Saint Antoine Awarded $770,000 for Electronic Health Records

Saint Antoine Residence has been awarded a $770,000 grant from the Manton Foundation to implement an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. The grant is the largest ever received by Saint Antoine.

Electronic Health Records systems are mandated to be in place by the year 2014 for organizations receiving federal assistance, such as Medicaid reimbursements. In an EHR environment, data is entered at the point of care and is made available immediately across clinical and financial departments.

Evidence has shown that an EHR’s expedient handling of information leads to better care for residents and increased third party reimbursements. This is because data is only entered once, avoiding duplication and errors, and may be quickly retrieved for care decisions.

Wendy Fangnoli, Saint Antoine’s executive director, said, “We are overjoyed to have received this award. Like most nursing homes, we have many technology needs. However, an EHR system is at the top of our list because, in the end result, it will help many people with our provision of care.”

A spokesperson for the Manton Foundation echoed Ms. Fangnoli’s sentiment, saying that “The foundation was very interested in the potential transformative effect the EHR system would have on Saint Antoine.”

The Manton foundation was established by Sir Edwin and Lady Manton and supports a range of cultural, educational, and health programs.

Karen Lamond to Head EHR Project

Karen Lamond has been appointed as Project Director for the Implementation of the Electronic Health Records System. The grant-funded position is part-time and will last for 18 months, when the EHR system is slated to be fully implemented.

Executive Director Wendy Fangnoli said that, “because of the extensive scope of this project, we felt that we needed a project director to oversee its implementation and to keep us on-track, timeline-wise. We are fortunate, indeed, to be able to avail ourselves of Karen’s vast knowledge, special skills, and able strengths in leading us as we bring this project to its fruition.”

Karen is Director of Health Information Management Services (HIMS) and has been able to delegate some of her duties to others during the EHR’s implementation period. She said, “The Manton Foundation has given us an exceptional opportunity to transform our record-keeping practices; the end results will have a major impact on our delivery of services, all to the good of our residents.”
Love is Ageless

National Nursing Home Week was celebrated on May 15, with all-day performances by various staff teams for residents and employees. The theme of National Nursing Home Week was “Love is Ageless” and each performance, in its own special way, portrayed that theme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit/Department</th>
<th>Performance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Staff</td>
<td>“Melody of Love Songs” (Performed by the Love Mamas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Nutrition Services</td>
<td>“Love Boat”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Care Unit</td>
<td>“School Days”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 1B and Rehab Staff</td>
<td>“Love is Ageless”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2A</td>
<td>“Country Love”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2B</td>
<td>“Love Explosion”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 1A</td>
<td>“Slow Boat”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Team</td>
<td>“Hello Dolly”</td>
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Many hours of practice went into these performances which were thoroughly enjoyed by performers and audience alike.

Wendy Fargnol, Executive Director, said “these performances were begun a number of years ago to show an appreciation for our residents but they also create an amazing camaraderie among our staff.”

Ms. Fargnol continued by noting the similarities between mounting a performance and being part of a team in a nursing home. “You have to learn your part, and trust that others will do the same. You certainly have to follow directions. And, in your own way, you are adding what you can of yourself to the success of the outcome.”

Walkathon

READY SET GO! Kathleen Doonan, daughter of Jim Doonan, JPV, of Saint Antoine, and granddaughter of John Doonan, also a Saint Antoine employee, transported the girls to cut the ribbon to start the Ninth Annual Walkathon held at Lincoln Park on Saturday, May 17. The event drew more than 50 walkers and, along with related events, raised close to $10,000 for a Resident Van.

Tree Dedication

The Health Information Management Systems department dedicated a tree in honor of former Saint Antoine Executive Director, Mary Ann Adams. The dedication honored Ms. Adams for the sapling that was being dedicated which will take root and become strong, weathering storms and adverse and growing into a beautiful creation that God has planned for his earth.

Bishop’s Birthday

More than 100 of Bishop Jean C. Gielniak’s friends, family, and colleagues celebrated the Bishop’s 80th birthday on May 17 at the Moffitt Restaurant in East Boston. Featured with the Bishop, who was the 157th high school graduating classmate that come from Vermont for the surprise gathering, Bishop Gielniak has served as Chaplain at Saint Antoine since 2004.

your Will... please remember St. Antoine in your WILL and ESTATE.
Dementia Residents Shine Painting Pictures

According to Lisa Schenck, it took a while to assemble the right team to replicate a program that she participated in at a previous facility where she worked. That program, using art and painting as a therapeutic tool, is now helping residents in Saint Antoine Residence’s special care unit who are at various stages of dementia-related illnesses.

The team, consisting of Lisa Schenck, a social worker on the special care unit, Jeannine Gravel, Activities Coordinator, and Di Di Harmon, activities assistant, all agree that the art program is working wonders with residents.

Jeannine Gravel said, “Our residents’ facilities may be diminished because of their dementia but their sense of pride has never left them.”

You can see the residents’ sense of pride as they show off their finished product to staff and other residents, not yet quite believing that they could actually create something so beautiful and something that is their very own.” It is actually quite amazing what they can accomplish and how we can reach them through art,” said Di Di Harmon.

Di Di takes pictures from magazines and helps the resident trace the outline of the picture on a canvas, after which, the resident is helped filling in the outline with colors. Before doing this, however, Di Di has done her homework and chooses a picture that somehow relates to the resident in subject matter or even in color.

“Perhaps a resident liked the ocean in their past. So, I’ll choose an ocean scene. Or, maybe the resident has some favorite colors. In that case, I’ll choose a picture that mostly has the colors they like,” noted Di Di.

“The program is invaluable for the resident,” said Jeannine. “It gives them a lot of one-on-one interaction with us. It helps them to remember something from their past. And, it gives them a great sense of accomplishment.”

“For the families, it gives them something of their loved one…something that the resident has made, themselves and which reflects the resident,” said Di Di.

Resident Bernice Tremblay painted a picture of a woman with a long neck. But, it is what is on the woman's neck in the painting that provides a key to Bernice’s past. The woman in the painting is wearing beads.

Bernice’s daughter, Sandra Kelley said, “I think mom chose a picture with a long neck to show off the beads, better. I remember growing up, my mother always loved to wear beads. She wore them a lot.”

“It is so good to see mom involved in an activity that makes her so happy. The picture she painted is something of herself that she gave to me and that makes me happy too!” exclaimed Sandra.

Much to Nintendo’s surprise, Wii has caught on in nursing homes and retirement communities across the country. Opponents say “the Wii offers a welcome respite from a sedentary lifestyle, and boosts hand-eye coordination among the over-60 set in a way that Ringo and Mahjong can’t.”

The game comes with golf, tennis, boxing, and bowling modules. According to stories found on the internet, bowling seems to be, by far, the most favorite game. In some nursing homes, they go so far as to organize bowling leagues and hand out prizes for the teams playing the best games.

Both the Saint Antoine Residence and the Villa at Saint Antoine, own Wii games. The decision to purchase them came long before we were able to locate two to buy. And, the residents love playing them.

Jennifer Seaton, the Residence’s activities director said, “there’s nothing like the Wii to physically and emotionally stimulate our residents.”

The games are challenging and players get very involved. On one afternoon, a group of women was playing the boxing game. The competition became heated. One woman was “throwing” the punches, while another looked on, cheering her friend. Soon, the excitement rose to a high pitch and the looker-on could be heard rhetorically shouting, “Come on! Get him! Get him!”

Now! Each of these women was in their nineties but acting like teenagers! That’s the power of the Wii and it is helping seniors across the country in monumental ways.

What’s in store for Saint Antoine folks? Perhaps, we will put together some bowling leagues and play tournaments. After all, the cyberspace boxers have been knocked out numerous times already.

Let the games begin!!
Mary Ann Altrui Distinguished Service Award
KEVIN SMITH, LPN, FIRST RECIPIENT

Kevin Smith, LPN, is the first recipient of the Mary Ann Altrui Distinguished Service Award. Kevin has been employed by Saint Antoine Residence since 1999 as a custodian and working his way up from a unit scheduler, to a Certified Nursing Assistant and then a Licensed Practical Nurse. He eventually wants to become a Registered Nurse.

The Mary Ann Altrui Award was established in honor of Ms. Altrui, who had served as executive director of Saint Antoine for 18 years, until her retirement in January of 2007.

The proclamation, establishing the award, reads in part: “This award will be given, each year, to an employee of the Saint Antoine Community who, above all else, has provided exceptional service to residents and colleagues, far exceeding all expectations. Such a person will be viewed as a role model for others to follow. They will discharge their duties with a cheerful heart, giving soul, and service above self.”

Saint Antoine’s Executive Director, Wendy Fargnoli, said that, “Kevin is a ‘total package.’ He has all the qualities necessary to receive such an award…and then some. He truly-exemplifies the spirit of the award and well serves as a model for others to emulate.”

Kevin’s unit supervisor, LuAnn Chamberland, said that, “There is nothing that I ask him to do that he doesn’t do willingly, and the residents just adore him.” In accepting the award, Kevin thanked the Saint Antoine family for helping to bring out the best in him. He also noted that he could not have done this without the help of his colleagues, friends, and family.

Kevin Smith

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Address Service Requested

“To serve is our mission, to love is our tradition”