



FOUNDATION  
FOR COMMUNITY CARE



Summer

TOGETHER

Ensuring access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community

2022



## The Williams Place: A place to rest and relax

Finding out you have cancer is one of the most devastating experiences a person can endure. Figuring out the best way to beat cancer can also seem insurmountable, and that's why Sidney Health Center and the Foundation for Community Care are doing all they can to take the fear, anxiety, and stress out of treating the needs of our cancer patients.



It's been 11 years since Sidney Health Center's Cancer Care Center opened its doors, offering TomoTherapy Hi-Art radiation. This was the first of its kind in Montana. Soon after, medical oncology (IV therapy) was moved from the

Emergency Department to join the Cancer Care Center. It was always the intention of the Foundation for Community Care to incorporate free housing for traveling patients seeking treatment at the Cancer Care Center. That wish came true through a generous donation from an appreciative family.

James and Janice Williams were long time residents of Sidney and were very active in sports, their community, and their church. They retired in a nice condominium on the golf course, which suited them well. After a four-year battle with cancer, James Williams passed away on September 17, 2007. On September 23, 2021, Janice also lost her battle with cancer. Their son, Jay, remarked that his mother received the highest quality of care possible at Sidney Health Center's Cancer Care and decided that the best use of her home would be to donate it to those utilizing the same

Cancer continued on page 3



# OUR MISSION

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

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## Planned Giving Coordinator Named

Raychelle Brooks started her position as the Planned Giving Coordinator on June 22, 2022. She graduated from National Cheng Kung University in Tainan City, Taiwan with a Master of Arts in Political Economy and a Master's in Sustainable Development Practice. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines.



Raychelle has been in the field of community development for over ten years now, mostly doing work in the Philippines. She has been involved in developing projects and programs for women, children, youth, and the elderly, and with urban and rural poor communities in the country. She recently got married and has been living in Montana with her husband, a music teacher in Poplar, since May of last year. She likes to spend most of her free time traveling and exploring places or simply hanging out with friends and family over good food and drinks. Raychelle is very happy and excited to be a part of the Foundation for Community Care, and of Sidney as a whole. She is looking forward to using her experiences and skills to serve the community and help achieve the highest quality healthcare for now and in the years to come.

## upcoming EVENTS

### August:

27th - Golf tournament

### September:

8th - Light the Night

### October:

Shop for Hope

### November:

5th - Wine & Food Festival

29th - Giving Tuesday

### December:

All month - Bridge Fund Campaign

Open House

## Contact

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 hello@foundationforcommunitycare.org  
 www.foundationforcommunitycare.org

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# Williams Place

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services she so highly depended on and revered.

“My mother was hard to please, and she was pleased with the care she received at the cancer center. That’s why my wife, Rhona, and I thought it was the perfect way to remember both of my parents,” said Jay.



This April, The Williams Place hosted its first guest, Lois Hanson. Lois’ permanent home is in Glendive, Montana, so having the ability to stay in Sidney during the week and receive her daily cancer treatments without the worry of traveling back and forth, was a huge benefit to her.

“I don’t drive much these days, anyway, so being able to stay at this condo meant a lot to me-especially with the (winter) storms we just had. I would have gotten stuck in Glendive and missed my treatments,” Lois commented.

“It’s such a nice, quiet atmosphere. I even got to watch a few golfers.”

When asked about her experience at the Cancer Center, Lois explained “ When I walk into the Cancer Center, and Sidney Health Center, I feel very relaxed, like everyone here is glad to see me. And my cancer doctors made me feel like I was their only patient-like they would have spent the whole day with me if I would have needed them to. I’m very thankful for my great experience here.”

The Cancer Care Center is now ready to do even more for its patients. This August, Sidney Health Center will once again begin expansion of the Cancer Care area to meet the ever-changing needs of those affected by cancer. Plans include the additional space to house new and improved TomoTherapy radiation equipment as well as specialized services including a Hyperbaric chamber. Donations for this addition are being received by the Foundation for Community Care. For more information, call (406) 488-2273, or stop by 221 2nd Street NW, Sidney, MT.



# Cancer Care Expansion

January 2022 marked the 11th anniversary of Sidney Health Center’s Cancer Care radiation therapy services. In 2011, Sidney Health Center expanded its outpatient cancer services to include radiation therapy when it opened Phase I of the Cancer Care suite with the installation of a TomoTherapy Hi-Art radiation system. This was the first of its kind in Montana. It cost \$3 million to build a vault for the radiation equipment, waiting area and exam rooms.

Thanks to many people who donated to the Foundation for Community Care’s Cancer Care Campaign, construction of Phase II became a reality - centralizing outpatient medical and radiation oncology in one-convenient location. Prior to the completion of Phase II in October 2012, medical oncology patients received outpatient chemotherapy and IV therapy

treatments through the emergency room department. For more than 25 years, Sidney Health Center’s oncology nurses worked closely with medical oncologists from Billings Clinic, allowing patients to receive their treatment close to home.

The Cancer Care team is comprised of full-time, board-certified medical and radiation oncologists, a nurse practitioner, medical physicist, nurses certified in chemotherapy administration, radiation therapists and administrative support staff who take time to understand and guide patients through their care plan. The team is rounded out with support from pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, surgery and rehabilitation services.

Now, 11 years later, it is necessary to replace the TomoTherapy Hi-Art radiation system as it has outlived its useful life, as all medical

devices do. It is imperative to maintain the highest standard of medical equipment for the safety of our patients and our practitioners. In order to preserve continuity of care, offer additional services to our patients, and to retain market share, it was decided to add on to the physical structure of the Cancer Care Center by adding a second radiation vault. Otherwise the deconstruction and removal of the current TomoTherapy machine interrupts patients’ therapy plans who are currently receiving care, as well as impedes any new referrals.

The addition to the Cancer Care Center breaks ground in August of 2022. The new radiation vault will be completed in October of 2023 with the construction of the new TomoTherapy unit being completed in December

Expansion continued on page 3

# New Expansion of the Cancer Center



## Expansion of center

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of 2023. Utilization of the new TomoTherapy machine in the new vault will begin in January of 2024.

The total cost of the project is currently estimated at \$6 million dollars. Sidney Health Center has agreed to purchase the new TomoTherapy Hi-Art radiation system at the

cost of \$3 million. That price has been locked in and the equipment has been reserved and scheduled for delivery. The Foundation for Community Care has agreed to put forth \$2 million from board restricted funds and unrestricted earnings from investments. Donations in the amount of \$490,000 (and counting) from hundreds of generous donors

round out our most up-to-date fundraising total of \$5.49 million.

The Foundation will be working diligently to raise funds for the Cancer Care Center so it can continue to ensure access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community. To make a donation, call 406-488-2273 or visit [www.foundationforcommunitycare.org](http://www.foundationforcommunitycare.org).



We live in an amazing community where community leaders, family and friends as well as doctors, nurses and staff go above and beyond to support cancer patients living in our area. This spring, members of the general surgery team participated in a local ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) Conference sharing information about the breast health services offered at Sidney Health Center including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. The staff sold t-shirts to raise awareness and funds for cancer patients in need of financial assistance. Through these efforts, they donated \$1000.00 to the Foundation's Cancer Coalition Fund. Pictured above from left to right: Jen Boyer, Nicole Borst-PA, Dr. John Carey, Melissa Boyer, Cheryl Etheridge, and Jaena Cotter.



**FOUNDATION  
FOR COMMUNITY CARE**

## Foundation for Community Care Awards \$355,705.50 in 2022

Founded in 1983, the Foundation for Community Care holds true to its mission of *ensuring access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community*. One hundred percent of every donation made to the Foundation for Community Care stays in our community for current and future healthcare needs. Each year, a portion of the returns of the Foundation's investments are awarded to support area groups and organizations that help promote the mission of the Foundation. Take a moment to recognize 2022's newest grants listed below.

# grants

## TO SIDNEY HEALTH CENTER

### Rehab Services ..... \$32,000.00

Enhance therapy options through purchase of FEES (Fiber Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing) equipment to objectively evaluate swallowing function of patients of all ages and needs in any care setting.

### OB/GYN Clinic .....\$2,083.50

Purchase of infant scale, calibration weights and cart to assist lactation counselors as they educate and support new parents. Equipment will also be a part of the development of a Well Baby Clinic, Baby Café USA, and Baby Bistro.

### Extended Care ..... \$50,000.00

Implement Wander Guard, a fall management and monitoring system, that will enhance the safety of residents and staff. This technology provides safe, efficient, and discreet management of residents that integrates with tools already in place.

### The Lodge ..... \$30,000.00

Install updated innovative call system technology improving care communication ensuring efficient staff response, allowing resident freedom through pendant alarms, while marking patient outcomes creating robust training programs and enhanced care outcomes.

### Chapel ..... \$30,000.00

Renovate on-site chapel to be an inviting, comfortable, and private space accommodating families or small group gatherings during times of trauma as well as continue to function as a place for contemplation and prayer.

### Labor & Delivery Unit ..... \$25,000.00

Integrate additional Panda Warmer in second birthing room to help keep newborn babies warm during temperature regulation while allowing access and interaction for parents, providers, and nurses.

### Medical/Surgical Unit..... \$11,899.00

Purchase Hill-Rom Centrella Bed allowing for bariatric patients to be safely cared for and monitored while increasing comfort, communication and experience.

### Laboratory ..... \$103,547.00

Purchase the WellSky Transfusion Software increasing the safety, efficiency and compliancy of blood supply management while interfacing with programs already in place reducing the impact on both laboratory administration and nursing time. SHC is a Regional Center for Blood Supplies and demand is projected to continue to rise.

# grants

## TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



**Savage Sunrise Manor .....\$8,331.00**

Update the Emergency Call System throughout facility enhancing the staff's ability to maintain the safety and comfort of the residents.

**Savage Public Schools .....\$6,500.00**

Replace expiring football helmets with new, high quality helmets offering athletes the safest equipment possible.

**Town of Fairview – Fairview Pool .....\$ 1,845.00**

Purchase AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for public pool safety.

**Boys & Girls Club of Richland Co. ....\$8,000.00**

Establish a playground on campus for members to safely and conveniently enjoy.

**Roosevelt Medical Center .....\$4,000.00**

Purchase of medication cart to enable staff to safely and accurately dispense medications to residents and patients.

**Richland Youth Hockey .....\$5,000.00**

Purchase new rental skates and storage units to continue offering public skate enjoyment to the community during the winter months.

**Sidney Volunteer Fire Dept. ....\$20,000.00**

Update existing SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) air compressor allowing faster cylinder refills at maximum air volume.

**Sunrise Women's Clinic .....\$12,500.00**

Purchase computer hardware and software for growth of quality medical care, patient safety and options, and increase of outreach in the service area.

**Richland Co. Housing Authority .....\$5,000.00**

Purchase equipment and materials for the cleaning and maintenance of air ducts and dryer vents providing healthy and safe properties for all residents.

# scholarships

**Barbara Daharsh.....\$1,500.00**

Medical Laboratory Scientist

**Cammy Heck .....\$1,000.00**

Registered Nurse

**Ainhoa Idoate .....\$1,500.00**

Registered Nurse

**Liliana Johnson .....\$1,000.00**

Nurse Practitioner

**Jenna Wheeler .....\$1,500.00**

Registered Nurse

**Soda Rice .....\$1,000.00**

Registered Nurse

**Megan Asbeck.....\$1,000.00**

Dermatologist (Jessica and Nathan Vannatta Memorial Healthcare Scholarship)

**Madison Thiessen .....\$1,000.00**

Speech Language Pathologist

**Jordan Baxter.....\$1,000.00**

Physician

**The Foundation for Community Care has awarded \$122,950 in scholarship grants since 2006.**

# Being a Hero: It's in Our Blood

The medical advancements that have taken place in our lifetime are mind boggling. For instance, our neighborhood hero, Bill Forrester, recently told me about his early days as a member of the Sidney Fire Department, which lead to him serving on the ambulance crew before there was a Richland County Ambulance Service.

"Well, we moved here in 1954, and in 1959, six of us fireman got together and decided to convert an International into an ambulance. I worked at Valley Hardware at the time and the International dealership gave us a good deal on brand new truck, on account of what we were going to do with it. I was a member of the Jaycees and they put up \$900 to purchase it. Once we got the outfit, Cloyd Gorder and Clint Fulkerson donated the parts from some old ambulances they had laying around and the sheriff's department donated a 2-way radio. By 1960, we were in business. I was the first EMT in Richland County and I drove the ambulance for three and a half years. My training consisted of Red Cross and First Aid and whatever knowledge Dr. Danner could lend when I needed it. Back then there were no pagers or walkie talkies, so if I wanted to go somewhere, I called the police department and gave them the phone number of where I would be in case there was an emergency. Twice I was



**Bill Forrester reminiscing on his swing.**

called out while I was at the movies! I averaged 87 calls a year. Later on, Earl Neff got the EMT unit organized and hired a director, but until then, I was on call 24-7." Bill remembered.

"While on call, I got a call to the old hospital that a woman, Mrs. Jones, needed a blood

transfusion, and I had the right blood type. Without a second thought, I pulled a bed up next to hers and the doctors and nurses made the transfusion directly from my arm to hers. I only did that twice. Soon after that, they made direct transfers

against the rules," Bill said. "Now I just donate to the blood mobile! So far, since 1959, I've donated

**"Donating blood saves lives and the need for blood donations is continuing to rise. Please, if you are able, give blood."**

25 gallons of blood." Times and protocols have changed dramatically in how medical procedures take place. For example, to make sure Sidney Health Center's blood bank is safe and secure, the director of lab services, Dia Barakat, has made every effort to protect this precious resource.

"Because of our remote location, it is so important to maintain our blood supply for emergencies. That means being diligent with record keeping, maintaining the environment for preservation, and making sure to eliminate expired blood. This is an arduous process that takes many man hours, so we turned to the Foundation for Community Care for assistance to purchase a software system that ensures patient safety and saves time." Dia also mentioned his tremendous thanks to the Foundation for the donation towards the purchase of the blood transfusion software and encourages everyone who is able to donate blood.

"Donating blood saves lives and the need for blood donations is continuing to rise. Please, if you are able, give blood."

*This is going to make a HUGE! difference! Thank you so much!  
- Sachwa Hier, PET*

## A Few Thank You Comments from the SHC Lab Department

*Thank you so much! This will be great for our patients and our LAB!  
Dawn ☺*

*Thank you for your service to our community and for making our lives in the lab a little easier!  
Eina*

*Thank you for your generous gift we are thrilled to have your support through your donation we have been able to purchase the Wellsky program and continue working towards the BEST patient care at Sidney Health Center.  
Dia Barakat*

*Thank you - Annabell*



## FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY CARE

221 2nd Street NW • Sidney, MT 59270  
(406)488-2273

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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](mailto:hello@foundationforcommunitycare.org).

# Remembering a Friend

Dear Donors, Community Members, and Friends,

I'd like to dedicate this issue of the TOGETHER newsletter in memory of one of our founding fathers, Albert, "Bud", Groskinsky. Bud passed on in February, and even though time goes on, all of us here at the Foundation miss his visits, advice, and humor. No one will ever know how much he and his wife, Anne, have done for this community, and that's how he wanted it!

Bud was a believer in keeping healthcare decisions up to the local community, because who knows better the needs of the community than the community itself. He invested not only money, but his heart into causes that were important to him.

Of all the lessons Bud taught me, and there were many, the one I hold most dear is this: "You can't buy time... no matter how much money you have. Spend it wisely and with the people you love."

I think it's my favorite because Bud spent a lot of time with us at the Foundation. We loved him, too.



Anne and Bud Groskinsky on one of their outdoor adventures.