

The Health News

Keeping you informed of the latest developments, advancements, and events at BIRHC

Issue No. 16

www.BIRuralHealth.org

Summer 2020

Extraordinary Times/Extraordinary Measures

Dear Friends: The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge for all types of healthcare facilities including our Island's Rural Health Center. Fortunately, healthcare professionals have been up to the challenge. Here on Beaver Island the tireless efforts, expertise and professionalism of our physicians, nurse practitioners and every member of our Rural Health Center team have worked hard to keep the Beaver Island community safe.

While the Health Center team has gone above and beyond to do their part, we are grateful to our community for doing their part: Staying at home, practicing good hygiene, social dis-

tancing, wearing face masks, and, when necessary, self-quarantining after trips to the mainland. And we are very appreciative to those of you who have sent donations to help sustain our extraordinary efforts to protect our community from the COVID-19 virus.

The Rural Health has been caring for the Beaver Island community since 1953 and will continue to do so. Additionally, we must acknowledge the leadership of Tammy Radionoff, our new Clinic Managing Director. Because of her knowledge, leadership, and planning skills, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center quickly became well prepared to care for our community. Ms. Radionoff worked closely

with area and Island community leaders, BI Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the members of the Beaver Island Emergency Services Authority to plan, educate, train and support decisions to safeguard island residents, as well as visitors.

From all of us on the Health Center Board, THANK YOU for everything everyone has done – and continues to do – provide the best healthcare to our community while taking extraordinary safety measures to do so.

Don Spencer, President
Beaver Island Rural Health Center
Board of Directors

Community, Care, and the Coronavirus

In this issue of our BIRHC Newsletter, and my first as the Center's new Managing Director, I'd like to take the opportunity to emphasize the word community. These are unprecedented times and I'm inspired by the sense of community exhibited by Beaver Islanders.

First, I would like to express my sincere pride in our Health Center's medical team for their efforts. These medical professionals have truly answered the call to care for our community as the coronavirus pandemic has evolved. Every member of the Health Center team has stepped up to serve on the front lines of our COVID-19 response. I applaud and thank them for their dedication and professionalism. Second, I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their unflinching effort to provide support, guid-

ance, and resources as we have worked to confront the threat to our Island communities. Lastly, I wish to recognize the outpouring of support the Beaver Island community has shown for our medical team. The support has been inspiring. Whether offering financial support, providing comforting treats for Center personnel, making public statements of support, or just staying home to protect our communities — we are incredibly grateful for everyone pulling together during this unique health crisis.

As part of our response to the virus we have strengthened our safety measures, such as separate care areas, new cleaning procedures and protective equipment guidelines to align with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And finally, our Health Center team has



adopted an additional precaution to help keep you safe, specifically all in-person visits to the Health Center must be arranged in advance by calling 448-2275.

Thank you for your understanding and for caring for us too.

Sincerely, Tammy Radionoff
BIRHC Managing Director

Thank You Donna Kubic for 17 Years of Service

At the end of November, after 17 years of dedicated service to BIRHC Donna Kubic retired as its Managing Director. During those 17 years Donna oversaw a complete overhaul of business operations and an amazing expansion of specialist services (e.g. chiropractor, free eye doctor, physical therapy, dermatologist, psychologist, VA services) which greatly benefitted the entire Beaver Inland Community. On top of her administrative duties, Donna also served as a nurse assistant to the providers, an EMT, hospice nurse and finally as a social worker, helping needy patients in applying for assistance. (When that failed Donna used the Good Samaritan Fund which she founded to make sure every patient got what they needed.) Donna always made sure the facility operated within its tight budget. Her efforts to conserve Health Center funds went as far as foregoing her own Board approved raises and vacation pay. Donna's example inspired many others to volunteer their services or provide them at reduced rates. All this could not have been accomplished without Donna's relentless work ethic. During her 17 years Donna



na took less than a handful of sick days. She spent long hours in the clinic and could be found there on weekends and late evenings offering an extra set of hands in an emergency, working on administrative duties she was not able complete during clinic hours, or putting a newsletter or fund raiser together. She rarely took a vacation. In early December Donna's family and co-coworkers held a private party to celebrate her accomplishments. Off Island guests included James Haveman, former Director of the

Michigan Department of Community Health, Mary Robinson, Regional Nursing Co-coordinator at Grand Valley's Kirkhof School of Nursing, Jeff and Nancy Traudt, donors of the Health Center property and Dr. John Martin who traveled from Florida. 18 heartfelt tributes were read or delivered in person, including one from the State of Michigan. The common threads of praise were Donna's outstanding work ethic, compassion, frugality with Health Center funds and commitment to always putting the patient's best interests first.



Heartfelt Tribute to Donna

I first got to know Donna 18 years ago in December of 2001. Our family had just brought my mother, who had terminal cancer, back to her home here on the Island to spend her last four months.

Since Donna was not yet director of the Health Center there were no Hospice services available to aid me and my family, none of whom had any experience in end of life care.

Needless to say we were very nervous about what lay ahead. At the time Donna was worked at the school but unbeknownst to me had also signed up as a visiting nurse with the health department. So it was a surprise when she appeared at my mom's door. She was her usual quiet, unobtrusive self. Mom was delighted to have her as a visitor and we had a friendly chat that took our minds off our worries. On her way out Donna let me know she would be back and I could call her if I needed advice. I can't tell you Donna, what a comfort that was to me.

When my mother passed away in April of 2002, I threw myself into my duties as a BIRHC Board member. In 2003 both Donna and I found ourselves thrust into unexpected leadership roles: I was elected as president of the board and Donna was chosen as managing director of the HC by our consultant Arlene Brennan. As we worked together in our new positions we soon found we had some things in common....We were about the same age. Both of us were quiet people who disliked the limelight; but both of us

also had a hidden adventurous side that once led us to jump out of an airplane together and finally, both of us might have seemed unlikely choices for leaders.

Many challenges lay ahead. But I soon learned that all I had to do was support Donna as she was a relentless worker and problem solver who would prove extremely capable of



tackling the many dilemmas facing the HC at the time and in the years that followed. The one thing I could never get Donna to do was to promote her own accomplishments, even in her reports to the board. So I decided to try to promote them for her and do what I could to make her job easier.

Like many other board members I found it impossible to watch someone work that hard to do good without wanting to help.

I won't repeat what others have said about Donna's many accomplishments. But I would add that her efforts to conserve Center funds went as far as forgoing her own approved pay raises, vacation and sick pay.

From her coworkers I also learned that on top of her director's duties Donna often acted as a social worker helping the needy apply for assistance to pay for their care or when that failed, paying for the care through the Good Samaritan fund she founded with her and Sue Solle's hospice paychecks. I am sure that if we could find every person Donna has helped privately over the years they would fill this room.

To end I want to go back to the circumstances of my first meeting with Donna. It is funny the things that stick in your mind at times like that.

The day before my mother died Donna came to visit her for the last time. She knelt down in front of Mom and just said hello. My mom looked up into Donna's eyes...reached out and

touched her face.... and said...."you are so beautiful!"

I want you to know Donna that, even though 18 years have gone by and you are almost as old as I am, you are still beautiful.... inside and out. ." What makes you beautiful is your kind heart.

I believe the same compassion and desire to help that my mother saw in your eyes drove you to work tirelessly for 17 years to improve the Health Center.

You have made more of a difference than you realize.

Connie Wojan



Appointments/ Transitions

Board of Directors: Paul Welke replaced long standing Board member Larry Kubic as the Peaine Township Representative to the BIRHC Board of Directors. The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Board member Maura Turner and Frank D'Andraia was elected to a three-year

term on the Board of Directors as of January, 2020.

BIRHC Team: The Board expressed grateful thanks to Mary Cook, who assisted the Clinic for twenty years, successfully overseeing the Center's financial accounts. Carol Nelson was welcomed as Radiologic Technologist and Kaylyn Jones now provides administrative support for the Center's

medical team. The Board announced the selection of Kammermann & Bascom, P.C. of Charlevoix as the BIRHC's accountants. Joan Matejovsky, FNP-C tended her resignation effective April 2020 and Brandon Vincent, FNP-C will leave the Medical Team effective August, 2020. Kelly Becker, FNP-C has accepted a position at the Health Center beginning this fall.

Announcements



Wellness Gardeners and Their Volunteers: The Wellness Gardeners successfully concluded a plant sale in June, the proceeds are applied to the maintenance of the Wellness Garden,

which is located on the grounds of the Health Center. The garden is solely funded by the efforts of the Wellness Gardeners and their volunteers.

COVID-19 Testing: As of mid August the Health Center had tested 154 individuals for the Covid-19 virus and 152 of these patients tested negative, two tested positive.

New Equipment/New Service: This Spring the BIRHC Board of Directors authorized the Center to replace outdated computers and phone equipment. The new computers have been installed and are now operational.

This summer the Center began installation of new phone equipment. Once all the new electronics are in place the Center will be able to electronically transmit health records. EHRs or electronic health records are real-time, patient-centered records that make information available instantly and securely to authorized users such as laboratories, specialists, medical imaging facilities, pharmacies, emergency facilities, and school and workplace clinics - so they contain information from all clinicians involved in a patient's care.

Refreshed Webpages/New Information: The Center is now in the process of updating its website. The goal is to expand content and improve ease of use. All the changes are expected to be in place by October.

IN APPRECIATION OF SO MANY

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center would like to thank all who have responded to our Annual Appeals, supported our Endowment and Special Projects funds, and honored or memorialized loved ones by giving to the BIRHC. Without the community's always generous support, we could not fulfill our mission to provide--without regard for ability to pay--high quality health care to all who live on or visit Beaver Island.

IN MEMORY OF:

John and Laurene Adams, Norman and Peggy Banghart, Rex Dowling, Jack Gallagher, Barb Gerstler, Donal Holzhauer, Barbara Nackerman Huston, Richard Kohls, Evaden "Eve" Mason, Ray Matela, Joan Wallace Merkle, H. Gary Morse, Florence Neumann, and Harold Smith.

IN HONOR OF:

Donna Kubic, Pam Moxham, Cindy Ricksgers, Don Spencer, BIRHC Staff, and Walter Wojan.

BIRHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Spencer, President
Paul Welke, Vice President
Frank D'Andraia, Secretary
Bill Johnson, Treasurer
Diane McDonough, Director
Cody Randall, Director
Jim Wojan, Director

Explore (Tax Deductible) Giving Options

Ways to Give

- ◆ Give by AmazonSmile
- ◆ Give by Mail
- ◆ Give Online (Effective 10/2020)
- ◆ Give by Phone (please have your credit card ready)
- ◆ Give Through Charlevoix County Community Foundation (c3f)

Giving Options

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the Beaver Island Rural Health Center every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the BIRHC. As of May, 2020, the BIRHC has received more than \$519.33 in donations from AmazonSmile.

Information on how to instruct AmazonSmile to donate to the BIRHC may be found at: smile.amazon.com

Endowment Gifts: The BIRHC Endowment provides the Rural Health Center with long-term financial resources. The Endowment Fund is made up of donor designated gifts that keep giving because the Endowment generates annual income for the Rural Health Center. Endowment funds are invested and each year a portion of the Endowment Fund's income is used for a Rural Health Center program or service, while the rest of the return is re-invested to preserve and grow. Gifts to the BIRHC Endowment Fund valued at \$10,000 or more are recognized in several special ways including membership in the Legacy Tree Society. For more information about the BIRHC Endowment Fund, please contact Charlevoix County Community Foundation (c3f) and let them know you wish to contribute to the Rural Health Center Endowment. The c3f

staff will be happy to walk you through the process. The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is located at 301 Water Street, PO Box 718, East Jordan, MI 49727 (231). Phone 231-536-2440 or Email: info@c3f.org.

Good Samaritan Fund: Helping Island patients who may be experiencing financial challenges that prevent them from receiving medical care and treatment is the focus of the Good Samaritan Fund. Coverage includes individuals and families who are unable to cover all their medical expenses due to financial hardships, as well as seniors who have outlived their financial resources. For these patients a form of additional assistance would make a significant difference to their lives, contributing to their dignity, recovery and well-being. For more information about the Good Samaritan Fund, please contact BIRHC @ 231-448-2275 or simply place a check in the mail (no minimums) payable to the BIRHC, PO Box 146, Beaver Island, MI 49782. Please write "Samaritan Fund" in the check memo line.

Memorial and Tribute Gifts:

Making a gift in honor of, or in memory of, a special family member, caregiver, friend or neighbor is a wonderful way to pay tribute to them. When these gifts are made, we notify the person or, in the case of memorial gifts, the family of the person you commemorate and share the news of your gift and generosity. A list of Memorial Gifts is published annually in the Health Center Newsletter. For more information about Memorials and Tribute Gifts, please contact BIRHC @ 231-448-2275 or simply place a check in the mail (no minimums) payable to the BIRHC, PO Box 146, Beaver Island, MI 49782. Please write "Memorial" in the check memo line.

In Lieu of Flowers: If you would like to direct family and friends to make gifts to the Rural Health Center in lieu of flowers, the following is suggested wording for an obituary or other tribute: *In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center (BIRHC) in memory of {deceased name} to support patient care at: BIRHC, PO Box 146, Beaver Island, MI 49782.*

Other Giving Opportunities, such as the Annual Appeal, Bequests, Legacy Gifts, Gifts of Stock, Trusts, and Planned Gifts, Honor/Memorial Gifts or to make a gift to underwrite a BIRHC Special Priority Project, please contact the BIRHC @ 231-448-2275

Introducing Donna's Bags:

In honor of Donna Kubic's retirement donations are being accepted to supply bags with essentials to patients and their family members when they need to leave the Island unexpectedly. It can be stressful going to the mainland without warning due to an emergency. There might not be time to go home, pack a bag, grab your wallet or purse, besides figuring out travel plans. Donna and her staff assisted their patients with making travel arrangements and ensuring they had cash to cover some minimal expenses. Cash contributions are also being accepted for "Donna's Travel Bags". The bags will include a comb and brush, deodorant, toothbrush and paste, tissues, nail file, shampoo and conditioner, note pad, pen, \$20 cash, etc. Checks can be made out to the BIRHC and in the memo write "Donna".

Beaver Island Rural Health Center Donors

RECENT NEW DONORS

Mary Adams
Anonymous

Banghart Family Property, LLC
Jane Boyles-Visel
Michael and Robin Broder
Steve Brown

Dean Cady
Michele Bartoli Cain
Gary and Beverly Cantwell
Shar Ann Chesshire
Ed and Bobbie Collins

Frank and Dana D'Andraia
Ann Adams and William Debiasi

Richard and Penny Dilloway
Dennis and Amy Dorr

Richard Ellis
Randy and Janet Eshenroder

Peter Goschi
David and Sheryl Grimm

Haggard's Inc
Norman and Shan Hale
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Jack and Donna Spanhack
Matt and Suzi Steward
Gertraud Stupec

James and Margaret VanStee

Jeffrey and Phyllis Wells
Bob Wilson

1953 Society*

The 1953 Society recognizes donors who have demonstrated their support for the Health Center by making a donation of any amount for two or more consecutive calendar years.

FOUNDER

(two to nine years of
consecutive giving)

Airway Automation, Inc.

Grayling, MI

Chris and Linda Allen
Robert and Alana Anderson
Kal & Jenni Attie

Joyce Bartels
Beaver Island

Rural Health Center Auxiliary

Narendra and Nishtha Bhatia

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Harry and Janet Boesch

Dale K. Boyles

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Jon and Catherine Burhans

Thomas and Maureen Bussell

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Margaret Charbeneau

Clannad Foundation,
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Denny and Mary Cook

Byron Crane

R. Dennis Cull

Annette Dashiell

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Martha Ratliff and Tony Eliassen

Gay Ebers-Franckowiak
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Barbara Duvel-Fox

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John J. and Lenore Gordon
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Brad and Pam Grassmick
Ronald D. and Cheryl A. Gulbranson

Steve Hagerman
Judith C. Harmom
Gerald T. and Susan Harris
James and Catherine Haveman
Family Foundation

Fred and Cynthia Haubold
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William and Ruth Hirschey
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Ron and Helen Jakubas
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Pharmacia & Upjohn Foundation,
NYC, NY
Pete and Deb Plastrik
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Myles and Sally Rehkopf
Joe and Marilyn Reed
Arnold and Lois Rich
Richard Ries
Randy and Carol Roberts
John and Emily Ruddell
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BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

FOUNDER *(continued)*

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Donald and Barbara Spencer
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Robert and Sharon Toms

Jeffrey M. and Nancy Traudt
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Alden and Judith Walters
Linda Wearn
Sue Welke

Edward and Willy Welter
Ron and Beth Wierenga
Roger and Nancy Wilcox
Edward O. and Willa Wolcott
John and Trudy Works
Phillip and Barbara Wyckoff

BUILDER

(ten to nineteen years of consecutive giving)

Ed and Connie Wojan

BENEFACTOR

(twenty or more years of consecutive giving)

Katherine Ricksgers

IN KIND SERVICES

Abrams Aerial Survey
Beaver Island Boat Company
Mary Cook
Ferguson-Chamberlain Associates
Harry and Josephine Gill & Family
James and Barbara Haverman

Hogarth's Pest Control Company
Dr. John and Cindy Martin
Billy and Tammy McDonough
Michigan Appraisal Company
Munson Healthcare
Northern Preferred Title Company
Parker Freight

(Ascension) Providence Hospital
Robert's John Service
Jeff, Nancy, Ali, Lizzie
and Molly Traudt
Wojan Excavating Company
Ed Wojan Realty
John and Carolyn Works

*Contact the Health Center Office if we omitted your name in error or if you have questions or corrections: 37304 Kings Highway, Beaver Island, MI 49782.
You may also call 231-448-2275, or e-mail: tammy@biruralhealth.org.

Legacy Tree Society

The Legacy Tree Society recognizes gifts of \$10,000 or more.
Legacy Tree gifts are placed in the BIRHC Endowment.

LEAF (Donations \$10,000)

In Loving Memory of Bob and Ann
Turner & Billy and Mary Turner
In Memory of Phil Becker. He Loved
the Island. Raymond and Priscilla
In Recognition of the Nurses Who
Provided So Much Care During the
Early Years of the Health Center.
Lillian Cole, Joy Green and "Skip"
McDonough
Phil and Denise Hoffman Family
Alden and Judith Walters Family
Phillip and Barbara Wyckoff

ACORN (Donations \$15,000)

Robert and Alana Anderson
Anonymous - In Memory of
Dr. Norman Banghart
Anonymous - In Memory of Captain
Richard Lyons and His Enduring
Friendship with Jewell Gillespie

ACORN *(continued)*

Phyllis and Elwood Baker
Jerry and Mary Charbeneau
Mike and Rhea Dow
John G. and Sally J. Fogg
Bill and Barb Fox Family
Thank You BIRHC & BIEMS
Ralph and Jeanne Graham
Brad, Pam, Brian
and Keith Grassmick
In Memory of Denny Madigan
by Jackie
In Memory of Jewell Gillespie by
Robert, Lisa and Cody
In Memory of John and Laurene
Adams by Ed and Connie Wojan
Osman Family
Arnold and Lois Rich
Edward and Linda Troutman

BOULDER

(Donations, \$25,000 or more)

Paul and Nancy Armstrong & Family
Broder Family
Friends of Beaver Island
Gay Ebers-Franckowiak
Glendon Family
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa Indians
John and Carol Jansson & Family
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
H. Gary and Renée Morse
Joe and Mailryn Reed & Family
Ray and Ann Stanhope
William K. Steger
Bud and Ebbie Stevens
Ed and Willy Welter Foundation
John, Carolyn, and Meg Works
John and Trudy Works & Family
Phill and B. J. Wyckoff

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BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	1
Director's Message.....	1
Donna Kubic.....	2
Kubic Tribute.....	3
Appointments.....	4
Announcements.....	4
Memorial & Tribute Gifts.....	4
BIRHC Board.....	4
Tax Deductible Giving...	5
Donors.....	6-7
Health Center Info.....	8

HEALTH CENTER TEAM

Kaylyn Jones, Admin Asst
John Martin, DO
Carol Nelson, RT
Ann Partridge, Services Coordinator
Cecilia Peasley, FNP-c
Tammy Radionoff, FNP-c, Director

VISITING PROVIDERS*

Mike Aenis, MPT
Mark Babcock, PT, MPT
Murray Cotter, MD
Richard Gross, OPT Team
Scott Kelly, BASES
Sean King, OPT Team
Doug Kollar, OPT Team
Daniel Mann, MD
Edward Newcomb, MD
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Jon VanWagnen, OD
Aaron Wilkin, DC

** Call BIRHC at 231-448-2275 for information on scheduling an appointment with a visiting care provider.*

CONTACT US

Beaver Island Rural Health Center
37304 Kings Highway, PO Box 146,
Beaver Island, MI 49782
Web: <http://www.BIRuralHealth.org>
Phone: (231)448-2275

REGULAR APPOINTMENT HOURS

Monday through Friday: 8:30 am—5:00 pm
Urgent patients can be seen on short notice during regular hours; please call first..

24-HOUR URGENT CARE AVAILABLE

Call the Health Center at 231-448-2275. Your call will be forwarded to the on-call BIRHC care provider.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Dial 911, and stay on the line....

There will be up to a 30-second delay.

Emergency Medical Services personnel will respond.