

A Publication of the Story Medical Foundation

Inspired

Summer
2023



It's More than Senior Care.



It's a Community.



Story Medical Breaks Ground on New Facility



An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health



Groundbreaking Marks Start of New Senior Care

During a ceremonial groundbreaking event held on May 2, Story Medical's leadership and the Board of Trustees presented their vision for the upcoming Senior Care facility situated next to the medical center, south of Highway 30 on the eastern side of Nevada. This vision portrays an inspiring depiction of a facility that will transform the landscape of Senior Care in the area.

When complete, the 59,000-square-foot Story Medical Senior Care will include 60 private rooms that are designed to provide a home-like feeling. From front porches to landscaped courtyards and more, there are an array of special touches providing a pleasurable living experience and a true sense of community.

"Senior Care has evolved significantly over the years," says Story Medical Senior Care Administrator Missy Opperman. "While the level of care provided in the more 'institutional' environments is adequate, older adults and their families expect more these days. The new Story Medical Senior Care is designed around the resident experience."

In addition to private rooms and attractive spaces that encourage community, the facility includes memory care support, family gathering spaces, a therapy room, communal dining areas and more. Its location adjacent to the medical center is an added bonus.

"Our residents typically require the services of the medical center more frequently than older adults in

an independent living or assisted living environment," Opperman says. "Having ready access to such comprehensive services greatly reduces the barriers to care and is a huge benefit for residents while providing peace of mind for families."

Story Medical has offered Senior Care in Nevada since the opening of a long-term care unit in 1969. The service was expanded in 1977 and now occupies all of the former Story County Medical Center on the southern edge of downtown.

"We have a long history of providing exceptional care to seniors in this community," says Nate Thompson, Story Medical CEO. "This project represents a significant commitment to ensure we can continue to provide these vital services locally, long into the future."

Thompson adds that the public will have an opportunity to contribute to the project through a soon-to-launch fundraising campaign.

"We have created an ambitious vision, and it is exciting to see it come together," Thompson says. "This new Senior Care facility is truly community-based, and we have heard from several people that they want to contribute to the project. We will be sharing more soon on opportunities for donors to show their support."

To learn more about our new facility or to reserve a room for a loved one, please call Story Medical Senior Care at (515) 382-7019.

For information on making a gift in support of the new Story Medical Senior Care, please contact Liz Zuercher at lzuercher@storymedical.org or (515) 382-7728. Thank you for your consideration!



Story Medical Foundation Board President Mark Cahill (center) presents scholarships to Nevada High School seniors Marii Bell (left) and Chloe Peterson.

Scholarships Support Students Prioritizing Career in Health Care

The Story County Medical Center Foundation is proud to announce that it has awarded \$2,500 in college scholarships to five outstanding high school seniors who are interested in pursuing careers in healthcare. This year marked a special milestone as it is the first time the Foundation has awarded five scholarships due to the exceptional pool of applicants.

For several years, the Foundation has invested in the healthcare workforce by supporting future leaders, doctors, medical assistants, technicians, nurses, and more through its yearly scholarship program. The significance of this investment became even more apparent during the pandemic, which highlighted the critical issue of healthcare provider shortages. As a healthcare organization, Story Medical recognizes its responsibility to encourage and educate future healthcare professionals.

Each recipient demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a post-secondary education in a health-related field and exhibited exceptional service, leadership, and achievement in their schools and communities. The Foundation is confident each will make significant contributions to the healthcare industry in the future.

This year's recipients are:

Brooklynn Nees, Gilbert High School, will be attending the

University of Iowa to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. Her aspiration is to work in clinical research after obtaining her doctorate.

Madeline Roche, Gilbert High School, will be attending the University of Northern Iowa to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication disorders with an endorsement in education. She plans to continue her education by obtaining a Master of Arts Degree in speech-language pathology.

Chloe Peterson, Nevada High School, has been accepted into Cape Fear Community College in North Carolina, where she will be enrolled in their Sonography-Radiologic Technology Program.

Marii Bell, Nevada High School, will be attending Des Moines Area Community College to obtain her Physical Therapy Associates Degree. She plans to further her education and acquire a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Elleah Arthur, Roland Story High School, will be attending Des Moines Area Community College and enrolling in their nursing program.

The Story County Medical Center Foundation congratulates these deserving recipients and wishes them success in their academic and professional pursuits. Their passion for healthcare and making a difference will certainly contribute to a brighter future in the field.

Around Story Medical



Trixie Barger, RN, (third from left) is pictured receiving the DAISY Award from Vice President of Patient Care MaryJane Hunt (second from left) with former winners Josh Roberts, RN (left), and Travis Clark, RN (right).

Barger Earns Annual Award

Trixie Barger, RN, Acute, was named Story County Medical Center's DAISY Award honoree on May 8. A total of 18 nurses received a nomination this year.

Trixie has served as an RN at Story Medical since 2019. Her nomination came from a patient who was struggling emotionally.

Other nominees were Amanda Allan, Christina Goodlaxson, Tisha Zink, Jeff Helbing, Amy Clark, Cathy Haley, Sarah Jiles, Elaine Struthers, Josh Roberts, Hannah Kalous, Shanna Lynch, Lori Beckman, Jamie Nelson, Elisa Bloemker, Jami Trickey, Ann Squier and Patience Bryant. All nominations were filled with gratitude for the compassionate care these nurses provide. Story County Medical Center has presented the award since 2021.

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune SYstem) Award is an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day.

The award is coordinated at the national level by the DAISY Foundation, which was established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes after he died from complications of the auto-immune disease ITP in 1999. When he died, they felt compelled to say "thank you" to nurses in a very public way, which led to the creation of the foundation and the award. To learn more, visit DAISYFoundation.org.

At Story Medical, the Purdue Global School of Nursing financially underwrites the hospital's participation in the DAISY Award program. Nominations for the DAISY Award can be made throughout the year. Learn more at www.storymedical.org/DAISY.

To learn more about supporting Story Medical Foundation scholarships, call Liz Zuercher at (515) 382-7728.

640 S. 19th Street
Nevada, IA 50201

IN THIS ISSUE

NEW SENIOR CARE FACILITY

Groundbreaking marks the start of transformational project designed to serve older adults.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

A record amount of support is delivered to high school grads pursuing a career in healthcare.

DAISY AWARD

Trixie Barger, RN, recognized for exceptional care with annual award.

Story Medical Foundation Welcomes Liz Zuercher

In February, Liz Zuercher joined Story County Medical Center as the new Foundation Coordinator and Grant Writer. With more than 25 years of experience in non-profit management, fundraising, grantsmanship, and operational leadership, Liz brings a wealth of expertise to her new role.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Liz served as the Executive Director of the Story County Community Foundation, where she successfully managed a portfolio of 180 donor and agency funds totaling \$30 million dollars. Her proven track record in managing and growing funds will greatly benefit the foundation's efforts.

Liz has also worked as a consultant, providing professional services and conducting workshops focused on non-profit management, grantsmanship, operational management, human resources, leadership development, and project management.

Additionally, Liz has a strong background in grant development and administration, having worked at Iowa State University as a Director of the Grants Hub in the Office of the Vice President for Research and in the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration.



Liz has more than ten years of experience in hospital operations and management, including directing a hospital foundation. This experience gives her valuable insights into the healthcare industry and the unique challenges faced by hospitals and foundations.

Liz holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Iowa State University and has obtained certifications as a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Project Manager, and various organizational leadership certifications.

"I am excited to work in partnership with the Foundation Board to meet the needs of the hospital and the community," Liz says. "I am drawn to Story Medical by the organizational commitment to ensuring access to equitable

healthcare for patients. This is a true community hospital living its mission and values and I am excited to work closely with the hospital and foundation leaders as well as the community to direct the Foundation into its next chapter of philanthropy and fundraising priorities."

For information on making a gift to support Story Medical, please contact Liz by email at lzuercher@storymedical.org or call (515) 382-7728.