

# Heartbeat

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Golf Tournament raises \$22,000 for surgical equipment

Other than a brief rain shower, which this region needed, it was a beautiful day for the Unity Medical Center Foundation's 33rd Annual Golf Tournament on July 13.

The competition remained close as usual with a four-way tie at the end. This year, the AgCountry Farm Credit Services and KodaBank team edged Back in Motion for first place. Altru Health System's team came in third.

Thanks to 65 sponsors and 85

golfers (18 teams), the Foundation raised \$22,130 for Unity Medical Center to purchase a new Spyder2 limb positioner to assist Dr. Darin Leetun with shoulder surgeries (pictured). He performs about 100 per year and actually completed his 200th surgery the week after the golf tournament.

"When we talk about the benefits of the limb positioner, it's exciting to think about how it's going to limit potential issues with overpull or over-protraction on the arm during procedures," Dr. Leetun said. "I can control positioning very specifically with the push of a button. It also frees up an assistant to help me more, which allows me to do better work."

The tournament began with a ball drop with help from the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, which



1st place finishers (left to right): Beau Feltman, Wade Presteng, Jeff Miller and Greg Feltman (not pictured: Andrew Wysocki)

provided its ladder truck in order to drop 126 numbered wiffle balls over the putting green. The closest ball to the hole belonged to Beckett Wollitz, who won the 50:50 prize.

Another highlight of the tournament was a near hole in one on Hole 3 by Derek Sundby, which may have hit the pin but landed just short of the \$10,000 prize provided by Choice Bank.



The Spyder2 limb positioner is already being used by Dr. Darin Leetun in the operating room at Unity Medical Center.

SEE GOLF on page 3

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Dear friends,



It's hard to believe, but the season is quickly turning to fall. With that comes a very busy time for farmers and everyone associated with agriculture during harvest. Thank you for your diligence producing food for rest of the world.

On Wed., Aug. 9, we had a special visitor to Unity Medical Center. U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer and his team stopped by for a tour and lunch discussion (see photo on Page 6). He has been a strong supporter of health care with a special interest in rural health care, and his staff who work on health care issues are very devoted to the issues we find challenging. Altogether the senator spent about two hours at the facility. He was very complimentary of the new building and how well it was integrated into the older building. He marveled at the surgery area, the spacious private patient rooms with large windows, and the rural medical educational space on the third floor, Rehab Services and the Emergency Department. Sen. Cramer had previously visited just prior to the start of the construction project but had not seen the completed

building. Coincidentally, it was just about a year ago that Sen. John Hoeven and his team stopped to see our completed facility. He was also a part of our groundbreaking ceremony. I am glad we live in a state where we have access to our congressional delegation, and they show a high level of interest in projects such as ours.

Some updates on UMC services that have either been added or expanded recently: A recently added service, Pulmonary Rehab, has grown quickly, so much so that we have added a second class. That service was combined with Cardiac Rehab, and they both occupy a space on the first floor that was previously a conference room. Also, we have brought two very well-utilized services, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy, in-house. Previously these were both contracted services, but our volumes have grown so much that we opted to establish those positions as part of UMC. UMC continues to expand and add services wherever possible based on patient need and our ability to provide the service.



Left to right: Keith Saville, Joanne Saville, Wally DeSautel, Alan O'Neil and Janice Lysengen.

On a lighter note, I really enjoyed attending the UMC Foundation's first Rooftop Social on UMC's new third-floor patio at the end of August. We recently added some wooden flooring, picnic tables and chairs there, and we were eager to show the new space to our Foundation supporters. This was a space that was previously designed as unused roofing adjacent to our utilities such as air handling, and when I saw that empty space, I asked that a door be added for a potential patio space in the future. It turned out great! We enjoyed great food, music and visiting with our community members. I can't wait to do it again!

Alan O'Neil  
Chief Executive Officer  
Unity Medical Center

unitymedcenter.com

Unity Medical Center's providers are dedicated to administering the highest quality healthcare in the region to patients of all ages - from newborns on up.



Dr. Matthew Viscito, CMO



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Whitney Thompson, PA



Kristin Stabo, FNP-C



Lyndsey Leehan, FNP-C



Emily Balsdon, FNP-C

# Golf Tournament:

Continued from page 1

## Contest Winners

- Honest John (Hole 6):** Matt Beneda, Makenzie Miller
- Longest Drive (Hole 6):** Carson Thompson, Makenzie Miller
- Longest Putt (Hole 7):** Mark Gilleshammer, Jeanne Droske
- Closest to the Pin (Hole 9):** Wade Presteng, Deb Whaley
- Best Poker Hand:** Lon Kratochvil (king-high flush)
- Chip-In:** Carson Thompson
- Wine basket:** Lon Kratochvil
- Liquor basket:** MacKenzie Paulson



This is how close Derek Sundby was to a hole in one and \$10,000 prize on Hole 3.



For more photos and information about the limb positioner, scan the QR code.



2nd place finishers (left to right): Ainsley McLain, Wren Jelinek, Reggie Rice, John Schumacher and Aiden McLain



## Provider Spotlight: Lyndsey Leehan, FNP

Family Nurse Practitioner Lyndsey Leehan has joined Unity Medical Center. She brings 18 years of emergency medicine and surgical nursing experience.

Lyndsey began her nurse practitioner journey after deciding she wanted to be able to provide better care for patients and connect with them on a different level. She completed her clinical instruction at health care facilities in Warren, Minn., and Northwood, N.D. While working in these rural facilities, she savored the quality hands-on time she was able to spend with the patients and knew rural was a great fit for her. She graduated from the University of North Dakota with her Family Nurse Practitioner degree earlier this year.

“I am really enjoying meeting new people and am grateful to those who are choosing me as their primary care provider at Grafton Family Clinic,” she said.

She is passionate about providing quality care and the impact that preventative care can make for patients at every stage of their lifespans. Her patients motivate her to continue to learn and better herself and the care she provides.

Lyndsey lives in East Grand Forks with her husband and their three children. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and experiencing new things as a family, reading and spending time outdoors. If you want to make an appointment with Lyndsey, please call Grafton Family Clinic at (701) 352-2000.

Any foundation's most important tool is its donor management system, a database of all its donors' contact information and gifts over time.



For the past seven years, the Unity Medical Center Foundation has utilized Blackbaud eTapestry as its donor management system. Blackbaud acquired eTapestry in 2007 and has since been slowly raising their annual subscription rates in the hopes that foundations would eventually upgrade to Blackbaud's Raisers Edge software, which happens to cost twice as much. In any case, our three-year contract with Blackbaud was expiring this fall, and Deb and I decided to look at some other options before renewing the contract.

We reviewed four other companies, and one clear leader emerged so by the time this newsletter is mailed out, we will be working with Neon One to securely move our data from eTapestry. We want our donors to know that we don't store any credit card numbers in our system, or any other sensitive, confidential information. In the future though, you may notice a slightly different look in our event invitations and communications in 2024. Our online donation page will also look different, although we don't anticipate any other website changes at this time. Our Harvest Auction will again run through GiveSmart as it has in years past. We will try to minimize the disruption for donors as much as possible. Meanwhile, Deb and I will be behind the scenes making sure all the data migrates correctly and safely.

We plan to have that change implemented before our annual Harvest Auction, which we have

already begun planning. The board authorized the proceeds from this event to go toward a new sterile compounding clean room for Unity Medical Center's pharmacy, and the reverse auction proceeds will go toward 25 new IV pumps (\$2,000/pump) that UMC had previously leased from Agiliti but are no longer available. For more information about these items, see Page 5.

On a much lighter note, I wanted to express how much fun we had at a recent Rooftop Social for our Giving Clubs members who have generously given \$10,000 or more in their lifetimes. There are about 80 people in the group, but some don't live in the area anymore or sadly some have passed away. Still, we had 35 people join us for wine, appetizers and fellowship over a unique third-floor view of Grafton, and we hope we are able to have many more events up there in the future. Check out Page 5 for a photo of the new space.

Jessica Sobolik  
Executive Director  
Unity Medical Center Foundation



UNITY MEDICAL CENTER  
foundation

25TH ANNUAL  
**Harvest Auction**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023  
MINTO COMMUNITY CENTER  
114 Harvey Ave, Minto, ND

Online silent auction: Nov. 3-10

In-person live auction includes hors d'oeuvres  
and refreshments. Dress code: Business to semi formal.

Scan QR code for more information.





## Harvest Auction reverse auction aims for new IV pumps

During this year's 25th Annual Harvest Auction, the Unity Medical Center Foundation will utilize reverse auction funds to reimburse UMC for the recent purchase of 25 new IV pumps.

IV pumps had previously been rented from Agiliti, but that option is no longer available. The pumps were costly and outdated as well. UMC decided to purchase 25 new IV pumps that will be easier to use and safer for patients. One pump can now deliver two medications at once instead of using two pumps, which is safer for patients and saves staff time as well.

New features include a complete drug library controlled by the UMC pharmacy, so it's tailored to what UMC staff uses. Staff can also search for drug types without scrolling through a pages-long list of medications that don't apply to UMC as was done in the past.

In the future, the pumps may be able to integrate with Altru's electronic health record software EPIC for more streamlined record keeping.

## Harvest Auction to raise funds for clean compounding room

While Unity Medical Center already has a negative pressure room for mixing hazardous treatments such as chemotherapy, UMC plans to construct what is known as a clean compounding room in the old hospital facility in the near future.

In that room, non-hazardous medications can be prepared in the safest environment with an extended time for use. This will provide patients with the availability of safe IV treatments while increasing the work efficiency for pharmacy staff.

"It is my desire to provide the safest treatment I can," said UMC Pharmacist Karalynne Price.

The room must be kept at a certain temperature and humidity in order to ensure quality and extend shelf life. The ideal conditions could increase shelf life from 24 hours to

7 to 10 days, for example, or 9 to 14 days if refrigerated. Both Pembina County Memorial Hospital and First Care Health Center have this type of facility.



## Inaugural Rooftop Social a success

The Unity Medical Center Foundation hosted its inaugural Rooftop Social for Giving Club members at the end of August. It was a warm, breezy day, but the patio was shady and protected from the wind, which made for an enjoyable evening. About 35 club members attended and enjoyed amazing food prepared by Unity Medical Center kitchen staff. The UMCF will plan to host additional socials on the rooftop patio in the future.



Left to right: Jessica Sobolik, Barb Dusek, Ranell Hanson, Mari Swartz and Janelle Davis

## UMC Auxiliary fills UMC needs

The Unity Medical Center Ladies Auxiliary donated funds to both the Cardiopulmonary Rehab Program and the Radiology Department recently.

For the Cardiopulmonary Program, the Auxiliary provided funds for a new handheld pulse oximeter. The pulmonary portion of the program has been so busy since it began this spring that a second class has been added.

The Auxiliary also provided funds used to replace the changing room curtains in the Radiology Department with black stainless steel doors. These doors will provide more privacy and allow for better infection control practices. Patients use the changing rooms for mammograms, DEXA scans, X-rays and CT scans.



Left to right: Bonnie Mohagen, Jan Ensrude, Sara Risky (UMC), Delaine Russum, Cyrilla Demers, Bonnie Suda



Left to right: Delaine Russum, Jan Ensrude, Kelly LaBonte (UMC), Cyrilla Demers, Bonnie Mohagen, Bonnie Suda

## Sen. Cramer visits UMC

U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer visited Unity Medical Center in August. In his Weekly Update newsletter, he said, "It was great to stop by Unity Medical Center in Grafton to tour the facility and to learn more about the issues facing

critical access hospitals in North Dakota. I appreciate CEO Alan O'Neil, as well as the facility's board of directors and staff, for hosting me on a tour."



## Kids Clinic features superheroes

Grafton Family Clinic hosted its third annual Kids Clinic in July. This year's theme was "superheroes," and all kids who attended received a Unity Medical Center superhero cape and mask.

The young attendees could bring a stuffed animal or doll for a full check-up with providers and nurses. There were also free stuffed animals available

for anyone who forgot to bring one. Nearly 100 kids participated in activities at various stations including physical therapy, respiratory therapy, surgery and x-ray. They also got to make and sample healthy snacks with Registered Dietician Rondee Feltman and her summer interns Grace and Gabi Ray.

The Kids Clinic is a great way for young children to get comfortable with medical staff and procedures so that they have a great experience when it's time for them to come to the clinic for appointments.



## Service Spotlight: Swing Bed

Not everyone is able or strong enough to return to everyday living after a hospital stay. Some need extra time to recuperate and recover before returning home. The swing bed program at Unity Medical Center can help make a smooth transition between your hospital stay and your return home.

Patient discharge plans that include continued physical or occupational therapy, IV antibiotics or wound dressing qualify for swing bed. Patients hospitalized outside of Grafton have the right to request a referral to Unity Medical Center where they can enjoy a spacious, private patient room with scenic second-floor views providing the comfort and space needed to heal (pictured above). The Unity swing bed program allows patients to be close to family and friends during rehabilitation, which can speed up recovery.

Some of the amenities included with Unity's swing bed program include en-suite bathrooms, sleeper sofas for a family member, 55" smart TV in each room, activity room with dedicated activity professionals (pictured below), homemade meals and snacks, wheelchair transport van, and laundry service.

For more information, call Licensed Social Worker Heather Narloch at (701) 379-3032.



## Memorials and Thank You To Donors (May. 23-Aug. 28, 2023)

The Unity Medical Center Foundation would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the donors who have donated to UMCF over the past years. It is because of donors like you that UMCF can continue to focus on their mission of supporting Unity Medical Center and improving patient experiences. Every effort is made to include all names accurately. Please notify UMCF if you discover any errors or omissions.

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To financially support  
Unity Medical Center, ensuring  
quality health care close to home.

## Philanthropic Priorities

1. Patients
2. Providers/staff
3. Programs
4. Facilities
5. Priority needs (unrestricted)



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