



## Vantage® HGT Selects Verizon to Provide Health Information Exchange Solution

*New Health IT Platform to Help Enable Better Patient Care, Control Health Care Costs for Residents of Western Pennsylvania*

Vantage® HGT Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), a newly created health information exchange (HIE) in Western Pennsylvania, has selected the Verizon Health Information Exchange to enable health care professionals from member hospitals to facilitate the secure retrieval and sharing of patient clinical data.

Vantage® HGT RHIO participants will be able to request patient clinical data via a secure online portal. By bridging the various health IT systems, applications and protocols currently in use by members of the Vantage® HGT Health Information Exchange, the new Verizon-provided platform will offer health care professionals an effective way to obtain a more complete view of a patient's health history. This will enable better coordination of care, reduce the potential for medical errors, and help control costs by eliminating duplicative testing.

The Verizon platform also enables members to retail their systems, processes and workflows, thereby reducing the need for additional capital expenditures.

The Vantage® HGT Regional Health Information Organization currently comprises six hospitals serving a population of nearly one million residents – Saint Vincent Health System, Millcreek Community Hospital, Corry Memorial Hospital, Meadville Medical Center, Titusville Area Hospital and The Ellwood City Hospital. These facilities have a total of more than 750 patient beds.

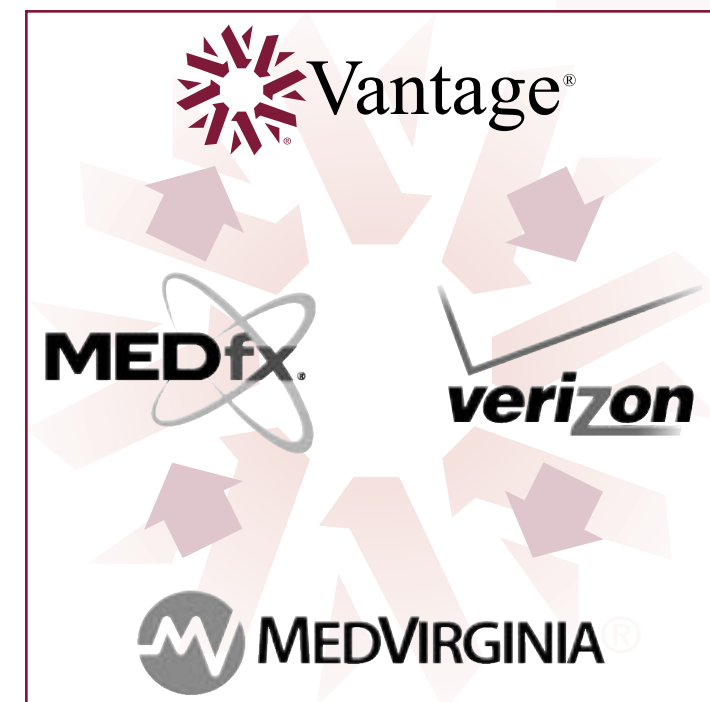
“The selection of Verizon Business as the technology provider for the Vantage® HGT health information exchange marks a key milestone,” said Jay Long, executive director, Vantage® Health Group Telecommunications. “We will now be able to move beyond the conceptual phase of creating the exchange and begin delivering the benefits of a truly connected health care delivery system in western Pennsylvania – one that will help

our residents by providing better care coordination and controlling costs.”

C. Angela Bontempo, former president and chief executive officer at Saint Vincent Health System, said, “Saint Vincent has been a Vantage® partner for many years, and our collective work with Verizon will help our exchange become among the first in the nation to have the ability to securely exchange health information online. Verizon's breakthrough technology will enable us to immediately exchange medical information for all patients in a seamless and transparent manner across the care continuum.”

Verizon Health Information Exchange facilitates secure information sharing.

Launched in July, the Verizon Health Information Exchange is delivered via Verizon's cloud-computing platform and enables health care organizations of all sizes and types to overcome the long-standing obstacle of incompatible health IT platforms and software used to store data in various formats. By providing a means of consolidating patient clinical data from disparate providers, the Verizon Health Information Exchange translates information into



Watch for our new online store at:  
[www.shopvantage.com](http://www.shopvantage.com)

## When Life Throws You a Curve . . . Choose Vantage®



**Comfort  
in Your  
Own Home!**

**Vantage® Home Medical Equipment & Services**  
*Trusted Healthcare Right Here In Your Community!* **(800) 548-5463**

Vantage® operates multiple companies that service healthcare in Pennsylvania along with providing healthcare services in eleven other states. The company has over 350 employees and annual net revenues over 55 million dollars. Vantage® has two locations in Erie, PA that include a high-tech medical linen plant on Colonial Avenue and offices at One LECOM Place on the Bayfront. Offices in the historic Venango Exchange Bank Building in Franklin, PA and headquarters at 1305 S. Main Street, Meadville, PA., represent the operations of the company. Vantage® began in 1984 and is entering its 27th year of operation. The mission of Vantage is to develop services of quality that are provided locally, convenient to the patient which saves costs and equates to growth of owner shareholder value. Vantage's system of companies helps doctors and hospitals provide care locally using seven durable medical equipment retail store locations, seven diagnostic sleep labs, and mobile diagnostic and treatment services. For more information about Vantage® visit [www.vantagehealthcare.com](http://www.vantagehealthcare.com) or contact Mrs. Katrina Leftheris-McCullough at 814-337-0000.

Page 1...

Vantage® HGT Selects Verizon to Provide Health Information Exchange Solution

Page 2...

Meadville Medical Center Opens Two ExpressCare Facilities

Page 3...

Advanced Nursing Simulation Training at Titusville Area Hospital

Vantage® PRIDE Stories

Page 4...

Psychiatrists Join Region's Largest Behavioral Health Care Facility

Vantage® PRIDE Stories

Page 5...

Two Off-Duty Saint Vincent Hospital Nurses Save a Life

Vantage® PRIDE Stories

Page 6...

Mike Kelly Visits the Vantage® Center

Page 7...

Identity Theft, Are You at Risk?

Page 8...

New Sleep Lab

Vantage® PRIDE Stories

Page 9...

Vantage® Legislative Update

Page 10...

National Donate a Life Month

Page 11...

Vantage® Care Apothecary Welcomes Brevillier Village to Automated Medication Dispensing

**Vantage® Values...**

*An honest, fair and truthful employee is a company's most important asset.*

# Meadville Medical Center Opens Two ExpressCare Facilities

*Meadville Medical Center recently opened two ExpressCare facilities to treat non-emergency and emergency patients.*

Meadville ExpressCare and Occupational Medicine is located at 1009 Water Street, formerly the Water Street Urgent Care. Meadville ExpressCare @Vernon is located near Walmart at 16332 Conneaut Lake Road. The two practices will work in conjunction with the MMC Emergency Department so that actual life-threatening cases can be dealt with immediately, forming an extraordinary service network.

The practices will be staffed by highly accredited, skilled and experienced doctors and support personnel from our community. They will offer fast, efficient courteous service with no appointment needed. Also, a direct communications network with Meadville Medical Center will ensure the fastest possible service without delays. If appointments are desired, patients may make them by phone or, eventually, by internet. Prescriptions will be filled from a formulary on-site.



Both facilities will treat sprains, broken bones, lacerations, muscle strains, and burns. Illnesses and conditions such as colds, flu, viruses, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, dehydration, and allergic reactions may be treated at the ExpressCares, as well. Also offered are physicals, immunizations and vaccinations, flu and allergy shots, EKGs, digital x-rays, lab work, IV fluids, health screenings, physical exams, physician referrals and diagnostic scheduling for further care.

Meadville ExpressCare and Occupational Medicine will offer the same services as those at Vernon as well as the following: physicals for employment, pre-employment, and Department of Transportation; medical evaluations for executives, employment, pre-employment and return to work; workplace immunizations and vaccinations; and treatment for workplace injuries.

For more information, Meadville ExpressCare @ Vernon's phone number is 814-337-3300. Meadville ExpressCare and Occupational Medicine on Water Street is 814-337-2233. Hours for both offices are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

## Health Information Exchange Continued from Page 1

a standardized format for secure access over the Web. The service uses strong identity-access-management controls to provide security for sensitive patient information.

"Verizon worked with Vantage® HGT Regional Health Information Organization to provide an HIE platform that supports its unique model as a convener in building consensus on privacy, security and governance among participating member hospitals," said Lynne Dunbrack, program director, connected health IT strategies at IDC Health Insights. "Verizon Health Information Exchange will allow the member hospitals to keep their own identity, but permit the sharing of information between the hospitals to help provide better care for their patients."

Verizon Business and its technology and service providers – MEDfx, MedVirginia and Oracle – are currently working with the Vantage® HGT Regional Health Information Organization to implement fully integrated features such as a clinical dashboard, record locator service, cross-enterprise patient index and secure clinical messaging platform. The new health information exchange is expected to be operational in the spring of 2011.

# Vantage® Care Apothecary Welcomes Brevillier Village to Automated Medication Dispensing



*Brevillier Village located on East Lake Road in Erie, PA takes their residents quality of life and safety very seriously.*

It's for that very reason the decision was made to take a solid step towards technology and change the way medication was dispensed. Brevillier Village is the latest facility to utilize InSiteRx Remote Medication Dispensing through Vantage® Care Apothecary.

Vantage® Care Apothecary chose the InSiteRx Remote Dispensing System by Talyst to provide pharmacist approved medication dispensing on-location to residents in assisted, skilled and institutional settings as well as correctional facilities. The partnership has proven to be a fruitful one with multiple facilities up and running utilizing the cutting edge technology since the inception of the partnership.

*"...Brevillier Village has invested their trust in our service as well as invested into their future for the benefit of their residents."*

InSiteRx dispenses pharmacist approved, patient-specific, multi-dose packets for medication passes at the facility. This ensures the most current prescriptions are being administered. The automated med-dispensing system is approximately the size of a large refrigerator, freestanding and provides accurate and immediate access to medications for new residents regardless of time of day, STAT orders, First Doses, and PRNs.

Skilled care is dynamic, always in fluctuation primarily through medication changes, resident admissions and facility transfers. Because of this, staff commonly spend a greater part of a daily shift on organizing, prepping and manually managing medication passes for residents. Brevillier Village's highly trained, expert staff excelled and surpassed current industry standards for manual medication management, ensuring accurate doses and medication passes to the right resident at the right time. However, the lengthy, daily process left many wanting more time to spend with the residents.

"Automated med-dispensing has freed up time for our staff, however in our type of environment, there is always something that needs to be tended to resulting in reallocation of time. Overall, we are very happy with our new workflow. Some nurses were quick to come on board while others were more cautious.

When it comes to changing anything, I think the best thing to do is give people time to adapt. All in all our nurses have really stepped up and championed the change." Vicky Wittuck, Vice President of Healthcare

In skilled living facilities, some residents are there on an interim basis while others come for the last stages of life and pass on. Manual medication management practices produced a significant amount of waste given that each prescription was delivered in a thirty-day dose. Once a resident no longer needs a particular medication, it becomes waste. Automated medication dispensing addresses this issue resulting in vast savings both in time and financially.

"It's exciting to be involved in providing this advanced technology. Vantage® Care Apothecary is proud to Partner with Brevillier Village. I am honored that Brevillier Village has invested their trust in our service as well as invested into their future for the benefit of their residents." Stated Julie Smith, RNC, CRNI, Service and Development Manager. For more information regarding Automated Medication dispensing contact Julie Smith at 814-337-0000.



Pam Laurhoff, LPN, Michele Cooney, ADON, Janet Dubish, LPN

## Nurses Save a Life

Continued from Page 5

happens in only a small percentage of cardiac arrests.”

Sitter's wife, Janice, said they know how lucky they are. “Jim wouldn't be here today if this happened at home,” Janice Sitter said. “I don't know how to do CPR, and we don't have an AED.”

Sitter had to have a defibrillator implanted in his chest, so if his heart goes out of rhythm again, the device would shock it back into rhythm automatically. Sitter felt well enough Monday afternoon to talk about what happened and wondered when he would be allowed to eat.

Sitter was more serious when he talked about the two nurses and everyone at the Maennerchor Club who helped save his life. “A lot of people wouldn't have done what they all did,” Sitter said. “Those girls, it was above and beyond their jobs as nurses.” Wilson said they just did what many other nurses would have done in their places. “Melissa and I feel that's just our job,” Wilson said. “We are nurses inside or outside the hospital.”

Article provided by David Bruce

## Celebrate...

# National Donate a Life Month

*There is a critical need for more registered organ donors in Pennsylvania and April is National Donate a Life Month as proclaimed by Congress each year.*

Please take time this month to remember those who graciously gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation and the families they have left behind. It is also a wonderful time to celebrate these gifts with those who have received a second chance at life. “In Pennsylvania alone there are more than 7,000 men, women and children on the list to receive a life-saving organ. We hope that through education and awareness we can decrease the number of individuals on that list and increase the number of lives saved.”

said president and CEO of the Center for Organ Recovery and Education, CORE, Susan Stuart. This can only happen through the kindness of organ and tissue donors. If you are a designated donor, we thank you. If you are not a designated donor, please consider placing the designation on your driver's license or state identification card. In Pennsylvania, it is simple; log on to [www.donatelife-pa.org](http://www.donatelife-pa.org). “Across the country, between 18 and 20 people die each day while awaiting a life-saving transplant,” said state Health Secretary Everette James. “We hope that our efforts will bring much needed attention to organ donation, honoring those individuals who have already registered and donated to those in need while encouraging more citizens to give the

gift of life.” Department of Health representatives will join Donate a Life members and other volunteers on the Capitol steps as a part of the vigil. The Candlelight Celebration for Donation will recognize and honor those on the waiting list, help drive awareness of the need for designated donors and continue to bring the need of organ donors to the forefront of legislators and the public. How do you feel about organ and tissue donation? Chances are you think it's a natural, appropriate and giving thing to do and have no real objections to the idea. If so, you're one of the nine out of 10 Americans who supports organ and tissue donation. But are you also part of the 66 percent that doesn't know what steps are actually required to commit to organ, eye or tissue donation?

Since the steps required to become a donor can differ from state to state, the first thing you need to do is visit [www.donatelife-pa.org](http://www.donatelife-pa.org). Many people may think they know what is required to become a donor, but they may not be aware of the legislation here in Pennsylvania. While more and more states have adopted legislation which makes an individual's decision to donate paramount and legally binding, other states still require consent from next-of-kin. “We hope that through our efforts statewide, we are able to reach every single Pennsylvanian and remind them of the critical need for registered organ and tissue donors,” said Gift of Life President and CEO, Howard M. Nathan. “April offers a unique opportunity to reach out to the community and engage everyone in an open dialogue about organ and tissue donation.”

*To learn more or to register as an organ donor, please log on to [www.donatelife-pa.org](http://www.donatelife-pa.org).*

*“...between 18 and 20 people die each day while awaiting a life-saving transplant.”*



## Advanced Nursing Simulation Training at Titusville Area Hospital

*Advanced Nursing Simulation Training has arrived at Titusville Area Hospital. A virtual human training device equipped with state-of-the-art software, the METIman simulator offers life-like challenges.*

The METIman mannequin is human size and breathes, bleeds, talks and has physiologic settings. The conditions of the ‘simulated patient’ can be changed based on the clinical situation, with the ultimate goal to promote patient safety and prepare nurses for real, yet unexpected situations.

The METIman's eyes blink and his pupils respond to light. Observers can see chest movements and hear breath sounds that might be heard with various illnesses such as asthma or congestive heart failure. During a simulation, participants can feel pulses with METIman as they would with any patient. The mannequin is equipped with the ability to communicate via a pre-programmed speech or through personnel-managed scenarios. This allows for life-like conversations to enhance learning in the simulated environment.

Titusville Hospital's clinical staff works in small patient care teams to care for the ‘simulated patient’. Following each learning experience, the session is reviewed and all members debrief and learn.

The realistic patient scenarios using the METIman, offer nurses and other clinicians the opportunity to learn as well as provide circumstances to use their critical thinking skills and procedure competency scenarios.

Seasoned and new clinicians are given the most current evidence-based practices to be incorporated into their patient care. Utilizing computer controlled scenarios, the nurse educator can move the clinicians through a variety of patient care situations. Depending on the simulated condition, staff may be required to provide METIman intravenous lines, injections, oxygen, catheters and intubations. This simulation training tool is being incorporated into existing annual training requirements. This advanced learning tool was provided by the Community Hospital Alternative for Risk Transfer (CHART), which made simulators available to eight hospitals in the state under a pilot program. Titusville Area Hospital was the first to roll out the training among the CHART Hospitals.



*Judy Paulich, one of the METIman simulation trainers, presents a simulated patient condition to clinical staff as part of an advanced simulation training tool at Titusville Area Hospital. Shown L-R: Judy Paulich, RN; Bob Wahlmark, RT, Director of Respiratory Therapy; Nancy Pieper, RN; and Deb Seeley, RN.*



**Everyone has a story... take PRIDE in yours!**

**CARRIE PAPPAL, RN, BSN,**  
*Vice President of Vantage® Mobile Services & Sleep Diagnostic Services*



Carrie started her employment with Vantage® in September 2005 as the Director of PET/CT. In 2008 she assumed the position of Director of Mobile Services. She progressed to VP in July 2009 with Diagnostic Sleep Services added to her arsenal 1/11.

A 1991 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing, Carrie's favorite past time is to spend time with family. The majority of that time is spent attending sporting events including: football, volleyball, wrestling, basketball and softball events. She also enjoys spending quiet family time on the East Branch of the Clarion River in their cabin. Carrie and her husband Nathan will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary on May 25th! Carrie and her husband will be celebrating with a trip to Aruba with their 2 children, Nathan and Cassondra.

**JULIE SMITH, RNC, CRNI,**  
*Service & Development Manager with Vantage® Care Apothecary*



Julie has been with Vantage® for 15 years. She has established liaison programs and assisted with sales and customer service. Julie teaches the PA Board of Nursing Infusion program and has worked as a Home Infusion Nurse and a Director of Nursing in Long term Care. For the past 13+ years, Julie has worked for the LTC division Vantage® Care Apothecary.

Julie is a Registered Nurse with certifications in Infusion and Gerontology. Julie's enjoys gardening, antiques, camping, golfing, cooking and spending time with her husband and son in their Saegertown home.

## Become an organ donor today.



Thousands of people in Pennsylvania are waiting for an organ or tissue transplant at this very moment. When you make the decision to become an organ donor, you give the most precious gift of all, life.

By signing you to organ and tissue donation, you can potentially save and enhance the lives of up to 50 people. It only takes a few moments, but you can make a lifetime of difference.

[donatelife-pa.org](http://donatelife-pa.org)

**Sign Up Today!**



1-877-DONOR-PA

Because Life Begins with You



Everyone has a story...  
take **PRIDE** in yours!

**LISA HERSHELMAN,**



*Director of Clinical Services Vantage® Home Medical Equipment & Services*

Lisa has been with Vantage® since June of 2000. She started as a part-time clinician and held positions such

as Director of Respiratory Services, Director of Sleep Services, Director of RT/DME Operations, & Director of Vantage® Home Medical Equipment & Services.

As a Registered Respiratory Therapist by trade, Lisa attended Thiel College's Respiratory Therapy Program and then went on to California College for Health Sciences to become Registry eligible. Lisa enjoys spending time with her children and watching them play sports as well as all their extracurricular activities. Lisa also adores her nieces, nephews and family boxer, Asia. She enjoys downhill skiing and swimming as well as walks in the country and reading. Lisa and her husband Jeff have two sons, Dillon, age 16 and Lucas, age 12.

**MARY TARTAGLIONE,**



*Director of Sales*

Mary has been with Vantage® approaching 5 years. Throughout that time, Mary has been responsible for selling multiple divisions of Vantage® services including but not limited to:

Respiratory Therapy, Durable Medical Equipment, Infusion, PET/CT, as well as Corporate Sales as a whole.

Mary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Policy & Administration from Penn State University, University Park, State College, PA. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, golfing, the outdoors and her volunteer work for Make A Wish Foundation. Mary lives in Meadville with her husband Tony and 5 year old son Rocco.

*Millcreek Community Hospital...*

**Psychiatrists Join Region's Largest Behavioral Health Care Facility**



**RONALD H. BRADLEY, D.O., PH.D,**  
*Director of Psychiatric Services*

Ronald H. Bradley, D.O., Ph.D. has been named Director of Psychiatric Services at Millcreek Community Hospital, where he directs staff and treats patients in the hospital's 62-bed Behavioral Health Care Department which includes separate units for adolescents, adults, and seniors. He has also joined the teaching staff of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) as a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry.

Dr. Bradley most recently served as Medical Director, Behavioral Health Services, for HealthPlus of Michigan and as a Clinical Professor at Michigan State University. He is Board-Certified in Neuropsychiatry, Addiction Medicine, Pain Management and Forensic Medicine and has worked in private practice, in research involving Phase III and IV outpatient clinical trials, and as a medical examiner. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he earned his Ph.D. and D.O. degrees; his residency in psychiatry was served at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI.



**MAX WILLIAM GOTTESMAN, D.O.,**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

Max William Gottesman, D.O., has joined the Behavioral Health Services Department at Millcreek Community Hospital as a staff psychiatrist and the teaching staff of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. He previously worked as a psychiatrist for Safe Harbor Behavioral Health, Stairways Behavioral Health, and Saint Vincent Health Center. Dr. Gottesman is Board-Certified in Psychiatry and Neurology and in the specialty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He earned his medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.



**RENEE THOMAS-CLARK, D.O., F.A.C.N.,**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

Renee Thomas-Clark, D.O., F.A.C.N. has joined both Millcreek Community Hospital as a staff psychiatrist in its Behavioral Health Services Department and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. Dr. Clark comes to Erie from Michigan where she was the Medical Director and a staff psychiatrist for the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority. Board-certified in Neurology and Psychiatry in both General and Child Psychiatry, she earned her medical degree from

Michigan State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine.



**Vantage® Legislative Update**

*CMS releases proposed rule on Medicare hospital value-based purchasing and readies ACO proposal.*

March 2011



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released proposed regulations governing the creation of a Medicare hospital value-based purchasing program. The Accountable Care Act requires the program to be established beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2013, at which time a portion of hospitals' payment will be linked to performance on measures related to common and high-cost conditions. The value-based incentive program places at stake 1 percent of hospitals' Medicare inpatient prospective payment system payments in FY 2013 and gradually increases this amount to 2 percent by FY 2017.

While the law specifies certain requirements of the VBP program, the majority of the policy decisions remain in the hands of CMS through the rulemaking process. Comments on the proposed rule were due to CMS by Mid March of this year.

CMS releases proposed rule to implement Medicaid payment adjustment for hospital-acquired conditions.

Moments ago, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) issued a proposed regulation implementing section 2702 of the Affordable Care Act, which directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to issue Medicaid regulations effective as of July 1, 2011 prohibiting federal payments to states for any amounts expended for providing medical assistance for health care-acquired conditions (HACs). Essentially this would require that states, at a minimum, apply the Medicare HACs standard and also authorize states to identify other conditions that the agency describes as "provider-preventable" for which Medicaid payment would be prohibited. CMS has provided a 30-day comment period. Premier Advocacy will provide a detailed summary of the proposed rule in the upcoming days.

*In the meantime, the proposed rule can be viewed at [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-03548\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-03548_PI.pdf).*

**"I thought I had Sleep Apnea so I called Vantage; you should too!"**

Studies Done at 7 Locations  
Studies Performed 5 Nights a Week  
Registered Sleep Techs

**Vantage® Sleep Diagnostic Services**

*Trusted Healthcare Right Here in Your Community!*



**Call Today!  
(877) 256-4904**

**Identity Theft**

*Continued from Page 7*

to such information, people can avoid becoming victims."

According to 2010 Identity Fraud Survey Report, Javelin Strategy & Research, February 2010, "the average cost of identity theft is \$4,841 per person. A November 2010 study revealed that 79% of Americans are at least somewhat concerned about identity theft, and 42% are very or extremely concerned. However, only 12% are enrolled in an identity theft protection program. Further analysis revealed that identity theft costs the average victim \$4,841 per violation, but identity protection services cost around \$250 per year." The results are part of the 2010 U.S. Consumer Study,

**"...be vigilant about your personal information."**

which surveyed 1,000 Americans on Identity Theft, commissioned by IdentityHawk and fielded by Survey Sampling International.

In its 2010 The Javelin Annual Identity Protection Services Scorecard, Javelin Strategy & Research reported that in 2009, 11.1 million people were victims of identity theft, at a cost of \$54 billion to businesses and individuals. On a per-person basis, the cost was \$4,841. The Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC), in its 2009 Victim Aftermath Study, revealed that the average out-of-pocket cost to the citizens who are identity theft victims is \$527.

Bottom line; be vigilant about your personal information. Pay attention when paying with a credit card and pay cash whenever possible. Keep your social security number private and do not give it freely, but only when absolutely necessary. Shredding unneeded personal documents including but not limited to medical paperwork, bank and credit card statements, bills as well as anything with personal information on it, instead of discarding in the trash is crucial to protecting identity. These simple steps will save you a lot of money, not to mention the aggravation of clearing your name, credit and the integrity you worked so hard to achieve.

To learn more about confidential shredding services for personal or businesses, call Vantage® at (814) 337-0000 or visit [www.vantagehealthcare.com](http://www.vantagehealthcare.com).

Everyone has a story...  
take **PRIDE** in yours!

**ANNE POUX,**



*Director of Premier Institutional Sales*

Anne recently joined the Vantage® team in December 2010, coming from a background of managed care and experience with durable medical equipment.

Anne attended The University of Dayton and The Erie Business Center. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, walking, traveling, yahtzee, playing cards and golf. Anne has two children, Jessica 22 who is studying nursing and Austin 20 who is in management training with Radio Shack. Welcome to the Vantage® team Anne!

**JEFF SCARPITTI,** *Director of Customer Service, HGT*



Jeff has been with Vantage® Health Group Telecommunications 11 years, starting in June of 2000, joining the team from Saint Vincent Health System. At Saint Vincent, Jeff

worked in Information Services as a Systems Administrator for critical care. He maintained all the Sun Solaris software and hardware for ICU, CCU and CVICU. He was at Saint Vincent for 16 years prior to his move to Vantage® HGT.

Jeff attended Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA, studying Computer Science. He received his ATG certification in San Jose, CA and Sun Microsystems certification in Milpitas, CA. Jeff enjoys playing modified softball, coaching baseball, golf, hunting and fishing. He plays and manages on the Parker Pool softball team that finished second in the state last year and has 3 prior Pennsylvania State championships in modified. Jeff was also the commissioner for the Millcreek Modified Softball league for the last 12 years. Jeff enjoys classic cars and is currently

West Virginia...

## New Sleep Lab

**Grafton City Hospital Unveiled its brand new sleep lab early February.**



The hospital says it hopes to reach out to residents who had to travel to Clarksburg or Morgantown to seek help until now.

"I'm always looking for things to increase our hospital, and make it so that people don't have to leave Taylor County to get things done," said Robert Neason, manager of the Cardio Pulmonary Department at Grafton City Hospital.

Neason says this has been a dream of his for more than a decade.

The sleep lab is a first for Taylor County, and is located right next to the hospital.

*The prevalence of sleeping disorder cases is not just high in the state, but across the country.*

It's equipped with two separate bedrooms for patients to stay in during their overnight study.

Neason says that many people who suffer from sleeping disorders don't have to.

"It can be taken care of by a simple sleep study, which may include people having to come back and be put on a type of machine that assists their breathing," he said.

Many of the neighboring counties have sleep labs, but patients are on a waiting list because of the high volume of cases.

"Truly what we are looking for is to see the type of sleep the patient is getting through the night. If their sleep is interrupted by apnea or absence of breathing, what happens to the body during that absence of breathing?" said Carrie Pappal, Vice President of Vantage® Sleep Diagnostic Services.

The prevalence of sleeping disorder cases is not just high in the state, but across the country.

"I'm hoping that's what we can do, and that we can alleviate that backup in other labs. I don't want to take anything away from these other places. I don't mean it like that. I am just looking at the patient's benefit," said Neason.

The hospital says this new addition will be a great benefit to members of the community.

There is a process to be admitted to the sleep lab. You need to contact your doctor, who will run tests and determine if you need a sleep study. Then, you will be referred to the neurologist at the hospital.

restoring a 1974 Pontiac Firebird Formula.

Jeff has three children. His oldest son Justin is graduating this May from Thiel College with plans to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy from Gannon University. Jeff's daughter, Ryann works two jobs at Starbucks and Best Buy and Andrew is a freshman pursuing his degree from Edinboro University.

## Two Off-Duty Saint Vincent Hospital Nurses Save a Life

**Jim Sitter, 66, was bowling Sunday in a tournament at the Maennerchor Club when the Millcreek Township man's heart suddenly stopped beating.**



Jenny Wilson



Melissa Sinclair

"I looked over at Jim and his knees started to shake," said Rick Rydzewski, his friend and bowling partner. "He went down to his knees and put his head on the lanes, like he was kissing them for luck. He sat up and I could tell something was really wrong."

An abnormal heart rhythm had forced Sitter's heart to stop pumping blood to his brain and other vital organs, a condition called cardiac arrest. His heart was quivering like a plate of gelatin. Most people do not survive cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association reports that 95 percent of its victims die before reaching the hospital.

"When a person goes into cardiac arrest, the goal is to establish circulation within five minutes," said Jeffrey Buetikofer, M.D., the Saint Vincent Health Center cardiologist who treated Sitter. "Once you get past five minutes, you start seeing damage to the brain, heart, liver and kidneys."

Sitter was lucky. The Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St., was well equipped to handle cardiac arrest. Seconds after Sitter slumped to the floor, someone called 911 and a club bartender certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation began doing chest compressions. A bowler ran upstairs and called out for a doctor. Two Saint Vincent nurses happened to be at the club eating brunch with their respective families.

"I didn't hear the call at first," said Melissa Sinclair, R.N. "My husband elbowed me in the side and said someone is looking for a doctor." Sinclair and Jenny Wilson, R.N., dashed downstairs and saw the bartender giving chest compressions to Sitter. The nurses quickly determined that Sitter had no pulse and took over CPR. Someone had brought over the club's automated external defibrillator, a device designed to shock someone's heart back into rhythm. "We put the patches on him and followed the AED's instructions," Sinclair said. "It delivered a shock, then told us to continue CPR."

The first shock didn't work, so the nurses delivered a second shock. Sinclair felt a pulse, but then it stopped. Paramedics arrived by this time and took over the resuscitation. They also shocked Sitter's heart at least one more time, according to Wilson. "It got him into a good, normal rhythm," Wilson said.

Sitter was wheeled out of the club and into an ambulance. Rydzewski followed him out and saw him groaning answers to a paramedic's questions. "It was a good sign," Rydzewski said. "He was alive."

Sitter was able to sit up and talk shortly after doctors started treating him in Saint Vincent's emergency department. He didn't need a breathing tube like most cardiac-arrest survivors, Buetikofer said. The only symptoms Sitter felt the next day were sore ribs from all the chest compressions he received.

"By shocking his heart back into rhythm so rapidly, the cardiac arrest didn't lead to any significant damage to his brain or other organs," Buetikofer said. "This outcome

*"When a person goes into cardiac arrest, the goal is to establish circulation within five minutes..."*

Everyone has a story...  
take **PRIDE** in yours!

**JAY LONG,** *Senior Vice President*



*of Telecomm and Information Technology*

Jay has been with Vantage® since May of 1997. He also serves the role of Chief Information Officer for Vantage® as a whole.

Jay holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Communications from Western Kentucky University and conducted his graduate course work at University of Wisconsin, Northern Illinois University and Texas Tech, at Lubbock Texas. Jay enjoys spending time with his wife Lee Ann and two sons, Jamie and Jeremy. They enjoy the unique hobby of falconry.

**ROBIN SMITH,** *Pharm.D, BCPP, CGP, FASCP Senior Vice President Pharmacy Services*



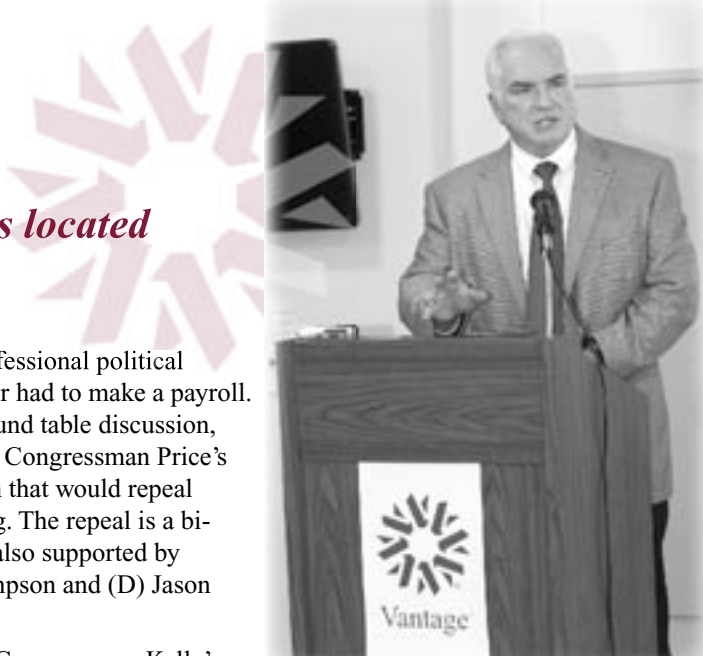
Robin started with Vantage® in 2000 as a part time staff pharmacist. Since that time she has also worked as the Clinical Pharmacist and Director of

Pharmacy.

Robin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina. She received her Doctorate in Pharmacy from the University of Maryland. Robin's favorite past times includes traveling, spending time with her husband Douglas and her two beautiful daughters, Kaitlin and Julianna.

# Mike Kelly Visits the Vantage® Center

*US Congressman Mike Kelly made a recent Legislative visit to the Vantage® headquarters located in Meadville, PA.*



Congressman Kelly was the guest speaker in a round table discussion on Competitive Bidding hosted by; Tom Sedlak, Chairman of the PA Association of Medical Supplies' BOD and Sr.VP of Vantage® Durable Medical Equipment Operations and John Shivinsky, Executive Director of PA Association of Medical Supplies.

Durable Medical Equipment advocates Sedlak and Shivinsky made the case that the recent CMS framework for competitive bidding actually impedes the efficiency and quality of patient service as well as suppressing 80% of the current providers, thus eliminating the essence of competition all together. To highlight the meeting, listed are some of the talking points that were discussed:

- The bid is without financial accountability that awarded contracts on "blind bids" from inexperienced companies and may potentially remove 90% of local providers.
- Contracts were awarded to some suppliers who do not have a physical location in the bid area.
- Winners, who submitted "suicide bids" walked away from the bid with no penalty.
- Oxygen therapy requires more than a piece of equipment. Service costs for medical oxygen therapy in the home exceed the cost of equipment by three to one.
- Medical oxygen therapy at home costs less than \$6/day in Medicare fees for service. A typical inpatient hospital day in Medicare cost \$4,603.
- The competitive bidding program forces an unsustainable business model on the DME industry.
- Over 56% of the winning bidders were from outside Pennsylvania.
- 42% of non-contract providers are likely to go out of business in the Pittsburgh area.

Congressman Kelly, who as a first term Congressman and successful businessman, reinforced the dialogue stating that unfortunately, most elected officials in our

government are professional political candidates and never had to make a payroll. Kelly, during the round table discussion, agreed to sign on to Congressman Price's proposed legislation that would repeal Competitive bidding. The repeal is a bi-partisan bill that is also supported by (R) Glenn GT Thompson and (D) Jason Altmire.

The second part of Congressman Kelly's visit moved to the Vantage® Center lobby, where he addressed a group of local business leaders and healthcare executives in his crusade to eliminate the Medical Device Tax. Kelly stated that the Medical device industry is responsible for more than 400,000 jobs and indirectly responsible for almost 2 million jobs and as a net trade exporter has created a trade surplus of 5.4 billion dollars. Based on an industry survey, Congressman Kelly stated that if the Medical Device Tax remains in place in 2013, some of the impact results would be; a 60% reduction in research and development to pay for the tax, 64% of the business owners reported they would have to reduce or immediately halt job-creation, and that 36% of the respondents noted they would have to relocate manufacturing outside of the United States to absorb the device tax.

The Vantage® staff would like to again like to thank US Congressman Mike Kelly for spending the afternoon at Vantage®, energizing his constituents, sharing ideas and discussing possible solutions applicable to our healthcare industry.



Tom Sedlak, VP Vantage® Home Medical Equipment and Services, Congressman Mike Kelly, & John Shivinsky, Executive Director of PAM's. (PA Association of Medical Suppliers)



# Identity Theft, Are you at Risk?

*Deter, Prevent and Protect*

The sad, simple truth is everyone is at risk for identity theft, but here is the good news; there are precautions to take to minimize risk. Secure document management practices as well as credit monitoring will help prevent and detect any fraudulent activity. Otherwise, the possibility of thousands of dollars wasted and hours as a victim of identity theft could become a reality.

Most people think of credit card fraud when they think of identity theft. There are actually five different kinds of identity theft that everyone should be concerned with. Mobile technology such as camera phones makes stealing ones identity easier than ever before. For example: paying with a credit card at a restaurant or any place where the card is out of sight, poses a risk for identity theft.

Your mailbox even puts you at risk. Yes, tampering with the mail is a federal offense, but proving it becomes difficult. Anyone can steal a letter from a mailbox or go through the trash and collect old bills or credit card offers. Educate yourself on the five different kinds of identity theft and take the proper precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones.

*"...the average out-of-pocket cost to the citizens who are identity theft victims is \$527."*

1. **MEDICAL IDENTITY THEFT:** This can be very serious. Some people who are living high-risk lifestyles do not want to get medical screenings under their own identity, so they may latch on to someone else's, therefore making their medical realities part of YOUR medical record. Imagine going for a checkup and the doctor asks you when you contracted AIDS. This is happening! How? Your record shows that somebody had a HIV test under your name and it was positive. Now it is your job to clean up all the mess! Keep your medical information between you and your healthcare provider whenever possible. Shred all unneeded Explanation of Benefits (EOB's), medical bills and statements; do not throw them in the trash.
2. **CREDIT CARD THEFT:** As mentioned above, paying with a credit card at any place where the card is out of your sight puts you at risk. Waiters have been known to get credit card details and sell it to someone else so it cannot be traced back to them. Next time you are in a situation where your credit card is going to be out of sight, try to pay at the register yourself. Also, consider using a company that specializes in credit card fraud protection. If these do not seem like realistic options, then plan ahead and pay with cash. Always shred your credit card statements, never throw them in the trash.
3. **DRIVERS LICENSE THEFT:** Driver's license information is stolen everyday and the information can be used to help a criminal secure false identification. Never let your driver's license out of sight or your possession. Be extra careful with protecting your driver's license. If you lose your purse or wallet, file a report with

your local police department and notify the DMV right away as they can notate the loss and issue a new license while keeping their system up to date. This gives you a record of report to fall back on if ever needed.

4. **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER THEFT:** This is widespread because people don't realize that they leave their Social Security numbers laying around on so many documents. In the past, it was considered harmless to ask for Social Security numbers on practically every form. Those days are gone. Never provide your Social Security number until you know

it is necessary. Don't be afraid to ask why it is needed, you have a right to know.

5. **CRIMINAL IDENTITY THEFT:** These days it is common for crooks to commit crimes under a false identity. When they get caught many times they can have false identification documents in place so the crime goes under the victim's name. Protect yourself and your information at all times, in the event your personal information has been compromised, take action right away.

Report any fraudulent activity to your local police or state police. For more information access: [www.psp.state.pa.us](http://www.psp.state.pa.us)

Crawford County District Attorney, Francis J. Schultz stated: "People need to be vigilant about protecting their personal information. Criminals are always looking for new ways to steal. By taking steps to eliminate the opportunity for someone to gain access

*Continued on Page 9*

**FREE Destroy - It Days!**

**Education Days!**

Join us for a Session on Identity Theft by PA State Trooper Michelle McGee

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <b>March 28, 2011</b> Meadville Senior Center<br>1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.   |  |
|  | <b>April 1, 2011</b> Cambridge Senior Center<br>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.   |  |
|  | <b>April 4, 2011</b> Lakeland/Valley<br>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.           |  |
|  | <b>April 8, 2011</b> Canadohta Senior Center<br>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.   |  |
|  | <b>April 14, 2011</b> Titusville Senior Center<br>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |  |

**March 8, 2011** Titusville Senior Center  
**March 10, 2011** Meadville Senior Center  
**March 11, 2011** Canadohta Senior Center  
**March 15, 2011** Cambridge Senior Center

*\*All Education Sessions are scheduled for 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.\**

For More Information Contact: Pam Roberts

Meadville Active Aging (814) 336-1795