

Fall 2022



CAHoots Newsletter is funded through the IN FLEX State Office of Rural Health (SORH).

Fall CAHoots Highlight

Each CAHoots issue will highlight two Business Partner Network members. IRHA's BPN members have chosen to be a major sponsor of IRHA and the Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network (InSRHN). As you explore the member links, you will find uniquely qualified businesses that possess in-depth knowledge of critical healthcare issues. They stand ready to provide high-performing service to you and your organization.



Pain Management Group (PMG) helps to ensure community access to socially and medically responsible pain treatment by partnering with hospitals to develop and manage balanced, hospital-based pain management programs. Since 2009, PMG has successfully established over 50 hospital-based, pain management programs.

Please visit painmgmtgroup.com for more information.



TACORE Medical Inc. is a physician recruiting company which was founded in 2000 and has thrived entirely on word of mouth referrals. They have never, in 18 years, spent so much as a nickel on advertising, branding, or glossy tri-folds. They have always believed that if they do our job right, their clients will advertise for them. And they have.

Their approach to recruiting is largely grounded in their experiences as young college football coaches and of the insights they gained while being involved in recruiting high

school athletes at the highest level. Now, they simply apply those insights, combined with the same aggressive approach, to recruiting physicians.

Please visit tacoremedical.com for more information.

Indiana Rural Health Association Celebrates National Rural Health Day on November 17, 2022

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) sets aside the third Thursday of every November to celebrate National Rural Health Day (NRHD).

NRHD is an opportunity to “**Celebrate the Power of Rural**” by honoring the selfless, community-minded and determined spirit that prevails in rural America. NRHD showcases the efforts of rural healthcare providers, organizations and cooperatives, State Offices of Rural Health, and stakeholders from various industry sectors dedicated to addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face today and into the future.

What does the “Power of Rural” mean to IRHA and its members?

“What an awesome time to be a rural healthcare advocate! Indiana is on the brink of so many exciting initiatives coupled with the progress as a result of so many current initiatives! It’s such a privilege to be a part of IRHA whose team members, partners, and supporters all live and breathe the mission of enhancing the health and well-being of rural populations in Indiana through leadership, education, advocacy, collaboration, and resource development. IRHA will continue to support our Critical Access Hospital partners throughout the state with new programming to address specific needs within your communities, advocacy efforts that will positively impact the way we deliver healthcare in our rural communities, and a partnership designed to best serve and support you. You all don’t hear it enough but thank you for the dedication and care you provide to your patients every day. Our Indiana Critical Access Hospitals are a key thread in the fabric of our healthcare system.”

Cara Veale, Chief Executive Officer, Indiana Rural Health Association

“Rural health is a necessary and vital force in small communities for the services provided and the jobs created. Serving rural health is a passion collaborating with local, regional, and state partners to expand services, improve patient access and provide quality care. Rural healthcare is a cornerstone for small communities.”

Brian Herwig, President/CEO, Perry County Memorial Hospital

“If Indiana’s health care delivery system is defined as a brick wall, the bricks would be urban care; but the vital mortar is rural health care. Rural care is providing 24/7 support for the widely dispersed and mostly underfunded Indiana counties. There is nothing more accurate than neighbors helping and saving neighbors is rural healthcare.”

Greg Larkin, MD

“Rural means a close-knit, supportive community that comes together to help each other.”

Liz Leising, CEO, Margaret Mary Health

“The Power of Rural lies in the pathways and connections we provide to all other locations across America. Rural America feeds and heals the nation. It is where America’s pride, patriotism, and needs for improved health and healing collide. It embodies the picture of where our Nation began and continually seeks the betterment for all. It is our home for life.”

Brian Shockney, FACHE, HFA, President, IU Health South Central Region

“Having the luxury of developing meaning inter-personal relationships with staff that translate, ultimately, into exceptional bedside care.”

Michelle Franklin, Chief Executive Officer, Sullivan County Community Hospital

“I like Wendy Mass’ quote “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.”

“Many times, providers will ask to dismiss a noncompliant patient, but they don’t always ask the patient why. So, they are missing an opportunity to let the patient explain they had to choose between medication, food, electricity, or other similar healthcare need. Patients do not always bring their troubles outside of health forward, or in many rural underserved areas, just assume it is normal for everyone. This quote reminds us that our population battles (competes) with many other costly basics in life.”

Sarah Hagen, Executive Director, Cameron Medical Group, Cameron Memorial Community Hospital

“Providing healthcare the old fashioned way: face to face and heart to heart.”

Kari Goodman, BSN, Director, Patient Care Services, Franciscan Health Rensselaer

“When the going get sick, the sick go to rural health.”

Amanda Manns, BS, Manager of Rural Health Clinics and Medical Staff

“Rural healthcare labor force: the unsung heroes of healthcare in America.”

Carlos Vasquez, FACHE, Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Franciscan Health Rensselaer

“The impact of our Critical Access Hospital on our community is far reaching including quality healthcare close to home. National Rural Health Day allows me to acknowledge the power of rural. We are extremely blessed to have the high level of dedication and commitment in Franciscan Health Rensselaer and its rural healthcare providers!”

Judy Egan, RHIT, Manager, Mission Integration and Patient Advocate and Volunteer Services, Franciscan Health Rensselaer

“I chose to live in this rural town and community; therefore providing care at our Critical Access Hospital is not only a privilege but also a personal honor.”

Stevan A Vuckovic, DO, FACOEP, FACEP, Medical Director, Franciscan Health Rensselaer Emergency Department

“The foundation of rural power is the health of the land and its people living among the relationships that bind them.”

Brad Smith, President/CEO, Rush Memorial Hospital

National Rural Health Day Events Announcement from HRSA Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

HRSA is celebrating National Rural Health Day on **Thursday, November 17**. This year's theme is “Advancing Behavioral Health Equity in Rural Communities.”

[Join us](#) on November 17 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET for a discussion with HRSA Administrator, Carole Johnson, and other HHS leaders to hear about what the federal government is doing to increase behavioral health equity in rural communities, including substance use treatment.



There are a variety of other events scheduled throughout the week. HRSA grantees will share best practices from their rural work on strengthening mental health, and other presentations will tackle important topics like workplace stress and intimate partner violence. For more information and a schedule of events, visit the [HRSA National Rural Health Day webpage](#).

Amanda Waldrup, MS, CHES (she/hers)

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2022 GCGH Announces Internal Medicine and Pediatrician, Dr. Theodore Hoppe to My Linton and My Bloomfield Clinics



Linton, Indiana – Greene County General Hospital announces the addition of Theodore Hoppe, D.O. to the GCGH family. Dr. Hoppe, an experienced Internal Medicine and Pediatric Physician, will offer Family Medicine and Pediatric services at both My Linton and My Bloomfield Clinics.

Dr. Hoppe will split his time between the My Linton and My Bloomfield Clinics to serve patients across the county. He is passionate about improving the quality of life for people with multiple health issues and supporting parents and children with pediatric illnesses. Dr. Hoppe also enjoys caring for newborn babies at GCGH. Dr. Hoppe and his family recently relocated from Minnesota. He now resides in Linton, Indiana and enjoys spending his free time outdoors.

Dr. Hoppe graduated from Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He spent an additional year of student fellowship studying osteopathic manipulation. Dr. Hoppe also graduated from SUNY Buffalo State with Medical Education Training: Internal Medicine- Pediatrics. He served as the Pediatric Medicine chair for the Fairview Health Services, as well as an Osteopathy, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics physician for Fairview Health Services.

Dr. Hoppe is excited to join the GCGH and My Clinics family stating, “I came here because there is a strong medical need in the community. GCGH Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Reetz, stated, “We are pleased to continue expanding our communities’ access to health care. Many rural areas experience a lack of physicians, especially pediatricians. We are grateful to have the opportunity to offer pediatric services to our patients.”

Patients wishing to establish care with Dr. Hoppe at either My Linton or My Bloomfield Clinics can call the clinic for an appointment at 812-847-4481 or schedule appointments online at www.greenecountyhospital.com.

Other news from Greene County General Hospital:

Greene County General Hospital Participated in National Prescription Take Back Day on October 29:

<https://www.wbiw.com/2022/09/29/greene-county-general-hospital-is-participating-in-national-prescription-take-back-day-on-october-29th/>

Greene County General Hospital Spread Awareness during Suicide Prevention Month:

https://www.wthitv.com/news/greene-county-general-hospital-is-spreading-awareness-during-suicide-prevention-month/article_bd9b3e4e-3929-11ed-845b-abb0110ff722.html

GCGH Foundation Gifts Lifesaving Devices to GCSD- Agency Creates 'Legacy of Love' to honor Elizabeth Harris:

<https://www.gcdailyworld.com/story/2958892.html>

My Linton and My Bloomfield Clinics are rural health clinics located in Linton, Indiana and Bloomfield Indiana and are part of the GCGH family of clinics. Greene County General Hospital is a critical access hospital located in Linton, Indiana.

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Franciscan Health Rensselaer to invest \$28 million to modernize and upgrade hospital facilities

RENSSELAER, Indiana | Franciscan Health Rensselaer announces it will soon begin a \$28 million project to upgrade and modernize the hospital, setting the stage for the next generation of healthcare in Jasper County and surrounding communities.

The Franciscan Alliance Board of Trustees approved the investments, which will include modernizing the emergency department and accommodation for current average daily census of patient rooms to continue to enhance patient experiences.

"We're gratified that our board is investing in Rensselaer to provide the community with state-of-the-art facilities that match the outstanding care delivered by our compassionate staff," said Carlos Vasquez, vice president and chief operating officer at Franciscan Health Rensselaer.

"As a rural area we are fortunate to have convenient, local access to a hospital and specialized healthcare services. This update sets the stage for Jasper county to remain self-sufficient and continue to improve quality of life with convenient access of medical needs, employment opportunities and model healthy living in a rural environment," said Chad Pulver, Board Member of Franciscan Health Western Indiana.

Renovation work will also include the hospital's infrastructure and central plant equipment, some of which dates to the 1960s.

"A key component of the planning for this project is to make sure we continue all patient services as construction takes place," Vasquez said, noting that some locations may change to ensure patient and staff safety.

A groundbreaking for the project will be announced at a future date. Tonn and Blank Construction will oversee the renovation work.

About Franciscan Health

The Franciscan Alliance healthcare ministry began in Lafayette, Ind., in 1875. Today, Franciscan Alliance is one of the largest Catholic healthcare systems in the Midwest with 12 hospital campuses, more than 19,000 employees and a number of nationally recognized Centers of Health Care Excellence. Hospitals include: Franciscan Health Carmel; Franciscan Health Crawfordsville; Franciscan Health Crown Point; Franciscan Health Dyer; Franciscan Health Hammond; Franciscan Health Indianapolis; Franciscan Health Lafayette; Franciscan Health Michigan City; Franciscan Health Mooresville; Franciscan Health Munster; Franciscan Health Olympia Fields (IL); and Franciscan Health Rensselaer.

Clinic Franciscan Health Rensselaer Partners with Local Nonprofit to Address Rural Childcare Shortage



Franciscan Health Rensselaer has partnered with Appleseed Childhood Education to address the lack of quality childcare options for families in Jasper County. To help meet the crucial community need for more childcare seats, Franciscan Health is contributing with provision and maintenance of a building on its Rensselaer hospital campus to Appleseed for the creation of a new high-quality licensed early learning center set to open January 2023.

The building, formerly known as the Administrative Building, was vacated during the pandemic. Former occupants were able to work remotely or were relocated into the Hospital's main building. Even the Administrative Team moved into a space which became available when Health Information moved to remote services. The Administrative Team agrees the move has been advantageous to bring its team closer to the action and to bring the action closer to the team. All other services that remained on-site found office space in other areas throughout the Hospital.

What to do with a beautiful empty building? A vetting process determined next best options. A desperate need for childcare was identified. A partnership was formed. The Rensselaer community needs will be addressed.

Continuous negative news seems to surround the pandemic. Yet, the pandemic also provided an opportunity. Franciscan Health Rensselaer used the advances in remote work capabilities, ingenuity, and partnering with its stakeholders to bring a positive and much needed service to the local community it serves.

Per **Carlos Vasquez, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Franciscan Health Rensselaer,**

“Early childcare is essential to our community, crucial to local workforce, and Franciscan Health Rensselaer is proud to partner with Appleseed Childhood Education to make this possible.”

Adam Alson, President of Appleseed said, “Our community is fortunate to have a partner like Franciscan Health who recognizes our collective needs and is willing to engage in projects toward solving problems.”

Brienne Hooker, Executive Director of the Jasper Newton Foundation said, “This is the kind of transformative partnership that the Jasper Newton Foundation is looking to create. Franciscan Health Rensselaer stepped up in a way that honors their mission and honors our community.”



Design work on the building at 1102 East Grace Street in Rensselaer is underway. When renovations are complete, the facility will meet state licensing requirements for providing daytime childcare five days a week for over 70 children ages six weeks old through five years old. The childcare center is on track to open in January 2023.

Pictured: Kari Goodman, Director Patient Care Services, Carol Black, Manager Outpatient Services, Holly Godina, Outpatient Nurse

Our nurses are excited as they will have quality daycare where their children are loved while they are working. Our value of Respect for Life is in action and makes going to work a lot easier.

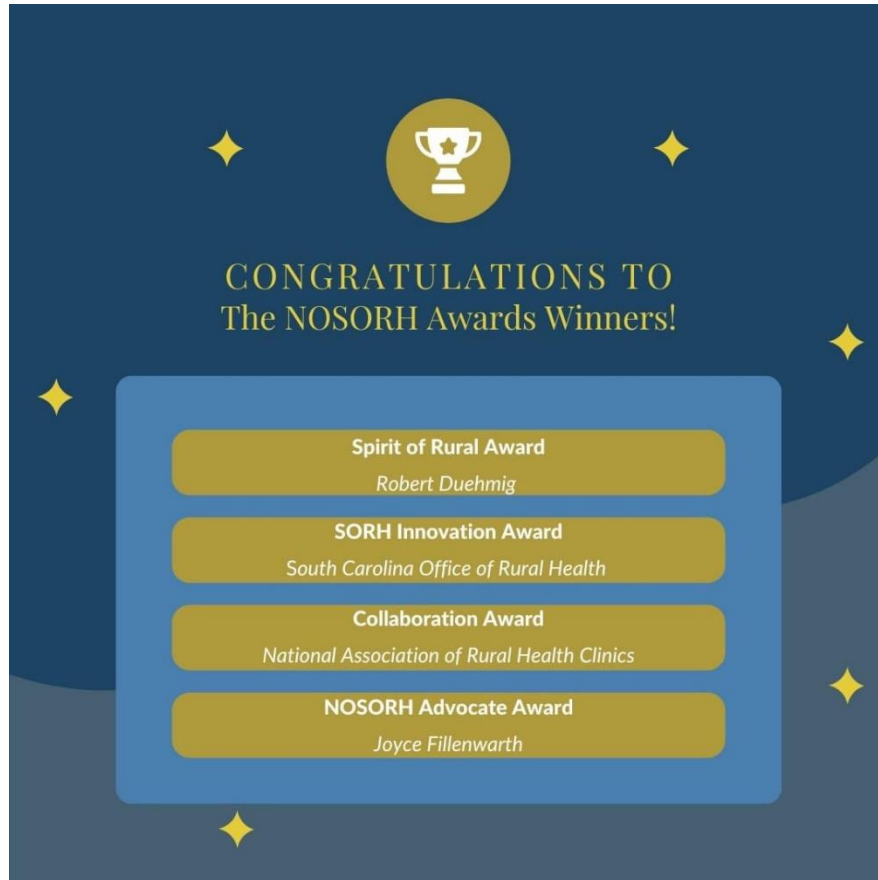
Rush Memorial Hospital's Bicentennial Health Fair

On October 8, Rush Memorial Hospital held the RMH Bicentennial Health Fair as part of the Rush County Bicentennial Celebration. The Health Fair took place at the Rush County Fairgrounds. The fair brought local community resources and RMH departments together in one location, so that Rush County residents could see all that the county has to offer in the way of health and human services. Free blood work and other screenings were offered to attendees. An "Ask the Doctor" area included specialists in Pain Management, ENT, Orthopedics, Vascular Surgery, General Surgery, Women's Care and Rheumatology.

Rush Memorial Hospital has recently obtained a mobile clinic through a grant from the US Department of Agriculture. The grant is designed to improve healthcare access for rural communities. The mobile clinic is expected to be operational in January 2023. For the first year of operation it will be stationed in Milroy, Indiana. The services it provides will fill a care gap left by the retirement of the local primary care physician. After the anticipated construction of a permanent RMH clinic in Milroy, the mobile clinic will begin providing service to other outlying communities.



Celebrating Recent Award Winners!



Pictured: Joyce Fillenwarth, Indiana State Office of Rural Health Manager, Indiana Department of Health

Congratulations, Joyce!



Critical Access Hospital Awards

CAH Hero – Jared Sterrett, Franciscan Health Rensselaer

Patient and Family Experience – Zach Beiswanger, Cameron Memorial Hospital

Outstanding Rural Health Provider – Dr. Lisa Clunie, Harrison County Hospital

Community Impact – Indiana University Health Bedford Hospital

Community Impact – Union Hospital Clinton

Outstanding CAH Leadership – Chris Butler, Adams Memorial Hospital

CAH Community Partner – Dukes Memorial Hospital & United Way

Innovation in Quality Improvement – Indiana University Health Paoli Hospital



IRHA is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2022! We are hosting so many great events this year! We hope you will join us at as many as you can!

IRHA is monitoring COVID-19 and will notify registrants if there are any changes to in-person events

In-Person Events



[Register](#)

Healthy Lives Healthy Minds: Workshop - Logansport

December 7, 2022

Healthy Lives Healthy Minds: Workshop - Seymour

January 18, 2023

Healthy Minds Healthy Lives: Workshop - Warsaw

February 15, 2023

Membership

IRHA Membership

The new IRHA Membership year began July 1. Please be sure you stay active with the IRHA. For instructions on renewing your membership [CLICK HERE](#). Student memberships are free! We welcome new members to join at any time!

[Join Now](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Carolyn Miller](#).

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Check out all IRHA events by [clicking here](#).