



Newsletter – July 2010

Dear Residents, Families, and Staff:

Please pardon our mess!!! As our residents and visitors can see, our renovation projects are in full swing! We have received many compliments on our new, energy efficient windows, with their residential-style inset windowpanes. The building facelift will include replacement of building panels so the exterior has a more uniform and contemporary look, and new lobby windows that actually open and will let in more light! There will be new lampposts along the walkway in the front circle. The rehabilitation room has been dismantled and new cabinetry, appliances, and furnishings are arriving daily. With all this commotion, we realize it can be hard to find a quiet visiting space, but I can assure you the end result will be worthwhile! Unfortunately, the New England weather only allots us so many months of outside work, so sometimes projects get compressed! I do appreciate everyone's patience and understanding.

I have mixed feelings as I share the news that our Rehabilitation Director, Ben Travers, is moving on to a new position after two years at Maristhill. Ben has taken a position closer to home so that he can have more quality time with family. We will miss him but certainly wish him the best of luck in the future. Our new Rehabilitation Director is Dhaval Pranapati, a Registered Physical Therapist with great experience. Dhaval tells me he and his wife both worked here a number of years ago when they first moved from Toronto and he is excited to be back. We look forward to Dhaval's re-joining the team and helping us open our new and improved rehabilitation suite later this summer!

Maristhill is joining other hospitals and nursing facilities in looking at hospital readmission rates for various diagnoses, in an effort to create smoother transitions along the healthcare continuum. "Experts estimate that as many as 20 percent of US hospitalizations are rehospitalizations within 30 days of discharge" (Institute for Healthcare Improvement, March 2009). Many of these hospitalizations are avoidable. Research suggests that creating a smoother transition as the patient moves from one setting to another (i.e. hospital to nursing facility) will result in a reduction in avoidable rehospitalizations and better patient care. This is an exciting initiative and we look forward to partnering with our local hospitals to improve outcomes.

*Happy summer!
Carolyn Fenn, Administrator*