

NEWSMAKERS *plus awards and events*

SAFIAN IS NAMED A 'CHAMPION OF CHILDREN'

Keith F. Safian, president and CEO of **Phelps Memorial Hospital Center**, received the Champion of Children Award given by the **Child Care Council of Westchester** at their annual awards program recently. The award was presented for Safian's support of The Robin's Nest, a child care center on the Phelps campus, which provides

services for the children of hospital staff as well as working parents in the community.

Established in 1988, Robin's Nest is licensed by the New York State Department of Social Services and maintains accreditation by the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which promotes excellence

in early education. A recent \$1.4 million expansion allowed the center to offer nursery school and extended services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

In accepting the award, Safian said, "The Robin's Nest was the first 'corporate' child care center in Westchester, established to meet the

child care needs of Phelps nurses who couldn't return to work unless they had excellent child care. It is an honor to be recognized for the contribution that Robin's Nest makes to our community. Its expansion is important to Westchester as the county continues to grow and the need for quality child care increases."

WESTMED DIRECTOR EARNS CREDENTIAL OF EXCELLENCE

Viviana Ruscitto of Valley Cottage, director of diagnostic imaging for the Purchase-based **Westmed Medical Group**, has recently earned the additional credential of certified radiology administrator (CRA). To qualify, radiology administrators are required to meet education and experience requirements and pass a national computer-based examination to test their knowledge and imaging team leadership skills. The CRA program, including the examination, is managed by the Radiology Administration Certification Commission, a self-governing body created to maintain the credential's integrity and relevance.

Phelps Memorial Hospital Center (PMHC) received the American Heart/American Stroke Association's Target: Stroke Honor Roll for meeting stroke quality measures that reduce the time between hospital arrival and treatment with the clot-buster tPA.

For ischemic strokes, in which an artery to the brain is blocked, tPA is the only treatment drug that is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. People who suffer a stroke who receive the drug within three hours of the onset of symptoms may recover quicker and are less likely to suffer severe disability.

In addition, for the fifth year in a row, PMHC has received the Get With the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) for the treatment of

PHELPS CITED FOR STROKE INITIATIVE

stroke patients.

Get With the Guidelines-Stroke helps hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, research-based treatments with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Phelps earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include the aggressive use of medications and risk-reduction therapies.

"Phelps is dedicated to improving the quality of stroke care and Get With the Guidelines helps us achieve that goal," said **Elaine Gardner**, stroke coordinator. "With this award, our hospital demonstrates our commitment to ensure that our patients receive care based on internationally respected clinical guidelines."

"We are pleased to recognize Phelps for their commitment and dedication to stroke care," said **Deepak L. Bhatt**, M.D., national chairman of the Get With the Guidelines steering committee and executive director of interventional cardiovascular programs at Brigham and Women's Hospital and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. "Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With the Guidelines quality improvement measures can reduce patients' length of stays and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparity gaps in care."

According to the AHA/ASA, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds, someone dies of a stroke every three minutes and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.