

# CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



June 2018

## Grants enhance therapy options, staff education

Recent grants from the Salina Regional Health Foundation are being used to enhance therapy options for patients seeking outpatient rehabilitation services and improve staff education for maternity care and other female patient scenarios.

A grant of \$45,000 is funding the purchase of an anti-gravity treadmill to treat outpatient physical therapy patients who are unable to bear their full weight. The technology enables patients with lower body injuries to exercise earlier in recovery. By using a pressurized air compartment around the lower body the Alter G treadmill simulates the feeling of weightlessness. The technology will be utilized by a wide range of patients including those with osteoarthritis, and those recovering from joint replacement or other lower extremity injury. The lifting forces of the air chamber can reduce body weight to as little as 20 percent.

“Not many places have the capability to provide this technology,” said Holly VanCleave, a physical

therapist at Salina Regional’s Outpatient Physical Therapy clinic. “The Alter G will be used for many different types of patients who will be able to start therapy quicker without the fear of pain.”

Another grant of \$66,574 has allowed the purchase of a female hi-fidelity patient simulator with six different abdomens to simulate childbirth and routine medical/surgical care. The maternity capabilities of the simulator set it apart from previous generations of technology. Staff can practice Cesarean delivery and postpartum emergency scenarios with the technology.

“When obstetric emergencies occur they have to be handled quickly,” said Ashley Vail, education coordinator at Salina Regional. “We can easily take the simulator anywhere in the hospital to practice complicated scenarios and have already used it in labor and delivery to practice handling a postpartum hemorrhage.”



ABOVE: The Alter G treadmill will be installed later this summer thanks to a grant from the Foundation. LEFT: Ashley Vail listens to the breathing of a female patient simulator also purchased with a Foundation grant.

# Fifth-annual Fe For a Cure set for Sept. 22

Mark your calendars for this year's Fe For a Cure 5K Race/Walk through downtown Salina, which will be held September 22.

Proceeds from the event benefit patients undergoing treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center for all forms of cancer.

The event starts at 9 a.m. on the north end of Santa Fe Avenue at St. John's Military School and finishes at the south end of Santa Fe Avenue on the Kansas Wesleyan University campus. The Smoky Hill Museum Street Fair also begins at 10:30 a.m. in downtown Salina to make a full day of activities downtown.

Early race fees are \$25 for participants age 12 and older and \$10 for children age 11 and younger for those who register before September 10. After September 10, fees increase \$5. Race shirts are included with registration. Awards will be given to the top three males and females in 16 different age groups. A corporate challenge also is included for large and small businesses with awards based on participation and performance.

The event is sponsored by Salina Regional Health Center, Salina Downtown, Inc., Kansas Wesleyan University, St. John's Military School, North Salina Community Development and Rocking M Media. Underwriters for the event include: Gold Medal – Salina Supply Company; Silver Medal – Empower Retirement; Bronze Medal – Edward Jones, UMB, First Bank Kansas, JMH Cleaning and Design Central.

Register online or find all the information at [FeForACure.com](http://FeForACure.com).



A group of participants celebrate the completion of last year's Fe For a Cure 5K Race/Walk through downtown Salina. This year's event is planned for September 22.

## *Large print Bibles purchased with Foundation grant*



Chaplaincy supervisor Noni Strand has large print Bibles to offer patients and visitors thanks to a Foundation grant.

Many people look to the scriptures as a source of strength during troubling times. A grant from the Salina Regional Health Foundation has allowed the purchase of large print Bibles for patients and visitors to use and keep.

"The Bible is a symbol of God's love," said Noni Strand, chaplaincy supervisor at Salina Regional Health Center. "People are very grateful to have and keep them to take home."

"Having Bibles available for patients and families is an important part of our ministry," Strand said. "We're grateful for the Foundation's support in allowing us to provide them."



## *KU-Salina staff, students move to new campus downtown*

A vision supported by many throughout the community became a reality in June with the opening of the new Salina Health Education Center, which is the new home for the KU Schools of Medicine and Nursing in downtown Salina.

All operations are up and running, ready to greet the new classes of medical students and nurses that arrive in July and August, respectively. Seven of the eight incoming medical students are from Kansas and the eighth has strong ties to the state. Eleven of the 12 incoming nursing students also are from Kansas.

A major emphasis for both programs is to provide students a quality education in a rural setting with the hope that many will one day enter practice in a rural part of the state. Students from the state likely already have an appreciation for rural living.

That mission is already paying off. Of the first class of eight medical students who graduated in 2015, six are completing their residencies this summer and all of them are entering practice in Kansas. Five of those six are returning to rural Kansas. The remaining two students from the first class are still in residency programs.

“Having our graduates enter practice in Kansas is certainly an aspiration of the program,” said Bill Cathcart-Rake, dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Salina. “The results from this first class really validate what we’re all about.”

## **CHIP grant helps support new preschool in Brookville**

A recent grant through the Foundation’s Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) has awarded \$25,000 to help start a preschool at Ell-Saline Elementary School in Brookville.

Funding for CHIP primarily comes from Salina Regional Health Center, which tithes a percentage of its operating margin each year to the Salina Regional Health Foundation. Additional funding for CHIP comes from the Salina Regional Service Auxiliary.

Previously, there were no preschool services available within the USD 307 boundaries – meaning many children in the area had few opportunities to prepare for kindergarten.

“Kindergarten readiness is a huge focus across the

state,” said Dana Sprinkle, principal at Ell-Saline Elementary. “Studies have shown school readiness has a significant impact on students in their college and career opportunities later on in life.”

The new preschool will have space for 32 total students, including 16 in each morning and afternoon session. Donations from several area foundations, organizations and private individuals have made the project possible.

Students must be 4 years old by August 31 to enroll. Transportation will be provided by the district.

“We were thrilled to have the CHIP grant as one of the final pieces to the project,” Sprinkle said.



ABOVE: Medical students helped move beds to the new simulation lab in the Salina Health Education Center after taking tests in May. Operations opened in the new home for the KU Schools of Medicine and Nursing in downtown Salina in June.



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## Director's Message



**Tom Martin**  
Executive Director

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