

A Publication of the Story Medical Foundation

# Inspired

Summer  
2024

## Delivering on Our Mission



**StoryCounty**  
**Medical**  
CENTER 

An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health



Rachel Frederick, PA-C (left) and Audra Poterucha, DO, of Story Medical Clinic—Nevada.

## Story Medical Clinics Deliver Complete Care

Family medicine providers care for every member of the family – from babies to toddlers and children, right through adults. These providers are keyed into a family's overall health situation and have a full understanding of a patient's medical history, family history and health issues.

Like their pediatric counterparts, family medicine providers recognize that illness doesn't always strike during the day. Family medicine offices accommodate patients' schedules and often provide same-day appointments.

"Over time, the family physician can ensure uninterrupted care," says Dr. Audra Poterucha of Story Medical's Nevada Clinic. "The nice thing is, as children advance through developmental milestones, they are cared for by a physician they are familiar with. And when they turn 18, they won't age out of pediatric care. They can continue to be seen by a family provider."

For younger patients, Story Medical's family medicine providers have specific pediatric training focused on general primary care for newborns and children. In addition to three physicians, Story Medical Clinic offers access to care provided by four Physician Assistants.

"Being in a smaller town like Nevada allows us to get to know our patients very well," says Rachel Frederick, PA-C, of the Nevada Clinic. Frederick is a Certified Clinical Lactationist with a special interest in serving new moms and babies. "As a young mother myself, I know how important it is to be flexible and patient-centered. That is the type of practice we offer here."



On the cover, left to right, are Story Medical's Valerie Tendall, Anna Riley and Kevin Lo. Above, Tendall and Riley prepare to distribute meals.

# Delivering on Our Healthcare Mission

In an ongoing effort to ensure that every child in Story County has access to nutritious meals, Story Medical Center has teamed up with the USDA, Iowa Department of Education, United Way of Story County, Food at First, and rural school districts to provide summer meals for kids and teens.

On June 4, children and teens aged 18 and under began receiving free grab-and-go meals in the Collins Maxwell School District.

Given the significant level of food insecurity in our community, exacerbated by the discontinuation of the Summer EBT program, there's an even greater sense of urgency to bridge these gaps.

In response, Story Medical Center is stepping in to address these needs within the Collins Maxwell area by offering weekly grab-and-go meals, with deliveries every Tuesday and Friday.

Dr. Audra Poterucha, D.O.,

a Nevada Clinic physician, emphasizes the medical center's commitment to comprehensive healthcare.

"At Story Medical Center, we are not only dedicated to quality health care, but to ensuring that children have access to nutritious food," Dr. Poterucha says. "We know that consistent meals are important for a child's mental and physical well-being and are a key social determinant of successful health. Our duty as a community hospital is to care for all our community members, regardless of their circumstances."

Story Medical CEO, Nate Thompson, adds that the medical center is proud to work with partners to make nutritious meals available.

"It's about living out our healthcare mission," he continues, "by caring for our patients, neighbors, friends, family and our community as a whole."

Schedule in Nevada at (515) 382-5413  
or in Maxwell at (515) 387-8815.  
Learn more at [storymedical.org/clinics](http://storymedical.org/clinics).

For more information about the Grab-and-Go Summer Meals, visit [www.storymedical.org/grabandgo](http://www.storymedical.org/grabandgo).



In the left photo is Jaclyn Gessner of Roland-Story. In the right photo (left to right) are Foundation Board Vice President Tricia Crain, Lynze Geerdes and Olivia Axmear.

## Students Earn Scholarships

The Story County Medical Center Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of its 2024 scholarships, awarding a total of \$3,000 to three exceptional high school seniors committed to pursuing careers in healthcare. This year marks a milestone for the Foundation, with a record number of outstanding applicants and, for the first time, the awarding of three \$1,000 scholarships.

The Foundation, known for its longstanding dedication to investing in the future of the healthcare workforce, continues to support aspiring leaders, doctors, medical assistants, technicians, and nurses through its annual scholarship program. Recognizing its responsibility as a healthcare organization, the Story County Medical Center aims to foster and educate future healthcare professionals.

Each scholarship recipient has demonstrated a strong commitment to pursuing post-secondary education in a health-related field and has shown exceptional service, leadership, and achievement both in their schools and communities. The Foundation is confident that

these individuals will make significant contributions to the healthcare industry in the future.

The recipients of this year's scholarships are:

- **Lynze Geerdes**, Nevada High School, who will attend Iowa State University to major in Dietetics.
- **Olivia Axmear**, Nevada High School, who plans to attend the University of Dubuque to major in Human Health Science while also playing golf for the university.
- **Jaclyn Gessner**, Roland-Story High School, who will attend the University of Iowa to study Human Physiology. Jaclyn plans to continue her education after earning her bachelor's degree to obtain a master's degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

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 commitment to making a difference will undoubtedly contribute to a brighter future in the field.

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



A photo of the new Story Medical Senior Care as it nears completion adjacent to the medical center.

## Still Time to Support Senior Care

As we prepare to open the new Story Medical Senior Care in late 2024, there are still opportunities for you to contribute to this important project. Recognizing the need for a "home-like" environment that optimizes healing, Story County Medical Center is committed to providing high-quality, compassionate long-term care. Our current facility is outdated and does not meet the needs of our senior residents.

The new 59,000-square-foot facility on our south campus will offer 60 spacious, private rooms, memory care support, inviting porch entries, family gathering spaces, enclosed gardens, and a therapy room. Your support can help us create a nurturing and efficient environment that truly feels like home.

Join us in supporting the future of senior care in our community. Together, we can ensure that our aging population receives the care and comfort they deserve.

To learn more about the project and giving opportunities, visit [storymedical.org/senior](https://storymedical.org/senior).

To make a gift, call Liz Zuercher at (515) 382-7728.

# Exceptional Caregivers Recognized

During National Nurses Week in May, Tina Hornung, RN, was honored with the prestigious DAISY Award, an international recognition program that celebrates the exceptional care provided by nurses every day.

The DAISY Award at Story Medical is presented annually in partnership with Purdue University Global. Previous DAISY Award winners include Trixie Barger, RN; Travis Clark, RN; and Josh Roberts, RN. In nominating her for the award, Tina's colleagues and patients noted her unwavering dedication and compassionate approach to nursing.

Reflecting on her journey into healthcare, Tina says, "I initially got into nursing on a whim, but it turned out to be the most fulfilling decision of my life. I love interacting with people and making a positive impact in their lives, even during challenging times."

Tina is the Infection Control/Employee Health Nurse at Story Medical, where she plays a pivotal role in maintaining patient safety and staff well-being. Her passion for patient-centered care aligns with Story Medical's mission to deliver the Best Experience Every Time with an emphasis on treating patients holistically, focusing on both physical and emotional well-being.

"What I love most about Story Medical is the sense of community and teamwork," Tina says. "Everyone here is dedicated to making a difference for our patients and our community. It truly feels like being part of a welcoming and impactful team."

"Congratulations to Tina on receiving this well-deserved honor," says MaryJane Hunt, Vice President of Patient Care at Story Medical. "We are proud to have such dedicated professionals like Tina who embody the spirit of compassionate care."



In addition to the DAISY Award, Story Medical offered recognition to several nurses and other care providers for exceptional service at the ceremony. Those honored included:

- **Outstanding Leader:** Mandy Schiefert, RN
- **Partner of Nursing:** Jerrod McCormick, CRT
- **Nurse Proud (Strength):** Christina Goodlaxson, RN
- **Nurse Proud (Excellence):** Andrew Lucchesi, RN
- **Nurse Proud (Compassion):** Trixie Barger, RN
- **Nurse Proud (Teamwork):** Ann Squier, RN

"It is important for us to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions of our care providers," says MaryJane Hunt, Vice President of Patient Care at Story Medical. "Recognizing exceptional caregivers not only highlights their dedication but also inspires a culture of excellence throughout our medical center."