CELEBRATING OUR NURSES

A Voice to Lead
A Vision for Future Healthcare

This has been a year that the 19 million nurses everywhere in the world will not soon forgot, if ever. They have been called up on to do the impossible and yet, they have done it. They have been called upon to care for patients in ways one who isn’t a nurse will not understand, and they have answered the calling.

Nursing is a profession that requires great intelligence, motivation and determination and has long been given the noble, awe-inspiring and exhausting work of caring for the sick. More than 3 million nurses work today in the United States alone and make up the highest percentage of the U.S. healthcare workforce. Long gone are the days when nursing was thought of as a “behind the scenes” profession.

Nurses have instead, been at the very forefront of healthcare and the COVID-19 pandemic in ways we could not have imagined before. One week out of the year to recognize and celebrate what nurses do and in particular, have done this past year is insufficient. All nurses and most certainly Addabbo nurses, deserve our thanks each and every day.

“America’s nurses are the beating heart of our medical system.”
—Barack Obama

LET’S GET VACCINATED! WE CAN DO THIS!

The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center (JPA) will be opening two of its Rockaway sites every Saturday and Sunday beginning Saturday, May 8th, for the sole purpose of providing COVID-19 vaccinations to everyone age 16 and up. 6200 Beach Channel Drive in Arverne and 1288 Central Avenue in Far Rockaway will be providing vaccinations between the hours of 9:00am and 7:00pm every Saturday and Sunday (12-1 closed for lunch). Appointments are necessary and can be requested at vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/ or vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/ or you can also call (877) VAX-4NYC. Uninsured patients are welcome.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will not only protect you but help stop the spread of the pandemic. While no one tool alone is going to stop the pandemic, getting vaccinated a combination of following CDC guidelines, getting COVID-19 vaccine, wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, and washing your hands often.

Building defenses against COVID-19 in our community is a team effort. By getting the vaccine, we are all supporting the health of our families and communities.

LET’S DO IT!
Welcome To Our Addabbo Care Team!

Brenda Munemo, RN, BSN
Director of Nursing

The JPA Board of Directors, the senior management team and Dr. Miriam Vega are pleased to announce the appointment of Brenda Munemo, RN, BSN as the new Director of Nursing at JPA. As of May 3, 2021, Brenda Munemo, RN, will assume the position of Director of Nursing. Ms. Munemo comes to JPA with fourteen years of experience in Healthcare Administration, Level One Trauma, Critical Care-SICU, ED, ICU Rapid Response and Healthcare Quality Program Management. Her last position was with the Manhattan Multispecialty Surgical Center as the AVP of Clinical Operations, Clinical Quality and Patient Satisfaction. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Loyola University and her MBA at Benedictine University in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Munemo’s passion is healthcare accreditation and policy management. She is excited about her new position and looks forward to becoming part of an integral team at JPA. It is particularly meaningful that Ms. Munemo joins our JPA Team as our new Director of Nursing at a time when we celebrate the many wonderful contributions of our own nurses during National Nurses Month. Welcome to JPA!

Colette Chestnut, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

As of May 3, 2021, Colette Chestnut, CPA, will assume the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at JPA. Ms. Chestnut has extensive experience in not-for-profit organizations as both a senior finance executive and chief financial officer. She brings with her experience in financial, analytic, management and operational skills and is known for her relationship building skills, and is known for her relationship building skills, keen strategic business acumen, restructuring and business transformation initiatives. Ms. Chestnut received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Accounting at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.

More

The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center is pleased to welcome four new members of our Department of Wellness Services:

- Health Educator: Tomisha Hicks
- Patient Navigator: Yadiry Lagombra
- PCHP Coordinator: Yury Mota Rodriguez
- Outreach Specialist:: Garrett Simmons

JPA Announces Two Key Managerial Promotions From Within Its Own Addabbo Team

Marie Gallant, RN, will be assuming the position of Associate Director of Nursing for JPA. As a highly valued member of the JPA healthcare team, Marie is well acquainted with the daily responsibilities of a JPA nurse, and we believe she will be a tremendous asset to our Management Team. She will also be an effective representative of JPA nurses at the administrative level.

Also, Ms. Tatiana Berrios will be assuming the position of Call Center Analyst Supervisor. Tatiana has been a very efficient and effective call center operator for JPA and knows first-hand the challenges our JPA operators face. We look forward to working with her in her new managerial position.

Congratulations to both Marie Gallant and Tatiana Berrios as they join our leadership team at Addabbo.
Spotlight on JPA Employees

Maria Castanos-Sanchez, RN

Maria Castanos-Sanchez, RN has been working at JPA since September of 2001 or, for 20 years. She is an integral part of the nursing staff and has experienced nursing from the prospective of an LPN, RN and also as an Assistant Director of Nursing. Originally from the Philippines, becoming a nurse in the United States was her personal “American Dream”. She began her nursing career as an LPN at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx but since she lived in Queens and at the recommendation of a JPA physician, she applied for a nursing position at JPA – the rest is history! “Nursing has made me a stronger person,” says Maria. “With every challenging experience that comes my way, I continue to grow and learn.” After working full time for so many years, she now works part time at JPA and very much appreciates the opportunity to remain in the nursing field. “We nurses have faced some challenges during the pandemic such as short staffing, initial PPE shortage, very ill and frightened patients – but we are getting through it as a nursing team,” Maria explains. She finds it rewarding to give vaccinations to very appreciative and thankful patients. Maria has a gardening hobby that originated from a very poignant time in her life. When her mother was critically ill with pancreatic cancer, she planted a hydrangea plant and photographed her mom standing in front of the plant, lifting her hands into the sky and thanking God for all His blessings. The love of plants and particularly hydrangeas have stayed with her ever since.

DAVIE SUKRAM, Lab Technologist

Lab Technologist, Davie Sukram, has a history with JPA. In 2016, she came to JPA as a patient and shortly thereafter, applied for and secured a per diem job with JPA as a clerk. Six months later, she was offered a full-time clerk position. Aspiring to be more involved with direct patient care and less involved in the day-to-day healthcare paperwork, Davie attended Access Institute during her off hours and received her Lab Tech Certificate. “I love helping people. While I’m doing my job, I get to listen to people, help people overcome their fear of blood tests and needles and just generally get to know them and make them feel better,” says Davie. “I go from JPA site to JPA site where I am needed, so I am always meeting new patients.” A native of Guyana, Davie came to the United States at the age of 17 on her own via a student visa. She lived with her aunt in Queens and always had dreams of becoming a Registered Nurse. “I haven’t given up on that dream by any means,” says Davie. “I have always wanted to be a very famous Registered Nurse and still believe that if I work hard enough, it will happen!” She has plans to attend nursing school and working at JPA as an RN but at the moment, she is busy with her current job and 7-year-old son. “When I leave work as a lab tech, I take on another job as a teacher! My son attends school remotely at the moment, so I spend lots of my home time supervising schoolwork.” When she has the time, she participates in one of her favorite hobbies - “shopping, shopping, shopping”! Davie is a big supporter of people getting the COVID-19 vaccine to keep families and communities safe – including her own.
CUNY YORK Nursing Students at JPA

CUNY nursing students are providing extra hands and feet at Site 5 as part of the CUNY-JPA Covid Vaccine Project. Under the close supervision of their CUNY faculty supervisor, Professor Micheline Remy, the nursing students are administering the vaccine to our patients. This mutually beneficial partnership between CUNY's York College and JPA allows the students to complete their clinical placements and enables our patients to receive their vaccinations expeditiously.

JPA Participates In Health Awareness Day

Members of JPA’s Outreach Team represented our health center at a Health Awareness Day presented by Senator James Sanders, Jr. and Ocean Bay Community Cornerstone on Monday, April 26, 2021. Thanks to a good weather day, the event was held outside at the Ocean Bay Community Center and was very well attended.

Our team performed blood pressure checks, discussed our services with attendees, provided informational material about JPA’s services and programs and networked with other organizations present. If you are hosting a health fair in your neighborhood and would like our Outreach Team to attend, you can always notify JPA through our website at www.addabbo.org/outreach or by calling 718-945-7150 Ext. 3243.

About Us

Established in 1987, the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center, Inc. (JPA) is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center with five (5) operational facilities located on the Rockaway Peninsula, Southeast Queens, and Red Hook, Brooklyn. JPA has been designated a Level III (the highest level) Patient Centered Medical Home.

Our caring professional staff of Board Certified Physicians, Nurses and certified support staff offer a wide range of services including routine in-person appointments, televideo and telephonic consultations and “walk-in” service for sick visits.

We have a long history of delivering exemplary medical services. We look forward to continue providing our patients with the same standard of excellence.

The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center, receives HHS funding and has Federal Public Health Service (PHS) deemed status with respect to certain health or health-related claims, including medical malpractice claims for itself and for its covered individuals.

For the safety of everyone, please continue to follow CDC guidelines, wear your masks, maintain social distancing, avoid large gatherings and wash your hands frequently.

Call Us At: 718-945-7150

Follow us on: Check Us Out At: www.addabbo.org

www.addabbo.org/outreach

718-945-7150 Ext. 3243