

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



April 2013

Student knows importance of Morrison House

When K-State Salina sophomore Aaron Evans learned he needed to perform 20 hours of community service for one of his classes he thought back to his youth when various hospitality houses at hospitals made it possible for his family to stay nearby and be involved in his care while he battled Leukemia. He spent a fair amount of time in them himself, when he was allowed to be an outpatient.

"They were a home away from home," Evans recalled. "It was just nice knowing my friends and family had a place to stay when I was undergoing treatment."

"When my teacher told me about the Morrison House here in Salina, I knew it would be a great opportunity to support a service like those that had helped me."

The family studies/human services major hopes to use his education to one day be a social worker who helps those with cancer gain access to the resources they need to beat the disease. He's already proving to be a source of inspiration to guests at the Morrison House.

"We currently have four guests undergoing radiation treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center," Morrison House manager Lisa Hoffman said. "They've been asking when Aaron will be back to volunteer. The stories he's shared with them has helped give hope and put their minds at ease."

"It's been a very rewarding and heartwarming experience," Evans said. "I feel like mainly all I've done is lend an ear to the guests who want to talk about what they're going through. I see there's a lot of hard work that takes place to make a service like the Morrison House run. It makes me reflect and appreciate the places I stayed when I was undergoing treatment that much more."

The Morrison House is a home away from home for family members of patients at Salina Regional Health Center, the Salina Surgical Hospital and outpatients undergoing treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center. There is no fee for guests to stay at the Morrison House. The service is supported entirely by donations.

This year the Morrison House will celebrate 20 years of service. Since the house opened, more than 18,000 guests from 420 Kansas towns, 48 states and 18 foreign countries have stayed under its roof. Call the Morrison House at (785) 452-7500 to find out ways you can support the service.



Rebecca A. Morrison House manager Lisa Hoffman and K-State Salina student Aaron Evans put together Easter treats for young guests. Evans benefited from the services of several hospitality houses during prior battles with Leukemia.

Foundation/Auxiliary scholarship applications available

Applications for the 2013-2014 Salina Regional Health Foundation and Service Auxiliary Healthcare Scholarships are now available online for full or part-time students entering or continuing nursing or other healthcare studies.

Validation of admission to a nursing or healthcare studies program is required, and preference is given to students who plan to be employed by Salina Regional Health Center or other Sunflower Health Network hospitals upon completion of education. Priority also is given to students enrolled in fields of high demand at SRHC or other SHN hospitals.

Last year the scholarship program awarded \$31,500 to 14 students pursuing degrees ranging from nursing and pharmacy to physical therapy and speech therapy. Melanie Peele, a nursing student enrolled at Kansas Wesleyan, was one of last year's recipients. She received the Asbury Alumni, Louise Buchanan Larson, Christine and William Heller, Jo Ann House and Bob and Mary Gordon named scholarships held by the Foundation.

"It's extremely helpful to get financial support," said Peele, who also is employed as a specialty technologist at Salina Regional's birth center. "I can only work so much while school is in session and this helps cover tuition and books."

"I had a previous degree in animal science and wasn't passionate about it," Peele said. "Then I got a job as a CNA at the hospital and fell in love with nursing as a career."

Applications can be found at www.srhc.com under the "Careers" tab. Deadline for return is June 15.



Melanie Peele, a nursing student at Kansas Wesleyan, checks the vitals of a newborn in the nursery at Salina Regional Health Center. She was one of last year's Foundation and Auxiliary Healthcare Scholarship recipients.

Non-golfers can support annual Queen Jean benefit

Team and individual registration for the sixth annual Queen Jean Memorial Golf Tournament on April 26 has closed, but you can still participate in the Start It Off event the night before tee off or purchase memorials to honor a loved one. Proceeds from the event support the endowment for Hospice of Salina.

Tickets for the Start It Off event are \$30 and include a Mexican buffet, drinks and the chance to participate in silent and live auctions for a wide range of items including vacation getaways. Start It Off festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. April 25 at the Salina Country Club.

"The Start It Off event is a lot of fun and you don't have to be a golfer to have a good time," said Barb Pickrell, one of the event organizers. "It's really more like a party and we'd like to build more support for this part of the event."

You can also memorialize a loved one's name and have it displayed in the Garden of Angels at the tournament. Memorials are \$25.

Deadlines for the Start It Off event and Angel Memorials are April 23. Visit www.queenjeangolf.com for more information. The Foundation is providing a matching grant for the Hospice of Salina endowment of up to \$55,000 for proceeds raised from this event.



Cancer Center donations help purchase blanket warmer

Funds donated to the Tammy Walker Cancer Center through the Salina Regional Health Foundation helped purchase a new blanket warmer and 100 thermal blankets for medical oncology patients undergoing treatment. The warmer holds about 50 blankets at a temperature of 150 degrees.

A small blanket warmer that held only three blankets couldn't keep up with patient demand. Up to 13 patients can receive medical oncology treatment at any given time.

"Lately we've been very busy and about every treatment chair has been full," said Lisa Steiner, a medical oncology nurse at the Cancer Center. "We can go through a lot of blankets in a day."

Patients undergoing chemotherapy and other medical oncology treatments often have low blood counts, which makes them feel cold. A warm blanket can add a great deal of comfort during treatment.

"Certain drugs also make patients feel cold," said Deb Johnson, medical oncology nurse at the Cancer Center. "This donation is being greatly utilized."

Call the Foundation at (785) 452-6088 to find out how you can support treatment at the Cancer Center.



ABOVE: Staff at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center say the new blanket warmer purchased with donations through the Foundation is being well utilized by patients. LEFT: Oncology nurse Deb Johnson visits with Peggy Roth, Salina, who used one of the thermal blankets during a recent treatment.



Grant provides new phones and holders for patients

A Salina Regional Health Foundation grant purchased new phones and special bedside baskets to hold phones and call light keypads for patients at Salina Regional Health Center.

The new phones no longer require a cradle to be hung up, which allows more options for keeping them near the patient. They also have larger number keys to make dialing easier.

"Phones and call buttons get moved around a lot and we were looking for something that would hold them and keep them accessible to patients," said Mary Quinley, medical inpatient nurse director. "This setup allows more flexibility and helps improve the patient experience at the hospital."

Robert Cowhick, Delphos, was hospitalized for about a week for a severe infection in his shoulder that developed after a fall. He thought the new devices were useful.

"The phones are easy to use after you see how they work," Cowhick said. "The baskets are a good addition too. They help keep things handy. My doctors and nurses were great. I feel blessed to have landed in Salina for care."



Robert Cowhick, Delphos, uses one of the new phones placed in patient rooms just before being discharged from the hospital.

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Director's Message



Tom Martin
Executive Director

I have spent the last 22 years of my life working for the Foundation of our community hospital. During that time, I believe I have gained a sense and understanding of what donors want to accomplish with their gifts. In short, it's pretty straight forward. Donors want to see their gifts used to help other people.

Help may come in different forms. It may be a comfortable night at the Morrison House, a nursing scholarship, compassionate end of life care at the Kaye Pogue Hospice Center, a warm soothing blanket for an oncology patient, or just being able to phone home from a hospital bed. Rest assured, with your continued support, we can help you help other people.



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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