

# In the Spotlight

*Highlighting Exceptional Employees*

## Jennie Petruney

**Nurse Practitioner**

Is the nurse in?

Yes! Fulltime employees are invited to make health care visits to nurse practitioner Jennie Petruney, who will be staffing the Town's first employee health clinic, this July. The clinic, located on the lower level of the Housing Department on Caldwell Street, is part of a program named Chapel Hill Wellness@Work.

Jennie is employed by UNC Health Care Department of Family Medicine and has two major focuses: 1) Wellness and 2) Treatment of minor illnesses such as colds, rashes, joint pain, urinary tract or sinus infections, other minor acute illnesses, and things like poison ivy or bee stings. As a nurse practitioner, Jennie can issue prescriptions as well as administer care. No co-payment is required.

As part of her wellness effort, she will encourage all employees to take a simple health questionnaire to assess health risks. She will also be available to check blood pressure and weight along with cholesterol and blood sugar. The survey and all information provided by employees to the nurse practitioner will be confidential and protected. Future wellness programs may include lunchtime walking groups, diabetes education classes, smoking cessation programs and more.

"My goal is not to replace the employee's primary provider, but to be available to treat minor illnesses while also providing in-depth health coaching to promote overall health and wellbeing," she said.

Jennie began her career as a grant writer working for an HIV/AIDS clinic in

New Orleans. The experience inspired her to become a nurse. She has a psychology degree from Syracuse University and bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Jennie worked as an oncology nurse for four years and has worked as a nurse practitioner in internal medicine and primary care in Philadelphia and Chapel Hill.

She lives in Hillsborough with her husband, Amos, their son Beckett, 2, and two cats. In their spare time, the couple create mosaic tile art. A recent commission for a tree of life design will soon grace the lobby of the UNC Family Medicine Center.

Jennie's Wellness@Work clinic hours will be announced in early July and will be flexible to accommodate different work shifts and employee needs.

### **More about the Health Clinic**

The comprehensive wellness programs, aimed at preventing and managing chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes, will be developed in collaboration with representatives from

### **Value in the Spotlight**

## Teamwork



Catherine Lazorko photo

the Town employees. Programs will be tailored to the specific needs of the Town's workforce based on information from voluntary health risk assessments of Town employees, and in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Wellness programs may focus on topics such as tobacco cessation, weight loss, proper nutrition, and developing other

### **Senior Management Team Values**

In November 2007, the Town's Senior Management Team adopted the following set of values to guide their behavior and decisions. These values are Ethics, Social Equity, Professionalism, Respect, Innovation



and Teamwork. It is the intent of the Town Manager and the Senior Management Team to strengthen the organization with a commonly held set of values that drive our mission and objectives.