

President's Office

ACTivity

EMPLOYEE NEWS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

Women & Infants
A MEMBER OF CARE NEW ENGLAND

We are a part of our community. We care for, employ, and have a certain level of responsibility for the residents of the communities we serve. As such, I am pleased that we continue to strengthen our commitment to the community through important partnerships with agencies and organizations that provide immediate “touch points” to improve the health of our community.

Take, for instance, the **Ronald McDonald House**. I recently had the opportunity to visit the Ronald McDonald House and to hear about the great work they do for our families. I had no idea that of the nearly 300 families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Providence and an additional 1,900 who enjoy the comforts of the Family Room, more than 50 percent are from our NICU! These are families from across our state, our region, and even the world who are able to stay near their hospitalized baby. They are able to get a well-needed couple of minutes or hours away without being far. They can get some sleep, and still know that they are literally steps away from their baby should a need or emergency arise. In fact, if you look out the window of many of their rooms, you can actually see the NICU.

As I've written about here, we also have a strong relationship with **Day One** in providing appropriate, compassionate, comprehensive care for women who have been victims of sexual assault. That care is provided by our highly-trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing compassionate and expert medical and forensic care, coordinating care with the emergency room physician when physical injuries are present. In collaboration with advocates, such as those at Day One, the SANE also provide education and resource information to victims in crisis.

Our Social Work Department works collaboratively with a multitude of community agencies to ensure exceptional patient care and continuity of service including: the **Rhode Island Coalition of Domestic Violence** to support and ensure the safety of our patients with interpersonal violence concerns; many outpatient substance abuse agencies including **Seven Hills**, **Codac**, and **Adcare** to facilitate inpatient and outpatient services; numerous community agencies such as **Child and Family Service**, **Family Service of Rhode Island**, **Community Care Alliance**, **Blackstone Valley Community Action**, and **East Bay Community Action** that provide a multitude of services including mental health treatment, addiction and recovery services, housing services as well as individual, group, and family counseling; and for our patients who have experienced a loss and have other children, we work very closely with **Friends Way** which is the only family bereavement center in Rhode Island.

Partnerships with these and so many more organizations are crucial to our ability to truly care for the women and newborns of our region. And I am pleased to see us reconnecting and strengthening our commitment to our partners.