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The Beat: November 2008

CentraCare Health

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Sharing our story

Dear Friends:

I feel tremendous pride sharing CentraCare Health System's story with business leaders during the annual Report to the Community meetings in St. Cloud, Melrose and Long Prairie.

We provide primary, specialty and subspecialty care across the region. With numerous awards for clinical excellence, we remained financially sound ending Fiscal Year 2008 with a 2.88 percent margin. During the past year, CentraCare Health System:

- Began a \$225-million expansion of St. Cloud Hospital to create new surgery rooms, add private patient rooms and update our intensive care units;
- Began construction of the St. Cloud Hospital Gorecki Guest House to provide a haven for people from out of town;
- Completed the addition and renovation of Gorecki Care Center at St. Benedict's Senior Community (SBSC) to increase private resident rooms and update the facility;
- Enhanced the amenities at SBSC in Monticello with a movie theater, chapel, fitness center, general store, club room, an enclosed outdoor courtyard and new apartments;
- Opened the Big Lake Clinic in collaboration with Monticello-Big Lake Hospital;
- Broke ground for the replacement of CentraCare Clinic - St. Joseph;
- Opened the Monticello Cancer Center as a joint venture with North Memorial Medical Center and Monticello-Big Lake Hospital;
- Opened kidney dialysis units in Cambridge and Litchfield, and moved our Monticello unit to Big Lake to increase capacity;

- Broke ground for clinic and hospital expansion in Melrose;
- Partnered with the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview, and University of Minnesota Physicians to enhance pediatric specialty care in Central Minnesota.

The system's annual report is available on www.centracare.com. I hope that when you read it, you feel as proud as I do of CentraCare's success in achieving our mission of working to improve the health of every patient, every day. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, M.D.
President/CEO, CentraCare Health System



CentraCare Clinic - St. Joseph



Big Lake Clinic

Melrose Area Hospital welcomes new administrator



Gerry Gilbertson began his new position as administrator of Melrose Area Hospital Oct. 27. Gilbertson's health-care management career spans 28 years, including positions in Duluth, Mora, Fairmont and Sartell. He also worked in Sioux Falls, S.D.

New development officer for Melrose, Long Prairie

Amy Allen began work Oct. 27 as development officer for the CentraCare Health Foundation. Her primary responsibilities will be to develop and implement the overall fundraising efforts for the Melrose and Long Prairie campuses.

Melrose construction begins

After years of planning, construction will begin this fall on a multi-phase project of Melrose Area Hospital and CentraCare Clinic- Melrose at the present hospital and clinic site. The whole renovation project is expected to be completed by November 2009. CentraCare officials, contractors and Melrose city officials will celebrate with a ground-breaking ceremony Nov. 26.

Cancer Center hosts survivorship holiday event

The Coborn Cancer Center is hosting a celebration for all cancer survivors, family members and caregivers from 6:30-9 p.m. Dec. 1 at the CentraCare Health Plaza, Windfeldt Room. Entertainment and a light meal will be provided. This event is for all cancer survivors including those currently receiving treatment. For questions or to RSVP, please call Janelle at 229-5199, ext. 70659, or e-mail her at loehleinj@centracare.com.

Cancer center research employee recognized

Cheryl Kelley, Research Department, Coborn Cancer Center, recently was recognized at the North Central Cancer Treatment Group fall meeting for her 10 years of service as secretary of the Clinical Research Associate (CRA) board, as well as the Mesothelioma & Sarcoma Disease Site resource for CRAs.



From left: Susan Blomstrom; Jeff Blomstrom; Dee Coppock, CentraCare Health Foundation development officer; Jenny Joslin, St. Cloud Hospital hospice nurse.

Event raises \$15,000 for hospice fund

The annual "Puttin' for Payton" golf outing organized by Jeff and Susan Blomstrom in memory of their daughter, Payton, took place Aug. 29 at Blackberry Ridge. Payton died at 18 months from a terminal prenatal condition known as Trisomy 13. There were 126 golfers who participated in the tournament raising \$15,000 for the Payton Blomstrom Perinatal Hospice Fund. Proceeds for the fund are managed by the CentraCare Health Foundation.

Hind-Site fund created

A check for \$13,000 was presented to the CentraCare Health Foundation to create the Hind-Site Fund which will raise awareness about the need for colorectal screenings to prevent cancer and provide support to people who are dealing with the disease. The money was raised through a community fun run, spaghetti dinner and family fun day organized by a group of committed volunteers.

Tree of Hope

The Minnesota Tree of Hope Ceremony will be from 1-3 p.m. Jan. 10 in the Windfeldt Room at the CentraCare Health Plaza. Do you know a child who has or had cancer? Please help us honor our brave heroes by placing a gold ribbon on the Minnesota Tree of Hope. To place a name on the tree, contact Pediatric Short Stay at 229-4923 or e-mail childhoodcancer@aol.com by Dec. 15. There is no cost to add a ribbon to the tree. Sponsored by St. Cloud Hospital, CentraCare Health Foundation and St. Cloud Optimists Clubs.

Celebrate Festival of Lights at St. Cloud Hospital

Bring your family and friends to the 20th annual Festival of Lights from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 4 in front of St. Cloud Hospital, 1406 Sixth Ave. N. In addition to the traditional holiday lighting ceremony at 7 p.m., there will be horse-drawn trolley rides, reindeer, holiday carols by St. Cloud Hospital's Men's Choir, a living Nativity by Messiah Lutheran Church, cookies and cocoa. Please bring a non-perishable food donation for the Food Shelf. Sponsored in part by the St. Cloud Hospital Auxiliary, the event is free and open to the public.

Gift Gallery holds Annual Christmas Sale

St. Cloud Hospital Gift Gallery Annual Christmas Sale will offer a 25 percent discount off most merchandise (exclusions: candy, cards, magazines, flowers and Willow Tree Angels). The sale will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 3-4. Employees wanting to pay for their purchases with payroll deduction should enroll before the sale by contacting the Gift Gallery at ext. 54576.

Breast Center collects pennies for greatest needs

The St. Cloud Hospital Breast Center partnered with Leighton Broadcasting in an attempt to collect a million pennies for the Breast Center. The total amount raised was \$2,230 or 250,000 pennies. Although the goal of one million pennies was not attained this year, it was an extremely successful event. The money collected will go to the CentraCare Health Foundation Breast Center Greatest Needs Fund.

Recovery Plus is growing

St. Cloud Hospital Recovery Plus has added approximately 12,000 square feet at its 713 Anderson Ave, St. Cloud building to expand its services. They've also added a new main entrance. With the expanded facilities they are now seeing more than 220 clients per day in various programs. More than 100 of those clients participate in partial hospitalization, coupled with off-campus, supervised residential services for men and women.