

Women's health career spawned by experience

RHINEBECK - Pat Camillo decided to become a clinical nurse specializing in women's health because she saw a need for this based on her own experiences.

"There were so many issues of women's health care that affected me personally," she said, "and it was hard to find someone to meet these needs."

She obtained a master's degree in women's health from the University of Rochester and has been at Northern Dutchess Hospital since last August.

"Women's health care in which the whole woman is considered is fairly new," she explained. "In the past, women's health care would have been restricted to maternity-related matters. The woman was viewed only as a mother and in relation to a child."

She added, the new concept "is to consider the woman from birth to death, and the unique needs of a woman. We look at them through their entire life, not just as a mother."

She emphasized that in doing so, that aspect is not diminished. "However, women who

don't become mothers have needs."

Other issues that have concerned women for ages are getting a new look, for example, she said, menopause and the myths that surround it.

Miss Camillo said she enjoys working in a small community and helping others. She is involved with developing in-service training programs, not just about women exclusively, but health problems that can affect anyone.

She helped prepare the recent program on strokes.

She also helped prepare the upcoming two-part program concerning preparation of siblings for the arrival of a new baby. The first part of the program,

which is for parents, will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon at the hospital. The second part is for children and will be June 18, 10 a.m. to noon at the hospital.

Miss Camillo is quick to give credit to the nursing staff at the hospital for their work and concern. "Nursing is a blooming profession," she said. "There are lots of opportunities and options for nurses today. The future is very bright. It has grown. There are more chances for them to work with, rather than under doctors."

She said she still is evaluating what the needs of this community are concerning health care, and welcomes suggestions. (pm)

Quality circles workshop set

POUGHKEEPSIE - The United Way of Dutchess County's Management Assistance Program is conducting a workshop on quality circles from 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 20 at Alfa-Laval, Inc., 350 Dutchess Turnpike.

Peter Vredenburg, vice-president of the Quality Circle Institute, will conduct the program for staff members of non-profit agencies. Quality circles are used to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of operations.

For information call 471-1900. (rw)