

Article for *Making the Rounds* (St. Luke's Hospital Employee Newsletter)
by Brendan McWeeney

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Success

On Thursday, April 27, St. Luke's participated in its largest Take Your Daughter and Son to Work Day event to date. Twenty-four children, ranging in ages from 9 to 14, were given the opportunity to explore various patient care areas of St. Luke's, giving them an insider's view of how a hospital works.

The children were divided into groups and escorted to their respective 45-minute sessions with the help of some selfless volunteers, Jewel LaDay, Les Miller, Heather Antonissen, Grace D'Anca and Robert Hamner. The escorts helped keep the well-behaved children safe, on schedule and accounted for at every turn. Although the day began with seemingly shy children gathering in the Griffin Room, they clearly made new friendships and became more comfortable as the day progressed.

The three morning sessions consisted of tours of Labor and Deliver and the Nursery, Surgery and the Intensive Care Unit. The children got to see newborn babies, which fascinated Alexia Gomez and Maria Dubon, both of whom were gratified to see the safety precautions in place to prevent infant kidnappings. Rather than listen to a dry discussion on the importance of infant safety, the children actually tried an "infant kidnapping" of their own, experiencing firsthand the alarms and security measures. In Surgery, they performed mock arthroscopic surgery while seeing their work on a monitor. Of particular interest to Obinna Chinaka were the sterile surgical masks and gowns, as well as the opportunity to see "inside the body." All of the children had their pictures taken performing these mock surgical procedures, and their science and health classes paled in comparison to this "real world" experience. The youngsters also learned about critical care and respiratory therapy and how it helps our most vulnerable patients.

At noon, the children and their parents were treated to a lunch of personal pizzas, juice, fruit and cookies. As 14-year-old Madelynn Adajar commented, it was "a nutritional lunch" – and it didn't take them long to devour the food! Sylvia Recinos then came in and gave a very informative and fun talk about Type I and Type II diabetes. Several adults were surprised at how much some children already knew about diabetes. The children had many questions and were fascinated by her hand-outs (especially the one pound of fat glob) and giveaways.

The last two afternoon sessions had the children dispersed into two groups. While one group toured the Radiology Department, the other group was in the Emergency Department. The children saw sonogram photos on a large monitor of a baby yet to be born and then had their x-rays taken which they were able to

bring home with them. It got a little rough in the ED, where Tom Bradley pretended to break a few arms then applied temporary casts to some children. Afterwards, they were given a complete tour of an ambulance and how it works. "At one point I overheard all of the children agreeing that they would love to work as an EMT helping to save people's lives," said Brendan McWeeney, Marketing Specialist.

This hands-on educational experience helped the kids increase self-confidence, introduced them to the experience of working in a hospital environment and appreciating the efforts their parents made to health care. Through involvement in the activity sessions, the children's imagination and curiosity grew. It was easy to tell some were thinking about their future careers and what they wanted to be when they grow up. Maybe we helped plant the seed for St. Luke's next Radiology Tech, Nurse Practitioner or Heart Surgeon?!

Additional thanks go out to everyone who made this day possible! From Surgery: Craig Hartford, Anesthesia Tech; Craig Gist, OR Tech; Mark Ebert, OR Tech; Christina Barca, Volunteer, Senior at Mercy High School in Burlingame; Lorrena Barca, RN and Nurse Educator. From Radiology: Eunice Gomez, Clinical Coordinator; Cindy Irons, CT Technologist. From ICU: Tess Fernandez, RN III; Svetlana Yevtushenko, Registered Respiratory Therapist. From Womens & Childrens: Sue Locati, Case Manager; Kathy Morello, RN II; Angie Giovannoni, RN II; Emma Trias, RN II. From ED: Tom Bradley, Manager of Nursing Services. From Diabetes Center: Sylvia Recinos, Clinical Coordinator. And we can't forget our CPMC counterparts, Jennifer Sherberg, Internal Communications Specialist and Dana McClure, Transplant Services Coordinator.