ACCESS TO CARE

PAUL D. CAMP NURSING SCHOOL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
by Deborah Hartman, RN, MS, Dean of Nursing

It is gratifying to know that the Western Tidewater community has made it possible for the Paul D. Camp Community College School of Nursing to celebrate a decade of educating nurses.

Over the past 10 years, the Nursing School has become an important part of the education and training of nurses in this community.

Many of the 300 students who graduated from the nursing program, since it opened in August 2004, have stayed in the Western Tidewater area. The school prepares students to qualify as practitioners of technical nursing in a variety of healthcare facilities.

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After successful completion of the Community College program, students are eligible for the National Council Licensure Exam - Registered Nurse for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program provides a background for maximum transfer opportunities to four-year colleges and universities.

Employment opportunities for the registered nurse include staff positions in hospitals, nursing homes, health departments, physician offices, clinics, day care centers, industry, hospices, mental health facilities, rehabilitation centers and home health care agencies.

The College and its School of Nursing are grateful to the Obici Healthcare Foundation for generously helping us enhance the education and professional opportunities for our students.

In 2008, the Foundation partially funded a needs assessment that identified educational programs and that helps the college plan curriculum for the future. In addition, the Foundation made it possible to hire a full-time nurse educator and create a four-bed nursing skills lab on the Hobbs Suffolk Campus. These were crucial steps that supported the Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse program and the Advanced Certified Nursing Assistant program.

The college was able to convert the skills lab in Suffolk into a simulation lab in 2012 after receiving more Foundation assistance. This upgrade gave Paul D. Camp students more hands-on experience in a real-life environment.

In 2014, Obici Healthcare Foundation committed resources to renovate the nursing skills laboratory on the Suffolk campus, which provided upgrades and additional space to meet the needs of today's nursing students.

After a decade of service, the school has improved and continues to improve learning opportunities for our students — something that can only be done with the help of funders like the Obici Healthcare Foundation.

Paul D. Camp Community College nursing program participants include Instructor Lucy Little, and students Jordan Jones, Shaniqua Chambliss and Judy Wyche. They are photographed in the nursing skills lab.

'Everybody Loves MOM' by Rick Spencer, Program Resource Officer

"*T*he Mission of Mercy (MOM) Project in Suffolk was another huge success!" said Ralph L. Howell Jr., DDS, RL Howell & Associates and Project Director.

For the second consecutive year, the one-day MOM Project, administered by the Virginia Dental Association and the Virginia Dental Association Foundation, served dentally underinsured and uninsured patients from Western Tidewater and Gates County, NC.

Estimates on the dental care offered at the 2015 MOM Project included about $510,000 in donated services.

Other statistics from the project include: 559 patient exams, 130 cleanings, 580 fillings, 1,219 extractions, 20 sets of upper and lower full dentures, denture adjustments, denture relines, flippers (front teeth), 8 root canals, 5 crowns, 591 x-rays and 16 anterior partials donated by Affordable Dentures.

A rough calculation of the medical care portion of the total donated by local professionals was about $63,000. There were five medical physicians, a pharmacist and a nurse practitioner, along with many other health professionals.

Foundation Executive Director Gina Pitrone expressed gratitude for all the volunteers responsible for making the MOM Project a success. "Special recognition should be bestowed on those who worked behind the scenes to keep frontline volunteers fed and hydrated."

"We are also thankful for the food donations from: Chick-fil-A, Coca-Cola, Farm Fresh, Food Lion, Frito-Lay, Harris Teeter, Herr's Potato Chips, Holiday Ice, Holland's Produce, Little Caesar's, McDonald's, Subway, Pepsi, Roy's and Ricky's Catering, Sage Dining Services, Sal's Pizzeria by Maurizio, Smithfield Foods, Wal-Mart, local churches, private donors and dozens of generous families who made cookies and cakes. These local businesses gave because they care and want to give back to the community."

"It appears that the hospitality team ushered in over $20,000 worth of food and services to the Mission of Mercy Project. The quantity, quality and variety of food and drink were all the more impressive. Their support was astounding!" Ms. Pitrone concluded.

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Dental personnel Carl Linear, DDS, (left) Amy Hunsberger, dental assistant (second left) and David Hearse, DDS, (right) offered Annette Amato (seated) words of encouragement at the Suffolk MOM Project in late February.

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- Suffolk Public Schools
- Western Tidewater Free Clinic
- Western Tidewater Health District

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