

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



August 2009

Dental clinic awarded grant to expand services

When Salina Family Healthcare Center, a clinic that treats patients regardless of their ability to pay, first offered dental services more than three years ago it quickly became a place for patients with Medicare, Medicaid or no health insurance at all to seek badly needed dental care. The dental practice and physician's clinic services have always been in separate locations in Salina, but now a \$480,000 grant will allow them to become located under the same roof of the remodeled former YWCA building.

In keeping with its mission to improve access to healthcare in the community, the Salina Regional Health Foundation loaned the clinic the services of its grant writer to pursue new funding that had been made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The team approach paid off when officials recently learned of the award.

"The Foundation's assistance has been very valuable and this would have been difficult to accomplish without its support," said Robert Freelove, M.D., chief medical officer at Salina Family Healthcare.

Construction plans are now underway to renovate the lower level of the former YWCA building to accommodate a larger clinic that will offer additional exam rooms.

"We plan to be able to treat more patients once we're in the new space," Freelove said. "The new space will allow us to expand from six to 10 treatment rooms and we just added a second dentist in July. In the future we hope to be able to add an additional hygienist and possibly even a third dentist."

But being under the same roof with the physician's clinic will also add value.



Dr. Ahmad Samadzai (L) and Salina Family Dental Center staff look forward to opening a new clinic in the lower level of the Salina Family Healthcare Center in the early spring of 2010.

"Having both the physician's clinic and dental clinic under one roof will allow us to better integrate oral health into our overall patient care," Freelove said.

Dr. Ahmad Samadzai, the newest dentist to join the clinic, said many of the patients they see are in desperate need of care.

"A lot of the people we see have infection going and feel absolutely miserable," Samadzai said. "It's a satisfying practice in that 80 percent of the time when we see these people the next day they look good and feel normal again."

Youth volunteers gain healthcare experience

Each summer Salina area high schoolers and some college students gain exposure to the world of healthcare by volunteering at Salina Regional Health Center. Many of them are considering careers in the field of medicine.

They perform tasks ranging from data entry and working in the gift shop, to assisting health center staff with patient care.

William Reid, a sophomore at Salina Central High School, participated in the program this summer and got the opportunity to shadow hospital CFO Joe Tallon and physician recruiter Barry Weis and also worked in the Foundation office and escorted patients to their destination in the health center.

"I've had the chance to explore many different things in the hospital," Reid said. "I think I'm more interested in the business side of things in healthcare, but learning where everything is located in the hospital and helping people find their way through the facility gave me a good feeling too.

"The summer has gone by really fast," Reid added. "I think this is something I'm going to consider participating in next summer as well."

Student volunteers commit to giving 40 hours of service for the program and this summer 25 students



William Reid, a sophomore at Salina Central High School, gained valuable experience seeing the inner workings of a healthcare facility this summer through Salina Regional's Youth Volunteer program.

participated.

If you would like to learn more information about the 2010 Youth Volunteer program, contact Gayle Rose, volunteer director, at (785) 452-7541.

Grant provides 'Papers for Patients' to ease their stay



Marcia Blundon works a crossword puzzle in the complimentary newspaper provided by a grant from the Foundation.

The Foundation recently renewed a \$7,000 grant that allows all hospital inpatients to receive a complimentary copy of the Salina Journal with their breakfast tray each morning. The "Papers for Patients" program is widely appreciated by patients and family members alike.

Marcia Blundon, Russell, who was recently in the hospital for a two day stay following the removal of an enlarged thyroid said she enjoyed the service.

"It's nice to have something to read and helps pass the time," Blundon said. "We shop occasionally in Salina and it's nice to glance at the ads and I like to try to work the crossword puzzle."

"My care here has been very good and all the nurses have been wonderful," she said.

Auxiliary, Foundation award scholarships

The Salina Regional Service Auxiliary and Health Foundation awarded \$30,500 in health care and nursing scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year to 14 students seeking degrees ranging from pharmacy and nursing to radiology and physical therapy.

The scholarships are given annually to those who are pursuing careers in healthcare. Priority is given to nursing students and others entering professions in high demand and those who are interested in working at Salina Regional Health Center or a Sunflower Health Network hospital upon completion of their education.

Sara Haworth, a Class of 2010 pharmacy student at KU, received a scholarship for the third-straight year through the program.

"The scholarship support has been tremendous," Haworth said. "I'm paying for all my schooling right now and since my rotations require me to be in different places around the state for a month at a time, I don't have much time to find a part time job."

"This scholarship program is beneficial to any student in the healthcare field," Haworth said. "There's a shortage in many professions in healthcare, not just nursing, and it's nice because you can't find many scholarship programs open to all specialties."

Haworth spent the month of June completing one of her rotations with pharmacists at Salina Regional.

"I've experienced both corporate and retail pharmacy settings and I learned just how well-rounded you have to be to work in the hospital setting," Haworth said. "The experience has really opened my eyes to the benefits of working in a hospital environment and it's given me a lot to think about in the future."



Sara Haworth (L), a class of 2010 pharmacy student at KU, was one of the recipients awarded a scholarship through the Service Auxiliary and Health Foundation's annual program. Haworth also did a monthlong preceptorship at Salina Regional in June where she gained hands-on experience working with hospital pharmacists.

New patient simulator will expand teaching options



Respiratory Care staff practice critical care scenarios with a hi-fidelity patient simulator.

A \$24,500 grant from the Foundation has allowed Salina Regional's Organizational Development department to purchase an additional hi-fidelity patient simulator to help train staff for practice scenarios without the pressure of having someone's life at stake.

The newest simulator is the first obtained by the hospital that is tetherless, meaning it does not require a vast amount of machinery to operate. This makes the simulator more mobile allowing it to be taken out in the field or to surrounding hospitals to simulate patient care scenarios.

Salina Regional now has six hi-fidelity patient simulators, including two adults, a pediatric patient and an obstetric patient with a newborn. All nurses on Salina Regional's staff have now had the opportunity to work with the simulators.

"This technology allows us to provide teachable moments to develop the staff so we are more comfortable reacting to medical situations that arise," said Kathy Pike, Organizational Development director.

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Director's Message



Tom Martin
Executive Director

As you can see and read from the variety of pictures and articles in this newsletter, the Salina Regional Health Foundation is a “happening” organization. But, like any organization, it's the people who make the real difference.

It's a privilege for me to have the opportunity to work with such quality people, whether they are volunteers, trustees, physicians, donors, or employees of the hospital. All of these kind hearts give of themselves to help others and make north central Kansas a healthier place to live.

I hope that you will join us in our efforts.



CONNECTIONS is published every other month by the Salina Regional Health Foundation. If you no longer wish to receive fund-raising contacts or materials, please notify: Privacy Office, Salina Regional Health Center, Health Information Management, P.O. Box 5080, Salina, KS 67402-5080/Phone: (785) 452-7313/Fax (785) 452-7312/E-mail:Privacy@srhc.com.

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