

SUB-ACUTE *Connection*

Back to What Matters!

WINTER, 2008

High-Tech Therapy

South Shore Healthcare has been undertaking an initiative to apply the very newest technologies to the rehab process.

The latest has been the use of Nintendo's new DS gaming system and their innovative Brain Age game which has been designed primarily for seniors.



Recent studies have demonstrated that cognitive exercise can increase blood flow to the brain helping to keep minds healthy and improve overall function. It's also just plain fun as South Shore seniors can attest to. "Our rehab patients have been very interested in the new Brain Age game and it has



been a positive addition to our rehab program." stated program Director, Peter McEntee. In addition to the new DS systems, South Shore has also been providing the popular Nintendo Wii gaming system to patients/residents and has upgraded to flat panel televisions throughout the facility.



Against The Odds ...

An ambulance was called in April of 2008 to take Mr. Angelo Quero of Lindenhurst to the hospital. He was in respiratory distress from pneumonia and his prognosis was not a good one. In early August, after 4 months of receiving care at various facilities and many trips to the hospital, he arrived at South Shore Healthcare on a ventilator and in need of rehab.

Mr. Quero (Mr. Q as he fondly came to be known) recounts how his therapist Judy immediately began working with him in his room to build his strength and how over the next few weeks, he credits her and the therapy staff with his steady progress. His praise extends to the Director of Rehab, the activities department, and the great nurses who provided his care. Weeks later, and after continued therapy

and a slow yet steady process of vent-weaning, he was at last removed from the ventilator in mid-September. Still, his therapy



Mr. Q works on pulmonary strengthening with Judy Zegel, Physical Therapy Assistant; Peter McEntee, Director of Rehab and Glenda Lee Foon, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant.

was continued and he became more involved with therapeutic recreation. Mr. Q remembers how he even gained weight because of the "great food" at South Shore.

Finally, on October 9th, just eight weeks after admission, Mr. Q was discharged back to his home in time to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary.. completely vent-free! His wife describes his recovery as nothing short of "miraculous" and Mr. Q stated his disbelief in how great the entire staff was. "I couldn't have done it without South Shore and all of the great people there." stated Mr. Quero "If I ever need a nursing home in the future, I would definitely choose South Shore!"



100th Birthday!



Ralph Zangrillo, (seated, center) is joined in celebration of his milestone 100th birthday at South Shore Healthcare. Shown from left to right are (back row) Assemblyman David McDonough; Mark Scarallo; Holly Shadbott; Councilwoman Angie Cullin; Eleanor Sparaglia; and NYS Senator Charles Fuschillo; (front row) Anna Magliano, Ralph Zangrillo and Italo Sparaglia.

World War II Survivor Celebrates 100th Birthday!

An extra special milestone birthday was recently celebrated at South Shore Healthcare in Freeport as staff and an impressive showing of local dignitaries gathered to celebrate the 100th Birthday of resident and WWII survivor, Ralph Zangrillo.

Mr. Zangrillo was born on October 11th, 1908 in Formia, Italy, just south of Rome. He and his brother Anthony were raised primarily by his oldest sister, Josephine after losing his mother when he was just 3 years old. In World War II, Mr. Zangrillo served in the Italian Navy. While on duty, his ship was attacked and sunk by the Germans. Mr. Zangrillo spent 48 hours in the ocean only to be rescued by the Germans as a prisoner of war and sent to a concentration camp. Having survived the war and subsequent imprisonment, he returned to his home town in Formia after the war. After arriving, he discovered that close to 80% of his town had been destroyed, including his

former home.

In 1954, Mr. Zangrillo came to the United States and joined his sister Josephine in Queens, New York. He was later married and started a family with his new wife Mary and stepdaughter, Claire. They settled in Rockville Centre where they remained for over 50 years while he worked as a construction foreman. Sadly, he lost his wife in 1993. In 2001, Mr. Zangrillo became a resident of South Shore Healthcare in Freeport where he happily resides today.

Mr. Zangrillo's 100th birthday was celebrated at South Shore Healthcare on October 10th. Special guests in attendance included New York State Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.; New York State Assemblyman Dave McDonough; New York State Assemblyman Rob Walker and Councilwoman of Freeport Angie M. Cullin along with friends, family members and staff.

"We were honored to be able to take part in such an auspicious occasion and share in Ralph Zangrillo's 100th birthday celebration." stated South Shore Healthcare Executive Director, Cathie Doyle.



Staff Spotlight!

Valerie A. Barba, RN, serves as Director of Nursing Services at South Shore Healthcare. Valerie has a long history of dedicated service to South Shore that extends back to her days as a Nursing Supervisor beginning in 1996. After



serving in that role for a number of years she became the Assistant Director of Nursing in 2007 and was promoted to her current position in early 2008.

As Director of Nursing Services, she oversees approximately 120 staff members including Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and Respiratory Therapists. Her primary role is to plan, organize, develop, and direct the overall operation of the Nursing and Respiratory Departments to ensure the highest degree of quality care is maintained at all times. She ensures that medical and nursing care is administered in accordance with the patient's wishes and that all patients are treated fairly and with kindness, dignity and respect.

Ms. Barba's specialty training was in the ICU and burn units and she is also certified as a wound care nurse. Presently, she resides in Patchogue with her husband and four children. Outside of work, she is extremely active in her church, and is a strong advocate for breast cancer research and a supporter of those with the disease.



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