

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



July 2010

‘Captain Morgan’ chairs her last auxiliary sale

Karen Morgan is known to many throughout the community for her efforts at the helm of the Salina Regional Service Auxiliary’s spring and fall rummage sales. Some even call it Karen’s Sale or refer to her as the Rummage Sale Queen. And, when volunteers need direction on set-up and take-down for the event they ask for cues from “Captain Morgan,” as they lovingly call her.

After leading hospital rummage sales for 18 of the last 25 years, Morgan is stepping aside from the responsibilities as she nears retirement and begins making plans to move to North Carolina to be near her family. Many at the hospital know her for her skills registering patients or manning the telephone switchboard and physician’s exchange.

Morgan filled in as a substitute when she first participated in an Asbury hospital sale in 1985. Since then she’s been hooked.

“I think the people of Salina look at it as a community sale,” Morgan said. “We try to keep our prices lower so they’ll support us. Even people from outside Salina know they’ll find a wide variety of things.”

All items are donated and collected by the Auxiliary ranging from household goods, decorations and antiques to clothes and handmade items. Morgan herself has played a major role in collecting sale items often giving up her garage for storage between sales.

As the second largest fundraising source for the Auxiliary, behind the hospital Gift Shop, the event has enjoyed a lot of success over the years. They’ve sold nearly everything imaginable at one point or another. She recommends that when people are cleaning out their closets to not just throw things out. “You never know what people might be looking for,” Morgan says.

Carol Brent will be taking over as chair for upcoming sales, but Morgan plans to make sure the transition is smooth. “I’ve already typed five and a half pages of notes and I’m not leaving yet,” she said. “I’ll be around for the fall and spring sales.”



Salina Regional volunteer director Gayle Rose (L) honored Karen Morgan for her years of service leading the Auxiliary’s spring and fall rummage sales.

Lemonade stands get kids involved in campaign

Ethan and Lilly Brown have a list of things they want to do this summer. They want to try camping and they thought having a lemonade stand might be fun. It was perfect then, when they found out the Salina Regional Health Foundation was giving away free lemonade stand kits to raise funds and awareness for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center.

The kits include all of the essentials for a successful lemonade stand, including lemonade packets, signs, Every Child Matters campaign brochures, bracelets, and more.

As the honorary campaign family for the Children's Center, the Brown family volunteered to host the first lemonade stand of the summer. Grandpa Bob even baked a couple batches of his famous cookies for the occasion. It happened that local media heard about the effort and word of mouth among friends and employees at Salina Regional brought steady traffic to the stand. The Browns raised more than \$1,130 to support the campaign.

To date nearly \$5 million has been raised for the \$6 million project, which will serve as home to three separate, but inter-related children's programs, including Salina Regional Health Center's Infant-Child Development Program, and two community based



Ethan and Lilly Brown hosted the first lemonade stand to raise money for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center. Kits for the stands, which include all the essentials, can be picked up at the Foundation office all summer.

programs – Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS) and Salina Child Care Association.

"It's been a lot of fun," Ethan said as he took a break from pouring glasses of lemonade. "I've seen a lot of my friends."

Ethan's dad Chris was amazed with the response and support the kids found.

"We've set the bar pretty high," he said.

CHIP grant helps homeless mothers

A grant from the Foundation's Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) awarded \$60,000 to the Ashby House to develop healthy pregnancy programming to go along with its new Legacy House service for women age 18 and older who are homeless, pregnant or recently post-partum and require treatment for substance abuse addiction.



Misty Adams received assistance from Ashby House with her 2 year-old son Triston and newborn son Tegan.

The program provides a free room, maternity-related supplies, and meals to go along with the required parenting and substance abuse curriculum. Women may refer themselves to the program or receive referrals from area agencies and physician's offices.

The new program helps alleviate stresses put on the Ashby House, which was intended to serve families with older children.

"I don't think I would have made it as far as I have without this assistance," said Misty Adams who was participating in the program with her two year-old and newborn sons. "I feel like I've learned a lot about being more dependent on myself and not as dependent on others."

Foundation grants help enhance cancer services

Two grants from the Foundation have helped add two new positions at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center, which will enhance patient access to care. One grant funded a clinical trials nurse which will help expand access to research occurring in association with the Midwest Cancer Alliance and University of Kansas Cancer Center. A second grant funded a grant writer that successfully secured a grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation that will allow the Cancer Center to hire a patient navigator nurse to help coordinate care, particularly breast cancer patients.

The clinical trials nurse will help patients and their physicians gain access to the latest treatment trials available at KU and will also be involved in data collection in effort to improve cancer treatment in the future.

The patient navigator will act as a liaison between patients and physicians to ensure patients have easy access to their multidisciplinary care team and a clear understanding of the plan for treatment.

"The addition of these two positions is based on best practices across the nation," said David Mantz, cancer program director. "The top facilities in the country utilize people in these roles to improve the patient experience and improve outcomes. Our affiliation with KU and the Midwest Cancer Alliance is assisting us in providing the training necessary for these positions."

Keri Kavouras has been named to the clinical trials nurse position and Lynn Marshall has begun her role as the patient navigator.

"The Foundation's support played a key role in allowing us to secure the funding for these positions," Mantz said. "Patients will have greater access to the latest clinical trials available and have an easier time making appointments with specialists involved in their care."



Foundation Highlights



Officials from Pepsi Co. presented Tom Martin a \$6,000 Pepsi Refresh Grant for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center Every Child Matters capital campaign.



A \$5,000 Community Health Investment Program grant helped sponsor Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure's 2010 Dream Night for area children with disabilities. About 30 hospital employees volunteered their time to help make the event a success.

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Director's Message



Tom Martin
Executive Director

My inspiration for writing this message comes from the whirring noise of a helicopter, landing on the hospital roof – high and directly above our Foundation office.

Hearing that telltale sound always gives me cause for concern. I seldom know the circumstances, but I know someone needs help, because the presence of a helicopter usually signals emergency medical services are warranted. We average approximately eight helicopter transports per month at Salina Regional, both incoming and outgoing.

Your gifts to the Foundation can help support a variety of life-giving services, like emergency transport, at Salina Regional Health Center.



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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Health Foundation



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