

VICTORIA BACKUS, NP
DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL

It is my honor to be a part of the Queens County St. Patrick's Parade and to be able to celebrate with many of Rockaway's residents. I am proud to be the Director of Emergency Services at St. John's Episcopal Hospital for the last two-and-a-half years. It is the Hospital's goal, as well as my personal goal, to provide the best medical care to the people of the Rockaways and surrounding communities.

My motto has always been, "Treat everyone the way you want to be treated." Every patient should feel special. At St. John's, it is our mission to provide quality care to all. Our watchwords in every endeavor are quality and service. As a member of the planning committee for the future renovation of St. John's Emergency Department, I am very happy to be able to share with you a number of exciting new initiatives. The centerpiece of our ER expansion plan is single rooms and greater privacy to our patients.

Another Emergency Department initiative will be an electronic medical record. Quicker access to patients' medical records and ease of ordering tests and medications will streamline excellent care. Bedside Triage, will allow patients to skip over triage and registration, be placed directly in a treatment area and reduce their wait time in the ER.

I have had the pleasure of becoming involved with the Rockaway community. I have been a member of the Kiwanis Club for six years, helping to meet the needs of children and families. As Captain of the "Victoria's Secret Team" at the American Cancer Society's Rockaway Relay for Life for 10 years, we have raised nearly \$60,000, to hopefully someday find a cure for cancer. I have also been a participant in the American Cancer Society's Annual Making Strides Against Cancer Walk.

In 1978, I started my nursing career as a new graduate at Peninsula Hospital Center, where I worked as a staff nurse for a few years until I took a position in the Emergency Department. It was in the Emergency Department where I began to find my niche in life, advancing to head nurse and ultimately Director of the Emergency Department and Family Health Center. While managing the Emergency Department fulltime, I returned to school and received a BS in Health Administration from St Joseph's and went on to earn a Master's degree from Long Island University. In 1995, I became a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society. Still, I had not fulfilled my real dream of becoming a nurse practitioner. This dream became a reality when I graduated from State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2000 as a family Nurse Practitioner. I am ever so grateful to my family for their utmost support, patience and encouragement and to Dr. David I. Lichtenstein who was an inspiration and an outstanding preceptor. I have since worked in Dr. Lichtenstein's practice as a family nurse practitioner for the last 10 years where I am happy to see, evaluate and treat many Rockaway residents who are not only patients, but also good friends.

My husband Frank and I have been married for 29 years. We have two wonderful children, our daughter Victoria, who recently married Brien Magee, and our son Frankie.