

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY

GRANT HELPS SALINA EMS TRANSMIT EKGs FROM FIELD

A grant from the Foundation has enabled Salina Emergency Medical Services to purchase software that will allow it to send electrocardiograms to physicians in the emergency department while on the scene or en route with a patient experiencing chest pain. The software uses wireless phone technology to link to a dedicated fax machine located in Salina Regional Health Center's emergency department.

"This is leading edge technology for Kansas and it will make a dramatic difference in the door to drug time for patients having a heart attack," said Marvin Van Blaricon, Salina EMS division chief. "Emergency physicians will be able to analyze EKGs well in advance of our arrival to the emergency department and can make preparations for the interventions that will need to take place, whether that's administering medicine or calling in a cardiologist or surgeon."

The technology is expected to become operational within the coming weeks and emergency department staff and physi-



cians are excited for its arrival.

"It will give our doctors more information on the history of heart injury and damage that has occurred as a result of the heart attack and we will be able to make our response to these types of cardiac events much quicker," said Pat Rackley, RN, MSN, nurse manager of the emergency department.

Salina EMS paramedics will soon be able to send EKGs from the field to physicians in the emergency department.

WARM BLANKETS BRING COMFORT TO CANCER PATIENTS

Patients with cancer often have compromised immune systems and low blood counts as a side effect from treatment.

"Many feel chilled no matter how warm it might be," said Becky Troyer, director of Salina Regional's radiation oncology department.

A recent grant from the Foundation for the purchase of a blanket warmer is aimed to help bring comfort to those undergoing radiation treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center.

"We can't wait to be able to offer warm blankets to our patients," Tryoer said.



VALENTINE'S BOB ENJOYS TREATING VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

Salina Regional Health Center volunteer Bob Hannsman has delivered hundreds of flowers sent by loved ones to patients in the hospital over the years. Though he takes a lot of pride in fulfilling that task, there's one day each year when he turns his attention to those on the other side of the bed table - the volunteers and staff working at the hospital.

On Valentine's Day for the last four years Hannsman has annually distributed eight or nine dozen roses to those wearing name badges in the health center.

"I give them to fellow volunteers, nurses, housekeeping staff, food service staff, whomever I come across working to serve patients," Hansmann said. "I've seen first hand how much these people care about their work helping patients and it's nice to honor them.

"I feel like it's a rather small gesture, but it's amazing how much it means to people to be appreciated," Hansmann said. "I've had a couple ladies almost with tears in their eyes tell me that it's probably the only Valentine they'll get this year. It makes me happy to brighten their day."



Bob Hansmann gave roses to fellow volunteers Allene Pugh and Sharron Hamilton on Valentine's Day.

LECTURE SERIES TO DISCUSS LIVING A BALANCED LIFE

The 14th annual Father Steve Letourneau Ethics Lecture Series will be held on April 3 at the Salina Country Club from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The series was established by Father Steve's many friends after his death in 1993. He had served as hospital chaplain at St. John's Regional Health Center and believed deeply in professional education, especially topics that approached ethical concerns.



This year's featured speaker is Martin Helldorfer who will discuss ways to live a balanced life in the demanding profession of healthcare.

Salina Regional employees and physicians and Sunflower Health Network hospital employees may register for a reduced fee of \$45. General registration is \$55, which includes continental breakfast, lunch and handouts. Continuing education credits are available.

Contact Salina Regional's Organizational Development department to receive more information by calling (785) 452-7600.

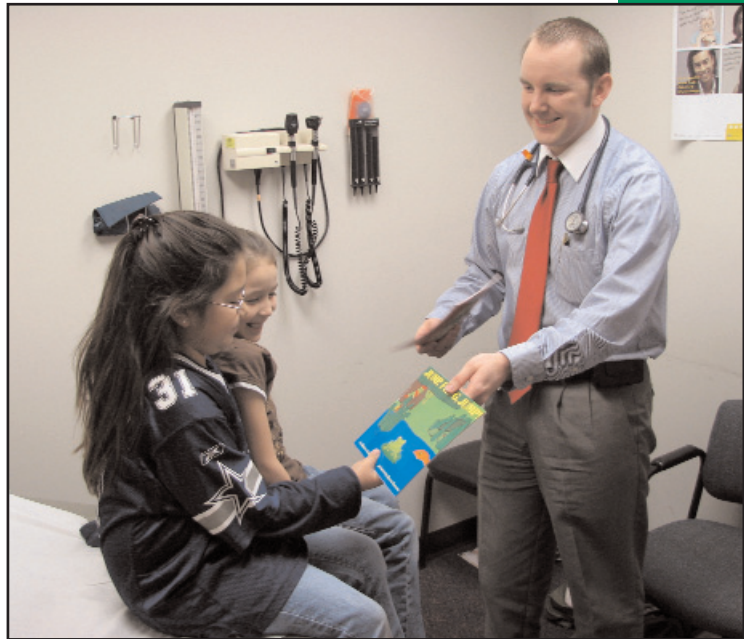
Martin Helldorfer will be the featured speaker at the Father Steve Letourneau lecture series April 3.

A \$15,000 grant through the Foundation's Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) to Turn a Page, Touch a Mind is allowing family medicine residents and staff at the Salina Family Healthcare Center to give free books to patients age 6 months to 5 years during their routine well-child visits.

The program, offered through the Kansas Pediatric Foundation, provides the service at about 30 clinics around the state to promote the value of reading to children.

"There's a lot of research that shows reading early and often to children, beginning at a young age, has a major impact on their development," said Rob Freelove, M.D., director of the Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency program. "As physicians, this grant allows us the opportunity to discuss the importance of reading with children and their parents during their routine visits."

The Salina Family Healthcare Center has further dedicated itself to the promotion of literacy by providing a special library section in its waiting area that occasionally will have volunteers reading to children. Children are even invited to take the books home if they'd like and pick up a new one at their next visit. Books are donated by individuals, community groups and the Salina Public Library for the effort.



Joseph Hawkins, M.D., first-year resident at Smoky Hill Family Medicine, hands out books to two patients during their well-child visits.

PROMOTION INCREASES AWARENESS OF MORRISON HOUSE

The "Pennies from the Heart for the Home with a Heart" promotion to increase awareness about the Morrison House in February raised more than \$1,300 to support the home away from home for loved ones of patients at Salina Regional Health Center.

The public was invited to bring their pennies and spare change and tour the Morrison House over the course of the month.

"We had a lot of new faces come in for a tour and many from Salina commented how they'd never had a reason to come to the house," said Linda Tysen, Morrison House manager. "Many were impressed that a hospital and community of our size is able to provide a service like this."



Brooklyn McElderry was one of many who brought spare change in to the Morrison House in February.

Director's Message

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Tom Martin
Director

Our Foundation office has moved from the Penn campus to a more visible location in the new addition on the Santa Fe campus. One recent morning, as I was unlocking our office door to start my day, an acquaintance from a nearby community walked by.

"Remember me?" she asked, as our paths had not crossed for several years. "My husband had triple coronary artery bypass surgery yesterday. Everyone here at the hospital is so wonderful. I stayed at the Morrison House last night. Oh my gosh, it is so nice. You all have a mighty mission here!"

A mighty mission indeed!

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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