



CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY

PENNIES FROM THE HEART PROMOTION SET FOR FEBRUARY

Few events in life cause more turmoil to a family than when a loved one is in the hospital. When a loved one is in a hospital out of town it further compounds the situation.

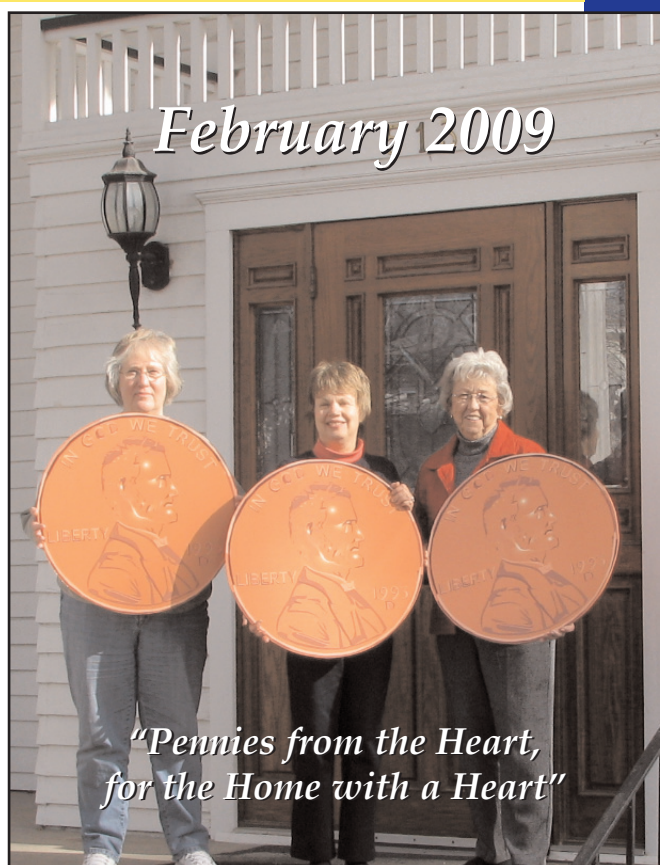
The Rebecca A. Morrison House at Salina Regional Health Center serves family members of patients from out of town by offering them a place to stay close by the hospital free of charge. The service is provided entirely through the support of donations.

During the month of February the Foundation is sponsoring a “Pennies from the Heart, for the Home with a Heart” promotion to increase awareness and support for the Morrison House. The public is invited to bring pennies and spare change to the house located across the drive from the Emergency Department on Eighth Street. Staff at the house will gladly give tours to anyone interested.

“It’s an opportunity for us to get the public inside the doors of this wonderful facility,” said Morrison House manager Linda Tysen. “We couldn’t provide this service without the support of the community.”

Anna Oetting of Lincoln has become very familiar with the services at the Morrison House. Over the years she has stayed at the Morrison House on 15 occasions while her husband Elton has battled a wide array of health problems.

“It’s such a beautiful place and the staff treat you so well,” Oetting said. “It’s



one of the few places I’ve found away from home where I can actually sleep at night. I’m glad to be so near my husband while he’s ill, but I wouldn’t get any rest if I had to stay in the hospital room with him.”

“It would be a lot of driving to have to go back and forth to home all the time and I’m not getting any younger,” Oetting adds. “It’s very comforting to know there is a place like this available.”

Call the Morrison House at (785) 452-7500 for more information.

(L to R)
Morrison House
staff members
Linda Tibbits
and Marty Ryan
and volunteer
Maxine Strawn
will welcome
community
members who
donate their
pennies and
spare change
to tour the facili-
ty in February.

LINDSBORG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONORS TEACHER & NURSE

Soderstrom Elementary School nurse Sue Pihl (L) and 2nd grade teacher Kristy Bergstrom (R) both underwent treatment for breast cancer this past year. Instead of a staff gift exchange this Christmas, co-workers made a contribution to the Cancer Center in their honor.



No one can anticipate how a breast cancer diagnosis can change their life. It takes strength and support from friends and family to overcome the disease.

Two staff members at Soderstrom Elementary School in Lindsborg have found that the support from co-workers and students at the school has played a major role in their ability to face the disease. Sue Pihl, a nurse at the school, and second grade teacher Kristy Bergstrom have both battled the disease this

past year, but they've continued to work and inspire those whose lives they touch. On days when one of the two would be scheduled to undergo chemotherapy treatment, fellow staff members wore t-shirts with pink ribbons that coined the phrase "Fight like a girl." Instead of a Christmas gift exchange this year staff members collected funds to donate to the Tammy Walker Cancer Center in honor of Pihl and Bergstrom.

"The staff and students from all the schools have been wonderful," said Pihl, who completed treatment in November. "The support was really uplifting during a time when I needed it the most."

"The support from the staff, community, students and parents has been amazing," said Bergstrom, who is now undergoing radiation treatment. "I've been on prayer chains and received more than 300 cards and letters. It's all been very touching."

Bergstrom, always a teacher, also took the opportunity to make a Power Point presentation to inform her students about the disease.

"The first question they asked was would I die," Bergstrom said. "The second question was would I lose my hair. Kids don't often get the chance to ask questions about things like this and they're learning as I go through each step of treatment."

PLATELET CENTER ASTOUNDED BY SUPPORT IN 2008

Officials with the American Red Cross have been more than pleased with the success of W.H. and Helen M. Graves Blood Platelet Center since its opening in the fall of 2007.

Through the facility's first fiscal year 1,061 productive donors were seen who contributed 1,552 platelet products,

which helped it meet 98 percent of an aggressive campaign goal. Through the first quarter of 2009 the center is running at 107 percent of its budgeted goal.

"These numbers are astounding," says Janice Struble, director of Salina Regional's lab. "Salina has really embraced this project and made it a success."

"The success of the Salina center is really allowing us to use our donor base much better," said David Young, with the American Red Cross in Wichita. "It's allowing donors to increase the time that goes by between donations. But, we're still looking for new donors."

Call the American Red Cross to schedule a donation toll free at (866) 206-0694.

Now in its second year of operation, the W.H. and Helen M. Graves Blood Platelet Center is enjoying great success.



As an installer for Salina Regional's Lifeline service Bob Scuitte takes a lot of pride in helping people who are often disabled or live alone which makes them vulnerable should an accident occur. It's not uncommon for him to bring in the mail, shovel snow off a walk, carry a Christmas tree downstairs, or lend a hand however he can while he's on a service call.

"I find it very gratifying helping these people," Scuitte says. "I make sure they are completely comfortable using the system before I leave and I tell them how that little button can be a lifesaver if they fall."

A push of the button worn on the wrist, or as a necklace, initiates a response system plugged into the home phone line that can call for help from a neighbor or emergency responders at a moment's notice. It's even been used to thwart burglary attempts. But, the peace of mind that comes along with having the personal response system is what clients and family members find most appealing about the service.

While on an installation near Abilene in November, Scuitte encountered something that had never occurred in his four years on the job.

"I was working on the floor behind the couch when the client's dog rubbed up on my leg and started grunting at me," Scuitte said. "The next thing I know, I'm delivering puppies. There were four of them and we cleaned them off with a towel and put them with the mamma."



"Every day brings something new, but I really enjoy this job," Scuitte adds. "This is such a fantastic service for people – especially those living by themselves."



Lifeline installer Bob Scuitte obliges to help clients in many ways. He'd never delivered puppies – until November.

LONG-McARTHUR MAKES DONATION TO CANCER CENTER

As part of the local breast cancer awareness activities in October, Long-McArthur Ford sponsored a ladies night out at its dealership that featured culinary demonstrations, back massages, hors d'oeuvres, educational information, and a message from a breast cancer survivor. The organization also pledged \$50 from the sale of each vehicle sold during the month to the Cancer Center.

"We had a lot of women who were breast cancer survivors or were undergoing treatment tell us how appreciative they were to have programming like this," said Ashley McArthur. "We hope to make this an annual event."

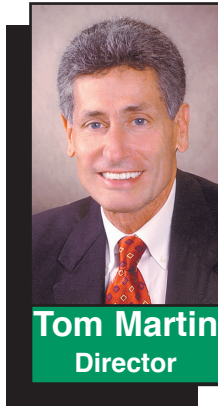


Ashley McArthur (L), presented Becky Troyer and Mary Quinley a \$10,000 check to assist with breast cancer programming at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center.

Director's Message

Board of Trustees

Tom Bell
Jane Berkley
Mike Berkley
Dale Bradley
Shirley Braxton
Dr. Bill Cathcart-Rake
Becky Cram
Harold Eagleton
Charley Griffin
Lynda Hassler
Peter Johnston
Mark Miller
Karen Mize
Aaron Morrison
Sid Reitz
Steve Ryan
Bonnie Sanderson
David Sellers
Dr. Mike Sloo
Linda Smith
Micheal Terry
John Vanier
Dr. Bob Weber
Dr. Tom Wilson



Tom Martin
Director

2009 is already up and running. If you are looking for ways to help others and make your New Year a meaningful one, I suggest you actively support Salina Regional Health Center.

Volunteer your time, give blood or platelets, visit a patient, donate financial resources, patronize our hospital and medical staff, refer potential physician and nursing recruits, join the Service Auxiliary... Find the ways you can serve your community hospital so that we can best serve you!

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.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salina, KS
Permit No. 24

SALINA REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

CONNECTIONS



Salina Regional Health Center
400 S. Santa Fe & 139 N. Penn • P.O. Box 5080
Salina, KS 67402-5080 • (785) 452-7000