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New rehab center named in memory of family matriarch

Connie Cracchiolo preferred St. John Hospital and Medical Center (SJH&MC) when she needed health care not only because it was close to home but because of its reputation for top quality care. So it wasn't surprising that she was unhappy when she was transferred to another facility for physical rehabilitation after having hip replacement surgery. It was further from home and not as comfortable; the care was good, but it wasn't SJH&MC.

As a Grosse Pointe Shores resident and Vice Chair of the St. John Hospital Foundation Board, Peter T. Cracchiolo – Connie and Peter J. Cracchiolo's son – has a vested interest in the hospital. When he heard a presentation by Dr. Raymond Bauer that the excellence in Rehabilitation Services established at St. John North Shores Hospital was moving to SJH&MC, he was impressed with the plans. While it was too late for his mother's care

(she passed away in 2006), Peter T. believed this was an important undertaking for the community. Because of his mother's experience, Peter and his father knew how much easier and more comfortable it would have been for her to remain at the same facility for rehab where she had surgery. "The inpatient rehab center will be a wonderful way to provide a continuum of care to patients; not having to transfer to another facility for rehab is a big plus," he said.

"My father and I discussed the possibility of supporting the new rehab center," Peter said. "He likes to think awhile before making a decision, but right away he said, 'I'm interested in this; keep me in the loop as it progresses.'"

After learning more details, Peter J., also of Grosse Pointe Shores, decided to support the new rehab center with a substantial gift in memory of his late wife, whom the family knew would have wholeheartedly supported the project. "Having this state-of-the-art facility in our own backyard is a big plus; we don't have to travel out of the area to get the finest care available," he said. "To invest in our own community is to contribute to its future health, and I hope others support this endeavor."

Connie was a member of the Fontbonne Auxiliary at SJH&MC and involved in numerous other charitable organizations; however, family was her life – her children and grandchildren were her main focus. Naming the new center in



Connie and Peter J. Cracchiolo in 2006.

Connie's honor is a fitting way for her to live on in the memories of family, friends and the community.

The Cracchiolos have been longtime supporters of the hospital. Previous major gifts from the Peter J. and Constance M. Cracchiolo Foundation supported the expansion and renovation of SJH&MC and the creation of the Van Elslander Cancer Center.

"The generosity of the Cracchiolo family is truly inspiring," said Susan Burns, President, St. John Providence Health System Foundations. "We look forward to thanking them publicly for this recent gift at the ribbon-cutting event for the new Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, in memory of Connie, in the fall."

The Cracchiolos' leadership gift initiates efforts to raise additional funds for the center. For information on making a gift, please call 313-343-7480.

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Peter J. Cracchiolo signs his gift agreement with Susan Burns, SJPHS Foundations President, seated left, and Diane Radloff, SJH&MC President, standing.

Rehab center top of the line

The new 23,000-square-foot Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation (IPR) Center will serve patients who have had their lives altered due to an injury, a disease or neurological disorder. Occupying the former East and ELL wings on the third floor of SJH&MC, the state-of-the-art center will consist of 36 patient beds in 24 rooms, each equipped with a flat screen television, bathroom and shower.

The IPR center will help individuals with a wide range of diagnoses including stroke, brain and spinal cord injury and tumors, hip fractures, amputations, burns, cancer, cardiac and pulmonary disorders, and general medical and surgical debilities. The center will allow for a seamless continuum of care in one location. Patients will receive comprehensive inpatient care in physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, psychology, rehabilitation nursing and social work. Specialists will focus on mobility and gait training and assist patients with activities of daily living, cognitive and language skills and other functional needs.

The new center will include:

- **State-of-the-art gait training and neurorehabilitation technology:** This will feature functional electrical stimulation devices, virtual reality training systems, treadmills and body-weight support technology to help therapists analyze gait patterns, restore functional movement and train patients with neurological disorders to walk safely again. This cutting-edge technology will allow staff to conduct research and keep SJH&MC on the forefront of new trends in neurorehabilitation.
- **Transition apartment:** Unique to St. John Providence Health System hospitals, an apartment will replicate a home environment including a bathroom, kitchenette, bed and living space to prepare patients to function independently before home discharge.
- **Activity area:** A 1,500-square-foot activity area will have the latest equipment to help patients regain function and independence.
- **Quiet room/private therapy room:** For patients requiring a low-stimulus environment, these rooms will allow one-on-one treatment and privacy for patients requiring wound care or prosthetic consultations.
- **Bariatric room:** This room will be specially equipped for larger patients, enhancing safety and comfort.