



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

From left, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island's, Michael Pepi, MD, obstetrician/ gynecologist-in-chief; Shirley Picard, RN, nurse manager of The Birthing Center; Susanna Magee, MD, MPH, director of the Maternal Child Health Program; and Edward Schottland, acting president, at the ceremonial opening of the renovated Birthing Center.

Memorial Cuts Ribbon on Updated Labor-Delivery-Recovery Rooms

PAWTUCKET – Clinical staff and leadership at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island recently cut the ribbon on newly refreshed labor-delivery-recovery (LDR) rooms in the hospital's Birthing Center.

Each of the four LDRs and the adjacent hallway and nurse's station were repainted, flooring was repaired and a new counter was installed at the nurse's station, configured for improved staff workflow. The result is a larger, more inviting and more patient- and family-centered environment.

The work was made possible through a fundraiser "Labor of Love," coordinated by staff in The Birthing Center, which raised more than \$20,000.

"Memorial Hospital has distinguished itself as the place for a personalized birthing experience," says **MICHAEL PEPI, MD**, obstetrician- and gynecologist-in-chief at Memorial, noting that The Birthing Center is recognized by the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association for providing excellence in mother-friendly maternity care.

"Our laboring mothers deserve a serene place in which to give birth and these updated LDRs reflect the commitment we have to providing a homey, comfortable environment for them," adds **SUSANNA MAGEE, MD, MPH**, who helped coordinate the fundraising efforts for the work.

The Birthing Center offers showers and a spacious labor tub for hydrotherapy during labor. There are also birth balls, music therapy, aromatherapy and a labor support box for each LDR so partners, nurses and doulas have supplies on hand to provide for individualized birth experiences. ❖

Memorial Dedicates Room to Honor Blood Donors

PAWTUCKET – Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island recently dedicated the main lobby waiting room in honor of its own and its employees' commitment to blood donation.

It was dedicated as a Seasons' Pass room. The Rhode Island Blood Center's Seasons' Pass program was initiated 12 years ago, to recognize and thank four-time-a-year blood donors and four-time-a-year blood drive sponsors.

Since the program began, the number of four time a year donors has more than doubled to over 10,000. Conservatively in its first 11 years more than 55,000 additional pints of



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Pictured left to right, Christine Hannon, artist; Edward Schottland, acting president, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island; Scott Asadorian, chief operating officer, Rhode Island Blood Center; Frank Prosnitz, communications manager, Rhode Island Blood Center; and Michael Gama, a former Narragansett police officer who received a marrow transplant and several blood transfusions while battling leukemia a few years ago.

blood have been collected because of the program, meaning that more than 165,000 individuals and families have been given hope and life – virtually the population of Providence.

Memorial Hospital, which has been running four or more blood drives a year, held its first blood drive in November 1980. Since then, hospital blood drives have collected nearly 6,200 pints of blood. Each pint of blood that is collected is separated into three components, distributed to three different recipients, resulting in the Memorial blood drive program potentially helping well over 18,000 individuals.

At the press conference, Michael Gama, a former Narragansett police officer, shared his story of survival. Michael, who was suffering from leukemia, received a marrow transplant and several blood transfusions on his road to recovery. Recently, he met his marrow donor, Catherine Prince of North Carolina at an event sponsored by the Rhode Island Blood Center.

Edward Schottland, acting president, Memorial Hospital, praised the dedication of blood donors and the hospital's commitment to blood donation. Scott Asadorian, the Rhode Island Blood Center's chief operating officer, recognized that it is organizations like Memorial Hospital that help assure a regular and consistent blood supply for patients that need it. Christine McIntyre-Hannon, this year's Seasons' Pass artist, signed prints of her painting for four-time-a-year donors. ❖