

HOUSE CALLS



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Dignity Health
Mercy & Memorial Hospitals



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ON THE COVER: David Tate pictured with his 7-year-old son, Lucas, in the Lauren Small Children's Center.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *HouseCALLS*. Comments about the publication can be directed to the Marketing and Communications Department:

DIGNITY HEALTH - MERCY & MEMORIAL HOSPITALS
 PO Box 119, Bakersfield, CA 93302 | 661.327.4647 Ext. 4435
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MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
 ROBIN MANGARIN-SCOTT – Vice President Strategic Marketing and Communications for Central California Service Area
 MICHELLE WILLOW – Director of Communications Central California Service Area South
 SANDY DOUCETTE – Director of Digital Marketing Central California Service Area
 FELICIA COOK – Administrative Assistant
 JESSICA NEELEY – Marketing Communications Specialist
 CODY BRUTLAG – Content Specialist

Hello humankindness



Here's a breath of fresh air.

A lung cancer screening could save your life, or the life of someone you love. And now, it's covered by most insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

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Dancing for Kindness



Sponsored by Dignity Health, Dance for Kindness is a freeze mob/flash mob that spans the globe, from the U.S. to Australia, Canada to Singapore, England to Chile. This year's Dance for Kindness took place in over 93 locations, across 48 countries, with more than 12,000 participants. This was Bakersfield's first year participating in the event.

There was a sea of orange surrounding The Marketplace Shopping Center on Ming Avenue, Sunday, November 8, as nearly 150 dancers wearing matching T-shirts celebrated World Kindness Day. Music filled the air as participants froze in a number of "positions of kindness" in order to raise awareness about what kindness might look like. As the flash mob song began, the posed participants broke into their dance routine, eliciting smiles from the crowd. The event lasted only a few moments, but the long-term impact will be immeasurable.

Dignity Health's motto, *Hello humankindness*, is based on the belief that empathy can relieve another's pain, promote healing, and counter the negativity, disease, and toxicity in our lives. You can see this belief in action every

Kindness Day would be celebrated with a global Dance for Kindness. On this day, groups around the world were challenged to join together and perform a Dance for Kindness freeze mob/flash mob to the same song, same dance, all on the same day. Anne jumped at the opportunity.

Anne also enlisted Jesus Gonzalez, executive coordinator at Mercy Hospital, to be co-leader for the event in the Bakersfield area. Jesus recruited Dignity Health employees from Mercy and Memorial Hospitals, a number of dance studios, and many others in the community. Sarah Brooks, the director of grants at California State University-Bakersfield, partnered with Dignity Health and helped recruit CSU Bakersfield staff and students for the event.

Although music and dancing were



Nearly 150 volunteers from the Bakersfield community, including Dignity Health hospital staff, dance studios, and CSU Bakersfield faculty and students, came together to bring awareness of the kindness a community can distribute, both locally and globally.

day at Dignity Health Mercy and Memorial Hospitals, but Dance for Kindness is just one of the many ways Dignity Health carries its mission of kindness into the communities their hospitals serve.

Imagine how pleased Anne Wolfersberger, vice president and chief nursing officer at Mercy Hospital, was when she discovered Life Vest Inside (LVI), a charitable organization devoted to spreading kindness throughout the world and helping people recognize their potential while building their self-esteem. After hearing LVI's founder, Orly Wahba, speak at a Dignity Health conference, Anne was inspired to join the cause. Ms. Wahba explained how this year's World

the main attractions, the event was meant to inspire others to find ways to be kind to one another. Pay It Forward cards were distributed to the crowd, which included wonderful suggestions for acts of kindness.

Anne Wolfersberger was very pleased with the outcome saying, "It gave Terri Church, my counterpart at Memorial Hospital, and myself a way of connecting outside the hospital setting and realizing our shared vision of *humankindness*. Kindness is what Dignity Health does here at the local level and the fact that we could participate with Life Vest Inside on a global scale was just icing on the cake." ■



Love for Thanksgiving



A beautiful aspect of *humankindness* is its ripple effect. One single act of kindness benefits the person receiving, the person giving, and those who are witness to it.

Recently, Dignity Health Mercy and Memorial Hospitals came across a prime example of how people in our community are expressing *humankindness* in the most basic of ways; feeding the hungry.

“Love for Thanksgiving,” began eight years ago when one man, Brandon Smith, and a small group of his friends provided a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for 20 needy families inside their own homes. This year was their biggest year yet, as they served about 64,000 meals to approximately 3,500 families in our community. The number of volunteers from the community working on the initiative has also grown exponentially, engaging thousands of people.

Bret Sill, founder of Morning Star Fresh Food Ministry, a nonprofit faith-based group that supplies local families in need with nutritious food, says the need for this type of outreach is crucial in Bakersfield. “I was crushed to find out our great city ranked number one for food hardship in the nation. That means we have more families struggling to put food on the table than anywhere else,” said Bret.

Feeding a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner to this many people requires massive amounts of food and coordination. Morning Star Fresh Food Ministry emerged as one of the lead organizers.

Delicious meals of turkey, stuffing, yams, potatoes, and pies required 3,200 turkeys, and Country Sweet donated some 12,000 pounds of potatoes and 12,000 pounds of yams. Another 12,000 pounds of carrots were donated by Grimmway and Bolthouse Farms; volunteers prepared nearly 17,000 boxes of stuffing.

This yearly event is only accomplished by the efforts of donors and thousands of volunteers from many churches and organizations throughout the greater Bakersfield area. Never short on finding ways to serve, Mercy and

Memorial employees exhibited their own acts of *humankindness* by volunteering their personal time to the event.

Robin Mangarin-Scott, vice president of strategic marketing at Dignity Health, assisted with the fundraising for the project by connecting the organizers with potential donors. “One of Dignity Health’s core values is collaboration. The success of the ‘Love for Thanksgiving’ cause proves how we,



“I was crushed to find out our great city ranked number one for food hardship in the nation. That means we have more families struggling to put food on the table than anywhere else.”

—Bret Sill, Founder, Morning Star Fresh Food Ministry

as a community, can accomplish so much more by working together. I’m grateful that so many members of our staff stepped up to volunteer and contribute their time to this event,” said Robin. “The actions of our employees truly embody the spirit of Dignity Health.”

On the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, volunteers from the Bridge Bible Church cooked 2,000 of the turkeys in 22 deep-pit cookers made available through the generosity of Ron Froehlich of Froehlich Signature Homes. Many of the turkeys were purchased by

the congregations of Bridge Bible Church and a dozen other churches.

Beginning at 5 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, “Love for Thanksgiving” took over the entire parking lot at Costco on Rosedale Highway in Bakersfield. All of the food that had been prepared in the days leading up to the event was packaged and staged by 150 volunteers. Hundreds more volunteered to help plate and package the dinners while nearly 800 drivers delivered the meals to local churches, schools, and other sites for distribution to families in need.

The majority of families that receive meals come to the organizers’ attention through schools and churches. The teachers, superintendents, and ministerial staff discuss which families might need help. “For instance, Journey Church identified 75 families that received meals and Jefferson School had 112,” said Bret.

Mercy and Memorial Hospitals also identified patients’ families who could benefit from a Thanksgiving dinner. Providing so many meals in one day is a testament to how a community responds to a huge need. However, hunger is not limited to a day, week, or month; it lasts year-round. According to Bret, Mercy and Memorial Hospitals works with Morning Star Fresh Food Ministry to help patients without sufficient resources to receive healthy, fresh food throughout the year.

Even considering the monumental task of preparing and distributing tens of thousands of meals in a day, “Love for Thanksgiving” plans to increase the number of families it reaches next year. “We have a huge need in our community,” said Bret. “Love for Thanksgiving” has already outgrown the Costco parking lot, and is searching for another location to use in 2016.

Can one person solve a problem like hunger in our community? Well, one man’s idea, conceived in love and born in an act of kindness, has already benefitted thousands of people...and the ripples keep expanding. That is what *humankindness* is all about. ■



Jaime Nelson pictured holding a photograph of her late daughter, Lyndsey.

It's a decision that most parents would prefer not to think about, but in the face of unspeakable tragedy, Jaime Nelson had to make a choice.

In May of 2007, Jaime's 15-month-old daughter Lyndsey was found unresponsive in a pond in her grandmother's front yard. First responders performed CPR on site until she could be transported via ambulance to the local emergency room in Jaime's hometown in South Carolina. Unable to revive her, physicians decided to transfer Lyndsey to a pediatric trauma center more than 30 miles away.

As the minutes turned to hours, hope began to fade. Finally, a pediatric intensivist delivered news to Jaime that no parent should ever receive.

Jaime shared, "The doctor said her heart was down too long; if she would wake up, she would have severe brain damage."

Medical staff continued monitoring

kidneys, her liver, and her heart valves. Her kidneys went to a 36-year-old woman from North Carolina. Her liver went to a 3-year-old boy from Chicago. One of her heart valves went to a 13-day-old girl and another was given to an 18-day-old girl. In the face of unbearable loss, Jaime's selfless decision gave new life to four people.

Jaime was able to get in contact with many of the recipients over the years, even spending a weekend with the woman, and her family, who received Lyndsey's kidneys.

"It was amazing," said Jaime. "To see that she was made better out of something that was so hard for us. The only thing that made losing Lyndsey any easier was for [the recipients] to have a better quality of life, and having Lyndsey be the one that saved them."

Shortly after Lyndsey's passing, Jaime moved to Bakersfield to join her husband already living and working in the area.

strategic marketing and communications at Dignity Health Mercy and Memorial Hospital's, says, "The act of organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation is the embodiment of *humankindness*. The Legacy of *humankindness* Award is deeply aligned with the mission and values of our organization, and Dignity Health is honored to recognize the family of Lyndsey Christine Nelson who represents millions of people touched by this act."

As part of the award, Lyndsey's portrait will be created as a "floragraph," and displayed alongside other organ and tissue donors on the Donate Life 2016 Rose Parade float. Jaime will then be presented with the framed "floragraph" at the annual JJ's Legacy Gala next March.

Though Lyndsey's life ended far too soon, thanks to Jaime, her daughter's legacy lives on through the four lives she saved, and the many others who have chosen

A Legacy of humankindness

A mother's selfless decision gives life, hope to others

Lyndsey for the next few hours, performing reflex tests to look for any signs of response. Just before midnight, a brain scan revealed the worst. There was no activity and Lyndsey was gone.

Overwhelmed with grief, Jaime was approached by a nurse who said a local organ and tissue donation service wanted to speak with her.

"I had enough knowledge to know what it was and to know what it entailed, but I never thought I would have to decide for my child," said Jaime. "My immediate thought was 'No way, are you kidding?'" Jaime went back to Lyndsey's room. Able to hold and rock her child one last time, she began to have a change of heart.

"I thought, 'What if Lyndsey was the one who was sick, what if she needed help, what if one of my other girls was sick?' Everybody that was there saying goodbye to her would have been praying and begging just as hard for help. So, that's what made me change my mind. I said, yes."

Surgeons were able to save Lyndsey's

Still deeply affected by her loss, she began looking for support groups or organizations for families who had been through similar circumstances.

She found the website for OneLegacy, a nonprofit organ and tissue recovery organization serving the greater Los Angeles area. Jaime volunteered, and soon she was presenting to local high schools and hospitals about the importance of saving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation.

"Just to be around people who have experienced the same sort of loss and similar situations, it has really helped me a lot," said Jaime.

Her work as an ambassador has not gone unnoticed. This year, Jaime was named the first ever "Legacy of *humankindness*" award winner by JJ's Legacy, a local nonprofit whose mission is to educate and inspire Kern County residents to become registered organ and tissue donors.

A long time supporter of JJ's Legacy, Robin Mangarin-Scott, vice president of

to become a donor because of Jaime's advocacy.

And like all good stories, this one too has a happy ending.

In 2006, after Lyndsey was born, Jaime had a tubal ligation to prevent further pregnancy. Three years later, she was feeling ill and visited the emergency department at Dignity Health Memorial Hospital. A urine test there revealed the improbable.

"Congratulations, Mrs. Nelson. You're pregnant."

Ultrasounds confirmed it, and today Jaime is the proud mother of a 6-year-old boy she affectionately calls, "a little roll and mess."

Jaime shared, "I told him when he was born, 'your sister picked you and sent you to me.'"

Though Lyndsey is no longer with us, her story lives on. Faced with a decision no parent should ever have to make, Jaime turned personal tragedy into hope for others. That is *humankindness*, personified. ■

Honoring Jeffrey. Inspiring Others.

JJ's Legacy empowers Kern County to save lives through organ and tissue donation

Shortly after a tragic car accident suddenly took the life of her 27-year-old son, Jeffrey "JJ" Johns, Lori Malkin felt a calling to help others.

That's what Jeffrey would've wanted, and that's exactly what he did.

As an organ and tissue donor, Jeffrey saved five lives and enhanced 50 more. A 14-year-old girl received Jeffrey's kidney, is now off dialysis, and living a healthy and fulfilling life. A 64-year-old married man named Carl received Jeffrey's heart.

"I met Carl, I listened to his heart, and it was very emotional," said Lori. "Knowing that my son's heart was in the same room with us and that I could listen to my son's heartbeat was very emotional."

It was those emotions, along with an enduring mission to honor her son that led Lori to start the local nonprofit, JJ's Legacy, in 2010. Dedicated to educating and inspiring Kern County residents to become registered organ and tissue donors, JJ's Legacy provides compassionate support to donor and recipient families.

"After Jeffrey passed away, there were so many things I didn't really know about organ and tissue donation," said Lori. "I

financially.

"It is very expensive to have a transplant," said Lori. "When they finish the process and they are recovering, the medicine cost alone could be enormous." One recipient is selected each year for a \$10,000 grant. JJ's Legacy also provides



Life's Rose Parade float alongside other donors nationwide.

Educating the public about the value of organ and tissue donation is another hallmark of JJ's Legacy. According to Lori, it's never too early to talk to your children about the importance of being a donor. With a parent's consent, children as young as 13-years-old can register to be an organ and tissue donor. Donors can also choose which organs and tissues they would like to donate upon registration.

JJ's Legacy was the first organization of its kind to promote organ and tissue donation in Kern County. When Lori began the effort in 2010, donor registration in Kern County was at 22 percent. Today, it has ticked up to more than 25 percent.

Jeffrey himself was not a registered donor at the time of the accident, which is another reason why Lori believes it so important for families to have the conversation. So they know what each other's wishes are, and perhaps make it a point to register together as a family.

Even though Jeffrey was not registered, his mother knew him well enough to recognize being an organ and tissue donor is what he would have wanted.

"We had this opportunity with my son Jeff, and it was probably the most heartfelt time in our life with our family. I think one thing too is being with the donor families throughout the whole process. There's a very common bond. Losing a loved one is the most devastating thing in your life, but it's a little different too, knowing that your loved one is still living and he has saved a life."

—Lori Malkin

just thought it was my calling to be able to educate our community on the importance of registering at the DMV, or online, because there are so many people waiting for that life-saving transplant."

Through various fundraisers, including a golf tournament and a gala event, JJ's Legacy holds donor registration drives, and provides grants to transplant recipients in Kern County to help them

support through an educational grant and other efforts, such as gas cards for transplant families who need to travel to Los Angeles for medical appointments.

This year, the Nelson family (see story on page 8) was honored as the first "Legacy of humankindness" award recipients. It recognizes a local donor family by having their loved one's portrait created as a "floragraph" to be displayed on Donate

"He was such a giving person; he would just be so proud to know that he has saved lives and has made a difference," said Lori. ■

Be a donor. Donate life. If you are interested in registering as an organ or tissue donor, you can do so at donatelifecalifornia.org, donatelifenet.net, or your local DMV office.



Pictured (l to r): Susie Pence, James Deal, Abe Rodriguez, Randy Hunter, Anne Wolfersberger, Gerry Elizondo, Colleen Goodman, Marcos Borrero.

Dignity Health Mercy Hospitals receive prestigious Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

Award demonstrates Mercy Hospitals' commitment to quality care for stroke patients

On November 4, Dignity Health Mercy Hospitals was presented with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. This award recognizes the hospitals' commitment and success in ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

To receive the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, hospitals must achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month periods and achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality measures.

These quality measures are designed to help hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, evidenced-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. They focus on the appropriate use of guideline-based care for stroke patients, including aggressive use of medications such as clot-busting and anti-clotting drugs, blood

thinners, and cholesterol-reducing drugs, preventive action for deep vein thrombosis, and smoking cessation counseling.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and this award demonstrates our commitment to ensuring patients receive care based on nationally-respected clinical guidelines," said Bruce Peters, president/chief executive officer of Dignity Health Mercy Hospitals. "Mercy Hospitals are dedicated to improving the quality of stroke care and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke helps us achieve that goal. I'm very proud of our Stroke Team here at Mercy. They were given the challenge to seek and create the best possible system of care for our Stroke patients and they have succeeded as recognized by the American Heart and Stroke Association."

Mercy Hospitals joins Memorial Hospital in meeting specific scientific guidelines as Primary Stroke Centers or as Comprehensive Stroke Centers, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients.

"We are pleased to recognize Dignity Health Mercy Hospitals for their commitment to stroke care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, M.D., M.P.H., national

chairman of the Get With The Guidelines® steering committee, executive director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. "Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With The Guidelines® quality improvement measures can reduce length of stay and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparities in care."

For patients, Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke uses the "teachable moment," the time soon after a patient has had a stroke, when they learn how to manage their risk factors while still in the hospital and recognize the F.A.S.T. warning signs of stroke.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the number five cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year. ■

For more information about Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke, please visit heart.org/quality or heart.org/QualityMap.





Six years ago David Tate was an operations manager at Lowe's in Bakersfield and was studying biology at CSU Bakersfield. He never suspected that he may wind up in a career in health care. A near tragedy launched him on a path that landed him on the staff of the Lauren Small Children's Center at Memorial Hospital as a pediatric nurse.

On Father's Day of 2009, David

from their jobs to care for their children and David put his education on hold.

During the second six months, Lucas had to go once or twice a week to UCLA for further treatment. His immune system had also been compromised from the chemotherapy. They often had to race from the emergency room in Bakersfield to UCLA Medical Center for care.

After the year of treatment, the Tate

patients. The Camp's programs provide children with cancer, and their families, the opportunity to pause; connect with others who are facing similar challenges; renew a sense of hope in a medically-safe environment; also, provide on-site pediatric oncology nurses.

David was inspired by his experience at the Camp, and the next year became a volunteer. It was during his time as a

A Father Discovers True Calling — Pediatric Nursing

and his wife, Kristel, discovered that their 7-month-old son, Lucas, had acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a fast-growing blood cancer. This led to Lucas' yearlong battle against this disease.

For the first six months after diagnosis, he was treated as an inpatient at UCLA Medical Center, two hours away from home. Either David or Kristel would take turns staying with Lucas. They would alternate week after week. David would be with Lucas, while his wife would be with their other son, Bradley (7-years-old at the time), and then they would switch.

"When your child gets sick, everything goes to the side," David explained. "The last thing you're thinking about is your education and career. It's all about your child, the treatments, the complications, the ambulances, the ER." The couple even took leaves of absence



David and wife, Kristel, with sons' Lucas (left) and Bradley (right) at the UCLA Medical Center. (Photo by Flashes for Hope)

"When your child gets sick, everything goes to the side. The last thing you're thinking about is your education and career. It's all about your child, the treatments, the complications, the ambulances, the ER."

—David Tate, Pediatric Nurse,
Lauren Small Children's Center at Memorial Hospital

family was able to participate in Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times, along with the families of other pediatric cancer

volunteer that he was asked by one of the oncology nurses why he didn't become a pediatric nurse. That's when the idea and action coalesced. David recalled that some of the most important people involved in Lucas' care were the pediatric nurses. They were always so helpful and supporting, not only to Lucas, but to the entire family.

Kristel agreed, he should change the direction of his education and become a pediatric nurse. In the fall of 2012, David was accepted into the Nursing Program at CSU Bakersfield.

When David graduated from CSUB this spring, his first thought was to move his family to Los Angeles to become a pediatric oncology

nurse. As he was applying for jobs, he came across Dignity Health Memorial Hospital's request for applications to ▶

the Nursing Residency Program in the expanded pediatric acute care unit at Memorial Hospital in Bakersfield. After reading about Dignity Health, and how they approach medicine and patient care, he realized their values fit one another perfectly. He applied and was accepted into the nursing residency program.

The expanded pediatric acute care unit, which opened in early December,

nearly doubles the number of beds from 20 to 35. The Lauren Small Children's Center also features an eight-bed pediatric intensive care unit—the only one between Los Angeles and Madera—and a 31-bed neonatal intensive care unit.

David reflected on his journey. "It is so rewarding to be able to provide care to another family going through a crisis with their child, just like my family

and I received when Lucas was battling cancer. My personal history makes me an empathetic caregiver. The skills I've gained from my education, and the residency here at Memorial, will ensure that I can deliver the highest quality, patient- and family-centered care."

Welcome aboard, David. ■

Lucas is a fun-loving first grader who loves Star Wars and playing with Legos.



David is happy to report that Lucas is now in remission and just celebrated his 7th birthday, but will continue to travel to UCLA for annual testing. In the meantime, David continues to volunteer his time at Second Star on the Right, a local organization devoted to assisting pediatric oncology patients and their families.

The Lauren Small Children's Center opened on December 9, and is named in honor of Lauren Paige Small, a local girl who inspired the community through her brave two-year battle with cancer. The Small family donated \$2 million to build the center in 2012.



Pictured: Sr. Judy Morasci, Jennifer Culbertson, Anne Wolfersberger, John Cauzza, Laura Cauzza, Dr. Igor Garcia-Pacheco, Dr. Hemmel Kothary, Bruce Peters.

A New Procedure Saves Lives at Mercy Hospital ICU

Patient care is always a top priority for Dignity Health. The new CRRT procedure is one way to ensure a more positive outcome for patients.

A new procedure was instituted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) earlier this year at Dignity Health Mercy Hospital that has already helped save a number of lives. The new procedure, Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT), is a form of dialysis or blood filtration.

Our kidneys perform the vital function of filtering and eliminating waste, salt, and excess water from the blood.

In addition to cleaning the blood, the new process can reduce damage to the brain and heart caused by swelling from severe fluid overload. It also permits easy administration of medicines and nutrition to the patients in the ICU, who are often unconscious.

CRRT is especially useful in patients with the severe life-threatening condition, sepsis: The body's overwhelming response to an infection, which can lead to tissue

kindness. His wife, Laura, sent this note to the staff at Mercy Hospital Southwest:

"I just wanted to let you know that all the dedication and TLC of the doctors and nurses at Mercy Hospital Southwest have not been in vain. John is continuing to recover his strength and health daily. We are spending most of our time at the coast and are now walking (John unassisted) about 2 - 2½ miles a day. John's kidney function is at about 40 percent as of his last

"A number of patients who received CRRT were septic, and in total organ failure. Without CRRT the patients would have been at a very high risk of fatality."

— Anne Wolfersberger, Mercy Hospitals' Chief Nursing Officer

Our body would poison itself without the body's filtration system. Some people who have failed, damaged, or diseased kidneys, use a machine that filters the blood in a procedure called dialysis. Dialysis can only be used on patients intermittently. However, some patients require continuous blood filtration to counter the effects of severe conditions that are commonly treated in the ICU.

The newer procedure of CRRT allows the blood to be filtered up to 24 hours a

day. Proven to increase survival rate, CRRT also can save patients' future kidney function.

John Cauzza recently survived a close encounter with sepsis. After being admitted to Mercy Hospital Southwest, his team of doctors and nurses were apprehensive about his health; but with the new CRRT procedure in place, they knew he would have a fighting chance.

A grateful John recently came back on his birthday to thank everyone for their

blood and urine tests several weeks ago, so the ash cath has been removed and he has not been dialyzed in over a month."

According to Mercy Hospitals' Chief Nursing Officer, Anne Wolfersberger, CRRT has been used on eight patients in the few months it has been in use at Mercy Hospitals. "A number of patients who received CRRT were septic, and in total organ failure. Without CRRT the patients would have been at a very high risk of fatality." ■

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