



FOUNDATION
FOR COMMUNITY CARE



Spring

TOGETHER

2021

Ensuring access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community



Sidney Health Center Announces Air Ambulance Service

Sidney Health Center is excited to announce a joint venture with fAIRMED, a critical care transport company, to bring an affordable air ambulance service to residents living in the MonDak region. Through donations from the Foundation for Community Care and Richland County, Sidney Health Center was able to secure \$2.9 million in funding to purchase a plane for a new air ambulance service known as Sidney Health Center Care Flight.

Donations in the amounts of \$1.9 million from the Foundation for Community Care and an additional \$1 million donation from the Richland County Oil Severance Fund took the financial pressure off Sidney Health Center to move forward with the valuable community service.



"We have seen the stress and financial burden a medical emergency flight puts on our patients and their families," stated Jennifer Doty, Sidney Health Center Chief Executive Officer. "The need to explore our options became apparent as we continued to work on behalf of our patients to provide an onsite air ambulance option while addressing unreasonable emergency flight charges."

"When we were offered a chance to partner in this venture, we were thrilled to be a part of it. Getting Richland County residents the care they need when they need it is part of our mission at the Foundation. The Sidney Care Flight is a great example of community resources working together to ensure access to critical care," stated Carl Dynneson, Foundation for Community Care Board Chair.

Emergency flights continued on page 3

OUR MISSION

Ensuring access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community.



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A message from the director

As you read through this edition of the Together newsletter, I hope you feel as exhilarated as I do to be a part of all the momentous projects and services that have been made possible by the generosity of our donors. I also hope that this highlight of recent grants gives you an understanding of the impact YOU make on our community. Mostly, I want this newsletter to feel like a thank you for all you have given so that Richland County residents have everything they need to continue to live the lives they choose to live, because they have all they need to be healthy and happy, right here at home.

To Your Health,
Melissa Boyer



upcomingEVENTS

August:

28th - Golf tournament

September:

9th - Light the Night

October:

Shop for Hope

November:

6th - Wine & Food Festival

30th - Giving Tuesday

December:

All month - Bridge Fund Campaign

Open House

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Emergency flights offered late summer



Continued from page 1

"The generous support of donors to the Foundation allows us to dream big and explore new service lines that are rarely found in communities our size including the cancer care center and now an air ambulance service," Doty explained. "This is a direct result of the community's continual support and the Board's vision to keep quality healthcare close to home."

The new service is slated to be in operation by late-summer 2021 offering emergency flights from Sidney Health Center to larger regional healthcare centers for patients suffering from a heart attack, stroke, or major trauma, who require specialized treatment. With an air ambulance based out of Sidney, it takes the guesswork out of coordinating an emergency flight depending on availability.

"In reviewing all the information, we believe this partnership will provide a sustainable and affordable air ambulance option for our community and the surrounding area," stated Lance Averett,

Sidney Health Center Board President.

On behalf of the Richland County Commissioners, Duane Mitchell agreed, "This is a good investment for the future as all residents of Richland County and the surrounding area can benefit from a local air ambulance service."

For several years, Sidney Health Center has witnessed the devastating financial burden on patients and their families who require an emergency flight to a regional hospital in Billings, Bismarck, Denver, or Salt Lake City, to name a few. Over the last year, Sidney Health Center explored several options to secure a fixed wing based in Sidney and address the egregious billing through for-profit entities. This included an extensive operational and financial analysis before entertaining the strategic move to add this much needed service locally.

The Sidney Health Center Board of Directors approved to move forward with the partnership and new air ambulance

service, confirming a flight team and airplane will be based out of Sidney. In calendar year 2020, Sidney Health Center averaged around 17 flights per month, totaling 214 emergency flights.

"fAIRMED was identified as an excellent partner," exclaimed Doty. "Their mission to eliminate egregious billing practices with a commitment to providing high quality service aligns perfectly with our mission to provide the highest level of health and well-being. Patients and their family should not have to make the decision to transfer their care based on cost implications and risk their health status in doing so."

fAIRMED was started in 2018 with the purpose and passion to serve those needing emergency flights. They set up a successful partnership with one of the largest hospital systems in North Dakota that utilizes this same model. Sidney Health Center is excited to take its level of care to new heights through this innovative partnership.



The Foundation for Community Care presents Sidney Health Center with a check for \$1.9 million dollars for the purchase of a medical flight airplane. From left, Bob Burnison, Sidney Health Center Board; Melissa Boyer, Foundation for Community Care Director; Lance Averett, Sidney Health Center Board; Carl Dynneson, Foundation Board Chair; Lana Watson, Foundation Board, Stephanie Carroll, Sidney Health Center Board, Todd Verhasselt, Foundation Board; and Jennifer Doty, Sidney Health Center CEO.



To Your Health Fitness and technology

By Melissa Boyer
Foundation for Community Care Director

Have you ever asked a school aged kid what their favorite subject in school is? Most of the time they will say lunch or recess, but a close third place response is PE, AKA gym class. Mrs. Katrina Johnson, teacher at Sidney Middle School, or Fitness Johnson as most of her students call her, recognized that Physical Education needed to be fun, physical, educational, but also appeal to the students' need for technology.

One way she found to encompass all these factors was to incorporate heart rate monitors in her class. By doing this, learning becomes interesting, personal, meaningful, and it happens in a context that kids understand and want to immerse themselves in. Students wear a watch-like pulse tracker on their wrist which transmits their heartbeats per minute to a visual display on a mounted screen in the gym. Mrs. Johnson applied for a grant from the Foundation for Community Care to purchase the heart rate monitors and the software to operate them, and the response has been... heartwarming.

Rani Yonts said, "We work harder in PE class when we have the watches on." Jessica Salz commented, "It is nice to exercise with them on because we know when we need to work harder to reach a different (heart rate) zone." Mrs. Johnson also had great reviews about the addition of the equipment to her classes. "I love having them because it shows the students that they can push themselves beyond their perceived limits. I have seen an increase in their overall effort during class! Thank you again so much for helping us get these watches. It has been a great asset this year and will continue for years to come!"

Independence day

By Melissa Boyer
Foundation for Community Care Director

Richland Opportunities Incorporated, or ROI, is a non-profit organization that offers much needed services to a very important sector of our community: men and women who have developmental disabilities. The role of the corporation is to provide evaluation, training, education, placement, and support services to these individuals in Sidney, Richland County and eastern Montana.

Clients of ROI possess different talents, and it's the job of their caretakers to help each individual find their special gift and figure out how to use it in the community around them. Sometimes, clinical equipment is necessary to help search out a person's inner light.

The prone stander has become one of those pieces of equipment for those that need it at ROI. While most of us take standing for granted, a simple task as automatic as breathing, others struggle with it.

Prone standers allow for physical development and greater social interaction, enabling the user to experience the world more fully while building strength for the future. Prone standers provide support and stability from the front, while encouraging weight-bearing and use of both hands and arms. Fully adjustable, prone standers can "grow" in difficulty with clients as their skills develop.

"This piece of equipment plays a large role in the rehabilitation of some of our clients to become more active and that makes them feel proud, accomplished, and productive in programs that ROI has to offer. We are so appreciative of the grant that the Foundation for Community Care has given for the prone stander so our residents can continue to flourish," said Jenelle Stoner, ROI's Executive Director.

One shining example of how important the prone stander has become to the daily lives of some ROI clients is Cody, a 30 year old man who relies mainly on staff to help him carry out his activities of daily living. LaShell Sheehan, Medical Manager at ROI explained that "ROI's goal is to help our individuals be as independent as possible. By providing Cody with a prone stander, we are helping him reach a level of independence that he would not be able to without that equipment. He can now stand staff-free and feel "tall and strong." The prone stander provides important Physical Therapy functions, but more importantly it gives Cody a sense of independence!"



A little shade

The best way to cool off on a blistering, hot summer day, is to jump into welcoming waves of a crystal, clear pool. While that sounds really refreshing, all too often we forget a really important element of our skin safety; using sun screen or staying out of the sun all together. Too much sun exposure does cause skin cancer, no doubt about it, but it's preventable.

That's why Faith Oakland reached out to the Foundation for Community Care for grant funding to build an escape from the sun's harmful rays.

"The patrons of this wonderful pool can only tolerate the hot sun for so long, even with sunscreen. They needed a place to get out of the heat, cool down, maybe eat a little lunch. The newly built pavilion provides that shaded area to help prevent skin cancer and



for breaks during summer swimming. It has really added a needed refuge for kids and families to really enjoy the outdoor space the pool offers."

This project was also funded by several other

agencies, brought together by Faith Oakland. Just like Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Providing advanced fittings

By Ashley Auderson, AuD.
Sidney Health Center Audiology Clinic

The Sidney Health Center Audiology Clinic was awarded grant money through the Foundation for Community Care HealthCare Grant to purchase a new Aurical Hearing Aid Fitting System. The Auricle is a complete fitting system that provides advanced fitting and counseling tools to make it easier to fit hearing instruments and to verify that patient's hearing needs are being met. This equipment was purchased in July 2020. After the installment and a brief in house training on the equipment, I was able to start incorporating these measurements with all my hearing aid fitting and hearing aid adjustment appointments. When programming a new hearing aid, the Aurical Free Fit real ear measurement has allowed me to confirm that the hearing aid fits the patient's ear and their hearing loss. This system has provided a user-friendly probe microphone measurement unit that is wireless and has binaural capability, making it a smoother and more comfortable fitting session for the patient. This makes it easier to perform hearing aid verification in a quick manner and provides my patients with the best hearing aid fit possible. This system has



really been a game changer in my practice by allowing me to incorporate a faster and easier hearing aid verification process. I also have appreciated having the Fit Assist tools within the system that provides immediate and convenient support throughout the fitting process.

Overall, the integrated system has simplified my fitting workflow, increased reliability, and saved time and space in the Sidney Health Center Audiology clinic. I really appreciate the support from the Foundation and feel grateful that they continue to help make our hearing healthcare patient's lives better.



Four benefits

of monthly donations



While donations are greatly appreciated by nonprofits any time, a recurring monthly gift can have great benefits for both the donor and the organization. Donors give because they like seeing what their donations can do, and a recurring donation is a great way to maximize impact in your community, and here are four reasons why!



It's convenient for you (the donor)

Monthly giving is a great way to include charitable donations in your budget. Giving a small amount such as \$10 each month feels more palatable than dropping \$120 on Giving Tuesday. It's so easy to pay with a credit card and have your donation come directly out of your account with your bills every month! If you're the type of person who finds themselves wanting to donate but forgetting to revisit your favorite organizations semi-regularly, this is a great way to make a donation. It may also make you feel less pressured to give during the end of the year when many organizations are asking for donations.



It's helpful for an organization's budget

Unexpected donations are great, but monthly donations allow a nonprofit to rely on some consistency when it comes to individual contributions. It also means an organization won't have to spend as much time pursuing new donors and foundations each year. Monthly donors are consistent and their donations tend to provide an equal return as a large, one-time gift. Monthly donors ultimately help nonprofits save time and money.



It increases an organization's donor retention

Monthly donors are more likely to continue to give year over year. This is helpful for the organization to have a sustained impact, and it also allows them to get to know you as a donor. As a monthly donor with the Foundation for Community Care, you become a member of the Sustainer Society, where you'll gain access to exclusive information, events, and discussions that allow you to become more involved within the organization.



You get to see the impact your donations are making

When you make monthly gifts, you can see the real impact your donation is making. It helps you stay connected with the organization and know where your money went. You'll also stay up to date on new innovations and programs. When you make a recurring donation to the Foundation for Community Care, you know you're ensuring access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community.

Become a member today by going to www.foundationforcommunitycare.org and clicking on the Donate Now button on our Home page. You can choose Sustainer Society from the drop-down menu and set up your recurring donation from there. We hope you'll consider joining!



Donate a Smile

Many of us in rural areas try our very best to support local businesses to make sure they stay open for when we want to shop, or when we need something on short notice. When shopping locally isn't possible, we often turn to web sites, like Amazon.com to fulfill our shopping desires. By using AmazonSmile, you can give back while shopping by selecting the Foundation for Community Care as a charity you'd like to benefit, and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to us. Last quarter, we received over

\$2000! It's simple; just got to AmazonSmile and select us as your charity of choice and you will begin contributing to the health of your community whenever you need to purchase something on AmazonSmile!

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We really appreciate the opportunity to stay in touch with our donors. If you'd like to update any of your contact information with us, please don't hesitate to contact us (406)488-2273, or at hello@foundationforcommunitycare.org.

Sweet dreams

No one wants to be a patient in a hospital, but at Sidney Health Center, when you find yourself in an open-backed gown, you can count on being treated to all the comforts your caregivers have to offer. Now, the list of amenities, along with warm blankets and green jell-o, even includes brand new mattresses.

Sidney Health Center staff, from nurses to senior executives, know the importance of the comfort of their patients, as well as replacing equipment regularly. Through the annual granting program the Foundation for Community Care offers, new mattresses for all in-patient rooms were purchased. Assistant Director of Nursing Renee Williams stated, "The new mattresses have made a positive impact on our patients. They seem to sleep well between staff observations, and don't seem to overheat or perspire like they did in the old mattresses. There have been no complaints of uncomfortable beds since the mattresses have been replaced. We are extremely grateful for the dona-



Pictured from left: Renee Williams, Assistant Director of Nursing, Pam McGlothlin, Senior Executive of Nursing Services, Myre Irwin, CNA and Dee Hamburg, Director of Nursing.

tion and it has had a positive influence on patient experience". Caring for the patients with integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excel-

lence is what the staff at Sidney Health Center use as their guiding principles, and it shows.