

# The Beat

April 2012

**Do you have an idea for the Beat?**

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A monthly CentraCare Health System employee newsletter

## CentraCare takes steps to protect staff

By Terry Pladson, MD, President

A recent assault on our staff was, sadly, not an isolated incident. It resulted in the injury of six St. Cloud Hospital employees; and the patient was shocked with a taser and arrested. This dramatic example is part of the picture of a concerning trend that we have been monitoring and working on solutions for the past several months.

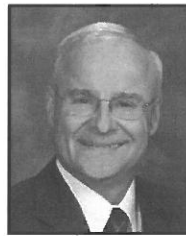
Violence against health care workers is a growing problem nationwide. Whether you work in one of our hospitals, clinics or long-term care facilities, we want you to be safe.

At St. Cloud Hospital, where we have seen a significant increase in aggressive patients and family members, we have added Security staff, installed more cameras and contracted with the police department to post an officer in the Emergency Trauma Center on Friday and Saturday nights. All employees recently completed mandatory education on aggression and violence prevention.

We plan to do more – including offering additional education and seeking legislation to create tougher penalties for assaulting health care workers. You should not have to be afraid at work. We are working to keep you safe.

### Say ‘thank you’ to volunteers

This is National Volunteer Week. Throughout CentraCare Health System, we are blessed with hundreds of volunteers who give generously of their time and talents. They help us move toward achieving our vision of being the leader in Minnesota for quality, safety, service and value. Please join me in saying “thank you” to these exceptional individuals – and let your friends and family know that we have a pressing need for more volunteers.



## Organ donation saves lives

### April is Donate Life Month

*“Some people are afraid of organ donation because they don’t understand what it means. I encourage people to learn more about it.”*

Born with congenital kidney disease, Tracy Rodriguez, an RN from Nephrology, CentraCare Clinic, received her first kidney and partial pancreas transplant from her father in 1999. While she was pregnant in 2004, her body rejected both organs. In 2007 she received a second transplant from a deceased donor.



**Tracy Rodriguez**

St. Cloud, Melrose and Long Prairie hospitals partner with LifeSource and Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, non-profit organizations dedicated to saving and changing lives through organ, tissue and eye donation in the Upper Midwest.

In 2011, St. Cloud Hospital had seven organ donors who benefited 19 organ recipients; 12 tissue donors benefited approximately 600 recipients. Forty-three eye donations resulted in 51 cornea transplants and 29 eyes were devoted to medical research and education.

CentraCare Health System - Long Prairie had one eye donor, providing two eyes devoted to research. CentraCare Health System – Melrose had two tissue donors who helped benefit an estimated 100 tissue recipients and one eye donor, providing two eyes devoted to research.

Go to CentraNet/Messenger tab to read more CentraCare Health System employees’ stories of hope. To learn more about organ, tissue and eye donation or how you can register to be a donor, visit [www.donatelifemn.org](http://www.donatelifemn.org), [www.agiftofsight.org](http://www.agiftofsight.org). or [www.centracare.com](http://www.centracare.com).

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