



# infoLINE

A Newsletter for Employees of University Health System

## »... Are you ready for a miracle?

Please join the University Health System Foundation for the 2009 *Medical Miracles* Gala on Thursday, May 7, at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio.

One of the unique aspects of this gala is hearing from the *Medical Miracles* honoree. Last year, we honored San Antonio Police Officer Larry Price, an esophageal cancer survivor. This year's honoree is 8-year-old Nicholas Velasquez.

The evening will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by a gourmet three-course dinner.

Guests will also be able to find some very unique treasures at this year's silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the mission of the University Health System Foundation.

Sponsorships and individual tickets for \$250 are still available. Please contact the Foundation staff at 358-9860 for more information.



Presented by:



## »..... The light at the end of a long, dark tunnel



Nicholas Velasquez

### The Foundation is honored to recognize trauma survivor Nicholas Velasquez

Angelica Velasquez never imagined herself sitting by her 6-year-old son's hospital bed, praying for his life. But in August of 2007, the unthinkable happened. A drunk driver, going against traffic on 1604, slammed head-on into their car. They would later find out that the driver's blood alcohol level was four times the legal limit.

Nicholas suffered massive injuries, and was rushed to the Level I trauma center at University Hospital. Angelica and her fiancé John were taken to the trauma center at Wilford Hall Medical Center. They were hurt, but Nicholas was the worst. His little body was damaged to the point that no one could say for certain whether he would live or die.

He spent months in the Intensive Care Unit, underwent countless procedures, and even survived a rare brain complication. The fact that he is not only here today - but back at school and even walking - is truly a miracle; the very miracle Angelica prayed for everyday.

Nicholas is a little boy with a kind heart, who has every reason to be angry about all he has been through and what still lies ahead as he struggles to do many of the things little boys like to do. Instead he is accepting, and filled with strength of spirit that has inspired all who have been part of his healing. Hear Nicholas' story at the 2009 *Medical Miracles* Gala on Thursday, May 7.

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# »... Administrative Professionals' Day

The Administrative Professionals' Council (APC) will celebrate its second successful year with an Administrative Professionals' Day luncheon on Wednesday, April 22, at La Quinta Conference Center.

Irene Sandate, RN, MSN, NNP-BC, administrative director, Newborn/Neonatal ICU (NICU) Services, will speak to the group about NICU services and how monies raised from the APC's silent auction will benefit the renovation of the NICU Family Consultation Room.

In addition, Denise Pruett, director, UHS Foundation, will speak to the group about its important role in working with the Foundation's programs.

Over the last year, the APC (approximately 120 members) raised \$829 for United Way, collected 1,174 pounds of canned goods for the San Antonio Food Bank, and raised \$800 for the Project Bear Hug. The APC will also hold a silent auction on Thursday, April 23 at University Hospital, next to cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to bid on great gift baskets - just in time for Mothers' Day.

Please call Sally Goddard, ext. 8-2668 for more details.



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS - UHC-DOWNTOWN:** (From left to right) Melanie Brooks, Raquel Hernandez, Irma Carranza, Maria Barron, Julia Gonzales, Claudia Cerda, Donna Rodney, JoAnn Burriola, Angie Garza and Mary Mata.



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS - UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL:** (From left to right - Front row) Esther Rodriguez, Consuelo Castano, Juanita Hernandez and Florence Alviar. (2nd row) Rachel Tavitias, Cynthia Brown, Adelina Rodriguez and Dora Quiroga. (3rd row) Lisa Gonzales, Jenna Ferrill-Azamar, Dolly Godley and Milana Cisneros. (4th row) Anita Barrera, Sally Goddard, Valerie Gomez and Linda Guadarrama. (5th row) Sue Saunders, Maria Huey, Leticia Martinez and Magdalena Vera. (Back row) Nicole Cruz, Sherri Mulkey, Susan Vaughn, Nancy Anderson and Rita Pratt.

# »... Our Daisy Award recipient of the month



Tracy Finch, RN, Emergency Center, University Hospital, is our DAISY Award honoree for February. She personifies UHS' mission to provide a positive patient experience and consistently demonstrates excellence through clinical expertise, service and compassionate care. Tracy is patient care coordinator (PCC) in the Emergency Center. Her deep compassion for patients and their families never goes unnoticed. She is recognized by her peers as an outstanding leader, mentor and healer.

Tracy always goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide quality care to ALL of her patients. She also serves as a wonderful role model for UHS nurses. The Daisy Award is presented to a UHS nurse each month.

The DAISY Foundation was formed in 2000 by the family of a man who died after a battle with cancer and rare bleeding disorder. "As we brainstormed what to do in his memory, the one really positive thing we could hold onto from the experience was the skillful and amazingly compassionate care he received from his nurses - even when he was totally sedated. So we created The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses to recognize the super-human work nurses do every day all over the country," the family explains on their Website at [www.daisyfoundation.org/](http://www.daisyfoundation.org/).



## »... ¿Habla Español?

Learning a new language can be challenging, but it can also be lots of fun.

That's what some University Health System (UHS) staff members found out, as they took part in a class to learn Spanish.

The class was held twice a week from January - March and Learning Resources training specialist Vicky Romero says the students were definitely motivated to learn. Many even traveled from other UHS facilities after working a long shift.

"It's always a challenge to learn a new language when you're an adult, but they were determined to learn to communicate with our patients who speak only Spanish," says Vicky Romero, training specialist, Learning Resources. "The class ended with one of the best retention rates ever for a Spanish class."

For more information about future language classes, please call Vicky, ext. 8-2372.



## »... ProgressNOTES

### MARKET VOLATILITY

If market volatility is keeping you up at night, one of these information sessions just might be the cure. Professional representatives from AIG and ING will provide information to help you focus on your retirement goals. Choose from the following opportunities:

- ING – Thursday, April 9, 9 a.m.  
UH 5th Floor Classroom
- AIG – Friday, April 17, 10 a.m.  
UH 5th Floor Classroom
- AIG – Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m.  
UH Sub Level Classroom
- ING – Thursday, May 7, 4 p.m.  
UH Sub Level Classroom

### EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Donate to your Passion! As employees, each day we see the difference University Health System makes in the hearts and lives of the people we serve. Employee-giving provides the opportunity for those of us who work for UHS to offer financial commitments to the projects and programs that further our mission. Your commitment and active participation will make a difference. The 2009 Employee Giving Campaign kicked off on March 16 and will run through April 17. A Foundation Ambassador will be coming to your department for a presentation. Please take a moment to review the 2009 Employee Giving Campaign brochure for more information on all of the worth while projects and funds. Your gift will be the BEST symbol for UHS's bright future!

## »... Deep Vein Thrombosis

### Risk Assessment & Prevention

Monday, March 30

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. - noon        | <p><b>Driving to Reduce the Risks of DVT RV Tour</b><br/>University Hospital - Visitor Parking Lot<br/>See the faces of DVT &amp; learn about the risks<br/>Free DVT risk assessments</p>  |
| 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | <p><b>Lunch and Lecture**</b><br/>University Hospital Foundation Room<br/>Maureen Sheehan, MD<br/>UT Health Science Center Dept. of Vascular Surgery</p>   |
| 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.         | <p><b>Driving to Reduce the Risks of DVT RV Tour</b><br/>University Center for Community Health<br/>Texas Diabetes Institute - 701 S. Zanzamora<br/>See the faces of DVT &amp; learn about the risks<br/>Free DVT risk assessments</p> |

\*\*Lecture provides one (1) nursing contact hour. Please call ext. 8-9000 to register for the free lunch lecture. Seating limited to 40.

University Health System, is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. University Health System provides up to 1 contact hour for completion of this educational activity.

## »... infoLINE

Story ideas for infoLINE may be submitted to Corporate Communications and Marketing by calling Julie Wiley, infoLINE editor, at 210.358.2344 or by e-mailing Julie.Wiley@uhs-sa.com.

infoLINE is a publication of University Health System and is designed to bring the latest news and information about University Health System to its employees.



**University Health System**

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