

Calling all cars

Christian Hospital and 20 other area hospitals are investing in the well-being of their communities with a software program that speeds delivery of life-saving care to emergency patients.

Computerized Hospital On-Line Allocation Link, or CHORAL, is up and running at Christian Hospital, providing a community-wide computer network to monitor and communicate hospital status changes to dispatchers and other hospitals.

"The program will soon be able to assist hospitals more efficiently during mass casualty incidents," says **Mike Hall**, ambulance coordinator, emergency medical services. "That is important for us because Christian Hospital is the disaster control center for north St. Louis."

The program encompasses the entire metro area with 21 hospitals in St. Louis city and county and St. Charles County, three dispatch centers, four ambulance companies and Arch Helicopter Service.



Above and beyond

Two hospital employees who aided motorists Dec. 1 in a fatal tractor-trailer chain-reaction crash on Highway 270 wish they could've done more.

Dave Cloud, director of security, safety and transportation, was one of the first people on the scene following the morning rush-hour accident that left one woman dead and three other drivers injured.

"I was able to get to the lady that died, but it was too late," he says. "She was trapped in the wreckage, and I was trying to get a pulse and then there was nothing. I wish I could've done more."

What Cloud did afterward, though, was "heroic" in the eyes of **Stephanie Koenig**, a fellow hospital employee who observed the accident site from the other side of the highway.

"I saw Dave check the car where the woman died, and then he went to another car that was flipped over. He pulled the woman out and carried her to safety," says Koenig, supervisor for infection control. "There was gasoline and smoke coming from the truck, but Dave didn't hesitate. It was very emotional."

Cloud and his passenger, **Ed Sallade**, an interior architect for the hospital, also helped a man out of his crushed jeep and across the median.

"We also directed traffic until the police arrived," Sallade says. "It was amazing because a lot of people were standing around not knowing what to do. I'm glad we were able to help."



Room at the inn

The Doubletree Hotel at Riverport and Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest are teaming up to make it easier for traveling families to visit sick relatives this holiday season.

The "Room at the Inn" program — sponsored by Doubletree Hotels in downtown St. Louis, Chesterfield and Riverport — is accepting references from Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest and other local hospitals for needy travelers to receive free accommodations from Doubletree Hotels.

The nation-wide program began Thanksgiving Day and continues through New Year's Day. Christian Hospital nursing supervisors and patient care managers are on the lookout for patients whose families will be traveling to see them over the holidays.

"This is the first year we've been part of this program and if it's successful, we may continue all year round," says **Mary Kavanaugh**, patient representative at Northeast. "We're looking forward to helping out area families by removing some of the financial burden from their holiday."

