

**VISITING NURSE &
COMMUNITY HEALTH**
CEO Takes Message
To Washington



**NICHE
DESIGNATION**
Embracing Needs
Of Older Adults



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ON CAPITOL HILL: U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern met with Visiting Nurse and Community Health CEO Christine Dixon in March in Washington. *courtesy VNCH*

MA Nurse Meets with Legislators in DC

► **ARLINGTON, MA** Christine Dixon, CEO of Visiting Nurse and Community Health (VNCH), recently met with staff from Sens. John Kerry and Scott Brown's offices and with U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern in Washington, DC.

Dixon joined hundreds of home care and hospice leadership executives from across the nation as part of the annual march on Washington, hosted by the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC). NAHC called on Congress to improve home care and hospice for seniors.

"We have a responsibility to ensure our seniors and the disabled are able to access home health care without having any new, prohibitive and potentially high expenses imposed on them," Dixon said. "Our mission is to treat the patients entrusted to us in the comfort of their own homes, as is their expressed wish. Now as never before, we must advocate strongly for seniors' health care rights. This is why my visits to Senators Kerry and Brown and Congressman McGovern were so important to our patients and families, the organization, and to me."



FULL OF HEART: (From left) Mary Ellen Clyne, executive director, Clara Maass Medical Center and Fadl Chaaban, MD, director of cardiology, celebrate with cardiac survivors Joseph Cassidy, Dolores Burford and Lea Rodriguez, BSN, RN, vice president, patient care services, joined by Elie Chaktoura, MD, director of the cardiovascular interventional suite. *courtesy Clara Maass Medical Center*

Nearly 120 guests attended — more than half of whom were cardiac survivors — to celebrate life and good health with music, dancing, prizes and a heart-healthy dinner.

Patients shared their stories of survivorship, including recent angioplasty patient and Clara Maass Medical Center Vice President for Patient Care Services Lea Rodriguez, BSN, RN.

"What I thought was routine indigestion from take-out I ate the night before turned out to be one of the most significant emotional events of my life," Rodriguez said. After several tests, Rodriguez underwent a cardiac catheterization, and it was determined she needed to have angioplasty.

The interventional cardiologists on staff at Clara Maass Medical Center performed the elective angioplasty as part of the Atlantic C-Port Elective Angioplasty study. The study compares clinical outcomes of those treated with elective angioplasty at hospitals with on-site cardiac surgery back-up versus those treated with elective angioplasty at hospitals, such as Clara Maass Medical Center, where there is no on-site back-up.

"This whole process occurred so quickly my husband and children were unaware of what was happening. By the time they reached the

hospital, the procedure was completed and I was in recovery," Rodriguez said.

"My husband, my 13-year-old son and my 10-year-old daughter cried and thanked my cardiologists for saving my life," she said. "We will celebrate cardiac survivorship each and every day and the outstanding staff that saved my life."



CERTIFICATION COUNTS: St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, NJ, certified nurses enjoy a dessert reception, along with Jayne Ricciardelli, RN, senior vice president of patient care services (left). The hospital celebrated Certified Nurses Day by honoring its certified nurses for their commitment to leadership, excellence, integrity and dedication to providing quality patient care. *courtesy St. Mary's Hospital*

Sound Shore Educates Community About Diabetes

► **NEW ROCHELLE, NY** Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC) celebrated American Diabetes Alert Day and National Nutrition Month with an educational event.

Representatives from SSMC's award-winning Diabetes Education Program and members of

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