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physicians and services



Back Row: (l to r) Jessica Bauman, R.N.; Beth Bortnem, R.N.; Sara Fedeler, SDSU nursing student; and Lindy Stelling, SDSU nursing student
Front Row: (l to r) Alaina Kulesa, SDSU nursing students; Tammy Crofutt, R.N.; and Kayla Goehring, SDSU nursing student

Debra Browning, C.F.N.P.
Jo Gibson, C.F.N.P.
Tabb McCluskey, D.O.
Terry Parr, M.D.

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Hendricks Community Hospital Association

HCHA horizons

Magazine spring 2007

CELEBRATING 43 Years of Service

Thank You, Dr. Mueller

Hendricks Hospital patients and medical staff share their stories of working with LeRoy Mueller, M.D., who recently retired from Hendricks Hospital.

"He is a great mentor and is very kind and compassionate towards his patients."
—Tabb McCluskey, D.O. at Hendricks Hospital

"Throughout my career, I have worked with several senior physicians. Dr. Mueller is someone to look up to and pattern myself after. I am very privileged to call him my friend."
—Terry Parr, M.D. at Hendricks Hospital

"When a stormy night kept us from coming to the hospital while I was in labor, Dr. Mueller came to my home in the middle of the night to monitor my progress. He is just a wonderful, caring physician."
—Sharon Johnson, Hendricks Hospital patient

"In the medical industry, it makes a difference who you work with, and Dr. Mueller is an incredibly kind man."
—Arlene Knutson medication aide of 25 years with Dr. Mueller.

LeRoy Mueller, M.D., has practiced at Hendricks Hospital for 43 years, caring for the community and building strong relationships with people in southwest Minnesota. On December 31, 2006, Dr. Mueller retired from Hendricks Hospital and said he looks forward to volunteering, traveling, gardening, golfing, hunting, fishing, and going to ball games.

Raised in Belle Plain, Minn., Dr. Mueller attended the University of Minnesota Medical School and completed his internship at Bethesda Lutheran Hospital. On July 15, 1963, he started his medical practice at Hendricks Hospital.

Dr. Mueller joined C. O. Thompson, M.D., to begin his practice at Hendricks Hospital. Dr. Thompson served as his mentor and taught him much about surgery and hospital medicine. After Dr. Thompson's retirement in 1983, Dr. Mueller was the only doctor in the area for four years.

A Special Honor

In April 2000, Dr. Mueller was selected Family Physician of the Year by the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians. This award honors a family physician for providing compassionate, comprehensive, and caring medical services; involvement in community affairs; and serving as a role model to his community, healthcare professionals, family practices, residents, and medical students.

"As I look back over the years of service to the community as a medical doctor, I wouldn't have done anything differently," Dr. Mueller says. "I had excellent help in the clinic over the years. I'm proud to have been part of an excellent local hospital and to have helped patients who were loyal to me."

A Fond Farewell

Dr. Mueller and his wife, Gloria, have four adult children and nine grandchildren. Their oldest son, Brian, is a research chemist in Middletown, Del.; Lisa is an oncology nurse in Santa Rosa, Calif.; Bart teaches chemistry and is a track coach in Newton, Iowa; and Laura sells Japanese art in New York City.

Dr. Mueller says leaving the medical staff was not an easy decision, but he carries many memories with him.

"I appreciate all of the kind words expressed to me these last few months," he says. "It makes me feel blessed to live in a community like this."



HENDRICKS HOSPITAL

Dear Friends,

Over the last 87 years, the Hendricks Community Hospital Association has benefited from devoted physicians who have maintained clinics in our communities. Their commitment and loyalty has been the cornerstone of our healthcare facility.

In 1920, Dr. Louis Nelson opened his practice and established a thriving clinic. His presence enabled the building of our first hospital in April 1926. Tragically, Dr. Nelson was killed in a car accident in 1928. Dr. P. E. Hermanson joined us in 1929 and operated his medical practice until 1963. With the growth of our facility came the need for an additional physician. In 1937, Dr. C.O. Thompson began practicing alongside Dr. Hermanson. Dr. Thompson cared for our community until he retired in 1981. In 1963, Dr. LeRoy Mueller made Hendricks his home and started his medical practice until his retirement just last year. Dr. Tabb McCluskey joined Dr. Mueller in 1987, ending an almost five-year period of Dr. Mueller being the only physician in our community. Dr. McCluskey will celebrate 20 years of practicing medicine in Hendricks this year.

The longevity of our physicians has contributed greatly to the success of the Hendricks Community Hospital Association. Because of this dedication, our customers have developed life-long trusting relationships with our medical providers.

Our future continues to look bright. The Hendricks Clinic currently has three outstanding providers in Dr. McCluskey, Dr. Terrence Parr, and Deb Browning, C.F.N.P. Our clinic in White, S. Dak., has an excellent provider in Jo Gibson, C.F.N.P. We are also excited to welcome the addition of Drs. Todd and Donna McCluskey to the Hendricks Clinic.

The Hendricks Community Hospital Association is proud of its rich history, and together we look forward to providing Hendricks and all of the surrounding communities health care they can count on, delivered by physicians they know and trust.

Sincerely,



HCHA
Chief Executive Officer

Two Additions to Our Physician Team



Hendricks Hospital welcomes Todd McCluskey, D.O., and his wife Donna McCluskey, D.O. to the medical staff.

Hendricks Community Hospital Association is excited to announce Todd McCluskey, D.O., and Donna McCluskey, D.O., have committed to provide family practice services in Hendricks. The doctor duo, who are married and are the brother and sister-in-law to Tabb McCluskey, D.O., plan to join the Hendricks Clinic in May 2007.

Both Dr. Todd and Dr. Donna graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo., and received their Doctor of Osteopathy degrees in 1985. They first practiced in Owensville, Mo., for 14 years. The doctors currently own and operate the Family Health Clinic of the Southern Hills in Hot Springs, S. Dak., where they have been for six years.

Dr. Todd has already started his transition to Hendricks and has been providing routine coverage for the Hendricks Clinic when needed. During a recent trip to his new home, Dr. Todd stated both he and Donna are excited to relocate to the Hendricks and Ivanhoe area and are looking forward to serving both communities.

We welcome Drs. Todd and Donna McCluskey and look forward to their many years of service to the community. For more information, please call (507) 275-3134.

Remembering Dr. Thompson

In memory of longtime Hendricks Hospital physician C.O. Thompson, M.D., who worked at Hendricks Hospital for 43 years and passed away last December, a full-sized bronze sculpture will be placed at Hendricks Hospital.

The sculpture will be created by Lee Leuning who is Dr. Thompson and his wife Lillian's nephew. Lee, who owns Bad River Artworks in Aberdeen, S. Dak., also sculpted the South Dakota Vietnam War Memorial. The sculpture, will depict Dr. Thompson as the caring family physician the community came to know, featuring him wearing a cloak and stethoscope and carrying a physician's bag. His likeness will be accompanied by a four-year-old girl carrying a Raggedy Ann doll.

While the location of the sculpture has not been decided, it is expected to be completed in about 10 months.

"The concept is that he has a heart," Lee says. "The idea is to lighten the mood as people approach the hospital and to remind them that there is compassion inside."



Good Shepherd Hospice Updates

Thanks for the Memories

Good Shepherd Hospice would like to give a big thank you to everyone who participated in last year's hospice fundraisers. The Tour of Homes and Tour of Tables have become incredible successes due to the ongoing dedication and commitment of our community. A special thanks to the hardworking hospice volunteers. It is a privilege to work with such a great group.

If anyone is interested in joining our hospice volunteer "team," please call Gwen Meyer or Kathy Weber, R.N., at (507) 275-2210.

Circle of Life Room

With the monies raised from the Tour of Homes in November, Good Shepherd Hospice volunteers are moving forward with furnishing and decorating the "Circle of Life" room at Hendricks Hospital. The room will provide patients with a comfortable, home-like environment.

Resource Library

The Good Shepherd Hospice Resource Library is taking shape in the Hendricks Community Hospital conference room. Books for adults and children are available via an honor check-out system.

Massage Therapy Service Expansion

Good Shepherd Hospice implemented massage therapy services for hospice patients and caregivers in December 2006. With the resources of Kelli Bauman, massage therapist on staff at Hendricks Hospital, outpatient massage therapy is now available to the community.

Know someone who would benefit? Call Hendricks Hospital at (507) 275-3134 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



Leann, Emma, and Eric Pitzi participate in the Good Shepherd Hospice Tour of Homes.

DISTINGUISHED DONORS

Hendricks Hospital relies on our donors who make the hospital a better place through their contributions. We would like to acknowledge the following donors for their support.

Hospice Donations

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