

# THE Pulse



KOSSUTH REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER - SUMMER 2008

## Iowa Architectural Foundation honors Bancroft Clinic facility



KRHC Administrator Scott Curtis, architect Bob Bisenius and Ellengray Kennedy of the Bancroft Community Foundation gathered with project donors to celebrate the design award given to the Bancroft Community Health Center from the Iowa Architectural Foundation.

Approximately 60 people attended a reception honoring the Bancroft Community Health Center for receiving the Community Design Excellence Award from the Iowa Architectural Foundation. In addition to celebrating the award, the wall of honor for donors was unveiled during the event.

The Community Design Excellence Award recognizes groups for significant achievements in the promotion of new quality architecture, preservation of existing quality architecture or community design. The awards place emphasis on a project's quality of design, the built environment's impact on the quality of life within the community where the project is built, and the impact the project has had in bringing the community together in its support.

"We are here to thank, honor and celebrate," said Ellengray Kennedy of the

*(Story continued on page two)*

## ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS COME TO KRHC

Kossuth Regional Health Center will take another leap forward on July 25 by implementing electronic health records.

This new system is making the care delivered to hospital inpatients more efficient and safe by connecting multiple computer systems throughout the KRHC network with new technology and best-practice processes. Now, patients at KRHC will have their medical information stored in one electronic system, so everything from allergies, vital statistics, illness history, treatment records and nurse's notes is kept in one place and is readily accessible to doctors and nurses.

Kossuth Regional Health Center, has been working with Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa and other network hospitals to prepare and train for this system transition.

"A project like this one takes dedication from providers, leaders and staff. Electronic health records will help KRHC continue to improve patient care and safety and keep KRHC

as a high performing hospital," said Scott Curtis, KRHC administrator.

Electronic health records will allow Kossuth Regional Health Center to create:

- **A safer environment for patients** as physician orders will not be subject to hand-writing misinterpretation.
- **Improved efficiency** of medication orders
- **A warning of adverse drug event alerts** when there is a possibility of drug-to-drug, drug-to-allergy or drug-to-test results contraindication.
- **Better quality of care** thanks to the clinical decision support tools. These knowledge-based tools link evidence to best practice guidelines.
- **Savings in health care.** Cost will be contained because fewer duplicate tests will be ordered. Since results will go directly to the electronic chart, there is little chance the result will be separated from the chart.

To ensure patients' health information is secure, a variety of safety measures are taken by using access controls, passwords and other tools to protect confidential patient information. Any staff member or employee who accesses a patient's protected health information will leave an electronic "footprint—" establishing a record of who has viewed the patient's information. This will allow the hospital the opportunity to determine if protected health information is being appropriately accessed.

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## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Try as we might, we aren't able to anticipate every situation that we will face. We see many patients and visitors at Kossuth Regional Health Center every day dealing with news that they didn't expect regarding their health care.

Recently I experienced this not as the hospital administrator, but as a patient myself. After injuring my arm in a wrestling match with a utility trailer, I rushed to the emergency room for an unanticipated visit. I walked into the ER at 5 p.m. with a broken arm and left less than 60 minutes later with a bright blue cast. I have always appreciated our talented staff, but I never expected how much I would value their service when I needed some urgent medical attention.

Many people forget that Kossuth Regional has an entire team of staff members on call to serve patients at all times. They forget, that is, until they come in for treatment in the middle of the night or on the weekend. Emergency room care is just one of many departments that is at the ready at all times of the day and night to help patients. The lab, radiology services, Obstetrical team, hospice and home care also are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I would presume that most people living in this area are aware of Kossuth Regional Health Center, but I would also guess that many aren't aware of the variety of services that we offer. Most people find out about health care services on a need to know basis. When a health issue is diagnosed, then we jump into action and figure out what's available. Whether a person needs cardiac rehabilitation, childbirth education, a colonoscopy or has a broken bone, they learn about it and where they can get help.

I would encourage you to buck this trend, and learn more about Kossuth Regional Health Center and the many services we provide before you enter our doors as a patient. Some ways to do this are to visit our website ([www.krhc.com](http://www.krhc.com)), contact us for a hospital tour or attend a lunch and learn session we are offering to area service clubs. We have a great number of things to share with you about how our staff and services have grown over the years. We also have some ideas for improving this facility that we would like to share with you.

Come see what's new at Kossuth Regional Health Center. Visitors are welcome and we appreciate your interest in our facility. Don't wait for something unexpected to happen when you can learn about the quality health care we provide at KRHC at any time. Although, if you are anything like me, your appreciation will grow when you need our services most.



Scott Curtis, CEO/Administrator  
Kossuth Regional Health Center

## Chips Off the Old Block donate chartholders



Truman Shackelford from Chips off The Old Block poses with one of 11 chart holders the group donated to the KRHC clinic and surgery. Leo Murray and Don Frideres also assisted with this project. Thank you for this beautiful addition to our facility!

## Bancroft Clinic design award

*(Continued from page one)*

Bancroft Community Foundation. "This was the result of the effort of many, many people."

The Bancroft Community Foundation, Kossuth Regional Health Center and the city of Bancroft worked together to plan for the design of the facility and raise funds for the project.

"Leadership from the various groups really came together for this project," said Scott Curtis. "Our hospital board of trustees and board chair Jack Munch, Bancroft Clinic staff, Ellengray Kennedy and the Bancroft Community Foundation, city leaders, EMS staff and many volunteers put their energy into this, and the results were fantastic."

Architect Bob Bisenius recognized the project organizers for their commitment to creating a quality facility.

"[To win the Community Design Excellence Award] it needs to be a quality design project, but it's really what it brings to the community," he said. "This building is a quality building that enhances Bancroft."

Bisenius also noted his family ties in Bancroft and memories of visiting here as a young boy.

"My mother was from here. It was personally satisfying to work here on this," he said.



BEFORE AND AFTER - The new clinic (below) stands on the site of the former lumberyard (above).



# SAVE THE DATE!

## LEGACY BALL 2008 - NOVEMBER 1

For more information contact Nancy in the KRHC Foundation office at 515-295-4582.



## AUXILIARY UPDATE

# Dine With Flair raises \$1500 for medication dispensing system

The fourth annual KRHC Auxiliary Dine with Flair fundraiser was held at the First Baptist Church on April 5.

Sixteen tables were decorated with various themes with eight guests seated at each one. After allowing time to view each of the tables, guests were treated to a luncheon of broccoli almond turkey

puff, green salad with strawberries and poppy seed dressing and chocolate mousse delight

for dessert. The meal was prepared by Vickie Gangested and served by members of the Auxiliary.

A fashion show by Vestio, narrated by Julie Murphy, treated guests to the latest in spring and summer wear. Pat Larson, Liz Rosonke and Sonny Christensen had everyone laughing as they performed a skit "Under the Hood" about three women under hair dryers and the misinformation shared as they don't hear exactly what is said. The final portion of the program was a group of songs sung by Rita Scuffham and Shirley Kline accompanied by Pam Gogerty.

The proceeds of just over \$1500 will be used towards the purchase of a medication dispensing system. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided matching funds for this project. For more information or to be included in next year's Dine With Flair, please contact Midge Herbst, Dine With Flair chairperson.



**ABOVE:** The Buchanan ladies decorated their table in the theme of a "Sesqui Soiree" celebrating the UCC First Congregational Church in Algona being "150 Years Bold."

**LEFT:** DyAnn Benson checks in with her guests at the Auxiliary's annual Dine with Flair event, where each hostess decorates themed table for eight guests.

## KRHC HOLDS HOSPICE EVENTS

Hospice of the Heartland held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 14 at First Lutheran Church in Algona.

Mia Hegarty-Roach, PhD, a clinical psychologist at Kossuth Regional Health Center, was the guest speaker. She spoke about managing stress and the title of her topic was "Relax, Refresh, Recharge." She gave several ideas to the group on how to do just that. All of the volunteer names were read and those in attendance received a volunteer bookmark.

"We are thankful for all our volunteers and the time, talents and dedication they give to Hospice of the Heartland and the patients we serve," said Marilyn Nielsen, volunteer coordinator at Hospice of the Heartland.

For more information about Hospice of the Heartland, call 515-295-4430 or go to [www.krhc.com](http://www.krhc.com)

**RIGHT:** A Remembrance Table was set up in the middle of the room with the names of those who had passed away in the last year.



The Hospice of the Heartland Memorial Service was held at First Lutheran Church on May 23.



Jane Frankl, owner of Interior Designs in Algona, and her sister Mary Cruise donated two clocks to Kossuth Regional Health Center in memory of their mother, Florence Grandgenett, who was an RN at KRHC for 30 years. One clock is pictured with Jane and Mary (above) in the clinic. A smaller clock was placed in the front waiting room of the hospital. Thank you for these lovely additions to our waiting areas!