

Edison: Hospitals



LOOKING OVER a prototype of the new bedside computers to be installed in two medical/surgical units at JFK Medical Center this spring are Jeanne Wisniewski (sitting), director of Personnel, and (from left): Elizabeth Sheridan, vice president of Nursing Services; Judith Adams, R.N.; and Pamela Mon, director of Information Systems.

Review 2/22/90

JFK Medical will continue quality service

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EDISON — As John F. Kennedy Medical Center — New Jersey's largest single hospital system with nearly 1,000 beds — enters the 1990s, it will continue to expand its services and facilities, as well as enhance the quality of its patient care.

JFK will install bedside computers in two medical-surgical units by early spring, thanks in part to a \$500,000 grant from the State Department of Health. The new computer system will be coordinated with the one presently used at JFK's nursing stations.

The bedside computers — mounted on the wall in patient rooms — will enhance patient care by giving nurses immediate access to doctor's plans, patient charts and medication information.

The main treatment areas of JFK's Emergency Room is being renovated to provide an improved environment for patient care and an easier work flow for staff. All beds will be fully monitored and integrated with adjacent specialty care units. Construction is expected to be completed by late winter.

Extended Emergency Room renovations include improved facilities for psychiatric, pediatric and

trauma care, a redesigned exterior entrance and patient parking area, and an improved "fast track" area to allow less-severely injured patients to be treated quicker.

The JFK Maternity Services Department will renovate all maternity patient rooms to include individual bathrooms with private shower and sink. Other maternity renovations include refurbishing all labor, delivery and birthing rooms, as well as maternity nursing stations.

The Hartwyck at Cedar Brook Nursing Convalescent & Rehabilitation Center in Plainfield, one of JFK's affiliates under its parent corporation, JFK Health Systems Inc., will convert existing space to establish New Jersey's first specialized care program for Huntington's disease, a degenerative, hereditary neuromuscular disorder. The 16-bed unit, funded by a \$290,000 State Department of Health grant, is expected to open this spring.

Another JFK affiliate, the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Rehabilitation Institute, will convert existing space to expand its outpatient services and acute care rehabilitation treatment area.

Edison: Hospitals

Roosevelt Hospital's origins date back to World War I

By David C. Sheehan

EDISON — Perched high atop the hill overlooking the lawns and lake of Middlesex County's Roosevelt Park, Roosevelt Hospital dominates the township's Menlo Park area.

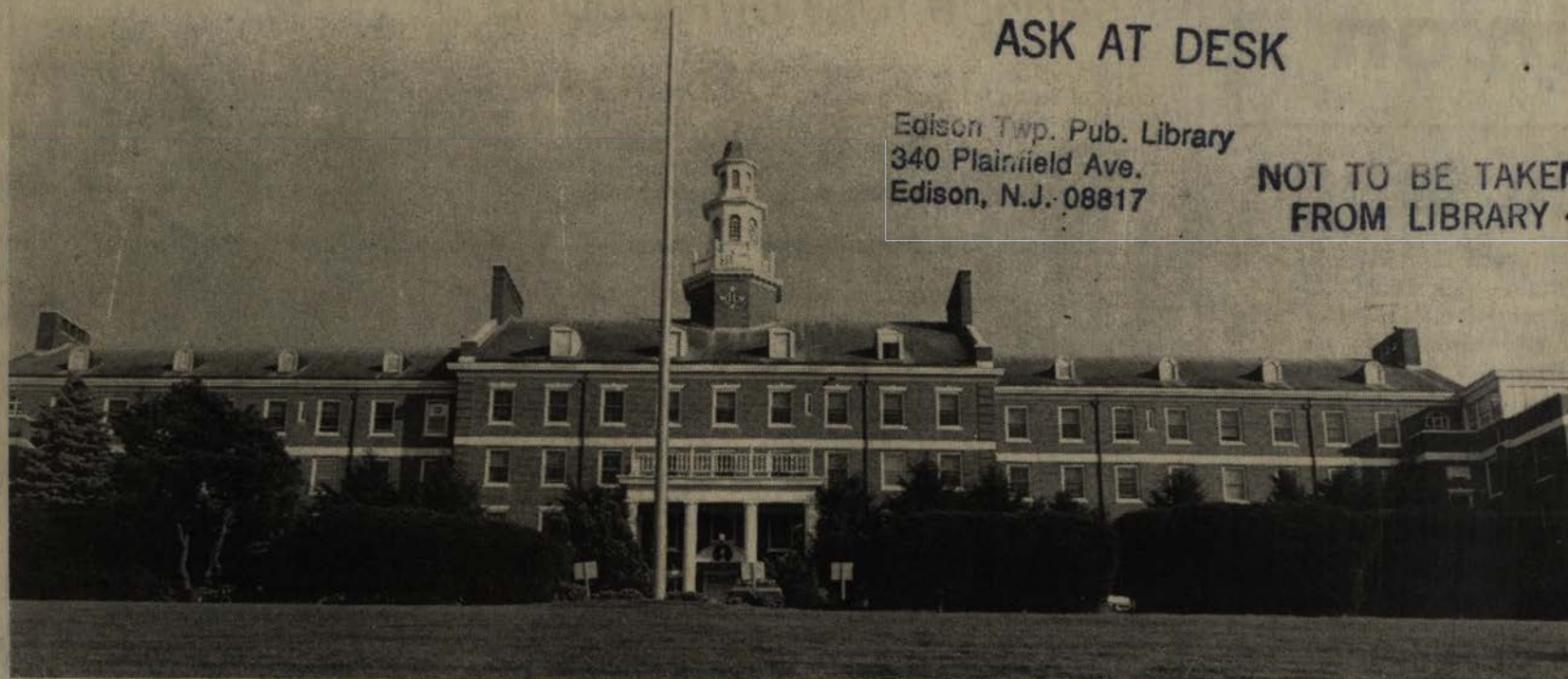
One of Edison's most recognizable and valued architectural treasures, Roosevelt Hospital sits on one of the highest elevations in the area — adjacent to the Menlo Park Mall area and about a half mile away from the Edison Memorial Tower, which is visible from the hospital's columned main entranceway.

Most significant and important to the history of the township is the hospital's own rich and diverse history of service and health care to the residents of Middlesex County.

Roosevelt traces its origins to the early part of 1917, during World War I. A group known as the Middlesex County Tuberculosis League is credited in early reports with "successfully rallying public opinion to construct a hospital for the indigent tubercular. The League presented its request to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which, on July 5th, 1917, approved a resolution calling for the construction of a county hospital."

The freeholders purchased 208 acres at \$46,800, and as hard as it might be to believe in today's sprawling, populous Edison, the hospital site was chosen because of its remoteness.

It was "free of population and free of any kind of buildings. The closest people to it was one farmer and the nearest population area was downtown Metuchen."



—Photo by George Paccello

Though it was first envisioned in 1971 by a group known as the Middlesex County Tuberculosis League, construction of

Roosevelt Hospital, which sits atop one of the highest spots in Edison, did not begin until 1935.

The proper site having been selected and purchased, the tuberculosis hospital seemed to all to be "on track." Costs for completing such an undertaking, however, staggered the freeholders, and the plans were shelved.

A confluence of events brought about renewed interest and need for the county hospital, and a new Board of Chosen Freeholders had been elected and agreed that a hospital should be built at the site.

The year, however, was 1929. The stock market crash of that

year and the ensuing Great Depression had devastating effects on the economy and residents of the area. "Relief" funds drew huge sums of money from the county governmental coffers as more and more county residents lost their savings and livelihoods, making funds for the proposed hospital unavailable.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, after whom the hospital is named, formed several federal administrations in an effort to get America's economy revived. One such administration was the PWA

— short for the U.S. Emergency Public Works Administration — and through this New Deal plan, Middlesex County received \$575,000 in grants and loans for the construction of the hospital.

The architects for the 200-bed hospital was the firm of John Noble Pierson. Construction began, records show, on May 3, 1935, and the hospital was dedicated on October 31, 1936.

The first patients were admitted to Roosevelt Hospital on March 8, 1937, under the care of Dr. Barry J. White, the hospital's first medi-

cal director. White himself was afflicted with tuberculosis and is reported to have "understood the fears and needs of tuberculosis patients."

White served 30 years as director of the hospital, retiring in 1966. Those 30 years saw great changes, not only in society and the community, but in medicine and disease prevention. And, to its credit, Roosevelt Hospital kept pace with these changes.

With the decline in the occurrence of tuberculosis, treatment of that disease became less the focus of the hospital. Attention was

given, more and more, to the care of patients with diseases of the chest and those with chronic illnesses.

Care of such patients is a long-term proposition, however, and beds are occupied for great lengths of time while patient care plans are formulated and carried out by the hospital staff. Coupled with the increase of the county's population at the time — Middlesex County was one of the nation's fastest-growing population centers in the 1960s — and improved medical techniques, Roosevelt completed a 250-bed long-term care wing and added a special care unit.

An obvious and unique part of these expansions was the construction of a 350-foot long glass enclosed elevated walkway connecting the original Roosevelt Hospital with the newly constructed facilities across Parsonage Road.

What began as a tuberculosis hospital in a remote, unpopulated portion of Edison has grown, in 54 years, to one of the large hospital facilities in the region.

Despite, and perhaps thanks to, the changes in the hospital's focus over the years, Roosevelt Hospital continues to fulfill the pledge made so many years ago — to serve the medical needs of the residents of Middlesex County.

David C. Sheehan is co-founder and president of the Edison Township Historical Society, and this article is one in a series written by society members for the Metuchen Edison Review on the history of the area.

As Edison area grew, so did its medical center

State's largest single hospital system was 205-bed facility just 23 years ago

By David C. Sheehan

EDISON — Anniversaries are an opportune time to reflect upon past accomplishments.

They also provide an excellent opportunity to inquire into the history of groups or communities to determine the different paths they have taken on their journeys from one anniversary to the next.

Last week marked a significant anniversary in the history of Edison Township and the Central Jersey area. John F. Kennedy Medical Center turned 23 on August 8. It was born a 205-bed community hospital and now is New Jersey's largest single hospital system.

Where did it all begin? As with many grand ideas, the notion had less-than-grand beginnings.

A written history of JFK Medical Center reports that the idea "started with a conversation" between Dr. Peter A. Capparelli, former township health officer, and the late Mayor Anthony Yelencsics "during a coffee break in a Township Council meeting." The year was 1958.

They talked, according to the report, "about the need for a hospital for the community in light of a number of factors: Middlesex County was emerging as one of the fastest growing counties in the nation and Edison was one of its fastest growing communities."

Hospitals in New Brunswick, Rahway and Perth Amboy had served residents of Edison, Metuchen and Woodbridge prior to the establishment of JFK. Growth, however, provided the greatest reason for a new hospital, and traffic congestion and a greater concentration of population pointed to the necessity of a hospital to serve Edison, Metuchen and Woodbridge.

Health care is a service in which successful treatment is often measured in seconds. The development in the Edison area in the late 1950s and early 1960s was such that effective delivery of health care to the community could have been hampered by traffic jams and similar events.

So a steering committee was formed, finances were explored, fund-raisers were held and objections raised by other

hospitals in the area were overcome.

An oddity in the history of JFK concerns the Auxiliary of the JFK Medical Center Foundation. The auxiliary was formed in November 1962 by Mrs. Charles Wira at the request of Yelencsics, who was chairman of the hospital board. It held the distinction of being the only auxiliary in the state without a hospital.

The auxiliary's initial charge was to raise, in concert with the board, the \$6 million required to begin the construction of the hospital. Four hundred fifty-three joined the auxiliary in its first year.

Meanwhile, Yelencsics convinced Edison officials to donate nearly 40 acres of township land for the hospital and then lobbied with then-Congressman Edward J. Patten to win a \$1.1 million Hill-Burton Funds Grant to begin construction.

Construction was completed in 1967, and John F. Kennedy Community Hospital was dedicated — in heavy rains — July 15 of that year on the muddy and partially landscaped grounds of the hospital. The rain, however, did not dampen the spirits of those who had worked for so many years into bringing the hospital into being.

The dream, now realized, accepted its first five patients on August 7, 1967.

According to a local newspaper account of the opening day, the "five pampered patients" were nearly overwhelmed by the staff of 250 hospital workers at the new facility.

It soon became apparent to JFK administrators, however, that 205 beds were insufficient to serve properly the needs of the still-growing area. The idea of adding new beds gave way to the new concept of total health care, and that was JFK's first major move toward establishing a total health-care system.

A \$14 million expansion completed in 1974 doubled the size of the original hospital, and the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Rehabilitation Institute became part of the JFK system.

The hospital had grown in seven years from a 200-bed



JFK Health Systems, New Jersey's largest single hospital system, grew out of the relatively small 205-bed John F. Kennedy Community Hospital, seen in this aerial view shortly after it opened its doors in 1967.

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hospital to one of the major medical and rehabilitation facilities in New Jersey. Accordingly, February 1974 marked the change in the name of JFK Hospital to John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

Other notable expansions at the James Street site included the 1977 Radiation Therapy Center and Family Practice Center. The 1980s saw JFK's services expand further — through the creation of the Robert Wood Johnson Jr.

LIFEstyle Institute, the Hartwyck Nursing, Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center, a geriatric center and Medi-share Health Services and Intercare Health Systems.

Another notable moment in the history of JFK Medical Center came in 1982 when the 572-bed hospital portion of the center was named the Anthony M. Yelencsics Community Hospital to honor its first president, who for many years

served as chairman of the medical center board.

It has been reported that Yelencsics contributed the first \$55,000 toward the plans for the original hospital.

While no brief history can relate all the names, dates or accomplishments of any institution the size and scope of JFK, it may suffice to say that the medical center has made an indelible mark upon the history of the township and

upon those residents and visitors it has served during the past 23 years.

That legacy of service is the most fitting tribute and the most accurate history of John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

David C. Sheehan is co-founder and president of the Edison Township Historical Society. This article is one in a series on the history of the area written by society members for the Metuchen-Edison Review.



A patient from the old Middlesex Rehabilitation Hospital, North Brunswick, is moved by nurses to the new Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Rehabilitation Institute on the day operations were shifted to the Edison facility. The original John F. Kennedy Community Hospital then became known as John F. Kennedy Medical Center.



When John F. Kennedy Medical Center celebrated its 20th anniversary (above), the late Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics, longtime chairman of the board of trustees, and his sister-in-law Rose Yelencsics (c), a fellow board member, were among those at the festivities. Today, the medical center remains committed to providing the finest possible health care to the community as evidenced by the young patient's smile (below).



Foundation Focus

Published for friends and supporters of the JFK Medical Center Foundation • Winter 1991

A Message from the Chairman

It is my pleasure to introduce to you this premier issue of *Foundation Focus*, the newsletter of the JFK Medical Center Foundation.



Leonard Sendelsky

Our objective in establishing this new quarterly publication is to enhance our ability to communicate with you, our friends and supporters, on those topics about which we feel you are most interested. Each issue will feature articles about new programs, equipment and services that are being financed through your generous contributions. Also included will be photos and information about Foundation and Auxiliary sponsored activities, as well as upcoming events.

The newsletter will also give us an opportunity to publicly thank our contributors and to highlight and recognize the efforts of our volunteers, whose hard work and dedication are invaluable to our cause.

As outlined in our mission statement, "The JFK Medical Center Foundation and Auxiliary are dedicated to obtaining financial support from public, private and community resources for JFK Health Systems, Inc. and its related health care facilities, and to assist in the acquisition and/or support of equipment, personnel and facilities so that the finest possible health care is provided to the patients it serves."

As limited resources for health care programs become even more scarce, the importance of the work of the Founda-

continued on page 2

Campaign total over \$10 million

Flame of Life contributors honored at annual dinner



Announcing increases in their contributions to the Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign at the annual recognition dinner were (starting second from left) Mr. and Mrs. Tom Swales Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Harendra Mehta, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Yelencsics, Dr. and Mrs. C.C. Jani, Dr. and Mrs. Mohamed Husain, Dr. and Mrs. M. Ata Erim, and Drs. Emmanuel Kopidakis and Marianna Nowak-Kopidakis. Sharing the spotlight were Leonard Sendelsky (far left), chairman of the Flame of Life Campaign, and Michael T. Kornett (far right) JFK's president and chief executive officer.

More than 150 contributors and guests of the Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign attended a dinner dance on December 10 at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. The affair is held annually to thank supporters and to formally recognize and welcome new contributors to the campaign.

Those who attended were treated to an elegant cocktail hour, complete with caviar and other deluxe hors d'oeuvres, followed by a surf and turf dinner, and

dancing to music.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of gold Flame of Life pins to new donors and to those who had increased their pledges over the past year. The presentation was made by Leonard Sendelsky, chairman of the campaign and of the JFK Medical Center Foundation's Board of Trustees, and Michael T. Kornett, president and chief executive officer of JFK Health Systems, Inc.

continued on page 2

Endowment campaign more than halfway toward goal

continued from page 1

"I am extremely proud to serve as chairman of this campaign," Sendelsky commented. "The enthusiasm that has been generated has been remarkable. I have no doubt that through our supporters' interest and generosity we will be able to reach our goal, and perhaps, to even go beyond it. This will enable JFK to continue to be a leader in providing the best health care services available in our region now and into the 21st century."

In a spontaneous display of this enthusiasm, a total of \$600,000 in new pledges were announced by several contributors. Increasing their contributions that night were: Mary and Tom Swales Jr., from \$1 million to \$1,250,000; Steve and Rose Yelencsics, from \$250,000 to \$350,000; Dr. and Mrs. M. Ata Erim, from \$100,000 to \$200,000; Dr. Mohamed and Rubab Husain, from \$100,000 to \$150,000; Drs. Emmanuel Kopidakis and Marianna Nowak-Kopidakis, from \$100,000 to \$150,000; Dr. and Mrs. C.C. Jani, from \$25,000 to \$50,000; and Dr. and Mrs. Harendra Mehta, from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

The announcement of these new gifts brought the campaign more than halfway toward its goal of \$20 million, to \$10,050,000 at the end of the dinner.

The Flame of Life Campaign was

Chairman's message

continued from page 1

tion cannot be overstated. While many of our activities will continue to be featured in the JFK newsletter, *The Flame*, space limitations and the vast amount of other material to be included in that publication will continue to preclude the kind of extensive coverage of the Foundation which the board feels is necessary. For this reason, we felt that the establishment of this new periodical, devoted exclusively to the work of the JFK Medical Center Foundation, was warranted.

I hope that you enjoy this first issue of *Foundation Focus* and that you will look forward to receiving future issues.



Dr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Curcio enjoying themselves up on the dance floor.

established in April 1987 as a new and unique method of meeting the financial challenges of JFK's future. Under the program, contributors purchase life insurance policies with face values starting at \$25,000. The JFK Medical Center Foundation is named as owner and beneficiary. Premium costs are completely tax-deductible and may be paid up as a one time gift or in smaller annual installment gift payments over a five year period. Contributors may purchase new policies through the program or transfer an existing policy.

In recognition of their contribution, each donor is presented with a 14 carat gold Flame of Life pin corresponding to their level of donation. Ruby contributors (those purchasing \$100,000 policies), for example, receive a pin with a genuine ruby gemstone embedded in it.

In addition, the name of each contributor is listed in the annual JFK Auxiliary Ball Journal and is permanently engraved on the Flame of Life plaque which is located on the second level of the medical center. Those purchasing policies of \$50,000 or higher also receive other tokens of appreciation depending upon their level of donation. These include complimentary tickets to the annual JFK Foundation Golf Classic and to the Auxiliary Ball.

Since its inception, the Flame of Life Campaign has seen a steady growth in both the number of contributors and the level of contribution. Starting with 12 contributors and \$1,175,000 in pledges in the first year, the program now has 118 participants with endowment policies totaling \$10,050,000.

In 1989 the campaign's name was revised to memorialize the late Anthony M. Yelencsics, former mayor of Edison and longtime chairman of the JFK Medical Center Board of Trustees, who died in April 1989.

"Tony was an inspiration to all of us and I am sure that he would be very pleased with how well the Flame of Life Campaign is doing," said Michael T. Kornett. "It was his vision and dedication to JFK that has brought us to where we are today. This campaign will provide the means for confident and strong financial planning into the future to enable JFK to continue to deliver the very best health care services to the communities that we serve."

For further information about the Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign, please call the JFK Medical Center Foundation office at (908) 632-1540.

The Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign

DOUBLE DIAMOND CONTRIBUTORS (\$1,000,000)

Mary and Tom Swales Jr.*

DIAMOND CONTRIBUTORS (\$500,000)

Edison Anesthesia Associates**
Leonard and Judith Sendelsky
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John and Fran Yorey
Dr. and Mrs. Micky Yu



Contributors to the Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign were honored at a recent ceremony dedicating a plaque that permanently displays all of their names. Admiring the new plaque, which is located on the second level of the hospital, are Steve and Rose Yelencsics, brother and sister-in-law of the late mayor of Edison and chairman of the Board of Trustees of JFK Medical Center, in whose memory the program was named.

*Have contributed at the \$1,250,000 level.
**Have contributed at the \$750,000 level.
***Have contributed at the \$350,000 level.
+Have contributed at the \$200,000 level.
++Have contributed at the \$150,000 level.
+++Have contributed at the \$75,000 level.



Support for pediatric rehab

Above, Charlene Brown, public relations manager for AT&T in Basking Ridge, hands a \$15,000 check from the AT&T Foundation to Michael T. Kornett, president and chief executive officer of JFK Health Systems, Inc. The donation will help fund renovations in the Pediatric Rehabilitation Department of JFK's Johnson Rehabilitation Institute. Looking on are Scott Gebhard (left), administrator of the Johnson Institute, and Patrick Duncan, of AT&T.



Visiting the Link Institute

Above, representatives of the George Link Jr. Foundation, benefactor of the George Link Jr. Institute for Geriatric Medicine at the Hartwyck at Oak Tree Nursing Center, recently enjoyed a tour of the facility and a thank you luncheon. Standing outside of the institute are (from left) Bernard F. Joyce, vice president and secretary; Michael J. Catanzaro, vice president and treasurer; Eleanor Irene Higgins Link, chairwoman; Robert Emmet Link, vice chairman; and Coleman Clougherty, vice president.

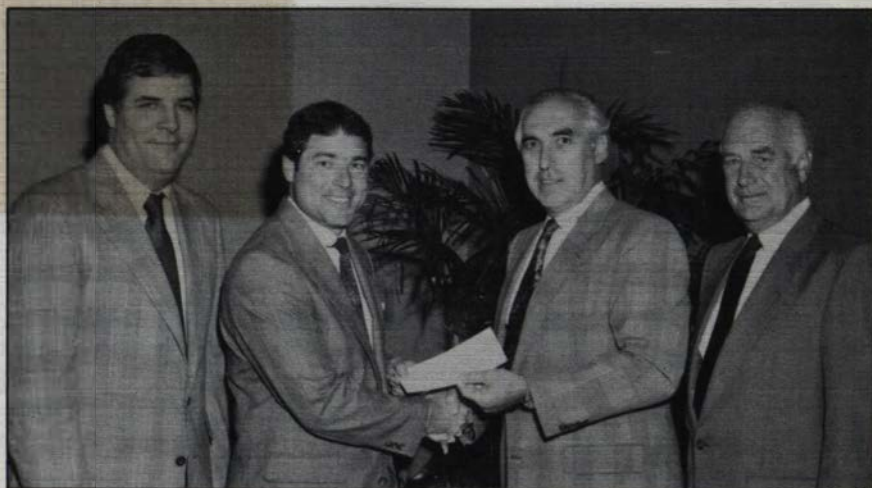


In the spirit of giving

Above, kindergarteners from JFK's Keith Wold Johnson Child Care Center help kickoff the Auxiliary's Giving Tree Program in the second level lobby of the hospital. Sharing in the celebration are (from left) Fran Yorey, president of the Auxiliary, and Giving Tree Program co-chairpersons Arlene Weiseman and Marilyn Gerner. Donors to the program purchase ornaments in their name or another name which they specify. These are placed on the Giving Tree and then given to the donor to keep after the holidays. Proceeds from the program are used to fund college scholarships for local area students.

Donation for Hospice Program

Below, Glenn Tringali, vice president of development for the JFK Medical Center Foundation (second from left) accepts a \$5,000 check from Louis Giordano, president of the Gannett Outdoor Company, for the medical center's Haven Hospice Program. Also present were Kevin Doran (far left), director of foundation relations for JFK, and George Hagemeister, vice president of public relations for Gannett.



Golf Classic nets \$128,000 for new Huntington's Unit

JFK Medical Center's new Huntington's Disease Unit, which opened last June at the Hartwyck Nursing, Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center in Plainfield, received a major financial boost from proceeds of the JFK Medical Center Golf Classic and Super 50/50 Raffle held on September 5. The events raised \$128,000 for the new program, the first of its kind in New Jersey and one of only a few in the nation specializing in treating patients with this disorder.

More than 200 people attended the annual fundraising event at the Metuchen Golf and Country Club in Edison. Participants were treated to a morning or afternoon of golf, as well as a buffet lunch, use of the pool, and an evening program of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, an awards ceremony, and raffle drawings for such prizes as a baseball autographed by Don Mattingly, a football signed by every member of the Giants, and a \$1,000 rug donated by Mellon and Mellon Co., Inc. Cash prizes were awarded to 15 lucky winners of the \$150,000 Super 50/50 Raffle. Each winner received a percentage of the winning share.

"The funds which were raised through this year's event will enable us to expand our efforts at learning more about Huntington's Disease and to have our program serve as a model for the country," said Michael T. Kornett, JFK's president and chief executive officer.

Huntington's Disease is an inherited, degenerative brain disorder which causes its victims to lose both physical control and mental capacity. The disorder affects about one person of every 1,000 people in the United States.

The 16-bed Huntington's Disease Unit at the Hartwyck Center is staffed by a team of professionals which includes physicians and nurses, a program director, a speech therapist, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, a recreation therapist, a dietitian, a social worker and an in-service coordinator. Consultation services are also available from neurologists and other specialists on staff at the medical center.



Among the participants in this year's JFK Medical Center Golf Classic were (from left) Dr. Robert Rickards; Don Criqui, NFL sportscaster for WNBC-TV; Michael T. Kornett, president and chief executive officer of JFK Health Systems, Inc.; and Leonard Sendelsky, chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.



Frank Hlavenka (left) and Thomas O. Coleman, general chairmen of the Golf Classic, display framed, first-day issue stamps saluting immortal professional golfer Bobby Jones. They received these gifts as a token of appreciation for their work on the Golf Classic. At right is Estelle Roth, director of special events.

A comprehensive approach to treatment is used, focusing not only on the medical and rehabilitative needs of the patient, but also on their psychological and social needs, as well as providing educational and support services for the family.

"Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for these patients," said Senior Vice President Raymond Fredericks, who oversees nursing home operations. "But it costs a great deal of money to provide the kinds of services which are necessary, so we're very pleased that the Huntington's Disease Unit was chosen as the beneficiary of this year's Golf Classic."

The tournament's organizers were delighted with the turnout and with the support which the participants have shown toward the medical center and its programs.

"It takes a team effort to be a leader and that's what we've always had at JFK among our physicians, our staff and the community," said Thomas Coleman, chairman of the Board of Trustees for JFK Health Systems, Inc., and co-chairman of the Golf Classic. "We're just getting started with the Huntington's Disease Unit, but we expect that it will be a pilot for others to emulate."

The Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign

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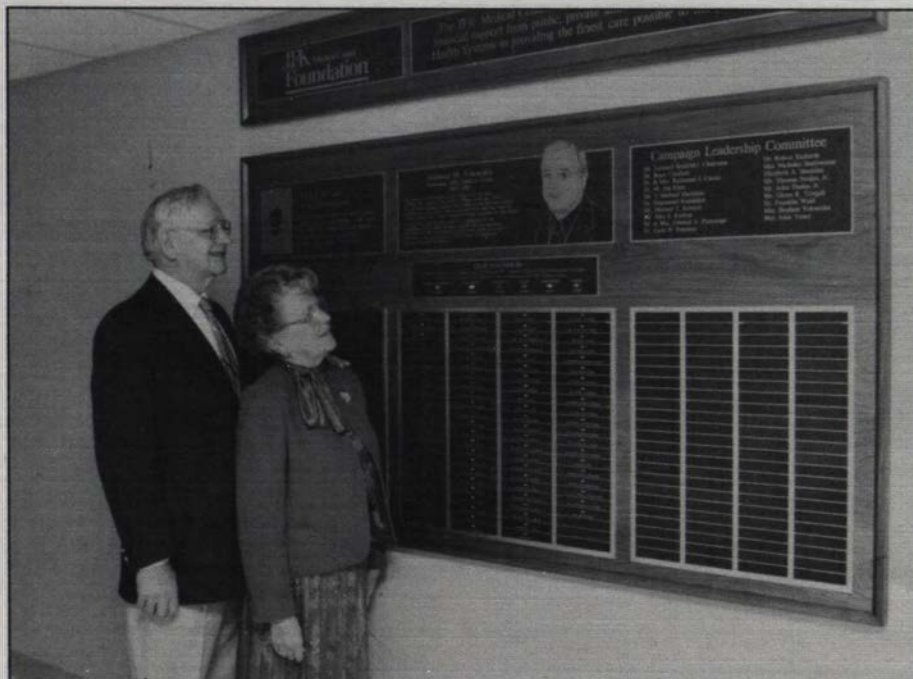
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Contributors to the Anthony M. Yelencsics Flame of Life Endowment Campaign were honored at a recent ceremony dedicating a plaque that permanently displays all of their names. Admiring the new plaque, which is located on the second level of the hospital, are Steve and Rose Yelencsics, brother and sister-in-law of the late mayor of Edison and chairman of the Board of Trustees of JFK Medical Center, in whose memory the program was named.

*Have contributed at the \$1,250,000 level.

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5 nurses deny guilt in nursing home death

They say they called doctor but got no answer

By Jim O'Neill

STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Joan Polansky spent most of her adult life working as a nurse. So it's still surprising how she ended up in a crowded New Brunswick courtroom, facing a charge that she and four co-workers failed to react to the medical needs of a patient, who later died.

"I would never, ever neglect a patient in my life," Polansky said yesterday as tears welled in her eyes. "Forty years in nursing with an unblemished record. I never even got a traffic ticket."

Polansky, 61, of Edison and the co-workers, all nurses at Roosevelt Care Center, Middlesex County's nursing home, pleaded not guilty yesterday in the Oct. 22 death of Isaac Baron, 74, of Metuchen.

The five were released without bail after being formally advised by Superior Court Judge John Kuhlthau that they had been indicted March 25 on a charge of endangering the welfare of an elderly person. Middlesex County authorities have said the indictment marked the first time nurses have been accused of being criminally negligent in a patient's death.

The fourth-degree offense carries a maximum 18-month jail term and \$7,500 fine.

Prosecutor Robert W. Gluck has charged that Baron, who was recovering at the nursing home after suffering a stroke, began having difficulty breathing, but the nurses neglected his deteriorating condition by waiting from 10:50 p.m. Oct. 21 until 6:45 a.m. Oct. 22 to notify a doctor.

The nurses and their attorneys insisted yesterday that the five women were not negligent, and assert that they tried to contact an on-call physician and got no response.

In addition to Polansky, those charged are Jeanne Fell, 64, of Metu-

chen and Kanakavally John, 61, of Edison, all registered nurses, and Mary Ann Hoyda, 38, of Perth Amboy and Rose Tubens, 57, of Piscataway, both licensed practical nurses.

The defense lawyers described the nurses as scapegoats in the death, which followed a decision by the county freeholders to cut staff physicians as part of a measure to trim costs at the 250-bed facility.

"The persons responsible for the death of Mr. Baron haven't been indicted," said George Gussis, a New Brunswick attorney representing Polansky. He blamed the staff and on-call doctors.

John Schantz, a Woodbridge lawyer representing Hoyda, said his client is "a 20-year professional who acted properly at all times. If she was neglectful, the indictment would be overreaching. The fact is she is not neglectful and she is not guilty."

Joseph Benedict, the lawyer for Tubens, noted that she and Hoyda were cleared of negligence during a county hearing in December.

A report by Christopher Bond, the county's criminal justice planner, says the nurses responsible for Baron's care that night initially were hesitant to contact an on-call physician, because an earlier administrative memo warned "about not bothering doctors except in extreme emergencies."

Bond further noted that nurses called twice during the 11 p.m.-to-3 a.m. shift and got no response.

The hearing officer ruled that Hoyda and Tubens should be reinstated to their jobs, but the county rejected those findings and is appealing the decision.

They remain out of work, while the three others resigned or retired after the county filed dismissal charges against them last year.



Five nurses at the Roosevelt Care Center in Middlesex County who denied their guilt to neglect charges are, top row, from left, Jeanne Fell; Kanakavally John; middle row, from left, Joan Polansky; Mary Ann Hoyda, with her lawyer; at left, Rose Tubens.

Edison hospice hopes to bring dignity to the dying

HN 2/15/88

Doctor in charge says facility will bring a 'humane' approach for terminally ill

By DIANNE GARYANTES
Home News staff writer

As a physician, Dr. Man Wah Cheung has spent the past 35 years trying to save people's lives. For the past year, however, he has been dedicated to finding a better way for some patients to die.

The doctor's latest effort appears to have been successful. Early next year, Cheung, medical director at the 550-bed Roosevelt Hospital in Edison, expects to build a new \$1.1 million, six-bed hospice on the hospital's grounds. The structure, planned for a 4.5-acre tract on Oakwood Avenue, would be the first freestanding hospice in New Jersey.

"We have in the hospital on any given day perhaps 25 to 30 terminal cancer cases," Cheung said during an interview last week. Hospice services would be designed "so patients can die in dignity and comfort," he said.

The facility is designed to provide care for patients with only six months to live. The patients would spend most of their time at home, staying in the hospice for short-term medical care or when their families need a break from home care.

A hospice program focuses on helping terminally ill people spend their remaining months as comfortably as possible. Relief from physical pain and emotional support are priorities. Most programs operate from the patient's home or in hospital oncology wards with a combination of medical staff and volunteers.

"It's a tremendously humane way of approaching it," said Patricia Jones, executive vice president of the Hospice Association of America in Washington D.C. Jones, who was part of a hospice program during her husband's illness and eventual death, said the emotional support offered to patients and their families under such a program is its

strongest asset.

"You stop feeling crazy," she said. "You realize what you're feeling is real and that a lot of people feel that way."

The number of hospice programs in New Jersey has swelled from four in 1979 to 40 today, according to Ruth Thies, executive director of the New Jersey Hospice Organization. Cancer patients are most associated with use of the programs, although the latest group to be welcomed into such programs are people suffering from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS patients also would be taken into the Roosevelt program, Cheung said.

The Roosevelt Hospital program would treat any qualifying, terminally ill patient regardless of ability to pay or the nature of the sickness, hospital officials said. Requirements for Roosevelt program, which will be instituted next spring when the hospice building is expected to be completed, include having a primary care-giver at home and a life expectancy of six months or less. Participation would be voluntary.

A preliminary design of the new hospice depicts a one-story, white stucco structure containing two single bedrooms and one bedroom with two beds. The building also would have two large living areas and a porch overlooking Roosevelt Park. About 18 patients would be allowed into the program at a time.

Another bedroom is planned in the building for use by a patient's primary care giver — usually a spouse or other family member. No other bedrooms for care givers could be added because of space restrictions, Cheung said.

About one-third of the terminal cases at Roosevelt are expected to qualify for the hospice program, Cheung noted. Other patients could be in a semi-conscious state or attempting curative treatment de-

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Edison: Hospitals



Artist's rendering of proposed hospice

The facility is designed to provide care for patients with only six months to live. The patients would spend most of their time at home, staying in the hospice for short-term medical care or when their families need a break from home care. Hospice services would be designed "so patients can die in dignity and comfort," according to Dr. Man Wah Cheung.

spite a grave prognosis, he said.

A freestanding hospice is ideal, he added, because it separates patients resigned to death from those fighting to live. Beds also would be guaranteed to hospice patients when they are needed, he said.

Another advantage of hospice

care separated from a hospital is better control over patient services, according to Jones. The disadvantage, she said, is cost, because some services end up being duplicated. County officials estimate operating the hospice will cost \$450,000 a year.

The hospice would be staffed by 21 employees, including a round-the-clock nursing staff, a psychiatrist, and clerical and administrative personnel.

Four other hospice programs operate in Middlesex County including one at St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy, John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, and the Visiting Nurse Association in Middlesex County Inc. in North Brunswick.

Roosevelt Hospital is operated by Middlesex County. Freeholders budgeted \$140,000 this year for operation of the hospice, and plan to spend another \$463,000 to build the facility. Yearly operating costs for the hospice would be paid for by the county.

The hospice originally had been touted as a privately funded project. The county stepped in to help fund the project after it was learned a \$400,000 estate gift earmarked for the facility fell through, county officials said. The deceased's will apparently stated the funding should go toward a respiratory care center, not a hospice.

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Roosevelt Hospital

Hospital marks anniversary

NT 9/26/86
EDISON — The movement for a tuberculosis hospital in Middlesex County, which would become Roosevelt Hospital, had its inception in the early part of 1917, during World War I.

The Middlesex County Tuberculosis League successfully rallied public opinion to construct a hospital for the indigent tubercular. This year, the hospital celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The League presented its request to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which on July 5, 1917 approved a resolution calling for the construction of a county hospital.

Raritan Township, now Edison, was the site selected for the hospital and 208 acres were purchased by the county for \$46,800.

Former Freeholder Director George Otlowski said the site was selected because it was "free of population and free of any kind of buildings. The closest people to it was one farmer and the nearest population area was downtown Metuchen."

After initial plans were prepared, the Freeholders learned that the cost of the instituting indebtedness limitations.

It was not until 1929 when a new board of Freeholders was elected that the idea for a county hospital again was raised. The "Great Depression" staggered the county and the nation. Huge sums were expended monthly for relief of Middlesex County residents and funds for construction of a hospital were beyond the capabilities of the county.

One of the first actions of newly-elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for whom the hospital is named, was the establishment of the United States Emergency Public Works Administration, commonly called PWA. Through this program not only were hundreds of public projects financed, but thousands of people were put to work.

Through PWA financing the county received \$575,000 in loans and grants for the construction of Roosevelt Hospital. Architectural plans, drawn by John Noble Pierson and Sons for a 200-bed hospital, were approved and work began on May 3, 1935.

Dedicated on Oct. 31, 1936, Roosevelt Hospital's first medical director Dr. Harry J. White welcomed the first patients to the institution on March 8, 1937.

Since Dr. White had had tuberculosis himself, he understood the fears and needs of tuberculosis patients. He organized a staff to create a family, a friendly atmosphere to provide the best health care in a pleasant environment. Patients would face long hospital stays on their way to recovery from tuberculosis.

The gradual change in the hospital's emphasis began in the early 1940s when antituberculosis drugs were developed and antibiotics became more readily available. These substantially reduced the patients' prolonged hospital stays and permitted many to be treated on

an out-patient basis.

More patients were admitted with diseases of the chest and other chronic illnesses. In 1957, the hospital's Board of Managers received approval from the Board of Chosen Freeholders to construct a 60-bed unit for the care of the chronically ill — the first major change in the hospital's patient care emphasis. In addition, an Alcohol Treatment Center was developed at the hospital.

By 1963, the patient load had shifted into two categories, 50 percent of admissions were patients with primary diseases of the chest and 50 percent had chronic illness.

Chronic overcrowding had become part of the hospital as well. The daily census averaged 245 to 250 patients while the normal bed capacity was 212. To alleviate the overcrowding and to provide separate inpatient facilities, ground was broken for a 100-bed addition and an Out-Patient Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

After 30 years as head of Roosevelt Hospital, Dr. Harry J. White retired in 1966 and was succeeded by the hospital's current superintendent and medical director, Dr. Man wan Cheung.

Under Dr. Cheung, the hospital began to pioneer a new specialty: gerontological care. With more and better medical services available, people lived longer posing different health care problems. And as the over-65 population grew so did Roosevelt Hospital. In 1982, Roosevelt completed construction of a 250-bed Long-Term-Care wing, which brought the hospital to its current 558-bed total. This project also included an expansion of the hospital's Special Care Unit and construction of a 350-foot walkway over Parsonage Road to link the main building and annex.

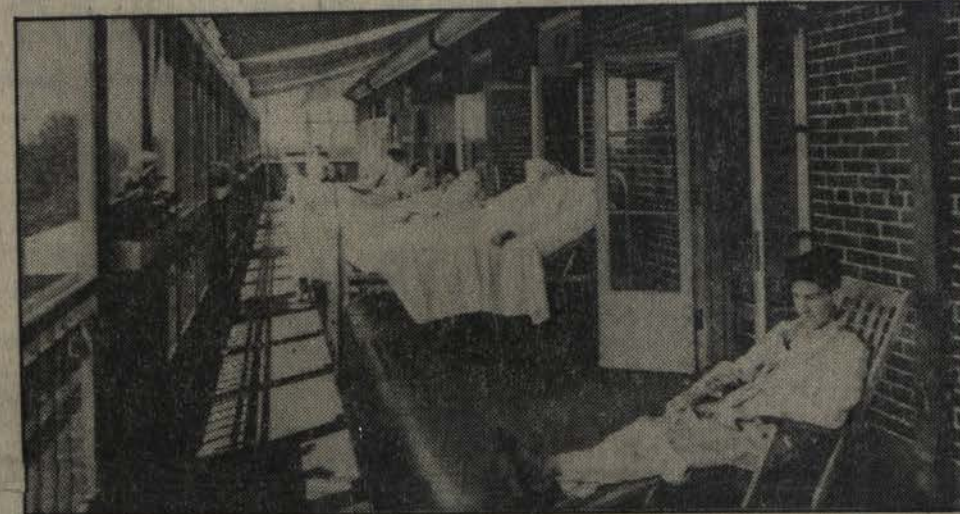
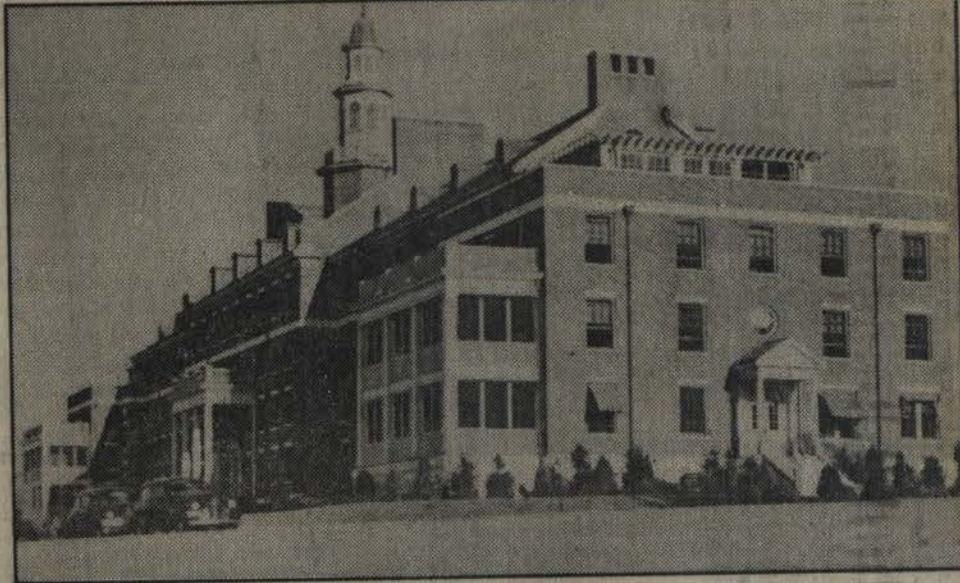
Today, Roosevelt, with a staff of 1,100 full and parttime employees, is the largest health care institution in Middlesex County, according to a spokesperson.

In addition to its inpatient long-term, rehabilitative and gerontologic services, it offers an outpatient Senior Citizens Health Clinic, a Cardiac Clinic, TB clinic, an Alcohol Treatment Center, and Middlesex County's Rape Crisis Intervention Center.



Old and new

Photos show the evolution of Roosevelt Hospital, Edison, over the past 50 years. At top, left, is a new entrance added to the hospital in 1982. Top right is a view of the hospital in 1941. Bottom right is another 1940s photo which shows patients undergo-



TNT photos

ing helio therapy on a sun porch, while photo, bottom left, shows a 350 foot walkway constructed in 1982, that spans Parsonage Road.

Long term care branch latest addition

EDISON — The six-story Long-Term Care (LTC) facility opened in early 1983 is the latest addition to Roosevelt Hospital's 12-acre complex.

The 250-bed addition nearly doubled the hospital's bed capacity to 558, making it the largest health care facility in Middlesex County.

The LTC wing was part of a \$10.6 million expansion and renovation project which included expansion and updating of the hospital's dietary and X-ray departments. A new Special Care Unit also was included in the construction program, increasing the hospital's intensive care service to 12 beds.

The most visually dramatic addition to the hospital was the 350-foot walkway, linking the hospital's main building with the annex on the opposite side of Parsonage Road.

Former U.S. Senator Harrison Williams was instrumental in the development of the annex, according to former Freeholder Director George Otlowski.

"He helped me develop the annex and four outreach comprehensive mental health facilities in Perth

Amboy, South Amboy, and two at Rutgers University in Piscataway," Otlowski said. "In getting federal funds he occupied an important position as chairman of the Senate Health and Labor Committee. Without him the annex never would have been done."

Patients from the hospital for the Chronically Ill, another county-operated facility, were the first to occupy the Long-Term Care Wing. In a carefully orchestrated move, a

caravan of ambulances and trucks transported the patients and their belongings from the North Brunswick hospital to Roosevelt.

Each of the five units in the LTC contains 50 beds in 26 rooms, as well as an activity room for social and recreation programs and meals.

The main floor of the wing became the new lobby and recreation area for the hospital, providing access for the handicapped with its ramp entranceway.

WEIRD NJ STORIES : ONLY GO THERE AT NIGHT : TALES FROM THE ASYLUM

MENLO ABANDONED MENTAL INSTITUTION

The following is a 100% true story and I thought you might like to hear about it. About five years ago, when I was a senior in high school, three of my friends and myself decided to go exploring. We all live in Aberdeen and had heard the local stories about Igoe Rd, The KKK Road, etc. Igoe wasn't anything out of the ordinary and I was on the KKK road only briefly. However, my friend Bob told us about the abandoned mental hospital in Menlo Park. We were intrigued by his stories, so we decided to check it out.



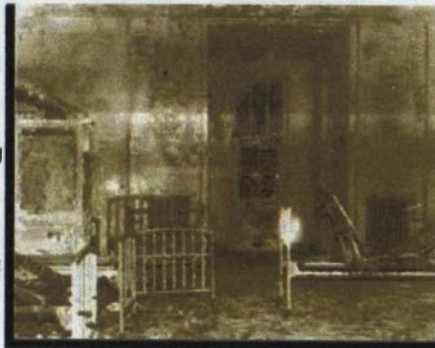
We all drove up there one night. Behind the hospital is an apartment complex, so we parked in there and were on our way. First of all, the moon was illuminating everything that night (pretty sure it was a full moon, which added to the creepiness) so the silhouette of the building in the middle of the field was pretty intimidating.

We slowly made our way to the building and entered. The inside was littered with debris. We checked out a few of the rooms, some of which still had furniture in them. We wanted souvenirs so I found a form that had a patient's name on it with a list of his medications and the utensils he was allowed to use for meals (Spoon, yes; knife and fork, no).

We made our way into a large room that had a giant pentagram on the wall and what looked like blood stains on the floor. Needless to say, that was a tad freaky. That, however, was only the tip of the iceberg of freaky things to come.

We made our way down a corridor which led to a door. This door went to the outside, a courtyard. Bob went out first, and proceeded to come back in immediately. We had been looking for the way out, because the place is so big we got a bit disoriented. We figured this way would let us out in front of the hospital, opposite from the rear where we had come in. Well, Bob comes back in to lead us out, but tells us not to look up. The way it was laid out, was once we went outside, you could look up to your left and see the rest of the building which was a couple of stories high. Of course, the first thing we all do? Look up! On the roof was a group of people staring down at us.

Now Bob says they were wearing all black, I couldn't tell since it was dark and all we could see was their outlines. Whatever they were wearing, we were defecating ourselves. Bob had told us stories of cults gathering there and stuff so our first inclination was: Satan-worshippers. One guy was smoking a cigarette and just staring at us. We started walking quickly, looking for the exit, but we were fenced in. While we're walking and simultaneously praying and trying to get out, the group on the roof was slowly walking along with us. We counted about a half dozen or so of them and we were absolutely petrified as it was until we saw them stop and what looked to be the leader guy (cigarette man) talking to another guy. All of a sudden that guy turns and walks away from them. We immediately realized that the guy was probably coming downstairs to do something to us (which probably wouldn't have been to say hello), so we ran like a bunch of scared little girls.



We ran around the side of the building and decide to forget about trying to go through an opening in the fence and just go OVER the fence.

We scampered up the fence, where Matt got his watch caught and ended up losing it, but we weren't going to stop to look for it. We ran all the way to the car and didn't stop for anything.

I swear that was a true story. I don't think I've ever been so scared in my life, except when my girlfriend is late getting her "little friend."

Looking back on it, it was pretty exciting. I wear it like a badge of courage every time someone tries to tell me a scary story. This one has topped most.

- Sean B.

PHANTOM BOWLERS OF GREYSTONE

I currently work at a Psychiatric Hospital in New Jersey. The abandoned wards and buildings on the grounds are strange, and also quite depressing. When I first started working there, my supervisor at that time gave me a tour of the tunnels (I have never heard them referred to as the "catacombs"). I saw the cots, beds, old stores, etc., but deep inside one tunnel is a full-size bowling alley; the pins and balls are still there. Of course, everything is in a state of deterioration, but it was very, very eerie. You could almost see the patients

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The Yelencsics Era at JFK

ANTHONY M. YELENCICS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



A Proud Moment in the Life of JFK's Chairman

Anthony M. Yelencsics, the late Chairman of the Board of John F. Kennedy Medical Center, is shown here with his family in 1982, when the original John F. Kennedy Community Hospital was renamed the Anthony M. Yelencsics Community Hospital in honor of his contributions and service to the hospital since 1958. With him in this photo are children Anton and Mary Ann and his wife Norma.

SPECIAL EDITION

Edison: Hospitals

The Yelencsics Era:

Service and Commitment to JFK Medical Center

By Robert A. Loder, Jr.
Vice President for Public Relations and Marketing

It has often been said that if there was one man responsible for the existence of John F. Kennedy Medical Center it was Tony Yelencsics—that's no doubt true.

From the early days of an idea to build a hospital to service Edison and the surrounding area back in the late 1950s to his death on April 25, the launching, development and expansion of JFK Medical Center was Tony Yelencsics' passion.

And, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for more than two decades, he presided over the building and opening of the original 205-bed community hospital and its development into New Jersey's largest hospital system of nearly 1,000 beds.

Tony Yelencsics was everywhere—he went on fund-raising calls, wringing contributions for JFK out of business and industry in his sometimes less-than-diplomatic style, and then giving gen-



Hospital officials look over the plans for the initial construction of John F. Kennedy Community Hospital in the early 1960s. From left, Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics, then President of the Board of Trustees; Board officers Philip Schwalje and Dr. A. Peter Capparelli, Board Chairman Leo Weiss, officer Thomas O. Coleman and the architect's representative.

Memorial Fund Established

A special Anthony M. Yelencsics Memorial Fund has been established for those who wish to honor the memory of the late Board Chairman with a contribution to John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

Contributions may be sent to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center Foundation, Mediplex Suite 400, 98 James Street, Edison, New Jersey 08820-3998. Additional information is available by calling the Foundation at 632-1540.

erously of his own funds. It is said he contributed the first \$55,000 out of his own pocket to get the hospital plans going.

He attended countless employee awards ceremonies, holiday parties, picnics, receptions, dedications, anniversaries, auxiliary balls, luncheons, dinners—all of the events that make up the social side of JFK Medical Center.

Tony Yelencsics wielded considerable political clout—he was mayor of one of New Jersey's biggest and most economically influential communities and head of its most powerful party organization. Often he used his clout for the benefit of JFK Medical Center. When state officials denied JFK a CAT scanner, Tony Yelencsics took the hospital's case right to the office of then Governor Brendan Byrne—successfully.

In the beginning, he convinced Edison officials to donate nearly 40 acres of township land for the hospital then lobbied with

congressional leaders such as Middlesex County's own Rep. Edward J. Patten to win \$1.1 million in Hill-Burton funds, then the largest single grant in New Jersey under that program.

But he was the first to admit that he was only one trustee out of many who worked on the project and he constantly gave board members credit for long hours of service with no compensation.

He could be rough and gruff at times. Tony Yelencsics had little patience with the news media, especially if he thought they were short-changing JFK. He could terrorize young reporters—as he did this one many years ago—but in the final analysis it was JFK and Edison that mattered most to him.

At Tony Yelencsics' funeral, MSGR. Francis J. Crupi said it best: "If you asked him his most cherished achievement, he would tell you JFK Medical Center. And that was because that institution, like Tony's whole life, is dedicated to the service of others."



Board Chairman Anthony M. Yelencsics is shown here in 1982 with then Governor Brendan Byrne, principal speaker at ceremonies renaming the original acute care hospital as the Anthony M. Yelencsics Community Hospital.



Board Chairman Anthony M. Yelencsics welcomes Woodbridge Mayor Phillip Cerria to membership on the board in 1984.



Attending virtually hundreds of hospital events, Board Chairman Anthony M. Yelencsics is shown here with two volunteers at the Annual Volunteer Awards Night.



At his most entertaining best—Chairman Anthony M. Yelencsics presides as Master of Ceremonies at the Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament.



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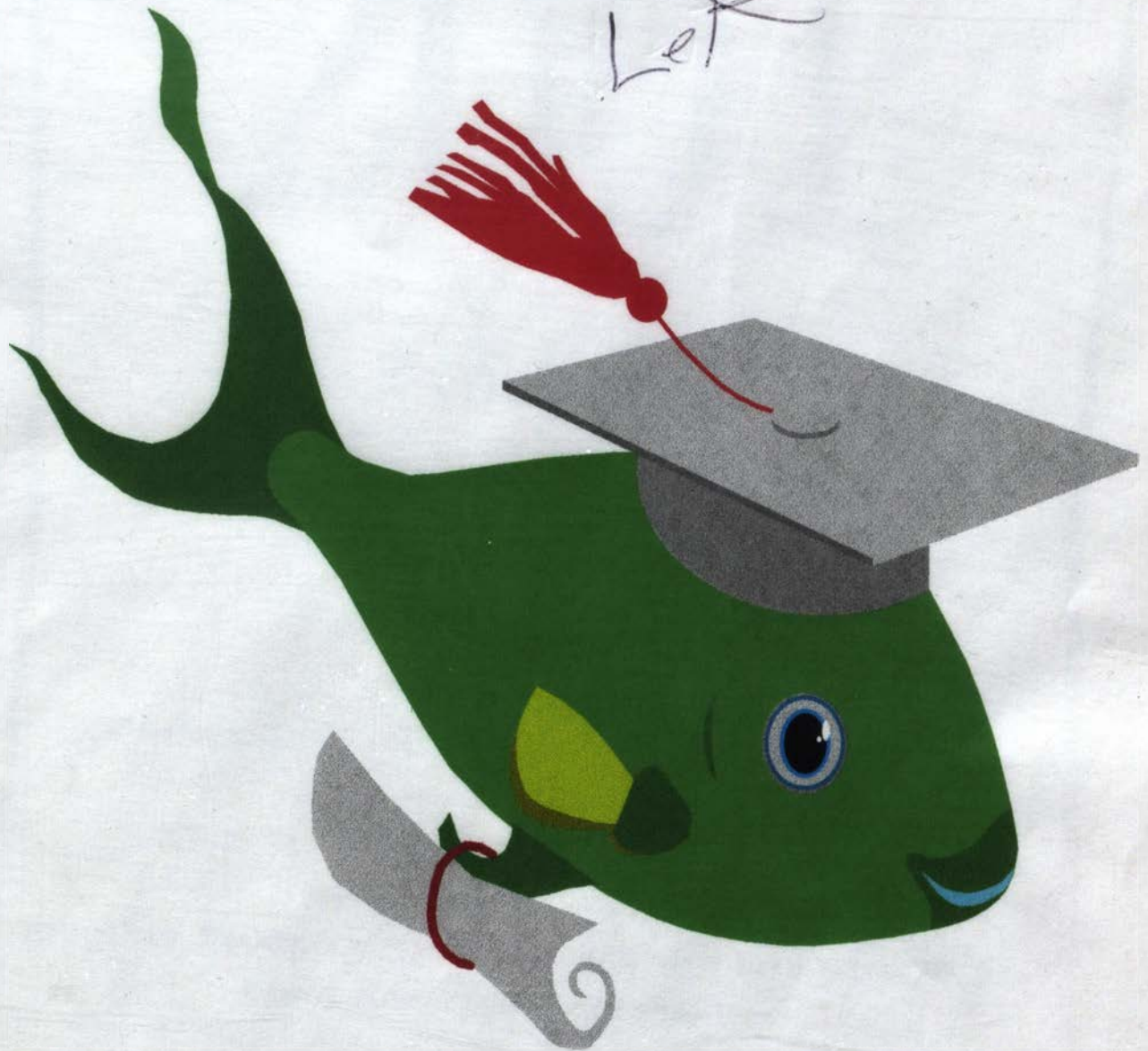
EDISON

Hospitals-JFK

Career Development Program

JFK-Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

Let



2001 YEARBOOK

2001

Yearbook Table of Contents

A Letter From The Director

Getting The Job

Career Development Program Highlights

Out and About

"Feel The Power Within You" A Poem

Meet The Graduates

Meeting Students That Shared The World Of Work

Fond And Funny Memories

"Believing" A Poem

Autographs

Yearbook Groups

JFK

**JOHNSON
REHABILITATION
INSTITUTE**

June, 2001

Dear Graduates,

Time flies by so quickly. It seems like yesterday that you first sat in my office learning about CDP, better known as the Career Development Program. I can recall each and every one of your faces looking fearful and not wanting to be there. It was my responsibility to convince you that staying in school longer than you had planned, would be to your best interest. This was not an easy task as you well know!

But, alas, here we are. A bit older and I think you will agree, a whole lot wiser. Along with this wisdom has come self confidence and the knowledge that you have something to offer the world in which we live. You can and will make a difference!

You have formed friendships while here at JFK among your peers, co-workers and our staff. We, the staff, see you as our grown sons and daughters, ready to move away from home. It is our hope that we have contributed to your maturity. We have learned a great deal from you as well. As a parent sees their children leave home, we too are a little saddened at our parting, but we know you are ready. Our door is always open for a visit, or to offer a helping hand should you need it, please feel free to take it at anytime.

We are blessed to have known you. We wish you every success and happiness now and for ever.

Sincerely,

Harriet Findlay
Harriet Findlay, MA, CRC, LRC
Director
Vocational Rehabilitation

Affiliates of **SOLARIS** Health System

JFK Medical Center • Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center • JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute • New Jersey Neuroscience Institute
Diabetes Center of New Jersey • JFK Hartwyck Nursing, Convalescent & Rehabilitation Centers
Muhlenberg Schools of Nursing, Medical Imaging & Therapeutic Sciences
Mediplex Surgery Center • Whispering Knoll

65 James Street, P. O. Box 3059, Edison, New Jersey 08818-3059 (732) 321-7000

Getting the Job

A local business was looking for office help. They put a sign in the window, stating the following: "HELP WANTED. Must be able to type, must be good with a computer and must be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer."

A short time afterwards, a dog trotted up to the window, saw the sign and went inside. He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined.

Getting the idea, the receptionist got the office manager. The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he lead him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on the chair and stared at the manager.



The manager said "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type." The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back on the chair.

The manager was stunned, but then told the dog "the sign says you have to be good with a computer." The dog jumped down again and went to the computer. The dog proceeded to enter and execute a perfect program, that worked flawlessly the first time.



By this time the manager was totally dumb-founded! He looked at the dog and said "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job."

The dog jumped down and went to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the sentences that told about being an Equal Opportunity Employer. The manager said "yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual."

The dog looked at the manger calmly and said, "Meow!"





Career Development Program Highlights

Birthday Parties **Learning about the A.D.A**
Holiday Cooking **Paychecks** **Communication Groups**
Newark Symphony Hall Trip **Open House**
Trenton Thunder Baseball Stadium Trip **Dance Lessons**
End of the Year Pizza Party **Career Options Day**
Employee of the Month **Miniature Golf Experience**
Train Trip to Newark Penn Station **Parent Groups**
"Under The Sea" Dinner Dance **Newark Airport Tour**
New Jersey State Museum **PNC Bank Arts Center Trip**
Point Pleasant Boardwalk **Graduation Breakfast**
Portuguese Resturaunt **Guest Speakers** **Mentorships**
Lunch Hour **Focus Groups** **Grocery Shopping**
Leisure Skill Development **Yearbook Groups**



Out and About



PNC Bank Arts Center Trip: Students were transported to the PNC Bank Arts Center to attend a Summer youth Extravaganza. Performances included a tribute to the Backstreet Boys and the Flaming Idiots (a juggling act).

Newark Airport Tour: The students learned about the history and layout of the airport and how the runways are kept clean from debris. The students also had the opportunity to see the emergency fire units and learn about how these vehicles operate in the case of a fire and were given a demonstration. Students were given a tour of one of the terminals in order to learn about airport security, how to read the flight information monitors, and where to ask questions.

New Jersey State Museum in Trenton Visit: As they toured the museum, they learned about a variety of artifacts and fossils found in New Jersey. They also had an opportunity to explore and examine pottery and tools that were used in earlier times.

Train Trip to Newark Penn Station: Students took a train trip from Metro Park to Newark Penn Station and back. They had the opportunity to learn how to buy tickets using the machine and the window. They were toured through different sections of the station and educated in various information related to it such as use of path train, N.J. Transit, and subway. In addition, they learned about reading of signs and other functional information. They also had the opportunity to have lunch at a fancy Portuguese restaurant where they were able to practice restaurant related skills, learn to budget their money as it relates to ordering food and learn about other ethnic foods.

Trip to Trenton Thunder Baseball Stadium in Trenton: Students were given a back stage tour of the stadium including the locker rooms, press box, and the bench. In addition students were instructed on how to buy tickets, how to find their seats, where the bathrooms and food were, and what kind of food they could purchase at the stadium. The students were also given an opportunity to shop at the gift shop.

Trip to Newark Symphony Hall: The students had the opportunity to observe back stage areas and dressing rooms and were also given the chance to perform themselves on stage. They were introduced to many of the jobs that are available in a theater such as this and what is involved in arranging for performance.

Feel the power within you

Listen to the words of wisdom
whispering within your mind
they want to lead you in the right directions...

Quietly adhere to your inner voice
that speaks to you through
your emotions; allow your heart the
freedom to made you happy..

Be truthful to yourself,
and be willing to share your uniqueness in whatever creative
fashion your talents provide...

This is life at its best..

In fact, this is life exactly as it is...

It is today--here and now.

But if you feel the power to move and change
then let your life flow

knowing that it is time to go...

But if you need some more time
to think about your hopes and dreams,
then find a sense of peace instaying...

Written by Meryn



Meet
The
Graduating
Class Of 2001

Mandi Bacsoka

Joseph Caffrey

Mandi is a 21 year old young woman who was referred to the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute by the Woodbridge Township Board of Education. She enjoys playing basketball, swimming, going to the mall, and babysitting her niece Hanna. Her favorite television shows are Bootcamp, 20/20, and The Weakest Link. Mandi enjoys listening to music by Pearl Jam, Metallica, No Doubt, and Rage Against the Machine.



Mandi has participated in the Career Development Program at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute for a year and a half. She has worked in many different departments throughout the medical center during that time. Some of these include Family Practice, Neuroscience, Dietary, and the Coffee Shop. She has also participated in a community mentorship experience at Hartwyck at Cedarbrook where she performs various food service tasks including preparation of the food for the residents, cleaning the trays, and preparing the silverware to be placed on the trays. Mandi has expressed a desire to work in the food service field.

Joseph Caffrey

Joseph is a 21 year old man who was referred to the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute by the Spotswood Board of Education. Joe enjoys drawing, playing video games, and listening to music. He enjoys listening to music by Pantera, Slayer, Megadeath, StaticX, Godsmack, Ozzy, and Metallica.



Joseph has participated in the Career Development Program at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute since December 1998. He has worked in many different departments throughout the medical center during that time. Some of these include Dietary, Housekeeping, Grounds, Storeroom, Mailroom, and Vocational Rehabilitation Enclave. Following graduation, he plans to attend a program affiliated with UMDNJ where employment opportunities will be available to him.

Ann Ferraro

Ann is a 21 year old young woman who was referred to the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute by the Bridgewater Board of Education. Ann enjoys bowling, playing softball, and watching television. Her favorite television shows are: 7th Heaven, I Love Lucy, Family Matters, WWF Wrestling, and Baywatch. Ann also enjoys listening to music by Nsync, Backstreet Boys, and Brittany Spears.



Ann has participated in the Career Development Program at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute for four years. She has worked in many different departments throughout the medical center during that time. Some of these include dietary, housekeeping, cardiac rehabilitation, fitness center, and pre-admission testing. She has also participated in a community mentorship experience at Shop Rite in Flemington where she performs many different jobs including putting cookies on trays, bagging groceries for customers, and returning items to the proper shelf locations. Ann has secured competitive employment at Shop Rite.

Melissa Fuller

Melissa Fuller is a 20 year old young woman who was referred to JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute by the Metuchen Board of Education. She spends her free time drawing, painting, writing poetry, short stories, taking walks, and riding her bike. She also enjoys watching X-Files, Will & Grace, and the Simpsons. Her favorite music groups include : the Beatles, Irish Tenors, and Third Eye Blind.



Melissa has participated in the Career Development Program at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute since September 1998. She has worked in many different departments throughout the medical center during that time, but has primarily worked in the dietary department. She has assisted in catering many parties held at the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute. She has also participated in a community mentorship experience at Johnson & Johnson's catering department. Her main duties there are preparing the food and setting up for conferences. Melissa has expressed a desire to work in the food service field. She hopes to obtain employment at a local hotel.

Michael Ianno

Michael is a 21 year old man who was referred to JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute by the South Brunswick Board of Education. Michael spends his free time helping others doing yard work and dog sitting. He also enjoys swimming and running. Michael likes listening to hard Christian rock including music by Mortification, Blind Side, ZAO, Training For Utopia, and Stretch Armstrong. His favorite TV Shows are Star Trek, WWF Smackdown, and Seven Days.



Michael has participated in the Career Development Program at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute since June 1998. He has worked in many different departments throughout the medical center during that time. Some of these include dietary, X-ray file room, mailroom, storeroom, housekeeping, grounds, and fitness center. He also had the opportunity to participate in a community mentorship experience at Shop Rite where he performed many different jobs including shelf cleaning, bagging groceries, and returning items to proper shelf locations. Following graduation, Michael plans to work in this field. He is actively seeking employment at this time.

Ryan Pedersen

Ryan is a 21 year old man who was referred to the Career Development Program by the Woodbridge Board of Education. Ryan enjoys swimming, biking, and playing kickball. He also enjoys listening to music by NSync and Brittany Spears. His favorite movie is Titanic and he likes to watch WWF on TV.



Ryan has participated in the Career Development Program at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute since August 1999. He has worked in many different departments throughout the medical center during that time. Some of these include, housekeeping, dietary, linen room, and Vocational Rehabilitation office support. He also had the opportunity to participate in a mentorship experience at Hartwyck at Cedar Brook where he performed many different jobs including buffing floors, emptying trash receptacles throughout the building, mopping the floors, and folding clean linen. Following graduation, Ryan hopes to obtain employment in the housekeeping field.

**MEETING THE STUDENTS
THAT SHARED
THE
"WORLD" OF WORK...**





Peter Abdelshahid



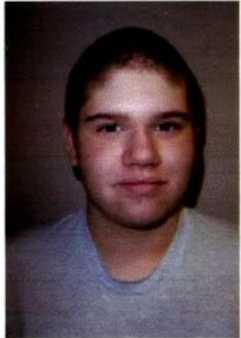
Bret Fleming



Kenneth Hasslinger



Kimberly Kurdes



Marshal Margaritell



Amanda McCartney



Hanna Pettit



Shari Plan



Tracy Rachel



Lea Ruddy



Delmiro Salgado



Jeff Visagio



Raymond Willer



Vershona Williams



Fond and Funny Memories



"We will never forget the time that we went on the tour of the airport and were able to see how far a fire truck hose could squirt. That was cool"!!

CDP Students

"I remember when I was in the hospital and everyone in CDP made me a card, that was the nicest thing anyone ever did"!

Amanda McCartney

"We will never forget the time that Melissa fell in the water while riding the bumper boats".

CDP Students

"I'll never forget the time we were at the park and during the sack race Joe's entire leg went through the bag".

Tracy Rachel

"I will always remember the look on everyone's face when I used my credit card to pay for the go-cart ride".

Ann Ferraro

"I will never forget the time that Cris taught Bret and me how to putt at Fairway Golf Center and I hit my first ball 150 feet"!!

Joseph Caffrey

"We will never forget the time that Ann won the watermelon eating contest and had a big smile on her face".

CDP Students

"We remember the time we forgot to bring a knife to cut the cake at one of the birthday parties and Susan had to use a plastic knife and fork. What a mess"!!

Amanda and Kim

"We remember the time that Cris was teaching us how to get the golf balls out of the dispenser. She forgot to put the bucket underneath to catch them...OOPS"!

Joe, Bret, and Shari

"I will never forget the time that Dr. Seuss came to vocational group".

Delmiro Salgado





Believing

When you believe,
Your dream will come true.
If it doesn't,
What will you do?

When you pray so hard
To make it so,
When it's not,
Where will you go?

Turn your head,
But not in doubt.
Lift it high
And shout about!



For as you think,
So shall it be.
Reach for the moon,
And you will see.

Whatever you want
Will come to you.
Think positively
Is not hard to do.

Look for the good
Wherever you go.
See it in strangers
And people you know.

Don't give up
And turn to doubt.
Believe in your dream,
Direct its route.

For you are the one,
Who can make it come true.
Keep on believing,
That's all you must do.



Autographs

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Autographs

Yearbook Groups

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

This year the students participated in yearbook groups. Therefore, I would like to thank all of the students for taking part in developing this year's yearbook.
Good Work!! ☺

Sincerely,
Cristina A. Grasso

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