



# HEALTH MATTERS

## ELMORE MEDICAL CENTER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### ***HOSPITAL BOARD ADVANCES AFFILIATION PROCESS***

At the December 1 meeting, Elmore Medical Center (EMC) Board of Trustees voted to continue the process which could lead to an affiliation or integration of EMC with the St. Luke's Health System. A letter has been sent to St. Luke's extending an invitation to discuss the possibility of an increased level of affiliation or integration between the two organizations.

Elmore Medical Center's Board Trustees earnestly believe the development of a strategic affiliation between our organizations will provide improved patient care and stability to health care in our region.

The Board's next steps are in the early stage of Phase III preparation in anticipation of continuing the affiliation process. Phase III will progress when an official reply from St. Luke's regarding the EMC Board's invitation to explore a possible affiliation is received. An official reply is expected after a January 25 St. Luke's Health System Board meeting.

The major objectives of the affiliation process are:

- I. Needs Determination
- II. Criteria for Evaluation and Selection of Affiliating Organization
- III. Joint Plan Development
- IV. Plan Implementation

An affiliation plan that goes beyond individual operational goals of either EMC or St. Luke's to include shared strategic goals to meet local health care needs closer to patients' homes should bring greater value to both EMC and to St. Luke's.

A major consideration for EMC during plan development would be the manner in which EMC staff would be recognized and rewarded for their

role in the continued improvement in health care at EMC if an affiliation plan should be implemented. A discussion of referral expectations based on a patient's needs as determined by the patient and their physician would also be an important part of Phase III. The EMC Board and management are aware that some medical staff members are concerned that affiliation may not improve or may interfere with care they provide to their patients.

A successful affiliation plan should support and expand appropriate rural primary care services. This may and should result in instances of two way referral and not just referral from the smallest to the largest affiliate or referral of the patients most beneficial to one affiliate's conservation of resources. For this to occur, trust is critical not only at the Board or system level but also at the level of those directly involved with patient care.

Developing a plan that achieves the right balance of physician autonomy with strategic and community needs for the delivery of health care will be a huge responsibility. The plan will involve additional collaboration between physicians, management and the community to support the ability of local physicians to better meet community needs.

As has been stated before during Phase I and Phase II discussions, EMC would also want to be assured that should the implementation of an affiliation plan not meet EMC criteria, EMC would be able to return to a pre-affiliation status.

If you would like more information or to make a comment about EMC's Board process to determine the benefits of developing an affiliation with St. Luke's, please contact Lloyd Knight, the Board's Community Process Director at 587 8401, extension 338, or at [lloydlknight@msn.com](mailto:lloydlknight@msn.com).

### ***EMC First Baby of the New Year***

The honor of being the first baby born at Elmore Medical Center in 2011 belongs to Manuel Donald Gonzales IV, born at 8:56 PM on Wednesday, January 5, to Michelle and Manuel Gonzales III.

The Gonzales family live in Owyhee, NV where Michelle works as a physician. Because there are no hospitals in Duck Valley that provide OB services the Gonzales came to Elmore to have their baby delivered by Dr. Timothy Bringer.

The family was presented with a gift basket donated by Elmore Medical Center staff and community members.



## Community Education

Elmore Medical Center (EMC) Education Department offers a variety of health care education programs to the public as a community service.

### Early Pregnancy Class

This class covers what to expect during pregnancy for first time mothers. This class is free for expectant mothers planning to deliver their baby at Elmore Medical Center. \$15 for all others.

### Prepared Child Birth Class

This is a four part class held on Tuesday and Thursday for two weeks. The class is free for expectant mothers planning to deliver their baby at Elmore Medical Center, \$25 for all others. New classes start every other month, call for class schedule.

### Breast Feeding Class/ Support Group

Expectant parents, breast feeding mothers and their babies are welcome to this free evening class providing breast feeding information and support provided by a certified Lactation Counselor. Scheduled every other month.

For mothers delivering at EMC, a consultation with a certified Lactation Counselor is arranged following hospital discharge.

### First Aid

Scheduled every other month. The fee for class is \$20, includes manual and supplies.

### Heartsaver CPR

Offered every other month, this course is designed to teach CPR for adults and pediatrics, foreign body airway obstruction interventions and automated external defibrillator operation. This course is useful for those people expected to respond to workplace emergencies. \$40 class fee includes manual and supplies.

Register and prepay for all classes at the hospital front desk. Unless otherwise noted, all classes are held in the EMC Conference Room

Elmore Medical Center  
895 North 6th East  
PO Box 1270  
Mountain Home, Idaho

For more information contact EMC Education Department  
587-8401 ext 146

## AUXILIARY DONATES BIG SCREEN TO LTCU

Watching movies in the Long Term Care Unit day room is a whole new experience. The Elmore Medical Center Auxiliary has donated a new Big Screen TV and Speaker system to replace the aging unit that has been in use for more than 10 years.

The new entertainment system is state of the art, providing much better picture quality to make it easier for visually impaired residents increased enjoyment. The new, surround sound speakers direct the sound throughout the room so the volume can be lower while still allowing everyone to hear well.

"We are so thankful to the Auxiliary for providing the new entertainment system. More of our residents are participating in day room activities since it was installed." stated activities coordinator, Eric Morin. "The family members have enjoyed it as well."

The EMC Auxiliary holds fund raisers at the hospital all year, using the proceeds to purchase needed items at the hospital and LTCU.

The Auxiliary meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM in the EMC Conference room (September-May). New members are always welcome.

## NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Three Elmore Medical Center nurses were honored at the March of Dimes



2010 Idaho Nursing Excellence Awards. Registered Nurses, Anne Donatelli, Lara Mott and Gioia (Jo) Tracy were among the 48 nurse honorees, representing 20 organizations from throughout Idaho. The honorees were selected because they are role models for the nursing profession, setting high standards of excellence and striving to provide the best possible patient care.

Anne Donatelli, RN entered rural nursing in 1972. She received special recognition for her distinguished 39 year nursing career and as an outstanding nurse educator. An experienced nurse, Anne is always willing to teach, answer questions and assist where needed. As a labor and delivery nurse she looks for ways to improve patient care and is actively involved in implementing OB training.

Charge Nurse, Lara Mott, RN was honored as a nurse leader for her accomplishments at EMC working in the emergency department, outpatient services department and on the labor and delivery unit. Lara has demonstrated a natural ability as a nurse leader and has mastered a wide range of nursing skills that are required in a rural health care setting. In addition to her regular duties she is active within her church community and volunteers at local health fairs.

Our third honoree, Gioia (Jo) Tracy, RN, spent 25 years of her nursing career in rural health care. Jo is responsible for the Outpatient Services Department at EMC. Her nursing expertise and dedication to providing excellent patient care is obvious to anyone she has cared for. Jo is a compassionate listener and strong patient advocate. She believes that caring for patients is not just about the treatments they receive but caring for the whole person, seeing to their comfort and helping them cope with their health challenges.

"These three nurses are excellent role models and great assets to our nursing staff" commented LouAnn Watson, Acute Care Services Manager. "Rural nurses must be knowledgeable in many nursing areas and be flexible enough to help out where ever they are needed."

## TALKING TO TRUSTEES



Trustee, Ann Wilson grew up in Hammett, Idaho. She represents the third generation to operate the family farming and ranching business.

Ann attended schools in New York and Colorado and worked in fashion retailing in San Francisco before returning to Idaho in 1980. She is an active member of the agricultural community and brings a rural perspective to the hospital board. Ann currently serves on the Planning & Building (P&B) Committee which has a key role as the originating point for the strategic planning process. P&B has oversight for Medical Staff development, identifying and prioritization services to provide

at EMC, community relations development and facility and equipment master planning. Both the Elmore Medical Center Foundation and Auxiliary report to this committee as well.

"Not having a medical background I am impressed with the complexities of health care and the professionalism of the people in this medical center" stated Wilson when asked what is the most impressive thing she has learned as a Trustee.

When asked why she serves as a Trustee Ann remarked "The community has been very generous and kind to my family for many years. The hospital has taken care of my family and our employees when we have needed medical attention. EMC has provided care and re-assurance to us."

## CRUSER NAMED FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Elmore Medical Center Foundation (EMCF) Board has named Connie Cruser as President. Cruser replaces Larry Ashcraft who has served as President since the Foundation began in 2001.

"Larry has been a wonderful Foundation leader and we are extremely grateful for his guidance and the accomplishments the Foundation has achieved under his direction" stated Executive Director, Doreen Krabbenhoft.

"We are fortunate to have another talented community member to serve as President. Connie Cruser is a charter member of the

EMCF Board and has excellent leadership experience. She has a unique understanding of our community health care needs."

The 2011 officers include Mark Wetherell-Vice President; Jeanna Still-Treasurer and Debra Brito-Secretary. Additional board members are: Nancie Brining, Patrick Cruser, Dr. Terry Hall, Armand Hebert, Kimberly Heinen, Anna Hissong, and Henry Toy. EMC Administrator, Greg Maurer serves as an ex officio member of the board.

The EMC Foundation has provided funding to purchase a van for transporting LTCU residents, helped fund the helipad construction, purchased equipment including an infant warmer, digital C-arm portable x-ray machine, bone density scanner, defibrillator, ventilator, and many more items.

A nursing scholarship program was started to help provide financial support to EMC staff pursuing their nursing education. In 2010, the High School Health Care Scholarship started for graduating seniors who intend to pursue a health care career. EMCF has created an Endowment Fund which will provide future funding to ensure quality local health care continues to be available.

EMCF annual fund-raising events including the Annual Golf Classic & Silent Auction held on the first Saturday in August and the Wine & Music event, held in May.

All EMCF donations are tax deductible. For more information regarding the EMC Foundation contact Doreen Krabbenhoft at 580-2673 or e-mail [krabbend@slhs.org](mailto:krabbend@slhs.org).



## Volunteer Opportunities

The ER Angels Program is recruiting additional volunteers. ER Angels serve as a communication liaison between the families of Emergency Department patients and the ER staff. They serve as a resource for visitors in the hospital to find their way around. Shifts are available for weekday evenings from 5-9 PM and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

EMC Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Jo Caranto works with the volunteers to provide program specific training.

"Our patients and their family members appreciate having a volunteer available to assist them. Being at the hospital can be a concerning time and having a caring volunteer who is familiar with the surroundings makes it a less stressful experience." stated Caranto. "I encourage anyone who is interested in the program to contact me."

Additional volunteer opportunities are available for youth volunteers and adults in the hospital, Trinity Mountain Medical Clinic and Long Term Care Unit.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Elmore Medical Center contact Mary Jo Caranto at 587-8401 ext 187

## Living Well In Idaho

If a chronic health issue is keeping you from living your life well, a free self-management workshop titled Living Well in Idaho is available through the EMC Center for Community Health.

The 6-week workshop has a support group format and teaches participants how to take control of their lives by actively managing their health, covering topics such as physical activity, stress relief, nutrition, sleep and fatigue, and more.

For information on class schedules or to arrange for a class at your church or community group contact Brad Wiersma at 587-8401 ext 261 or e-mail [wiersmab@slhs.org](mailto:wiersmab@slhs.org)

**Save the Date**  
**Volunteer Appreciation**  
**Luncheon**  
**April 15, 2011**



Elmore  
**MEDICAL**  
C E N T E R

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895 North 6th East  
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

[www.elmoremedicalcenter.org](http://www.elmoremedicalcenter.org)

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## ***CONNOLLY JOINS TMMC MEDICAL STAFF***

Dr. Eve Connolly, has joined the medical staff at Trinity Mountain Medical Center. Board certified in Family Medicine, Dr. Connolly is available to see patients in the clinic three days per week.

Dr. Connolly received her Bachelor degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She received her Doctor of Medicine from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. Dr. Connolly completed her Family Practice Residency with the US Air Force at Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

Originally from Texas, Dr. Connolly was raised in a military family. She joined the Air Force in 1996 and served seven years as a USAF Family Physician.

Dr. Connolly moved to Mountain Home Air Force Base in July, 2009. She is married to Col. Kevin Connolly, the 366 Medical Group Commander at Mountain Home Air Force Base. The Connolly family lives on base with their four daughters.

Dr. Connolly served as a volunteer M.D. at the 366 MDG, Family Practice Clinic on base this past summer. She has been actively involved in the Officer Spouses Group on base

and as a volunteer for the Key Spouse Air Force Program for Deployed Families.

"Our family is really enjoying our time at Mountain Home. The community here is amazing and we're astounded at the beauty of Idaho," commented Dr. Connolly. She went on to say, "I am getting settled and used to my new clinic routine. It's a great opportunity for me to use my training to treat members of our Mountain Home community."

Dr. Connolly is accepting new patients including Medicare patients.

Appointments can be made by calling the Trinity Mountain Medical Clinic at 587-9703.

Trinity Mountain Medical Clinic is located at 465 N. McKenna Drive.

