



# KA MAKA O KOHALA HOSPITAL

## Administrator's Corner

Kohala Hospital recently conducted a family and resident satisfaction survey. We scored high in most areas, especially in our care giving and attentiveness to resident needs.

However, we heard you when you said you do not get information about the hospital very often and want to know what we are doing and more about our staff. In response, we created this newsletter and plan to mail it out periodically.

If you have other ideas, we would like to hear them, so please let us know by calling 808-889-6211 and ask for me, Gino or Janet.

Mahalo,  
Pat Kalua  
Hospital Administrator

## KOHALA RENOVATIONS

If you have been to Kohala Hospital lately, you have probably noticed new flooring, wall coverings, signage and bright new windows. The lab has its own waiting area. The radiology equipment is state-of-the-art, digital and, yes, NEW!

And we continue to renovate. Beginning March 5, 2012 we will install new flooring in all the resident rooms. If you have ever renovated your home, you know how challenging this will be. I want to thank everyone, especially our residents and their families, for so graciously working with us to accommodate the renovations. I am happy to say that the residents who are temporarily "living" in the dayroom have really enjoyed being there. They can participate in every activity and seem to enjoy the attention.

So please, pardon our dust! It takes time to make changes but it is well worth the temporary inconvenience experienced during the transition. We plan to complete this phase of the renovations by June 30, so stop by and visit. We will be looking better than we have in years!

Thanks to our great building maintenance team, our staff, Foundation and Auxiliary.

Right: A conceptual rendering of the new Emergency Department at Kohala Hospital.



All of the resident rooms will be renovated.



## DID YOU KNOW...

### Kohala Hospital has a Resident Council?

The Resident Council meets monthly to discuss concerns, plan activities and make recommendations to the facility. This meeting is strictly for the residents – hospital employees attend only by invitation from the council.

## Nurses Notes

By Janet Schmidt

Let me introduce myself. I am Janet Schmidt, the Director of Nursing at Kohala Hospital. Born and raised in Kohala, I have a deep bond with the people from our community. It is an honor to work here.

The hospital currently employs 12 full-time RNs, 2 LPNs and 9 CNAs, most of whom reside in Kohala as well.

Our goal in the nursing department is to keep our residents safe, happy and at their highest levels of physical and mental wellbeing. One way we do this is through the restorative nursing program by using trained Certified Nursing Assistants who provide individualized therapies to strengthen bodies and promote independence.

Tricia Tenorio, CNA, has been involved with the restorative program since its inception. The residents know her well and look forward to spending time with her in the rehab room. Shelly Cambra, CNA also pitches in when Tricia is not here.

On your next visit to Kohala Hospital, feel free to stop in to see me or call me at 808-889-7906.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Common Long-Term Care Billing Questions

**What is Medicaid?** Medicaid is a federal program administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Med-QUEST Division (MQD) that provides health insurance who are aged, blind, or disabled (Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, 2002). Medicaid is the only federal program that covers nursing home (ICF level of care) expenses. All assets owned by an individual or married couple are counted and determination of whether or not a person is eligible for Medicaid benefits is made by the MQD office (Kona office) through an application process. Medicaid benefits for patients can be indefinite provided that monthly cost-shares\* are up to date and that the patient continues to qualify both financially and medically through a yearly MQD review\*. If you have questions on the above or if you have other questions pertaining to long-term care billing, please call Gino Amar at 808-889-7905.



\*These are the two reasons why a patient can be disqualified from the Medicaid program. We will discuss monthly cost-shares and the yearly MQD review in the next edition of our newsletter.

### Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation

To date the Foundation has purchased a new gas stove for the kitchen, a portable X-ray machine, an ultrasound machine for the emergency room and the big, wheelchair accessible van used to take our residents on outings or to their doctor appointments.

For more information or to donate, please call the Foundation President Tommy Tinker at 808-889-5584.

Photos taken at the Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament which raised \$37,500. Proceeds to go toward the Emergency Room Project as seen on the front page.



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Barbara Summerfield is pictured to the right (center) helping our residents' enjoy their monthly outdoor barbeque. She has been an active member and secretary for the

Kohala Hospital Auxiliary since moving to Kohala from Michigan 14 years ago. You will find Barbara taking minutes for monthly Resident Council Meetings or assisting with the outings shows at the Kahilu Theater in Waimea or the Spencer Park beach picnics. Mahalo nui loa Barb for all you do!

