

## WARMING UP TO A GREAT IDEA

When Mallory Doyle's grandmother started chemotherapy last year at Saint Francis, she learned that there was a side effect with a reaction to items that were cold. Within the first few days after treatment, her grandmother could not eat or drink cold food or beverages, or breathe in cold air. Even using a spoon and fork caused a reaction.

Mallory is a seventh grader at Torrington Middle School and all of the seventh grade science classes there participate in the statewide "Invention Convention." Students are required to develop and research a unique invention. They create a poster board and prototype of their invention which are reviewed by a panel of judges from outside of the school.

Recognizing the needs of her grandmother, Mallory invented a utensil warmer. She was one of twelve students, out of 135, who received an award for her idea and advanced to present her invention at the *UConn Connecticut Invention Convention* in late April.

According to Mallory's mother, Shelly, her daughter said it wasn't about "winning" to her, it was about doing something that would help her Grammy. "She told her teacher early on that she already won' when she knew she truly came up with an idea to help her Grammy," states Shelly.



**ALL SMILES** – Mallory Doyle proudly displays her invention at the "Invention Convention."

Photo submitted by Shelly Doyle

## MEDICAL MISSION VOLUNTEERS DEPART

Ibrahim Daoud, M.D., general and minimally invasive surgeon, and a team of volunteers including surgeons, nurses, anesthetists and surgical technicians, prepared recently to leave for a medical mission in Bolivia.

The volunteers departed from Saint Francis with much-needed medical supplies, such as surgical instruments and supplies. While in Bolivia, the group will perform about 75 surgeries, mostly gallbladder and hernia operations, to those in need within the community.



Photo by Joe Driscoll

## ADVANCEMENT TO CLINICAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Seven registered nurses were the first group to advance through the *Advancement to Clinical Excellence Program (ACE)* to clinical level three and four nurses.



The *ACE Program* was developed to recognize nurses involved in direct patient care and provide advancement opportunities for those who want to remain in a bedside role. The *ACE Program* promotes the professional development of nurses by giving them opportunities to become more involved in education, management, research or quality improvement projects. Their participation in these projects benefits patients, their home units, and the organization. *ACE* also rewards nurses based on their additional roles and responsibilities while preparing the participants for future advanced nursing roles.



**ALL ACES** – The first group of nurses to advance through the *ACE program* were recognized at a recent luncheon. Top photo, L-R: Cynthia Peterson, R.N.; Lori Lowry, R.N.; Debra Fioro, R.N.; Elaine Bernier, R.N.; Deborah Rossi, R.N. Bottom photo, L-R: Meredith Quilter, R.N., (Ann) Lauren Banda, R.N.

Photos by Joe Driscoll