

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RAISES MONEY FOR VENTILATOR

by Michael Di Domenico

Paging Dr. Jenna Gorrell, paging Dr. Jenna Gorrell. Dr. Gorrell is an anesthesiologist and a junior at Bradford Area High School in Bradford, PA. Well, she's not a doctor yet but she will be in the not too distant future. After she graduates from high school in 2009, she plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for her pre-med degree. Even though her days in the OR are a few years off, it's what she is doing today that is just as remarkable.

Jenna has applied to the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Excellence, which is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence are five-week-long summer residential programs on college campuses committed to meeting the educational needs of artistically or academically talented high school students. Jenna has applied to the School of Healthcare at the University of Pittsburgh. Part of the entrance requirement is developing a leadership project and to perform community service.

Combining Jenna's interest in healthcare and her need to fulfill a leadership project, she and her school guidance counselor, Steve Mongillo, came up with a plan to raise money for a much needed neonatal ventilator for a local hospital. Jenna then decided to organize the First Breath Walk-A-Thon to raise money for the Bradford Area Regional Medical Center to purchase the neonatal ventilator. After speaking with Penny Olyer, Director of Cardiopulmonary Services at Bradford Area Regional Medical Center, Jenna was convinced the hospital needed a ventilator that could be used for all patient populations; they chose the EvitaXL from Draeger Medical.

"I cannot express what an impact her project will have on the community Bradford Regional Medical Center serves" said Penny Olyer. "The cardiopulmonary staff is so excited about her project knowing how the Draeger EvitaXL ventilator will enhance the current ventilatory services we provide". Olyer is brought to tears and said "it's good to know that this vent will still be helping people even after Jenna has finished her first four years of college".



Jenna Gorrell receives "Excellence in Leadership" award from Doug Smith, VP of Sales, Draeger Medical



Nellie Wallace, Steve Mongillo, Penny Olyer, Jenna Gorrell (center) in Draeger's Demo Room

When Draeger Medical heard about Jenna's mission, they invited her to their facility in Telford, PA. She was accompanied by Steve Mongillo, Penny Olyer and Nellie Wallace, Bradford Hospital's Director of Annual Giving. They were treated to lunch and a tour of the facility including manufacturing, product testing and more. Jenna was most excited about the product demonstration room. The "demo room" as it's referred to, replicates several hospital settings including an ICU, a NICU and it also includes Draeger's anesthesia workstations. Jenna was most comfortable in front of the anesthesia machines. This is where she plans to spend a lot of her professional career.

Just before embarking on her five hour journey home, Doug Smith, Draeger's VP of Sales, presented Jenna with a leather portfolio, writing pen and an "Excellence in Leadership" award. Draeger employees filled the lobby area for the awards presentation to show their support and appreciation for Jenna's hard work.

When Jenna's not raising money for ventilators she can be found working at her local Tasty Freeze serving up delicious treats. She is also planning to become a lifeguard this summer and will be certified in CPR. When she finally relaxes she usually just hangs out with her friends with phone in hand sending yet another text message. She's a remarkable, yet, normal teenager after all.

The First Breath Walk-A-Thon was held on May 10, 2008 at the Bradford Area High School track. Local Draeger Account Executive Steve Burrell participated in the walk-a-thon and brought along the EvitaXL for the participants to see first hand what they were helping to purchase. If you would like to help Jenna please send your donations by mail to: Bradford Area High School, Attn: Steve Mongillo, 81 Interstate Parkway, Bradford, PA 16701. Make checks payable to: Bradford Area School District Foundation or donate online: www.bmrcgiving.com and choose fund "First Breath".