



Resident's Book Inspires MCH

MCH celebrates new author Tom Turner during a book signing.

Monroe Community Hospital recently joined Monroe County Executive Adam Bello to honor Tom Turner, a resident born with spina bifida, who published a book now available in paperback.

Bello met with Turner and his family to celebrate the milestone and present him with a posterboard featuring the cover of his book, signed by several residents and staff members at MCH.

Turner's book, "Beyond the Bridge: 10 Lessons I've Learned from a Lifetime of Disability," is available on Amazon for \$9.99. Residents and staff spoke with Turner and



had him sign copies of the book, which offers powerful lessons on inclusion, resiliency, and advocacy for people with disabilities.

The event highlighted the supportive, close-knit community at MCH and also drew attention to Spina Bifida Month, held annually in October to educate the

public about the congenital condition affecting the spinal column.

Residents and staff gathered for photos, autographs, and plenty of congratulations, turning the celebration into a heartwarming event. The MCH Auxiliary provided extra copies to attendees.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New Director of Nursing Announced

I am thrilled to announce that Catie Kehoe, RN, has been appointed as MCH's new Director of Nursing, following an exhaustive search.



Catie will succeed Kristen Schulmerich, who will retire this spring after more than 30 years of service to our community.

As part of a thoughtful succession plan, Catie has already begun working with Kristen, our staff, and administrative team to learn and ensure a smooth transition.

Catie brings 18 years of experience across acute, hospice, and long-term care settings in various leadership roles. She holds an Associate Degree in Nursing from Monroe Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from SUNY Geneseo, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Rochester.

"I'm excited to join MCH and contribute to a team that truly prioritizes compassionate, resident-centered care," said Catie. "Every day in long-term care is different, and I enjoy the problem-solving and critical thinking that keeps me engaged and constantly learning."

We thank Kristen for her dedicated service to MCH and are confident that Catie will help us move forward. Please join me in congratulating both Kristen and Catie!

Alyssa Tallo



SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT

Do you know an outstanding staff member? Visit our website or scan the code to recognize their contributions!



"You are an amazing physical therapist Kaylin and MCH is lucky to have you!"— Colleague Submission

HIGHLIGHTS

AWARD NAMED FOR MCH RESIDENT

Monroe Community Hospital is proud to announce that Michelle Oulton has been named the first-ever recipient of the GVRC Camper Hall of Fame Michelle Oulton Award, a honor created in her name.

Michelle, a resident of MCH, first attended Genesee Valley Rotary Camp (GVRC) more than 50 years ago and left a lasting impact on generations of campers and staff.

During a special visit to MCH, longtime GVRC members Michael and Susan Houg presented Michelle with the award, recognizing her for embodying the very best of what GVRC represents: friendship, inclusion, and joyful connection.

MANDATORY STAFF TRAINING REMINDER

Staff are reminded to complete any outstanding mandatory in-service trainings by attending live, in-person sessions with Liz Marsh or by accessing the online Mandatory Training portal by the end of the year.

Anyone needing assistance pulling reports or has questions about trainings should reach out to Liz at 760-6230. Thank you for prioritizing these important trainings.

STEPPING UP TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Monroe Community Hospital joined organizations from across the region to participate in the Alzheimer's Association's 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday at Innovative Field.

The annual event, the world's largest of its kind, brought together more than 1,000 participants to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research.



VALLEE-CRANDALL



DUKES



SACKO

MCH Welcomes Nurse Managers

Monroe Community Hospital is pleased to welcome three experienced healthcare leaders as Nurse Managers to strengthen its commitment to exceptional care and clinical excellence.

Alicia Vallee-Crandall joins MCH's new Palliative Care & Hospice Center on Faith 4. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and Chemistry from SUNY Brockport and previously worked in the Intensive Care Unit at Unity Hospital. Alicia is passionate about ensuring residents approaching the end of life receive dignity, control, and support.

Mary Dukes began her healthcare career at MCH as a Certified Nursing Assistant and has progressed through roles as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, and most

recently, Director of Nursing at the Highlands Living Center. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is recognized for her fairness, compassion, and strong advocacy for both residents and staff.

Bonnie Sacko returns to MCH, where she worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse from 2011 to 2015. She earned an RN degree from MCC in 2015, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Roberts Wesleyan College in 2019 and most recently served as a Registered Nurse with the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Bonnie hopes to create an environment where staff feel valued, supported, and motivated.

MCH looks forward to their contributions in providing care and leadership.

New Visitor Check-in System Installed

MCH Security has implemented a new visitor management system as part of its ongoing commitment to the safety and security of residents, staff, and visitors.

The system uses Raptor Technology software, already employed in many schools nationwide, to enhance security at MCH while streamlining the visitor check-in process.

Visitors must still contact security via intercom before entering the building. Once inside, they are required to present a valid photo ID to receive a Visitor Pass. The new check-in

procedure allows Raptor's software to save time while flagging any potential issues for on-site security staff.

Visitors may also download the Raptor Safe App for iOS or Android devices, which allows guests to verify their identity using a QR code.

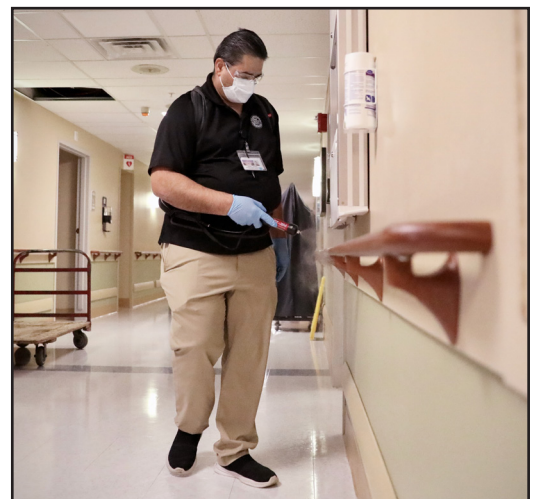
All visitors must enter through the main entrance of the Faith Building on the south side of campus. Visitors without proper identification may be denied entry. Friends and family are encouraged to visit daily between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Innovative Tech Boosts Infection Prevention

Environmental Services is taking infection prevention to the next level with the use of new Moto Scrubber Electrostatic Sprayers, which evenly coat surfaces with approved disinfectants that are easier to apply, dry more quickly, and reach hard-to-clean areas.

The sprayers can be used in common areas, on high-touch equipment, and throughout on spaces to protect residents, staff, and visitors.

"Our priority is keeping our residents safe," said Angel Santiago, Director of Environmental Services. "These sprayers allow us to clean more efficiently and thoroughly than ever before, giving our staff peace of mind that every surface is being properly disinfected."



Resident Leads Statewide Push for Fair Allowances

Resident Deb Leary is leading a statewide push to increase New York's Personal Needs Allowance, which has not been raised since 1988 and remains just \$50 a month for nursing

home residents' personal expenses.

The PNA, provided under Medicaid, helps residents cover out-of-pocket costs for items such as clothing, toiletries, and haircuts.

Federal law allows New York to set the allowance up

to \$200, but efforts to raise it have repeatedly failed.

"I've seen firsthand how much of a difference this increase could make for the people who rely on the PNA," Leary said. "It's about



ensuring that residents in nursing homes can maintain a sense of dignity and comfort while living in care facilities."

The New York State Long Term Care Ombudsman program and the NYS Office of Aging have partnered with Leary to launch an online petition urging state leaders to increase the allowance and tie it to inflation.



Observation Hive Creates a Buzz

Monroe Community Hospital has some new residents, and they are buzzing with energy.

Executive Chef Matt Zodarecky, who is also an experienced beekeeper, helped bring an observation hive to the facility with the support of the MCH Auxiliary and Facilities Department.

The hive was installed in the Serendipity Room on Faith 4, where it can be safely viewed by staff, residents, and visitors

MCH hosted an opening event on Sept. 15 with residents and staff to introduce the hive and its thousands of winged workers. Guests had the chance to safely view the bees up close, learn about their roles inside the colony, and hear directly from Zodarecky about the process of caring for them.

The observation hive currently houses an

estimated 10,000 bees, although colonies can grow significantly larger over time.

Zodarecky said bees progress through a series of jobs in their short lifespans, starting as cleaners, then feeding larvae, and eventually becoming foragers who gather nectar and pollen. Visitors may also catch sight of the waggle dance, a unique way bees communicate directions to food sources.

About 5 gallons of honey, provided from a hive outside of the facility, had been jarred and made available for purchase by the MCH Auxiliary in the Tapestry Gift Shop. The honey sold out quickly with proceeds going to support programming and care of the hive itself.

Observation hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on most weekdays.

National Rehab Expert Visits MCH

Monroe Community Hospital's Rehabilitation Department recently welcomed J.J. Mowder-Tinney, PT, PhD, a nationally recognized physical therapist and educator based in the Rochester area, for an on-site training and demonstration session.

Mowder-Tinney is a Neurologic Certified Specialist, a professor at Nazareth College, and an online instructor with MedBridge, a continuing education platform for healthcare professionals. She has spent more than 25 years specializing in neurological rehabilitation and regularly shares professional insights with more than 131,000 followers on Instagram.

During her visit, Mowder-Tinney worked hands-on with MCH therapists, demonstrating advanced treatment strategies for patients with neurological and balance challenges.

"Having Dr. Mowder-Tinney on-site was an incredible opportunity for our team to learn directly from one of the most respected leaders in our field," said Karoline Schultz, Director of Rehabilitation. "Her expertise and energy left our therapists inspired and equipped with new ideas to improve patient outcomes."



HIGHLIGHTS

LPNs STAR IN NEW RECRUITING VIDEO

Monroe Community Hospital launched a new recruitment video featuring Storm Rapone, Iesha Hall-Marshall and Sabrina Allison aimed at attracting nurses.

In the video, each describes why they chose MCH and the unique benefits. To watch the video, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ye2av9rn>.

For information on career opportunities, including nursing positions, visit monroehosp.org/careers.

VOLUNTEERS LEND HANDS AND HEARTS

Volunteers bring energy and joy to our facility during every visit — just like the amazing students from the University of Rochester and Nazareth University, who rolled up their sleeves to help spruce up our grounds and spend time with residents.

Special thanks to our grounds crew and staff who worked with the students on these projects. From brightening someone's day to lending a helping hand, MCH offers a variety of volunteer roles and schedules to fit even the busiest lives.

If you know someone looking to help out, have them contact our Volunteer Office at 760-6151 or visit monroehosp.org/volunteer.

RESIDENTS VISIT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Residents had a blast with Resident Programs during a recent visit to the West Webster Fire Department, which has served the community for more than 100 years. The visit was just one of many outings Resident Programs routinely organizes to keep life at MCH full of adventure, connection, and community spirit.

A big thanks to the firefighters for welcoming us!

Spooktacular Fun

More than 300 people came out for the annual trick or treat event at MCH!

