Humanity was one of several local agencies that received assistance from 120 KU School of Medicine students during their 2003 orientation week. In addition to helping build homes and clean up yards, the students filled 1,500 backpacks with donated school supplies at Cross-Lines Cooperative Council. They also assisted at YouthBuild, the Rosedale Development Association and the Autism Asperger Resource Center.

Another example of community partnership is the KUMC Student Street Fair. This year, the fair was held once in the spring and again in September in conjunction with the annual Rosedale Parade. The partnership with the Rosedale Parade will continue in 2004. All proceeds from the student-run street fair are donated to a local agency. Funds raised in spring 2003 went to El Centro and Franklin Community Center child-care, while the fall 2003 funds were donated to Friendship Inn.

KUMC volunteers also work closely with Kansas City, Kan., public schools to provide an array of services.

Through YouthFriends, more than 30 KUMC employees serve as student mentors at Rosedale Middle School and Frank Rushton Elementary School. They provided 900 volunteer hours during the 2002-03 school year.

Job Shadow Day is a popular event with faculty and staff. In 2003, more than 20 KUMC volunteers served as mentors to more than 40 students from Wyandotte High School. The students spent a half-day on campus “shadowing” faculty and staff and learning more about careers in science and medicine.

In addition, both the university

**KUMC United Way Totals**

This year, the KUMC United Way campaign raised $185,500, an increase of nearly $23,000 over last year. There was increased participation by both hospital and university employees – with 175 more people donating than last year. This represents an overall participation rate of 19 percent.

Departments with a 100 percent participation rate included the Executive Vice Chancellor’s Office, Biomedical Technologies, Central Transport and Dispatch, Environmental Services, Dietetics and Nutrition, Design, Construction and Maintenance, Risk Management and Neuro-Psychology.

Pledges and donations continue to be accepted. Contact the Alumni and Community Relations office, 8-1255, to make a donation.
Three nurses in the IV Therapy Department recently became nationally certified in IV therapy. They are Carol Gilmore, RN, Cathy Quinn-Haynes, RN, and Patricia Yesenosky, RN. They join two other hospital nurses, Terri Miller, RN, and Roxanne Perucca, RN, who are also nationally certified.

Perucca, nurse manager of IV Therapy, oversees the department of 10 nurses who specialize in the insertion and care of patients’ IVs and catheters. The team works throughout the hospital, checking and caring for patients’ IV lines and helping with insertions that are particularly challenging.

Nationally, more than 3,000 nurses use “CRNI” (Certified Registered Nurse Intravenous) after their names, which signifies their commitment to the infusion specialty.

“Infusion nurses are responsible for the delivery of complex infusions that are instrumental in ensuring positive patient outcomes,” Perucca said. “Nurses choose to become certified as a means to validate their experience and improve patient care.”

Nursing certification is important because it demonstrates a commitment to professionalism and attainment of skills and knowledge beyond the basic licensing requirements.

Currently, 96 specialty certifications are available to registered professional nurses, Perucca added. Certification indicates that nurses meet the standards set by their peers in their areas of clinical practice. Nursing certification also supports one of the major initiatives of the Department of Nursing as it moves toward Magnet certification.

“Achieving certification is one of the most professionally rewarding accomplishments,” Perucca said. “Certification in nursing is the credential of excellence.”
Noffsinger Reception

Thomas Noffsinger, PhD (below center), was honored at a Dec. 16 reception held in recognition of his appointment to the new position of vice chancellor for Research Administration at KUMC. Speaking at the reception were KU chancellor Robert Hemenway, PhD (left), and Donald Hagen, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor.

Respiratory Care Honor

Homer Rodriguez (above), director of Respiratory Therapy, recently received the honorary title of Fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC). The fellowship program brings recognition to AARC members who have reached a level of distinction in their profession and contribute to the art and science of respiratory care. The AARC honored Rodriguez during the opening of its International Respiratory Congress Dec. 1.

Graduate Student Donation

Ramsey McIntire (left), president of the Graduate Student Council, presented a check for $2,000 to Dorothy Knoll, PhD, KUMC dean of students and Wyandotte County United Way campaign chair. The check is a one-time donation to United Way from the organization’s annual budget. The student group also recently donated $1,000 to KUMC’s International Medical Mission Outreach to buy medical supplies for underserved people in foreign countries.

Doughnuts for Kids

Staff at Rockhurst University, Shelly Bolling-Strickland, Kim Bear, and Jason Garcia, sold doughnuts outside the cafeteria to benefit the Children’s Miracle Network. The $600 raised will help Rockhurst sponsor a dance marathon Nov. 13-14, 2004. Each participant will raise a minimum of $140, with all proceeds going to Children’s Miracle Network.
Patients’ family members will sleep a little easier thanks to employees of The University of Kansas Hospital who contributed to the STAR Fund. Two recent grants from the fund will be used to purchase 10 sleeper chairs so patients can have overnight visitors.

“Many of our patients travel long distances to come here for care. They often feel more comforted when their loved ones can be with them during the night,” explained Beth V andenberg, RN, director of clinical excellence and resources for the Department of Nursing.

Patient rooms in the sixth-floor Medical Telemetry Unit already have the sleeper chairs. According to V andenberg, they’ve been a welcome addition, contributing to patient satisfaction. Several nursing units will share the new chairs.

The STAR Fund is part of the KU First Family Campaign, which kicked off in November 2002 and encouraged hospital employees to donate money to help meet the needs of patients and their families. Specifically, the STAR Fund was created to develop new patient-focused programs and purchase equipment, supplies and other items that are not included in the hospital’s budget.

Employees responded to the appeal. The hospital received 258 gifts for the KU First Family Campaign, a total of nearly $70,000. Of that amount, $30,000 was earmarked for the STAR Fund.

A committee of seven hospital employees reviewed the STAR Fund grant proposals and decided how the money should be distributed. Committee members were Tina Crain, Radiology, Dan Conyers, Respiratory Therapy, Dana Cunningham, RN, Unit 42, Brenda Dykstra, Strategic Development, Fran Gebhardt, Admitting, Carie Lawrence, RN, Unit 54, and Tammy Peterman, RN, vice president and chief nurse executive.

In addition to grants of $11,400 for the sleeper chairs, six other STAR Fund grants were made.

- **$9,020:** Respiratory Therapy will begin a smoking cessation program for patients and their families. The grant will fund training and payment of the program’s instructors and purchase course materials.
- **$2,580:** Four breast pumps will be purchased for babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit who are too premature or ill to breast-feed.
- **$2,050:** The Rehabilitation Unit will create a video to educate patients and their families about the rehabilitation process and care given by the Rehab staff.
- **$2,000:** The Hospital Safety Committee will buy benches or chairs for the Sudler Link and Delp elevators lobbies, so patients and visitors will have places to sit and relax.
- **$2,000:** Prenatal patients who have gestational diabetes and need financial assistance will be provided free diabetic supplies.
- **$1,000:** Artwork and photographs of families representing the hospital’s culturally diverse patient population will be purchased for the Mother/Baby Unit.

“It’s very gratifying that our own employees’ generous contributions to the STAR Fund will be put to such good use throughout the hospital,” said Janice Benjamin, vice president of Development. “I hope it will encourage more employees to consider a gift next year.”

The next KU First Family Campaign is scheduled for March 2004. The Kansas University Endowment Association conducts and administers the campaign on behalf of both the hospital and university.
KU First Family Campaign
Director Leads by Example

Bill Bunnell enjoys many aspects of his job. As the director of Radiology, he has administrative responsibility for all medical imaging in the Radiology Department. But the thing he enjoys most about his career is the opportunity to develop leadership among his staff members.

“I think it’s important to lead by example, not just in job content, but in teaching the people around you to give as well,” Bunnell said.

That’s one of the reasons Bunnell and his wife, Pam, Information Systems director for KU Physicians Inc., give to the hospital’s STAR fund, which was created to support patient-focused programs or purchase equipment, supplies or other items for patients and their families.

“When you work for an organization, it’s a sacred trust,” he said. “You have a mutual responsibility to help each other with long-term financial security. I want to be a part of KU’s long-term security.”

The Bunnells’ gifts count toward the $500 million goal of KU First: Invest in Excellence, the largest fund-raising campaign in KU history. KU Endowment is conducting KU First on behalf of KU and The University of Kansas Hospital through 2004 to raise funds for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, capital projects and program support for the university, and capital projects, program support and patient services for the hospital.

Nominations for 2004 Alumni Awards Accepted Now

KUMC’s alumni associations are currently seeking nominations for the 2004 alumni awards. The awards include the Distinguished and Honorary Alumni Awards, as well as a new honor, the Early Career Achievement Award.

These are the highest honors the KUMC alumni associations bestow upon graduates of the KU Schools of Allied Health, Medicine and Nursing and those who have made outstanding contributions to the health care professions.

In 2004, the Early Career Achievement Award will be presented for the first time to an alumnus of each of the three schools. The award will recognize individuals who have graduated within the last 20 years (1984-2004) and who have made distinguished achievements and contributions early in their careers to their respective professions, the KU Schools of Medicine, Nursing or Allied Health, or the KUMC alumni associations.

Consider nominating a colleague, classmate or other health care professional for one of these prestigious honors. Nomination forms are available online at www.kumc.edu/alumni or by calling toll free 888-679-5951. The nomination deadline is Friday, Feb. 13, 2004.

The awards will be presented by the KU Allied Health Alumni Association, KU Medical Alumni Association and the KU Nurses Alumni Association during KUMC Alumni Reunion, Sept. 17-18, 2004.

For a complete list of past recipients, visit www.kumc.edu/alumni. For more information, contact the KUMC Alumni Associations at 8-1255.
Barbara Langner, RN, PhD, associate professor, KU School of Nursing, has been named project director for a project researching ways to make health insurance more affordable and available to Kansans.

Administered by the Kansas Insurance Commissioner’s office, the project is funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It is a follow-up to a statewide survey of uninsured Kansans conducted by Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger and administered by Langner and researchers at KUMC. Langner will lead efforts to enhance and expand the existing survey information about health insurance in Kansas.

“Our KUMC research team is looking forward to working with Commissioner Praeger in addressing the issue of diminished access to affordable health insurance, a situation many Kansas families face today,” Langner said.

“The data collected through this research opportunity will provide valuable information about the barriers employers experience in providing health insurance benefits and guide the formation of potential policy solutions.”

HIPAA Compliance Q & A

This is the third in a series of articles answering specific questions about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The law safeguards patient health information, simplifies health care administration and makes health insurance portable for people changing jobs or health plans.

Q: If a patient is unconscious when arriving at the hospital, to whom can health care workers talk to obtain information?

A: This is one of the more difficult areas of HIPAA. When an unconscious or trauma patient is admitted, no information should be given out to third parties until the patient or a family member has signed the acknowledgement form indicating that he or she has been offered the Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP).

However, the HIPAA Privacy Rule allows a health care organization to use professional judgment to release information in the best interests of the patient. If the health care organization needs to notify a family member or other responsible person about the patient’s location, general condition or death, it may disclose the protected health information needed to do that.

For example, this allows an adult child to learn that a parent has suffered a medical emergency and where to find the parent.

If you find yourself in this situation, be sure to use your professional judgment and document that the person requesting information appears to be involved in the patient’s care. This will satisfy the requirements of HIPAA Compliance. Once the patient moves out of the emergency context, then the NPP or the option to be taken out of the directory takes precedence.

In summary, if the patient has not been given a NPP, the situation is an emergency and the patient’s condition does not allow health care workers to obtain information from the patient, you can use your professional judgment in sharing information based on what is in the best interests of the patient. The HIPAA Privacy Rule is not intended to impede care.

If you have further questions, call HIPAA Commitment at 8-2861.
Thursday, Dec. 18
• Community Blood Center blood drive, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Stoland Lounge.

Friday, December 19
• Community Blood Center blood drive, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Stoland Lounge.
• Neurology Grand Rounds, “Differential Diagnosis and Treatment of Tremor Disorders,” Rajesh Pahwa, MD, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 1563a hospital.
• University holiday party, 2-5 p.m., School of Nursing Atrium.

Wednesday, Dec. 24
• Christmas Eve communion service, 6:30 p.m., Spencer Chapel.

Automotive:

2000 Lexus RX300, all-wheel drive, like new, fully loaded, CD changer, heated leather seats, moon roof, full warranty, $18,500. 785-979-8885.


1996 Chrysler Town & Country, 1 owner, fully loaded, dual side doors, leather interior, 2 integrated child seats in middle row, power everything, very good condition, new transmission, all maintenance records, 96K, $6,500. 913-722-2926.

For Sale:
JVC home theatre system: RX-5020VBK audio/video control receiver, HR-XVC20U hi-fi DVD/VCR combination stereo CD, SX-XSW235 5.1 enhanced 5-speaker system + subwoofer, all with remotes, new, never used, $500. 913-831-7487.

10-piece queen bed set, Broyhill medium oak solids/veneers, very nice condition, triple dresser with mirrors, gent’s chest, lighted mirror bridge with headboard, storage cabinets on each side, mattress, box spring, bed frame, $750 OBO; LazyBoy recliner, newly upholstered, medium gray velour, $75. 913-422-5202.

Twin bed, mattress, suitable for child, good condition, oak headboard and footboard, $120 OBO. 913-236-2500.

Nikon N80 SLR camera; lenses: 50 mm f/1.8 AF, 105 mm f/2.8 microAF, 24mm f/2.8 AF; Lowepro shoulder bag; all like new, $700 OBO. 913-268-0057.

Whirlpool washer and gas dryer, good working condition, white, $150 for both. 913-722-2926.

1-year-old cross-top 18 cu. ft. Whirlpool refrigerator, ice maker, $200; large capacity Kenmore gas dryer, 3-cycle, $100; 30” gas range, almond, $75; all for $350. 913-299-3985.

Light-colored solid oak crib and 3-shelf changing table, both for $125. Leave name/phone number. 913-334-6193.

Rival Pasta Chef pasta maker, new in box, $50; Rival electric fondue set, new in box, $30. 913-384-4417.

Nintendo game cube with 3 controllers, memory card, 5 games, $225 OBO. 913-422-1614.

To Rent:
Cute 2 BR house with loft/spare room, cozy fireplace, drive-under garage, all appliances, big wooded backyard, non-smoking, 10 minutes to KUMC, $825/mo. + utilities, first month discounted. 913-677-2221.

House, 2340 S. Vermont, with option to buy, affordable, nice neighborhood, many extras, ready to move in now. 816-254-3833.

Free to Good Home:
2 adorable, long-haired, miniature dachshunds, neutered males, house trained, all shots current, 4 years old, excellent health. 816-405-4318.

Kittens, make great holiday gifts. 913-351-2984.

IN THE CENTER
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