

Southern PRIDE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SWRHA



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March 2012

Chairman's New Year's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to extend to the management, staff and all our stakeholders my warmest wishes for good health, productivity and prosperity in 2012.

Let me express my appreciation to the South-West Regional Health Authority's management and staff for their dedicated and loyal service over the past year. I wish to thank all who have contributed to improving the landscape of healthcare in the southern region as we move forward and continue to work together as a team.

I also wish to reiterate the Board's commitment to providing staff with the necessary resources to successfully work towards achieving the organisation's vision and mission in the year ahead. At the beginning of 2011, the Board identified among its key priorities the reduction of long waiting times at the emergency departments, treating with bed shortages, improved maternity services and improvements to primary health care. While we have faced many challenges as an organisation in the past year, we have also made several significant inroads towards the attainment of our goals:

The Board anticipates that some of these chronic challenges will be addressed with the completion of the Chancery Lane Medical Complex and the construction of the long-awaited Point Fortin Hospital.

In terms of the further expansion of services, we have commenced the design and construction of a full-service dialysis centre which will ensure that patients can receive a full complement of their required dialysis sessions free of charge in the public health sector.

Additionally, we will soon embark upon the infrastructural expansion of the emergency and radiology departments at the San Fernando General Hospital.

These achievements will follow upon the heels of some of our major accomplishments of 2011, which include:

- The opening of the new eye theatre and newly refurbished ear-nose-throat ward at the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH), which has effectively doubled the number of eye surgeries performed at the hospital.
- The opening of an Oncology Suite for cancer patients at the SFGH and the establishment of cancer support groups at the district health facilities.
- The recent opening of a dedicated Cardiac Suite at the SFGH with a capacity of thirty (30) patients.



Chairman: Dr. Lackram Bodoë

- The refurbishment of the Gynaecology Ward at SFGH.
- The refurbishment and upgrade of facilities to accommodate and train medical students at the SFGH in partnership with The University of the West Indies.
- The provision of 24-hour emergency services at the Siparia District Health Facility to better serve the healthcare needs of the community of Siparia and environs.
- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with PCS Nitrogen Limited for the construction of a laboratory at the Couva District Health Facility which will ensure a faster turnover of lab results and reduced waiting time in terms of diagnoses and treatments.
- The extension of the SFGH's Blood Bank's opening hours on Saturdays from 8am-2pm for the donating public's convenience.

In 2012, I envision that we will continue to make greater strides towards positive improvements in healthcare in the south-western region with the aim of making a significant impact upon the lives of the people we serve.

Minister of Health Visits Area Hospital Point Fortin

The Honourable Dr. Fuad Khan, Minister of Health, toured the Area Hospital Point Fortin as well as the proposed site for the new hospital on October 29, 2011. He was joined by The Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Member of Parliament for Point Fortin as well as various representatives of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the South-West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA), including Dr. Rohit Doon, Advisor – Health Promotion, Communication and Public Health, Mr. Ulrich Birbal, Deputy Chairman, SWRHA, Mr. Anil Gosine, Ag. Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Terrence Honore, Facility Manager – Area Hospital Point Fortin.

From left, Mr. Ulrich Birbal, The Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Mr. Terrence Honore, Mr. Anil Gosine, Dr. Rohit Doon and The Honourable Dr. Fuad Khan.



SWRHA's Oncology Department

Celebrates

National Cancer Prevention Month



In observance of National Cancer Prevention Month, the Oncology Department hosted a health fair at San Fernando General Hospital's foyer on Friday 21st October 2011, with the focus being on Breast Cancer Awareness. Mr. Ulrich Birbal, Deputy Chairman extended greetings on behalf of SWRHA's Board of Directors while Mr. Anil Gosine, CEO commended the Oncology team for their hard work and dedication.

The health fair served to sensitize and educate staff and clients about cancer. The booths included: Paediatric Care, Prosthesis, South Cancer Support Group, Oncology Department and the Community Liaison Unit.

NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH SYMPOSIUM

at Princes Town District Health Facility

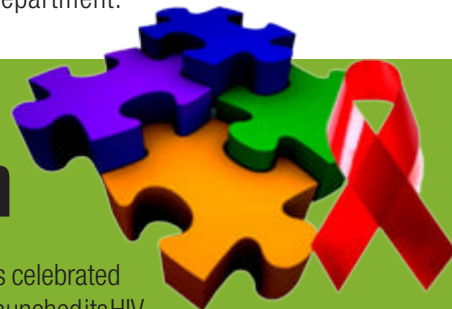


From right, Dr. Dylan Narinesingh, Dr. Pearce Sylvester, Dr. Murrie Moosodeen, Mr. Ulrich Birbal and Ms. Mona McKenzie.

The Oncology Department and the Princes Town District Health Facility joined the national community in celebrating National Cancer Prevention Month by hosting a symposium at the facility on Friday 14th October 2011.

Presenters included Ms. Mona McKenzie, Physiotherapist; Dr. Stacey Chamely, Palliative Physician; Dr. Murrie Moosodeen, Radiologist; Dr. Krishan Ramsoobhag, Urologist;; Dr. Pearce Sylvester, Resident; and Dr. Keshav Gyan, Registrar, Oncology Department.

County Victoria launches HIV Community Caravan



In Photo from Left to Right: Dr. Vishwanath Partapsingh, Izola Garcia, Dr. Ayanna Sebro and Board Director Ralph Ramnath.

To commemorate World AIDS Day, which is celebrated on December 01, County Victoria formally launched its HIV Community Caravan on Wednesday 30th November, 2011 at the City Hall Auditorium, Harris Promenade, San Fernando. Mr. Ralph Ramnath, SWRHA Director brought greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors and Mr. Terrence Beepath brought greetings on behalf of South Aids Support Group.

Presenters included Dr. Vishwanath Partapsingh, Medical Officer of Health, County Victoria; Dr. Ayanna Sebro, HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee and Izola Garcia of UNAIDS. Alanna Guerra, Patient Care Assistant entertained the audience with a monologue which was educational and entertaining and Brequelle Munroe, RN delighted the audience with her rendition of Lean on Me. a song. The formal launch was followed by a health fair on Harris Promenade, San Fernando where on-site rapid testing was done for those individuals who were interested in getting tested.

Public Board Meeting at the SWRHA



In Photo: Chairman of the SWRHA, Dr. Lackram Bodoie delivers his presentation at the Public Board Meeting.

In Accordance with Rule 12, 2nd Schedule of the RHA Act, No. 5 of 1994, the South- West Regional Health Authority held its Public Board Meeting at the Naparima Bowl on Thursday November 17th 2011 from 4:30pm. The SWRHA reported on its performance over the two year period, 2009-2011. It also highlighted the plans which it hopes to execute over the coming year. Members of the public were invited to pose questions, which were entertained and responded to by the SWRHA'S Board of Directors.

Community Liaison Unit Celebrates World Diabetes Week



In Photo: Staff of the Out Patients' Clinic with their plaques and certificates

In recognition of World Diabetes week the Community Liaison Unit hosted a week of activities to educate and sensitize the public during the period Monday 14th November 2011 - Friday 18th November 2011. The week of activities was formally launched at the Foyer, San Fernando General Hospital on Monday 14th November and the theme was "Act on Diabetes Now." The Mayor of San Fernando, Mrs. Marlene Coudray brought greetings on behalf of the City of San Fernando and Dr Joel Teelucksingh of the Medical department delivered the feature address.

The week's activities included demonstrations on insulin administration, a health fair, a school quiz, and a poster competition. Students from ten primary schools in the district participated in the quiz which

was held at SWRHA's Learning Resource Centre, Lewis Street, San Fernando. Ms. Arielle Rambharose of ASJA Primary School emerged as the winner of the event.

The poster competition featured the art work of six participating departments illustrating various aspects of diabetes. The staff of the Out Patients' Clinic copped the first place title, with Sewing Room following in second place and Ward 8 capturing third place. A prize giving function was held on Friday November 25th November at the Nurses' Lounge.



The **Kiss** Baking Company Gives More Than **Cakes**

Through the kind compliments of Kiss Baking Company Limited, the SFGH Blood Bank received cakes and other products during the period September-December 2011. Not only did they donate Kiss cakes, the staff also became blood donors themselves.

Thank you
Kiss Baking Company Limited



NUTRITION AND DIETETICS COMMEMORATES **World Diabetes Week**

The Nutrition and Dietetics Department joined the international community in observing World Diabetes Week by hosting a series of health fairs at various health centres from Monday 7th November to Thursday 10th November, 2011.

The week's activities included lecture presentations by Dianne Charles, Regional Manager, Nutrition and Dietetics at various health centres in the region.

The department also partnered with the Lions Club of Les Efforts on Saturday 12th November, 2011 at the Embacadere Community Centre where they promoted healthy eating habits and food preparation tips and demonstrations.



Dianne Charles, Regional Manager, Nutrition & Dietetics (Right) talks to a client at Guapo Health Centre



Dr. Claude Khan addresses staff & clients during a Diabetes lecture/presentation



38th Annual Diwali CELEBRATIONS



The 38th Annual Diwali Celebrations were held at the San Fernando General Hospital on October 15, 2011. Despite the inclement weather, attendees enjoyed staff performances by Mr Taradath Harrilal (Security Services Department) and Group, the Nirvana Orchestra, the Indira Mahatoo Dance Group, Ackbar United Tassa Group and much more.

Bringing greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors, SWRHA Director, Mr. Ralph Ramnath noted that festivals like Diwali "have the power to glue these units together – the family, the community and the nation as a whole". He also urged all to choose living healthy lifestyles.



Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Anil Gosine, also urged those present to incorporate the deeper significance of Diwali into their lives and to develop a service-oriented attitude in dealing with others.

In attendance and enjoying the festivities were Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ulrich Birbal, SWRHA Director, Ms. Mala Kowlessar and member of the Tenders Committee, Ms. Lolita Maharaj.

PRINCES TOWN DISTRICT HEALTH FACILITY CELEBRATES DIVALI 2011



1. Staff of PTDHF model in their beautiful Indian wear 2. Best dressed male Ravi Boodram and best dressed female Rajkumarie Seecharan of PTDH 3. Facility Manager Patsy Chankersingh congratulates DHV Nurse Rajkumarie Seecharan who was crowned the best dressed female at the facility's Diwali celebration in November 2011.

Christmas Decorating Competition at SWRHA

Creativity, passion, excitement and teamwork were all evident in SWRHA's 2011 Christmas Decorating Contest, which was open to staff of RAC I & II, and the Human Resources Department. The competition was divided into two categories: large department and small department. Eleven departments participated, with each department trying to outdo the other with their creativity, originality and design. Judging of the competition was done on Friday December 16th, 2011 by Bettylou Deschamps, a retired matron of the San Fernando General Hospital and Sandra Corbie, a retired school Vice Principal,. The Logistics department topped the large department category while the Training Unit, Human Resources Department won the prize for the small department category. Each team was presented with a hamper packed with Christmas goodies fit for a king.



CEO, Anil Gosine presents a hamper to Keisha Cooper of the HR Department



CEO, Anil Gosine presents the challenge trophy to Merle Shah and Mario Rostant of the Logistics Department

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT at Ste. Madeleine Health Centre



Santa Greets the Children at Ste. Madeline Health Centre on His Arrival

On Thursday 15th December, the staff of the Ste. Madeleine Health Centre hosted its annual Christmas party for some 80 kids in the surrounding district. The enthusiastic children, accompanied by their parents, were welcomed by DHV Erica Joseph-Christom before being accompanied by the other staff members who led the children through a string on traditional Christmas choruses while they danced. Mr. Winston Chindra, Councillor for the Corinth/Cedar Hill district also brought greetings from his office.

The highlight of the morning's proceedings proved to be the arrival of the 'Bush Santas' who made their way on motor bikes much to the delight of the young ones who greeted them with screams of joy.

Santa"Ms. Judith Elcock, UTT Campus

Courts Trinidad Ltd BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THE CHILDREN OF WARD 14

On 14th December 2011 Courts Trinidad Ltd brought some Christmas cheer to the children of Ward 14, SFGH with their distribution of fruits and snacks. The highlight for the little ones was a magic show done by Vahindra Doon better known as the Great Alagazam. Santa Claus was also on hand to distribute the goodies to the children.

1: Santa makes his special delivery to this toddler
2: The Great Alagazam has the full attention of his audience

Having a SWRHA Christmas!

South-West Regional Health Authority hosted its second annual Splendour of Christmas on December 3rd 2011 at the San Fernando General Hospital car park.

Children of SWRHA's employees were given special treats and gifts, by Santa Claus who was on hand to distribute some Christmas goodies much to the children's delight. Those in attendance were entertained by the popular parang band, Salsa Picante as well as performances by other popular artistes.

3: Organizers Lori Sealy and Arlene Maillard
4: Two of the participants share a special moment with Santa

QUALITY Improvement Unit

Christmas Distribution at CDHF

In keeping with the spirit of the Season, The Quality Improvement Unit (QIU) of the Caroni South cluster embarked on a Christmas initiative for the second consecutive year entitled "Spread the Joy...Feed a Family". This project was done with the assistance of the Medical Social Work Department of Couva District Health Facility (CDHF) and in collaboration with Mrs. Cynthia Ali-Shah, Facility Coordinator and other members of staff of CDHF. Eleven food hampers including gifts and party bags for children were distributed as a gesture of goodwill during the period 15th to 23rd December, 2011.



Sunita Castillo (Left), Quality Coordinator, Caroni South Cluster celebrates the moment with a client and her children.

FLANAGIN HEALTH CENTRE

launches

"WALKING FOR HEALTH"

The Staff at Flanagin Health Centre formed their Diabetic Wellness Group on the 28th April 2011. On Sunday 31st July, 2011 they held their first major event called "Walking for Health" in which over eighty (80) persons registered including patients, children, villagers and staff members.

The walk started at Mamoral Crossing and proceeded to Flanagin Town Health Centre. As a form of incentive, those who participated were awarded medals and they were presented with hampers and fruits in keeping with the theme of promoting wellness.



A cross section of the participants at the "Walking for Health" walkathon

FREEPORT Health Centre

hosts Diabetic Awareness Day

The staff at Freeport Health Centre celebrated 'World Diabetic Day' on November 18, 2011 with a programme that included lectures and demonstrations on nutrition & meal preparation, foot care, medication and exercise. Free samples of Glucerna and other diabetic juices were provided through the kind courtesy of Mead Johnson.



ENA Phaedra Martin and a Representative of Mead Johnson

PHOTO GALLERY



Appreciation Programme for Head Nurses & Assistant Head Nurses



Ward 1 Staff- World Mental Health Day



Caroni South QIU Christmas Initiative



Staff of RAC 1 celebrates Divali 2011



SWRHA's Christmas Function for Managers and Clinical Heads 2011



CDHF Diabetic Group

The logo for Southern Pride features the word "Southern" in a white, elegant script font, and the word "PRIDE" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. A thick, wavy line in white and green arches over the text.

Southern PRIDE

Do you have a story for the Southern Pride?

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