

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



October 2010

Blood platelet center seeks male donors

Since its grand opening just more than three years ago, blood platelet collections at the W.H. and Helen M. Graves Blood Platelet Center in Salina have grown to play a significant role in meeting area needs for precious blood products.

In 2009 the Salina center collected 2,373 units of platelets, accounting for 20 percent of the American Red Cross Blood Services Central Plains Region totals, serving 106 hospitals in Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

The Salina center has a pool of about 500 donors, but there's room for even more growth. Currently the center is open Friday through Monday (8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday and Monday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday). These hours help more donors fit a donation into their busy schedules.

... See [PLATELETS](#), Page 2



Ron Becker, Salina, schedules a blood platelet donation every two weeks at the W.H. and Helen M. Graves Blood Platelet Center. New male donors are needed to help meet regional demands.

Campaign reaches goal, construction underway



Salina Architect Warren Ediger finalized plans for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center in September.

The Salina Regional Health Foundation announced in September that the \$6 million Every Child Matters Campaign for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center has reached and exceeded its goal. Plans have also been finalized for the project by Salina architect Warren Ediger and Busboom & Rauh Construction, Salina, has been awarded the contract for construction, which is now underway.

"Once again, our community has shown its generosity," Foundation chair Dave Sellers told media members gathered for a press conference. "This is

... See [CONSTRUCTION](#), Page 3

Platelets / Weekend hours accommodate donors

... Continued from Page 1

"The hours give us a better opportunity to accommodate working individuals who have weekends off, but if the donor pool in the Salina area grows, we'd love to add additional days of operation," said Laura Potter, automated collections manager for the American Red Cross Central Plans Region.

While the screening and injection process is similar to a whole blood donation, platelet donations generally take two hours to complete. However, that doesn't deter dedicated donors.

"It doesn't bother me at all to give a couple hours of my time," says Ron Becker, who schedules his appointments every two weeks. "You can watch TV to pass the time, but I like coming to the platelet center for the personalized service. It's just my way to give back to the community."

Male donors who are A+, A-, B+, B-, AB+ and AB- are especially needed for platelet donations if they have a high platelet count of at least 280,000 and are in good health.

Call the American Red Cross Blood Services Central Plan Region to schedule an appointment to give platelets by dialing toll free (866) 206-0694.



The W.H. and Helen M. Graves Blood Platelet Center at 120 W. Prescott is open for donations Friday through Monday. Appointments are required.

CHIP grant assists Minneapolis dental clinic



Ashley Swisher, DDS

A \$50,000 Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) grant has assisted to establish a new dental clinic in Minneapolis. The grant was used to help purchase new equipment for the clinic.

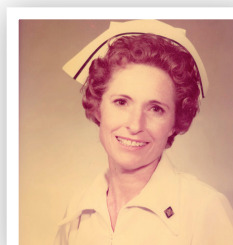
Ashley Swisher, DDS, began seeing patients of all ages this summer at an old dental office in the community while she awaits the grand opening of a new clinic which is nearing completion. Ashley is married to Salina emergency physician Keir Swisher, M.D.

"I've been impressed with the community support for a new dental clinic in Minneapolis and it really helped make it an easy decision to open a practice here," Ashley said. "And, to know the Foundation affiliated with the place my husband works is also behind this project is special too."

Morrison House visionary remembered

Verla Smith, a longtime nurse at Asbury and Salina Regional Health Center, passed away this summer. Smith is remembered by many as one of the key individuals who helped establish the Rebecca A. Morrison House for family members of patients from outside of Salina.

"We are of course very indebted to Verla for her vision, time and effort devoted toward helping identify a need for a hospitality house and her role in helping make the Morrison House a reality," said Hospital chaplain Harry Tysen. "Her legacy will live on."



Verla Smith

Construction / Donations still being sought

... Continued from Page 1

what makes our community so special. We come together to help others.”

To date, the Every Child Matters Campaign has raised \$6,058,719, including a lead gift from Jack and Donna Vanier and an \$800,000 challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla.

Construction for the single-story, 27,000 square foot facility to be located at 155 N. Oakdale will be complete late in 2011. The Children’s Center will serve as home to three separate, but inter-related children’s programs including Salina Regional’s Infant-Child Development Program, Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS) and the Salina Child Care Association.

“I can’t believe we’ll be moving in less than a year,” said Carolee Jones, executive director of CAPS. “We’ve been in tiny quarters donated to us for 30 years. To have offices of this nature, in a setting where we can provide services more seamless with the Salina Child Care Association and Infant-Child Development will be a dream we’ve all longed for.”

Elaine Edwards, executive director of the Salina Child Care Association says she’s amazed with the community’s support the Children’s Center has received.

“We’re so appreciative how quickly this project is coming together,” Edwards said. “It’s nice to know there’s so much support for projects like this in the community.”

While the initial campaign goal has been met, additional donations for the project are still being sought to establish an endowment that will assist in maintenance of the facility for years to come. Contact the Foundation at (785) 452-6088 for information on how you can contribute.

Cardiology Symposium set for October 28



Dr. Mace Braxton
1953-2008



(L) Ethan Brown spoke of the advancements he has made with help from Salina Regional’s Infant-Child Development Program at a press conference in September. Donna Vanier also shared her appreciation for the community’s support of the project.

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 28 at the Ramada Inn Convention Center, 1717 W. Crawford, Salina.

The symposium is named in memory 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 \$70, which includes breakfast, lunch and hand-outs. Salina Regional Health Center employees can receive a discounted rate of \$40 and Sunflower Health Network employees can register for \$50.

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

Children Helping Children

This summer dozens of kids helped support the Every Child Matters Campaign for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center by having lemonade stands in their neighborhoods. The Foundation provided kits for the effort which included all the essentials including signs, lemonade packets, campaign brochures and more. Here are some of our supporters:



**Thanks
Kids!!!**

Grant aims to prevent shaken baby syndrome

Salina Regional Health Center has implemented the Period of PURPLE Crying program thanks to a \$2,640 Foundation grant to the Kansas Children's Service League. The program is part of a national campaign to stop shaken baby syndrome.

Research shows that frustration with a child's crying is the number one reason a person shakes and harms an infant. As part of the program, all parents of newborns at Salina Regional receive a packet of information in order to educate them about appropriate responses to take for crying infants. Included is a 10 minute DVD for parents to keep and show to others responsible for the care of their child.

Parents learn that even shaking a baby for a few seconds can cause irreversible brain damage, paralysis, blindness and even death. National statistics estimate that 25 to 35 percent of shaken babies die. Of those who survive, as many as 80 percent have brain damage.

The videos are also available on the hospital's closed-circuit TV in multiple languages for parents to view before they go home.

"We've had a number of incidences of shaken baby syndrome in our community over the years, so it is an important educational topic for us to cover with patients," says Nicole Betz, RN, nurse educator for Salina Regional's Women's and Children's Services. "We're glad to implement the program here."

P	U	R	P	L	E
PEAK OF CRYING	UNEXPECTED	RESISTS SOOTHING	PAIN-LIKE FACE	LONG LASTING	EVENING
Your baby may cry more each week. The most at 2 months, then less at 3-5 months	Crying can come and go and you don't know why	Your baby may not stop crying no matter what you try	A crying baby may look like they are in pain, even when they are not	Crying can last as much as 5 hours a day, or more	Your baby may cry more in the late afternoon and evening

The word *Period* means that the crying has a beginning and an end.

Foundation Highlights



Kristal Huehl and Saylor Ann Burgess (second and third from left) from the Prestige School of Dance presented the Tammy Walker Cancer Center with a check from the proceeds of ticket sales for the Dancers Against Cancer event at Salina Central High School. About 100 dancers from six area studios participated and nearly 800 attended the show.

"We wanted to know the money would stay in the community where we can all see it provide assistance locally," Burgess said.



Nearly 165 participated in the seventh annual Carl Willis golf Tournament in August. The event raised \$5,500 for the Tammy Walker Cancer Center. Carl was an avid golfer who enjoyed playing in memorial golf tournaments. Since his death from cancer in 2005 his family and friends have held the annual event in his memory at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.



Mary Bernhardt and Kendra Baumberger with Sunny Valley 4H in Salina presented a pillow case to Seth Steele, who was a patient on Salina Regional's Pediatrics unit. Sunny Valley made the child-inspired pillow cases to brighten the spirits of kids who are hospitalized. The group worked on the project during club events.

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Director's Message



Tom Martin
Executive Director

The support for the Every Child Matters Campaign and the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center was widespread and included children, adults, businesses, churches, civic clubs, foundations and others.

I want to give special recognition to Jack and Donna Vanier for the lead gift to the campaign, Salina Regional Health Center and its employees, Salina Regional Health Center Service Auxiliary, Salina Regional Health Foundation, and the J.E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation.

We said early on in the campaign that this project will help define who we are as a community and what we value as being important. The community has spoken!



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

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