

Stand Up, Sing Along and Get Your Praise On!

For nearly 20 years, Gospelrama has been an important part of HUP's Black History Month celebration. That's no surprise. As staff chaplain **Madeline Dawson** noted during her welcoming remarks, "What we offer can bring comfort and joy and lift the spirits."

And that it did. With Brother Marcus of Praise 103.9 FM serving as MC and keeping the program moving, the audience was treated to gospel songs, interpretive dance and rap provided by HUP's staff, friends and family members.

"I thank all those who have helped keep Gospelrama alive for all these years," said **Al Black**, COO of the hospital. "And I thank all of you for sharing your gifts of hope and praise with us."



► Performers at this year's Gospelrama included the Heavenly Angels Praise Dancers and Madeline Dawson.

A big thank-you also goes to members of Pastoral Care and to **Tamika Patton-Watkins** of Administration who worked together to make this year's celebration happen. Keeping up the pace was the Penn Inspirations Band (Bryant Pugh, Ben Polk, and Cedric Napoleon). The delicious after-show refreshments were courtesy of Morrison's Caterers and Pastoral Care.

► To see a slideshow of Gospelrama photos, go to <http://news.pennmedicine.org/inside/hupdate/>.



Got a Ticket to Ride... and Penn Medicine CAREs

Margaret Rummel, BSN, MHA, OCN, oncology nurse navigator, serves as a catalyst for many patients seeking life-saving care at the Abramson Cancer Center (ACC). She and her colleagues in Patient and Family Services help them overcome barriers to necessary medical treatment, such as problems with transportation and lodging, and financial and insurance concerns.

"We treat patients from a wide geographic area who often cannot commute or need lodging while they're here," said Rummel. Indeed, some patients — like those undergoing bone marrow transplants — can be in the area for several months. Others, such as those with head and neck cancer, could require six or seven weeks of radiation treatment at the ACC, five or six days a week.

For many of these patients whose health or financial state prevents them from getting to their appointments, Penn Rides: Transportation

Assistance for ACC Patients at Hope Lodge provides a crucial connection to their cancer care. The initiative, funded by a Penn Medicine CAREs grant, pays for cab or train fare for some patients who would not be able to reach their appointment otherwise. Hope Lodge, which includes 38 rooms for patients and their caregivers, offers a volunteer-run van with very limited hours — making the Penn Medicine CAREs funding valuable when no alternative is available.

Against the physical, emotional, and financial toll of cancer, Rummel and other navigators see the program as one less thing for patients to worry about. "It is a supplement to the processes we have in place to keep our patients safe and getting the care they need," said Rummel. "We're all a team in this. We want to make sure our patients get the best possible outcomes and make their experience the best it can be."



PennMedicine.org/Community

Do you volunteer your time to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve? If so, your organization might be eligible for one of the Penn Medicine CAREs grants, which are awarded quarterly. To apply, click on "CAREs—Community Outreach" on the left bar of the Intranet home page and go to "CAREs Grant." **The deadline for the next grant is June 1.**