

## Employees Bring New Honors to MJHS



It is the people who work for Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS) who help make the organization an industry leader. In recent months, three MJHS employees—Marcy Brennan, Director of Recreation for Shorefront Center for Rehabilitation (Shorefront) and Nursing and Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center (MJGC); Lydia Galeon, Vice President of Metropolitan Jewish Long Term Care and Business Development; and Lenard L. Parisi, Vice President of Quality Management and Performance Improvement—have demonstrated the kind of dedication and leadership that distinguishes MJHS from our competition.

### **Marcy Brennan**

On March 23, 2010, Shorefront will host a presentation ceremony as Brennan receives a special proclamation by New York City Councilmember Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. The proclamation recognizes Brennan's efforts to keep residents connected to the community through innovative programs including:

- Adopt-a-Grandparent—bringing fifth graders together with residents for monthly games and writing exercises
- Community store visits—taking residents on summer shopping trips to local retailers
- “NYC Goes Orange”—cooking meals for residents and volunteers to donate to New Yorkers in need

- Summer youth—partnering with volunteer groups to give local special education and other teenagers volunteer opportunities
- Voting—making absentee ballots available for residents who want to vote, enjoying some of the highest levels of participation among New York City nursing facilities

“It feels good to be recognized, but the real reward comes from seeing how the residents interact with members of the community,” said Brennan.

The March 23 event will be attended by MJHS leaders, Shorefront residents and employees, as well as teachers and students from P.S. 216, Shorefront's partner in the Adopt-a-Grandparent program.

### **Lydia Galeon**

Commitment to the community is a hallmark of MJHS, as well as the driving force behind Galeon's award nomination. Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) has nominated Galeon for the 2010 Distinguished Community Service Award in recognition of her work creating and overseeing Metropolitan Jewish Long Term Home Care's (Long Term) renal/transplant program.

“We are especially thrilled to submit this nomination,” said Al Cardillo, HCA's Executive Vice President of Policy and Programs. “The potential of this program in human, fiscal and health system terms is extraordinary.”

The renal/transplant program, which was launched in December of 2007, is a unique collaboration between Long Term, MJHS' Certified Home Health Care Agency (CHHA) and the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate. For transplant patients, the program coordinates services from a wide range of caregivers: physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers, ancillary service providers and others. At every stage of care, the program focuses on follow-up to help patients live the healthiest lives possible.

“Many of these patients never had long-term goals,” said Galeon. “They needed help re-framing their expectations as they transitioned from the role of ‘sick patient.’”

Four best practices specific to renal disease pre-and post-transplant have come to define the program:

- Hospital risk assessment
- Emergency care planning
- Medication management
- Telephone monitoring

Length of hospital stays post-transplant have been reduced by one day. Acuity of symptoms has decreased because of early intervention, shortening hospital stays by one to 1.5 days. This is a tremendous cost savings to Medicare and Medicaid.

**Lenard L. Parisi**

In January, Parisi was elected Chair of the Joint Commission’s Home Care Professional and Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC). In this role, Parisi oversees a diverse group of representatives from professional associations and other interests. Under Parisi’s leadership, the committee made up of experts in the home care field advises the Joint Commission on environmental trends and educational needs, as well as revises standards and suggests improvements to the accreditation process.

Prior to becoming Chair, Parisi served as Vice Chair from 2008 to 2010. Throughout his involvement with the Joint Commission, Parisi has represented the National Association of Home Care and Hospice (NAHC), of which MJHS is a longtime member.

“Leading this committee is an honor,” said Parisi. “It is an excellent opportunity to expand on the work we do at MJHS every day, providing New Yorkers with the safest and most effective care possible.”

An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 17,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. To continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

To share news of an MJHS employee who has been recognized for special honors, please contact Audrey Waters, MJHS’ Director of Public Relations, at (718) 759-4677 or [awaters@mjhs.org](mailto:awaters@mjhs.org).

