

# SUB-ACUTE *Connection*

FALL, 2008

*Back to What Matters!*

## Vent-Wearing SUCCESS!

**S**outh Shore Healthcare is a leader in providing outstanding respiratory and ventilator-weaning services. Our acclaimed sub-acute respiratory and ventilator-weaning program offers a dedicated 24-bed unit with extensive physician based pulmonary coverage, highly skilled on-staff respiratory professionals, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, and a unique facility-wide oxygen and suctioning system. Our comprehensive



services include: ventilator care and weaning, oxygen therapy, aerosol treatments, bi-paps, pulmonary strengthening/rehabilitation, tracheostomy care and decannulation. Our vent-patient population is very challenging, most having already undergone unsuccessful weaning attempts prior to arrival.



### *Against The Odds*

When Raymond Kitt suffered multiple complications from what should have been a routine surgical procedure, his prognosis was not a good one. After nearly 3 weeks in Intensive Care at an area hospital, he woke to find himself in serious condition, connected to a ventilator.

His wife, aware of the reputation for quality care at South Shore Healthcare, made arrangements for his transfer. Unable to speak or be removed from the ventilator, Mr. Kitt recounts how his therapy team immediately began working with him in his room to build his strength. Over the next few weeks, he progressed from being

wheelchair-bound to being able to move about with a walker, the assistance of staff and a portable ventilator. Weeks later, and after continued therapy and a slow yet steady process of vent-weaning, he was at last removed from the ventilator in early May. Still, his therapy was continued and he became the first patient to take advantage of the therapeutic benefits of the facility's new Nintendo Wii® system, playing Wii bowling regularly.

Finally, on May 7th, just twelve weeks after admission, Raymond Kitt walked down the stairs at South Shore Healthcare amidst the cheers of staff, and was discharged to his home in Sea Cliff, completely vent-free. With too many names to list, Mr. Kitt recounted the staff members whom he credits with his recovery from respiratory, to nursing to P.T. and O.T. and beyond. "I cannot say enough about my therapists and the wonderful nurses and aides who were at my side round-the-clock." stated Mr. Kitt. "Really, the entire staff was terrific and they helped me go from being completely dependent to returning back to my normal life."

**One week after discharge, Raymond returned to his job in sales and leasing for Porsche of Roslyn and has even taken up swimming and riding his stationery bike.**

### **VENT STATS** **JAN. - JULY, 2008**

**87.5% Success Rate of  
Weaning Candidates**

# Therapy and FUN!

The Rehabilitation Department at South Shore Healthcare has instituted an innovative therapy program. This new endeavor incorporates the use of the Nintendo Wii® to provide interactive activities that can be used during Physical and Occupational therapies. The Nintendo Wii is an interactive computer game that allows a therapist to promote range of motion, balance, coordination and endurance with a patient all while simulating a game played on a television. “The Wii can be incorporated into any



treatment plan to allow patients

with all types of abilities and disabilities to safely participate and benefit from this unique and interactive treatment approach” stated Peter McEntee, Director of Rehabilitation Services. A patient recently discharged home remarked about his therapy on the Wii, “Using the Wii was the best way to fine-tune my balance and coordination! I never imagined that bowling on the Wii would help me return home and to work so much faster!” In addition to being utilized in the facility’s Rehabilitation program, the Wii has been an excellent addition to the facility’s activity schedule allowing inter-generational play.



## 100th Birthday!



*Councilwoman, Dorothy L. Goosby (right) presents Mrs. Aletha Spencer with a Certificate of Special Recognition from the Town of Hempstead to commemorate her 100th birthday at South Shore Healthcare in Freeport. Looking on is close friend, Isidore Robinson.*

Another milestone birthday was recently celebrated at South Shore Healthcare in Freeport as staff along with a close friend, and an impressive showing of local dignitaries gathered to celebrate the 100th Birthday of resident, Aletha Spencer.

Mrs. Spencer was born on July 4th, 1908 in Chesterfield, South Carolina, the daughter of hard-working parents who ran a cotton farm. The oldest of three, Aletha remembers a childhood filled with hard work and religion. Mrs. Spencer is a member of the Ebenezer Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Freeport and has been a resident of South Shore since October of 2006. Mrs. Spencer’s 100th birthday was celebrated in grand style at South Shore Healthcare on the afternoon of July 7th with a fitting birthday bash complete with flowers, cake and live entertainment from the “Bay City Ramblers” band! Special guests in attendance included her close friend and member of her church, Isidore Robinson and dignitaries including, NY State Senator, Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.; NY State

Assemblyman Dave McDonough; Hempstead Town Councilwoman, Dorothy L. Goosby and Councilwoman of Freeport, Angie M. Cullin, all of whom presented Mrs. Spencer with Recognition Certificates and birthday greetings.

## Staff Spotlight!

**Peter McEntee,** PT has been the Director of Rehabilitation Services at South Shore for the past



twelve years. During his time in this role, Peter has, in conjunction with local hospitals and physicians, developed physical, occupational and speech therapy programs to meet the needs of a wide variety of patients. South Shore specializes in offering comprehensive rehab programs for joint replacements, stroke, cardiac and ventilator-dependent patients. Peter oversees a staff of 12 therapists who work six days per week to ensure patients are discharged home happily and safely. Since January of this year, Peter and his team have successfully facilitated the discharge of over 200 patients back to their homes!



275 W. Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY 11520  
*Executive Director*

**Cathie Doyle, M.P.A., L.N.H.A.**

*Director of Sub-Acute Services*

**Daniel Raj, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.**

**www.southshorehealthcare.net**  
Medicare/Medicaid Certified  
Most Insurance Accepted

Sub-Acute Services:

516-868-6097

South Shore Healthcare:

516-623-4000

24-Hour PRI Fax:

516-868-7251