



 **Cherokee
Regional**
Medical Center

2021 Annual Report

Board of Directors

The Cherokee Regional Medical Center Board of Directors represents the communities served by Cherokee Regional Medical Center. These board members volunteer their time to manage and direct the organization's affairs, properties, and funds, to ensure the longevity of our Critical Access Hospital.



Sheila Trapp

Chair



Clay Leavitt

Vice Chair



Brandon Henke

Secretary/Treasurer



Donna Burkhardt

Board Member



Sarah Cook

Board Member



Kellen Ludvigson

Board Member



Les Todd

Board Member

Message From Gary Jordan, CEO



Gary Jordan, FACHE • CEO/President

For all in health care, 2021 was another challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the last couple of years have taken a heavy toll on all health care workers. Like many other industries, we experienced a labor challenge due to fatigue, employee illness, and burnout. As a result, many hospitals were not able to fully staff to the number of available beds in their facilities. This created a nationwide issue related to the ability to transfer patients to a higher level of care. One would assume it solely affected COVID transfers but it was every type, from strokes to heart attacks, which proved to be difficult. COVID patients needing these resources was often the primary cause for delays in transfers related to available beds.

We saw that most of the patients hospitalized with COVID in 2021 were not vaccinated, creating a burden on the already stressed health care system within our region and across the nation. There were days our staff would spend hours calling hospitals in the five state region trying to find a bed. We knew just how challenging it was when Cherokee Regional started receiving calls from hospitals as far away as Wisconsin to see if we could provide a bed for their patients.

All this, we cannot tell you how proud we are of the staff who stayed with us through another physically and mentally exhausting year to care for our communities. It truly shows the commitment to their calling as health care professionals. Our care staff is made up of such a varying skill sets, from cleaning and maintaining our hospital during supply shortages, to our providers and clinical staff who worked around the clock to care for patients, many of which needed higher levels of care but could not be transferred. Our team worked together to provide the very best care possible given the circumstances.

Lives were saved because of the long hours and dedicated work of these professionals. If we look at all of the care resources that were challenged during this past year, we can't forget about the efforts of our paramedics and EMT's. They consistently had to go on long transfers to hospitals across the state and beyond to care for these patients. There is no doubt that our neighbors heard helicopters come and go more frequently this past year as patients needed to be transferred quickly and sometimes very long distances. We must thank those crews for all their work as they serve many communities in our region.

Despite all these challenges, Cherokee Regional persevered and had another strong financial year. We saw improved quality measures and service scores, as well as accomplishing many of our strategic goals. We achieved many great things this past year and hope you will take time to review the hard work shared in this annual report. We are excited about what our organization and our staff accomplished in 2021, as well as what we have planned for the coming year. We are proud to serve our communities and know we have great people to care for you in your time of need.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Jordan, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

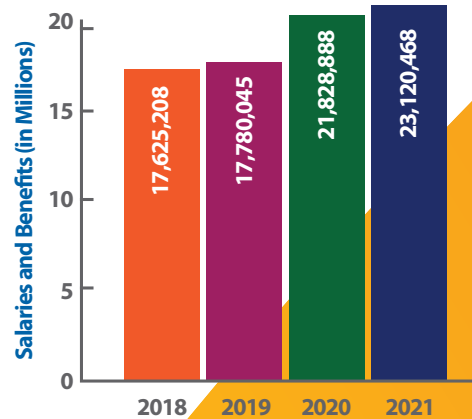
Finance

Economic Impact

In addition to providing essential health care services to Cherokee County and the surrounding area, Cherokee Regional continues to provide a significant boost to the local economy. Employing 305 staff members at Cherokee Regional Medical Center, Cherokee Regional Medical Clinics, the Cherokee Fitness Center, and The Beck.

Based on the latest report issued by the Iowa Hospital Association, Cherokee Regional and its entities will have an estimated total economic impact of approximately \$25.9 million in 2022. In turn, local retail sales of over \$3.8 million will be generated. State, county, and local governments will also benefit through the total tax revenue of nearly \$270,000 collected on these purchases.

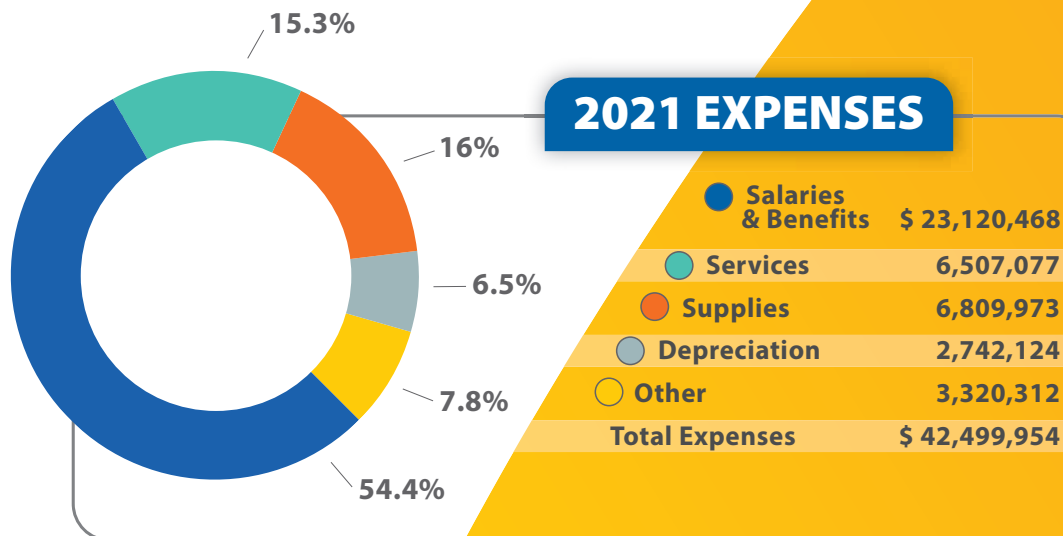
SALARIES AND BENEFITS



2021 OPERATING STATISTICS

Admissions	1,052
Ambulance Runs	1,374
Births	80
Cherokee Regional Clinic Visits	29,558
Emergency Room Visits	4,677
Fitness Center Visits	52,216
Hospice/Home Care Visits	10,229
Laboratory Procedures	85,779
Meals Served	90,327
Podiatry Visits	2,049
Public Health Visits	342
Radiology Procedures	12,833
Rehabilitation Modalities	41,569
Senior Life Solutions Visits	1,562
Specialty Clinic Visits	7,159
Surgical Procedures	1,806
Wound Care Visits	1,840

2021 EXPENSES



Medical Staff



Nick Loughlin, DO
Family Medicine



Sean Nelson, MD
Family Medicine



Wesley Parker, MD
Family Medicine



Timothy Rice, DO
Family Medicine



Shelby Wigginton, MD
Family Medicine



Patricia Harrison, MD
Emergency Medicine



Scott Murray, MD
Emergency Medicine



Timothy Taylor, MD
Emergency Medicine



Jeremy Vande Zande, MD
Emergency Medicine



Adel Abdalla, MD
Radiology



John Armstrong, MD
General Surgery



Jason Dierking, MD, FACS
General Surgery



Kristin Cedar
ARNP-C



Lisa Ducommun
ARNP-C



Traci Hagen
ARNP-C



Doyle Kruger
ARNP-C



Rebecca Mogensen-Kruger
ARNP-C



Abby Tentinger
ARNP-C



Linda Grauer
CRNA

Specialty Services & Providers

CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Jon Peacock, Michele Hardie, PA-C (Sioux City)

CATARACT EYE SURGERY

Dr. Stephen Fox (Spencer)

DERMATOLOGY

Dr. Raymond Kuwahara, Wilmar Garcia, ARNP (Sioux City)

EAR, NOSE & THROAT

Dr. Daniel Jorgensen (Spencer)

GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. John Armstrong, Dr. Jason Dierking (Storm Lake)

HEARING AID

Paulo Nascimento (Spencer)

MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE/PERINATOLOGY

Dr. Al Fleming (Sioux City)

NEPHROLOGY

Dr. Jerold Erlandson, Dr. Ashar Luqman (Sioux City)

NEUROSURGERY

Dr. Matthew Johnson, Scott Feese, PA (Dakota Dunes, SD)

OB/GYN

Dr. Paul Eastman (Sioux City)

ONCOLOGY

Dr. Chandana Javvaji (Sioux City)

ORTHOPEDICS

Dr. Seth Harrer, Rachele Randall, ARNP, Steffany Hinkeldey, ARNP (Storm Lake), Dr. Daniel R. Nelson (Dakota Dunes, SD)

PAIN CLINIC

Christopher Hanson, CRNA, NSPM-C (Boone)

PODIATRY

Dr. Sara Oelke (Sioux City)

PULMONOLOGY

Dr. Jitendrakumar Gupta, Dr. Sandeep Gupta (Sioux City)

RADIOLOGY

Dr. Adel Abdalla (Cherokee)

UROLOGY

Dr. David Christ, Dr. Charlotte Caligiuri (Spencer)

VASCULAR SURGERY

Dr. Chad Laurich, Amanda Anderson, CNP (Dakota Dunes, SD)

WOUND CARE/SKIN/OSTOMY

Viola Lias, RN, BSN, ET/WOCN, FCN (Cherokee)

Additional Services Provided by Cherokee Regional

Acute / Skilled / Inn Care
Ambulance

Anesthesia Services

The Beck - Senior Living

Cardiac Rehab

Chemotherapy

Critical Care

Diabetes Education

Dietary Services

24 HR. Emergency Care

Home Choice Home Health

Hospice Services

IV Infusions / Blood Transfusions

Laboratory

Obstetrics

Occupational Therapy

Pharmacy

Physical Therapy

Pre-Employment Screenings

Public Health Services

Pulmonary Rehab

Radiology

Respiratory Therapy

Registered Dietitian Services

Senior Life Solutions

Sleep Studies

Speech Therapy

For a complete list of the services provided at Cherokee Regional Medical Center, visit cherokeermc.org or contact us at 712.225.5101.

Dr. Nelson Settles In at Cherokee Regional Medical Center



Sean Nelson, MD

Dr. Sean Nelson joined the Cherokee Regional medical staff in 2021. Dr. Nelson has been seeing patients in the Cherokee Regional Emergency Department since early July and at the Cherokee Medical Clinic since August of last year.

Dr. Nelson received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). He then attended Medical School at the University of Nebraska Medical Center where he received his MD degree. He completed his family medicine residency through the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation in Sioux City, Iowa.

Dr. Nelson, and his wife, Heidi, relocated to Cherokee in June. They are excited for the opportunity to live in northwest Iowa and raise their family in a rural community setting. They have four children-Desyree, West, Alex, and Zoey.

"Heidi and I were looking for a rural community the size of Cherokee to raise our family and establish my medical practice," says Dr. Nelson. "We have been impressed with all the community has to offer, but more importantly, everyone we have met has been very welcoming to our family."

Dr. Nelson provides a full scope of family medicine at Cherokee Medical Clinic (located on the campus of Cherokee Regional Medical Center) while also providing services in the hospital, Emergency Department and Surgery Department. He has special interests in family medicine, obstetrics (he is C-section trained), and emergency medicine.

"I am excited to practice medicine in a variety of disciplines in a family friendly community where I know I can make a difference," explains Dr. Nelson.

In addition, Dr. Nelson is fluent in Spanish and he feels that skill will be of benefit to many within the Cherokee Regional service area.

"Cherokee Regional is pleased to have another young, family-care focused physician join our organization," states Gary Jordan, CEO/ President of Cherokee Regional. "Dr. Nelson offers comprehensive family medical care, including obstetrics, where he is C-section trained. He is a great compliment to the rest of our medical staff, and we look forward to helping Dr. Nelson build his practice, and grow within the communities we serve."



Lori Bush – Clinic Director

Lori is a familiar face to Cherokee Regional. She was the Cherokee Regional Home Health and Hospice Social Worker and Bereavement Coordinator from 2003 to 2014.

Lori returned to Cherokee Regional as the Clinic Director in July 2021, after working with the Plains Area Mental Health Center Chief Program Officer.



**Chris Hanson,
CRNA, NSPM-C**

Serious Pain Calls for Serious Relief

Cherokee Regional is pleased to offer another option for those suffering with chronic pain. Chris Hanson is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and Pain Medicine Specialist. He began seeing patients in February 2021.

Hanson specializes in a complete range of interventional pain care including neuromodulation, regenerative medicine, and other minimally invasive treatments for spinal disorders. He applies a comprehensive approach, ensuring the best outcome for all of his patients and aims to resolve patients' pain while improving overall functionality for a better quality of life.

Initial consultation to the Cherokee Regional Pain Clinic services gives each patient a dynamic process including, assessment, diagnosis, patient and community-focused plan, implementation of treatment, and evaluation of success. Assessment will include a thorough exam with free-flowing information from your referring provider, and any other entities involved in your care. No matter how complex your diagnosis is, a plan involving you, the patient, will be developed. Patients are expected to have input and take ownership of the developed plan's implementation, which is focused on maximizing functionality. An evaluation of the plan will occur at a scheduled interval to assess how beneficial treatment is, or to guide if other treatment options are necessary.

"I firmly believe patients need to 'own' their treatment and we will customize a plan including locally- based options, such as smoking cessation, physical therapy, diet, counseling, traditional and/or nontraditional treatment," said Hanson, "My approach reflects an integrative, multidisciplinary approach to the chronic pain management care."

Don't suffer from chronic pain any longer.

Back • Neck & Shoulder • Knees • Work Related Injuries
Headaches • Arthritis • Fibromyalgia • Shingles

Referrals preferred, but not required. Please call 712.225.1516 to learn more or schedule your appointment at Cherokee Regional's Pain Clinic (Clinic Day—Friday).

Vascular Specialist Now Coming to Cherokee!



Chad Laurich MD, FACS, FSVS

Cherokee Regional welcomed Dr. Chad Laurich, Vascular Surgeon from Vascular & Interventional Specialists, to Cherokee in September!

Dr. Laurich sees patients at the Cherokee Regional Specialty Clinic the second Wednesday of each month.

Learn more about Vascular & Interventional Specialists from Dakota Dunes by visiting visofsiouxland.com.

**Call 605.217.5617
today to schedule your
appointment with
Dr. Chad Laurich in
the Cherokee Regional
Specialty Clinic.
No referral needed.**

Awards & Recognition

Daisy Award

Cherokee Regional presented Craig Blankers with the 2021 Daisy Award this past fall. On November 17, Craig was surprised while on shift (a busy one at that) by fellow employees and his family.

Here are a few comments from the family that nominated Craig shared with us:

"He was very good at explaining what was causing my issue - which once again put me at ease."

"Craig was very compassionate, caring, and made my experience much easier for me. He was great and deserves to be recognized for the wonderful job he is doing."



100 Great Iowa Nurses

Cherokee Regional is proud to announce that two of its registered nurses have been named to the 2021 list of 100 Great Iowa Nurses. The award promotes excellence in nursing and recognizes those within the state of Iowa who have truly gone above and beyond to contribute to the nursing profession.

The 2021 honorees from Cherokee Regional include Jamie Crum and Tammy Conover. Due to COVID-19 restrictions still in place at the time, they were recognized during a virtual celebration in May.

This past year, several hundred Iowa nurses were nominated for this honor by patients, colleagues, family members, and friends. Those selected were based on their concern for humanity, courage, competence, and commitment to their patients. Recipients have also made significant contributions to help mentor others within to the field of nursing. The 2021 final list of 100 Great Iowa Nurses was determined by representatives of the Iowa Nurses Association, Iowa Nurses Foundation, Iowa Hospital Association, Iowa Organization of Nurse Leaders, Iowa Nurse Practitioner Society, Iowa Emergency Nurses Association, and the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

Crum currently works in case management and care coordination while also serving as the Diabetes Education Specialist at Cherokee Regional. Conover has been a dedicated nurse within Cherokee Regional's Home Health/Hospice department since 2007. They join past Cherokee Regional recipients Leanne Hammer (2008), Dondee Halverson (2012), Rita Comstock (2018), Lynn Ivarson (2018), JoAnne Tapper (2018), Luann Wittrock (2018), Lexi Henson (2019), and Tonya Oolman (2019) on this prestigious honor roll.



Iowa Online Nurse Residency Program



Jasey Stowater

The Iowa Online Nurse Residency Program (IONRP) is an innovative online program that is designed to help recent graduates transition into their new role as a professional nurse!

Cherokee Regional consistently has participants in the IONRP that develop nurse leaders within the organization. The additional education and challenge of a residency project to improve their skills and health care services have proven as invaluable for Cherokee Regional and the communities we serve.

Cherokee Regional's most recent program graduate is Jasey Stowater, RN in the Obstetrics Department.

Stowater's project implemented a new policy for eating during labor for those mothers that meet criteria; overall improving the labor experience!

"My project put me out of my comfort zone the most. It challenged me to make a difference in the lives of my patients," Stowater said regarding the program, "It's hard work and does take dedication, but worth it!"

Megan Schuck and Kaysie Vauble are former graduates in the IONRP from Cherokee Regional. Congrats and thank you all for your dedication to becoming nurse leaders!

2021 Service Milestones

In 2021, Cherokee Regional celebrated 29 staff service anniversaries representing a total of 370 years served.

40 Years

Juanita Chinn

30 Years

Gary Rupp

25 Years

Luann Kunzweiler
Stephanie Schiernbeck
Tonya Oolman

20 Years

Rebecca Mogensen Kruger
Dondee Halverson
Charles Hill

15 Years

Shelly Simm
Christie Kamphoff
Tiffany Hanson
Mark Millikan

10 Years

Carey Ducommun
Melissa Harder
Kara Nitz
Benjamin Deubner

5 Years

Heather Dreckman
Kristina Buss
Paul Larsen
Kaitlyn Top
Kaylee Grell
Kristen Frederick
Kylie Mongan
Raegen Brunsting
Teresa Schimmer
Addisyn Jensen
Jean Kruse
Taylor Richardson
Courtney Irwin

2021 Retirements

Leanne Hammer
Sandra Peters

Ruth Vetter
Michael Waddell

Pediatric Focus in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Cherokee Regional's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation team understands how physical and cognitive disabilities in children affect their growth and development. The goal of Cherokee Regional's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department is to help each child we serve reach their highest level of physical, cognitive and social potential.



Our therapists use a multi-disciplinary approach between physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

Physical Therapy works on gross motor skills important for exploration of environment and focuses on skills necessary for rolling, sitting, crawling, walking, jumping, running.

Occupational Therapy focuses on self care tasks as well as fine motor skills, sensory system integration and visual skills.

Speech Therapy addresses communication deficits, feeding difficulties, swallowing difficulties, and learning difficulties.

At Cherokee Regional, we have the team and tools to partner with you and your child.

**Exceptional Pediatric Care,
Every Step of the Way.**

NEW – Falls Prevention Free Community Program

At Cherokee Regional, our medical staff and therapy team work together to identify patients who are appropriate for a physical therapy referral and also patients who might not be appropriate for physical therapy but would benefit from a structured falls prevention program. Cherokee Regional's Physical Therapy team, in conjunction with the Cherokee Fitness Center, developed a Falls Prevention Program in 2021. Cherokee Regional's Auxiliary donated equipment in support of the new program.



This free program is hosted at the Fitness Center as a community benefit. It is offered quarterly where we accept enrollment of 6-10 individuals. The program is 2 sessions per week for 5 weeks totaling 10 sessions. Pre-class screenings and post-class screenings are held. The class consists of a combination of active mobility, strengthening, balance and education.

Falls Prevention: From Cherokee Regional

Each year, more than 1 out of 4 people ages 65 years or older will sustain a fall. Factors associated with greatest relative risk for falling include:

- Previous falls,
- Balance impairments,
- Strength deficits,
- Vision impairments,
- >4 medications, and
- Gait impairment.

With having one of these factors, there is an 8% increased risk for falls and having 4 or more there is a 78% increased risk for a fall.

In the healthcare setting, the American Geriatrics Society recommends asking 3 questions. (1) Have you fallen in the past year? (2) Have you had an acute fall? (3) Do you have difficulty with walking or balance? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, you would benefit from a more comprehensive evaluation from your family doctor and potentially a referral to Physical Therapy.

During a Physical Therapy evaluation, there are many standardized tests that are used to give more information on fall risk.

Examples of these standardized tests include:

- Single limb balance time,
- Sit to stand time,
- Walking speed, and
- Timed up and go.

In physical therapy research, falls prevention exercise interventions work. Among a large study of 108 Randomized Controlled Trials, exercise reduced the rate of falls by 23% compared to the control. Subjects had a 31% lower risk with a trained health professional vs. 18% lower risk by a not-trained provider. Additionally exercise interventions decreased risk of fall related fractures and lowered the risk of falls that required medical attention.

Sources Include:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/steady/materials.html>)

Fall Risk in Community Dwelling Elders, January 01, 2013, Greg Hartley, PT, DPT, Board-certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist; Neva Kirk-Sanchez, PT, PhD

Large-Scale Investigation: Falls-Prevention Exercise Interventions Work (<http://www.apta.org/PTinMotion/News/2019/02/27/CochraneFallsPrevention>)

A Life, So Beautiful, Deserves a Special Celebration

Cherokee Area Service of Remembrance

For the first time, a **Cherokee-area Service of Remembrance** took place as a joint effort by Boothby Funeral Home, Cherokee Regional Hospice, and Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home. The evening service was at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cherokee on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Fuller Digital Solutions live-streamed the service for those who are unable to attend in person.



"Coming together for this special celebration made it easier on families who, in the past, may have had to choose which of our memorial services they were going to attend as a family," Jennifer Boothby of Boothby Funeral Home stated. "It's very special for our organizations to come together to support those who have lost their loved ones. With COVID-19 taking the opportunity for in-person memorial services last year, we were all excited to collaborate for an in-person service."

Over the years, Boothby Funeral Home, Cherokee Regional Hospice, and Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home have all organized their own memorial services. Coming together for a memorial celebration like this is very special for the community and those who have lost loved ones.

"When we first met with the idea of pooling our resources to make a special memorial service, we discussed our past events. While each of us had our own spin on the event, we all agreed that we wanted a wonderful event to celebrate and honor lost loved ones," Matt Schubert of Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home stated.

"Each of us had planned a memorial service, created invitations for the families we served throughout the year, and executed great events in the past," Tonya Oolman of Cherokee Regional Hospice stated, "but joining our forces, we were able to make it even better for everyone."

Tonya has worked in Cherokee Regional's Home Health and Hospice Department for 25 years, and in January of 2021 became the department manager. Her extensive background working in the department has proven to be invaluable and her 12 years of experience as the Patient Care Coordinator prior to her management role brings a great perspective for her team and patients they serve.



Tonya Oolman, RN

Hospice volunteer, Martha Bennett, has been volunteering with Cherokee Regional Hospice for the past 25 years.



To Martha, volunteering is "my everything. The patients have done more for me than I have ever done for them. It is so rewarding." Martha has spent countless hours supporting the Cherokee Regional Hospice program by visiting hospice and bereavement patients/families, preparing monthly mailings and hospice newsletters, assisting at the yearly memorial service, creating a flag bag for the We Honor Veteran's Program, and so much more.

Martha shares about her volunteer experience with hospice patient, Johan Dean. "Johan was so full of spunk and determination. She was teaching us about how to live. I thoroughly enjoyed providing respite care. It is one of my favorite things to do as a volunteer. I would visit Johan weekly providing companionship which turned into a very strong friendship. During this time, I learned about her love for Bingo and we nicknamed her the Bingo Queen. A favorite memory was organizing a Bingo night with Johan and her hospice team. She was able to laugh and was so thrilled to win. She talked about Bingo night for weeks afterwards."

Martha's advice to anyone considering volunteering with hospice, "It is not all sadness. Yes, you do know the circumstances going in, but once you are there and are with them you forget the circumstances. They are just people we can support and help live until the end."

Cherokee Regional Home Health, Hospice and Cherokee County Public Health Offices Relocated

Officials at Cherokee Regional Medical Center announced the relocation of the Cherokee Regional Home Health, Cherokee Regional Hospice and Cherokee County Public Health Departments. On Friday, April 16, 2021, these services moved to 212 E. Bow Drive in Cherokee.

"We are excited for these departments to offer services at 212 E. Bow Drive," says Melissa Cunningham, VP of Clinical Services and CNO at Cherokee Regional. "The new location is much more convenient for everyone, and the building itself provides a vastly improved workflow for our care team. We think the new space will be well received within the community."



We Honor Veterans Program

To publicly acknowledge the military service and sacrifices made by area veterans, Cherokee Regional Hospice plans and coordinates Pinning Ceremonies through the We Honor Veterans program.

The ceremonies are personalized and are generally celebrated with family and friends who share stories about the service and sacrifices these veterans made for our country.

Thank you to all veterans for your service!



Embracing Hope

Open Grief Support Began in October with monthly meetings.

**3rd Tuesday of Every Month
5:30pm - 6:30pm**

Cherokee Regional Conference Room*

Join this group to be supported as you tend you your grief. No registration needed.



COVID-19 Vaccines



Following the Emergency Use Authorization of both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) partnered with county public health departments to begin vaccinating Iowans in mid-January 2021. Both vaccines were administered in Iowa to the Phase 1A priority populations of health care personnel and long-term care residents and staff.

By the end of January, Cherokee County Public Health Department learned they were scheduled to receive a very limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses in February. The first Phase 1-B vaccination clinic took place on February 5, 2021.

To accommodate the scheduling process for COVID-19 vaccination clinics, Cherokee County Public Health established a COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center.

"Due to the very limited number of vaccine doses we were scheduled to receive in the allotment, we determined that establishing a call center to start scheduling their vaccination appointments was necessary," said Gary Jordan, CEO/President of Cherokee Regional. "In addition, we worked directly with the area school districts and childcare providers to help them with their scheduling process."

"This was the first time we had ever done something like this," said Kent Lundquist,

VP of Development and Support Services at Cherokee Regional. "We did have some hiccups as far as difficulty getting a call through at the beginning of the Call Center launch because we had such a huge number of people calling to get their appointment scheduled. Overall though, the system worked well for us and we managed to schedule over 1,000 people for vaccines on our first day with the live Call Center."

In February, Cherokee County Public Health launched an online scheduling tool to accommodate even more scheduling volume. The demand for the vaccine far exceeded the supply allotted for a period of time, but Cherokee County Public Health continued to receive additional allocations and worked hard to vaccinate as many people as they had vaccinations for. Vaccination Clinics were offered in the communities of Marcus, Aurelia, Cherokee, Quinby and Holstein.

In March, the former Roosevelt Elementary School was utilized for vaccination clinics and Cherokee County Public Health requested the help of volunteers to administer vaccinations and help the clinics run smoothly.

By April 2021, COVID-19 Vaccinations had opened up to all eligible persons.

New Logo, New Signs



Have you noticed the signage changes around Cherokee Regional's campus? We excitedly watched our new signs be installed late in 2021. The campus signs that were completed in 2021 were part of our Phase 1 signage plan. Phase 2 will take place throughout 2022.

Ambulance Station Nears Completion

In the Fall of 2021, Cherokee Regional began work on a modern, freestanding ambulance station located at 1000 South Second Street in Cherokee. The new station will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will house the primary 911 response crew. The facility was designed to be able to accommodate two ambulance vehicles with bays long enough for a fire truck if necessary.

"When evaluating the best way to provide the quickest response to our entire 911 service area, we felt building a facility with immediate highway access was important," says Gary Jordan, CEO/President of Cherokee Regional.

"In addition, housing an ambulance south of the river will allow for a more rapid response to our southern service area during times of flooding. The time saved will help us to obtain the best possible patient outcomes."

Jordan also feels that offering a facility like this will help Cherokee Regional recruit and retain highly sought after paramedics and EMTs in this competitive job market.



Caring Across the World



In February of 2021, Cherokee Regional Medical Center was approached by Molly Paulsrud, Managing Director of United Christians International (UCI), about the possibility of donating a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine that could be used for COVID-19 testing in the country of Haiti. Unfortunately Cherokee Regional could not spare any of the COVID testing supplies it had on hand. Little did Paulsrud, nor the administrators of Cherokee Regional, know at the time how this initial conversation could lead to a budding partnership between UCI and Cherokee Regional that would have a true impact on the residents of Caïman, Haiti and the surrounding area.

During the initial meeting Paulsrud and fellow UCI supporter, Whitney Farver, explained how UCI had developed several schools, a university, and a medical clinic in Caïman since UCI's founding by Jean and Kristie Mompremier in 2005. Paulsrud expressed the current need for durable medical equipment and supplies to help furnish a new teaching hospital UCI was in the process of constructing. The need for supplies and equipment for the elementary, middle, and high schools in Caïman was also discussed.

Upon hearing about these needs, the administration and management team of Cherokee Regional went to work to compile a list of items that had been removed from service but still held in storage that could be donated to this cause. This included walkers, crutches, braces, exam tables, stretchers, cots, medical beds, and even a pharmaceutical compounding hood. From the educational standpoint, Cherokee Regional donated doors, bulletin boards, chairs, and various other items remaining from the Roosevelt Elementary School purchase.

Needless to say, UCI representatives were thrilled to have this bevy of supplies and equipment made available to them.

"All of us at UCI were greatly humbled by the generosity of Cherokee Regional and their willingness to donate such a wide array of items to support our mission in Haiti," claimed Paulsrud. "Once we learned of what all we had available to us, we went to work right away to raise funds to purchase a shipping container and cover the freight to send these items to Caïman."

By early June, UCI had secured a shipping container and delivered it to the Cherokee Regional campus to start the loading process. Members of the Paulsrud family, UCI supporters, Cherokee Regional's Maintenance crew, and



numerous players from the Cherokee Washington High School Braves football team spent several days hauling and loading equipment into the container. The goal was to have the container ready for shipment by the middle of July. Then tragedy struck on when Haiti's president, Jovenel Moïse, was assassinated on July 7, 2021.

"We knew this very sad and unfortunate development would delay our shipment to Haiti," said Paulsrud. "We prayed that it would not jeopardize our efforts completely due to the corruption and unrest taking place in the country." Fortunately, by early September UCI officials felt it was safe enough to ship the container. They arrived on the Cherokee Regional campus on September 10th with a truck and a crane to load the container and start it on its long voyage. On October 19th, Cherokee Regional received the wonderful news that the container had made it through customs and had arrived safely at its final destination in Caïman.



In March 2022, Paulsrud informed Cherokee Regional that the donation had played a major role in caring for the residents of Caïman. In fact, she reported the pharmaceutical compounding hood donated by Cherokee Regional was going to be used to mix liquid Tylenol and has been deemed as a significant addition to the health care and treatment efforts in Caïman.

"This is what it is supposed to be about. People taking care of people," claimed Gary Jordan, CEO/ President of Cherokee Regional. **"We are so glad our organization was in a position to donate this equipment and have it sent half way around the world. This is a perfect example of why many of us entered the medical profession, to care for those in need, no matter what the circumstance."**



2021 UPDATES

OCTOBER

Halloween Hustle Supports High School Special Olympics

Proceeds from the October 2021 Halloween Hustle benefited Cherokee and MMCRU High School Special Olympics teams.

Cherokee Fitness Center, Cherokee Regional's Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Department, and Cherokee Regional Senior Life Solutions organized this Halloween-themed 5K and 1 Mile event. In November 2021, checks were presented to Special Olympic athletes at both schools.



NOVEMBER

Blessing Baskets

So much to be thankful for! Cherokee Regional presented Danette Morgan from LSI with 14 Blessing Baskets for local foster families and families in need. Cherokee Regional's staff enjoys giving back ... these Blessing Baskets are going to be fun and helpful for area families in need.

Learn more about LSI: www.LSIowa.org



Mid Sioux

Cherokee County and Ida County Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. received Blessing Baskets made by Cherokee Regional employees and departments. Each basket had a special theme and will help make memories for area families. Themes included: Taco Night, Pasta Night, Family Fun Night, Snuggle Up, Bath & Body, and Activities.



SEPTEMBER

2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk

#nevergiveupcherokee

Cherokee Regional Medical Center and Senior Life Solutions teamed up for the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk.

The walk was a come-and-go event due to COVID-19 precautions. Walkers were encouraged to walk to create more awareness of suicide prevention.

"Although we realize this is a heavy and difficult topic, we were pleased by the amount of participants we had this year," said SLS Program Director Tonya Draper, "We added some fun aspects to the event to lighten the atmosphere. I think the music, food and fun were just what we needed as created awareness for suicide prevention."

With over 15 suicide prevention resource tables this year, many participants stopped for information on suicide prevention.



Tonya Draper and Jessica Goodlaxson from Cherokee Regional's Senior Life Solutions program happily supported participants.



For more information on the programs offered by Senior Life Solutions, please contact them directly at 712.225.1509.

DECEMBER



2021 Donation

Representatives from Cherokee Regional presented a donation check in the amount of \$5,000.00 to members of the Cherokee Police Department for the Cherokee Area Toys for Tots program. This is the fourteenth consecutive year that Cherokee Regional employees have supported this great cause. The funds helped provide toys and clothing to area children in need during the Christmas season.

MAY

Automated Text and Phone Message Reminders

Cherokee, Aurelia, Holstein and Marcus Medical Clinics launched our new WELL App for appointment confirmations and easy rescheduling.

Automated reminders to patients rolled out earlier this year. Patients can now be watching for text and phone message reminders from our Medical Clinics 7 days prior to scheduled appointments.



APRIL

Patient Beds Donations

Cherokee Regional donated two obstetric patient beds to the Northwest Iowa Community College Nursing Department to enhance their simulation lab. The students commented on how smoothly and quietly the beds moved compared to the beds they had been using previously.



Heather Rolling, MSN, RN, NE-BC, PCCN

Cherokee Regional welcomed Heather on board as the Manager of the Medical-Surgical Department in June 2021. Prior to coming to Cherokee, she was at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, where she managed the Progressive Care Unit for 5 years, and was a House Supervisor for 4 years before that.

JUNE & AUGUST

Wings Education

The partnership between Cherokee Regional Medical Center and Wings Air Rescue of Siouxland (Wings) has provided our staff many opportunities to enhance their emergency medical and trauma care experiences.

Wings is a helicopter critical care transportation service, serving the Cherokee area as well as communities of the tri-state area. The Wings medical transport flight programs are staffed by highly-skilled medical professionals who provide care on-the-scene, at the referral hospital, and en route to the appropriate medical facility.

Their medical crews generally consist of a critical care flight nurse and a specially trained flight paramedic, who together, represent decades of emergency medical and trauma care experience. Wings teams with Cherokee Regional to offer our staff additional practice in emergency and trauma care.



In conjunction with the Wings Air Rescue team from Sioux City, Cherokee Regional providers and EMS participated in a skills workshop. Cherokee Regional continues to prepare for emergency situations in our ongoing quest to provide exceptional emergency care every time.



A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Caring Support

360 Custom Designs
3-S Washout- Shelly Simm
59 Grind- Jenn & Will Miller
Abby Tentinger, ARNP-C
Adam & Jana Timmerman
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Wyffles Hybrids- Nathan Johnson

Cherokee Regional Benefactor 2021 Contributions

Huxford Trust	\$650,000
Patterson Trust	\$135,480
Barlow Trust	\$2,080
Total	\$787,560

Cherokee Regional is proud to recognize our donors for their gifts in 2021. We strive to make this list complete and accurate. If you notice an error or omission, please contact us at 712.225.1505 to bring it to our attention, and please accept our apologies.

2021 Cherokee Regional Foundation Golf Tournaments

Another Record-Setting Year

A heartfelt “thanks” to those who made contributions, participated, promoted and assisted with both the 17th Annual Cherokee Regional Foundation and the 5th Annual Ladies Foundation Golf events. Because of your help and support, we were able to enjoy two record-setting days. Proceeds from these events were designated to support Cherokee Regional’s oncology services.

17th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament

- 120 golfers participated ... **NEW RECORD!**
- We raised \$52,068 ... **NEW RECORD!**

5th Annual Ladies Foundation Golf Outing

- 116 golfers participated ... **NEW RECORD!**
- We raised \$14,005 ... **NEW RECORD!**



17th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament Champions

(Pictured left to right): Sponsored by Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home - Will Cook, James DeVos, Carson Jenness, and Drew Spooner



5th Annual Ladies Foundation Golf Outing Champions

(Pictured left to right): Gwen Spooner, Jenn Nixon, Missy Jenness, and Bunny Doyle



Gifts of Grain

A Tax Efficient Way to Donate to the Cherokee Regional Medical Center Foundation

For donors who actively engage in farming, significant tax savings may be achieved by donating grain directly to the Cherokee Regional Foundation rather than selling the grain and donating cash.

The Cherokee Regional Foundation now has an account set up with AgState (formerly First Cooperative Association). Farmers wishing to donate grain to the Cherokee Regional Foundation may simply deliver the grain to any AgState location and at time of delivery, notify the receiving AgState facility of their wishes to donate grain to the Cherokee Regional Foundation.

Revamped Board

Ready to take the Cherokee Regional Foundation to New Levels

Since being established in 2007, the Cherokee Regional Medical Center Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to help support the mission and service offerings of Cherokee Regional. The original Cherokee Regional Foundation Board consisted of a mix of retired Cherokee Regional Board of Directors and community business leaders. These individuals laid the groundwork for the Foundation and developed it into a formal non-profit mechanism to receive charitable donations in support of Cherokee Regional.

To keep the vision of the original foundation board alive, a new Cherokee Regional Foundation board

was recruited and formally put into action in May of 2021. “We are very fortunate that past Cherokee Regional leadership and board members had the foresight to establish the Foundation back in 2007,” says Kent Lundquist VP of Development & Support Services/ Foundation Director at Cherokee Regional. “We are very excited to have a revitalized, engaged new board in place to begin the next chapter of the Foundation.”

A few of the many projects the Foundation has supported over the years include... purchasing new equipment for the Cardio/Pulmonary Rehab Department; the development of the current hospice garden on the Cherokee Regional campus; the purchase of new furniture in the OB Department; and enhancements to the oncology services at Cherokee Regional.

“The Foundation has supported many great projects in the past to the benefit of our patients, visitors, and staff,” explains Lundquist. “The new board is driven to strategically support Cherokee Regional through increased awareness of the Foundation and enhanced fundraising efforts.”

If you would like to learn more about the Cherokee Regional Foundation or how you can support this great cause, please feel free to contact Kent Lundquist at 712.225.3368, ext. 2202, or to donate online visit cherokeermc.org.



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Chair



Weston Burkhardt
Vice Chair



Jessica Knippel
Secretary/Treasurer
(Staff Representative)



Duane Henke
Board Member



Lynn Ivarson
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Jana Timmerman
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Dr. Wes Parker
Board Member
(Medical Staff
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Gary Jordan
Board Member
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300 Sioux Valley Dr
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Pardon Our Progress ...

Cherokee Regional has been working on an exterior master site plan with the help of Beck Engineering (Cherokee, IA). The parking enhancement and main entrance project construction began on May 24, 2022. The redesign will allow us to offer additional parking, as well as easily accessible, ADA-compliant parking near our main entrance. Please watch for additional information and updates regarding this exciting project.



300 Sioux Valley Drive • Cherokee, IA 51012

(712) 225-5101

cherokeemc.org