

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



October 2009

Children's Center dream comes closer to reality

When the concept was first spawned years ago many in the community dreamed of one day having a children's center that could enhance early learning and development for children in our area at arguably the most critical time of their lives.

That dream took a huge step closer to becoming reality earlier this month with the official groundbreaking for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center, which will become the new home for Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS), Salina Child Care Association and Salina Regional Health Center's Infant-Child Development Program.

CAPS provides a variety of education programs and services designed to strengthen families and improve the quality of life for children, including Chris' Place for child abuse victims. Salina Child Care provides quality childcare for children ages 2 weeks to 10 years, many of whom live at or near poverty levels. Infant-Child Development serves children from birth to 3 years of age, who have developmental delays or disabilities.

The Children's Center is named in honor of Donna Vanier for her lifetime commitment of service to helping children, our community hospital and other charitable causes in the area. Donna served on the Asbury-Salina Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees for 15 years and on the Salina Regional Health Foundation Board of Trustees for nine years.

The "Every Child Matters" capital campaign for the Children's Center has already secured more than \$4 million for the \$6 million project including a lead gift from Jack and Donna Vanier and commitments from the Foundation and the Community Health Investment Program (CHIP).

As honorary chairs for the "Every Child Matters" campaign, Dr. Chris and Chrissy Brown know full-well how valuable services at the Children's Center will enhance children's lives. Their son Ethan was born with special needs and received extensive therapy and early childhood education through Infant-Child Development.

"The emotional burden of learning to raise a child, especially a special needs child, was not what we had expected," said Chrissy Brown. "To see him today, you know we overcame huge hurdles."



Donna Vanier helps Marcus Fruits, an Infant-Child Development patient, turn a shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony held this month.

Annual prostate cancer screening clinic a success

The Tammy Walker Cancer Center's annual Prostate Cancer Screening Clinic provided 107 men with a free physical exam and PSA blood test to screen for the disease. The event is made free to participants in part by a grant established with the Foundation by Mark and Jane Berkley.

Twenty-one men who participated in the screening were recommended to have additional consultation with their family physician because test results were abnormal.

Salina urologist Ryan Payne, M.D., and Smoky Hill Family Medicine faculty and residents gave their time to make the clinic possible.

"We couldn't do this event without the support of the physicians and all who volunteer to make it possible," says Linda Hinnenkamp, RN, cancer outreach coordinator. "Many take advantage of this opportunity to get screened for prostate cancer because the screening is quick and efficient and some may not have the means to pay for it otherwise."



Smoky Hill Family Medicine first year resident Beverly Wilson, M.D., and faculty member Bob Kraft, M.D., complete paperwork for the screening clinic.

Memorial purchases gift for cardiac rehab

After the passing of her mother, Salina Regional infection preventionist Jeanine Gunn, RN, thought it

was only fitting to designate money from the memorial to go to the hospital. Gunn's mother, Rosemary

Atkinson, served as a volunteer in the gift shop for 10 years during retirement before she moved away from Salina in 1994.

The gift enabled Salina Regional's Cardiac Rehab program to purchase a new elliptical trainer for those who are recovering from heart and pulmonary disease.

"My mother was one that never exercised her whole life until after she had a heart attack and then exercise played a major role in her recovery," Gunn said. "She also always enjoyed visiting with the Cardiac Rehab patients when she was a volunteer. I know she'd be happy we did this in her memory."

Memorials may be established with the Salina Regional Health Foundation for virtually any program or service at Salina Regional Health Center.

Contact the Foundation at (785) 452-6088 for more information on memorial gift giving opportunities.



Jeanine Gunn tries out the elliptical trainer purchased for Cardiac Rehab in memory of her mother Rosemary Atkinson.

Grant assists efforts to join cancer alliance

A \$25,000 grant from the Foundation enabled the Tammy Walker Cancer Center to join the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA). The alliance gives patients at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center access to the University of Kansas Cancer Center's leading-edge clinical trials and research to battle the disease.

The MCA was initially founded in 2008 as a collaborative link between the Kansas Cancer Center and hospitals and cancer centers in Kansas and western Missouri. The Kansas Cancer Center is working to bring the latest in cancer prevention, early detection and treatment to community-based cancer programs in the Heartland. The alliance also works to strengthen KU's goal to earn a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center designation that would put it on par with nationally renowned programs like the Mayo Clinic.

"The overall goal of this alliance is to make the best in treatment and the best in research available to patients in this region," said KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

Patients at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center will have the opportunity to link with oncologists and staff at KU via interactive television to gain second opinions for their treatment. Staff at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center will also have the opportunity to interact with colleagues around the region on the latest practices available to enhance cancer care.

"The alliance is like a two-way street," says medical oncologist Bill Cathcart-Rake, M.D. "Our patients will get access to new drugs and have the opportunity to participate in clinical trials more quickly, and we'll give back information we collect to further KU's research. It's really another step we've taken to validate our commitment to providing leading-edge cancer care here in north central Kansas."

Cardiology Symposium set for October 29



Dr. Mace Braxton
1953-2008



Radiation oncologist Claudia Perez-Tamayo, M.D., led KU officials, including Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little (right) on a tour of the Tammy Walker Cancer Center radiation oncology department.

The annual Mace Braxton Cardiology Symposium will feature a number of local and regional experts who will give the latest information on heart and vascular disease October 29 at Salina Regional Health Center's Conference Rooms 6 and 7.

The symposium is named in honor of Dr. Mace Braxton who is credited with starting the cardiothoracic surgery program in Salina in 1998. He was a major supporter of the annual Cardiology Symposium dating back to when it was initiated in 2002 to provide educational opportunities for area medical professionals on treatment for heart disease.

Following Braxton's untimely death in 2008, the Foundation established an endowment in his honor to provide ongoing support for the symposium.

Registration for the event is \$80, which includes breakfast, lunch and hand-outs. Salina Regional Health Center employees can receive a discounted rate of \$50 and Sunflower Health Network employees can register for \$60.

Space is limited. Call Organizational Development at (785) 452-7600 for additional information.

Board of Trustees

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
Lee Young

Director's Message



Tom Martin
Executive Director

The Donna L. Vanier Children's Center will help children in our area who need it most. I believe that to be a noble cause. The Children's Center project will help define who we are as a community and what we value as being important.

Every Child Matters. It's more than just the slogan for our campaign to raise \$6 million. It's the belief behind the commitment to make the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

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.

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

CONNECTIONS

Salina Regional Health Foundation 

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