

# The Health News

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

Issue No. 18

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

Summer 2021

## Message from the President of the Board

Dear Friends:

Thank you for contributing to the Health Center during this unprecedented health emergency. During this time of great uncertainty we've been comforted and encouraged by the outpouring of generosity and support provided by the residents and businesses of Beaver Island.

We thank those who have helped us address our effort to improve a variety of services, such as Hospice Care, as well as meet the unique challenges of this moment.

Support from our donors enables the Health Center to continue to provide the highest order of quality care for our patients and our Island community.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely, Frank D'Andraia, President BIRHC Board



## Health Center News

### *AmazonSmile*

**AMAZONSMILE DONATIONS** - AmazonSmile donations received by the Center increased by 29% over the same period last year. While the cumulative total of Amazon donations is modest, just under \$900, the increased activity indicates interest in the Center and its mission. AmazonSmile offers customers a broad selection of Island charities to support, including no less than ten of the eighteen IRS approved 501c3 organizations located on the Island.

### *BIRHC Facilities*

**EMERGENCY GENERATOR** - In April the Center's back-up generator failed and required a part replacement. In June it was necessary to replace the unit's radiator. The Board authorized the outlay of \$2,294.67 to insure the emergency generator remained operable.

**FIRE DRILL** - A fire drill was recently conducted at the Center, ensuring compliance with established safety standards. The Center's building does NOT have a fire alarm system. The Board is moving forward to authorize a selection, purchase and installation of a fire alarm system. The Chair of the Building Maintenance Committee has been tasked with securing a cost estimate.

**RENOVATION PROJECTS:** This fall the Center will be taking bids to repair and restrain the exterior shingles of the Health Center building and to renovate and expand the Center's x-ray room.

### *Board Resolutions*

**COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CENTER** - WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board of Directors to periodically recognize organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to supporting the operations and services of the Rural Health Center; and WHEREAS, The Mission of the Center is to coordinate, plan, and advocate for improved Health for Michigan's rural residents and communities;" and WHEREAS, It is one of only three non-profit State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) in the country; and WHEREAS, Michigan's SORH, MCRH plays a key role in rural health care by assisting in the creation and imple-

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## IN APPRECIATION OF SO MANY

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center would like to thank all who have responded to our Annual Appeal, 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 high quality health care—without regard for ability to pay—to all who live on or visit Beaver Island.

## IN MEMORY OF:

John and Laurene Adams, Kurt Becker, Pat Boyle, Dick Burris, Fred Douglas, Rex Dowling, Jack Gallagher, Barb Gerstler, Robert Gillespie, Bill Johnson, Evelyn Kasperlik, Tommy Matela, Ray Matela, Skip McDonough, Florence and Paul Neumann, John and Joyce Runberg, Harold Smith, Don and Joan Vyse and John & Trudy Works .

## IN HONOR OF:

Gloria Dugan, Lil Gregg, Dr. Bruce Lirones, Pam Moxham, Don Spencer, Gregg Weaner, Connie Wojan and BJ Wyckoff.

## IN SUPPORT OF DONNA'S BAGS:

Jeff and Nancy Traudt.

## IN SUPPORT OF COLOGUARD SCREENING TESTS:

Jonathan Cain and Michele Bartoli.

## RECENT AND/OR NEW DONORS:

Kal and Jenni Attie, Ray Becker, Naren and Nishta Bhatia, Bernard Boyle, Daniel (Morris) and Sally Boyle, Geoffrey Bushor and Mary Griswold, Dean and Jodie Cady, Jim and Judy Connelly, Bill DeBiasi and Amy Adams, Arthur Devaux, Nancy Douglas, Randy Eshenroder and Janet Neumann, James and Nancy Evans, DeLlyod Guth, Haggard's Inc., Jim and Jenifer Harless, Cheri Irmscher, Bruce and Leonor Jacobson, Ron and Helen Jakubas, John and Carol Jansson, Mike Kamrin and Katie See, Adam Kendall and Kate Leese, Mark and Jacque LaFreniere, Lars and Doris Larson, James and Caroline Latta, Carol Linteau, Susan Katz McFall, Rodney and Marilyn McFarland, Katherine Maeher, Gene Masta and Lynda Wolf, Patrick and Mary Mauro, Theodora McKiernan, Kim Mitchell and Ralph Williamson, Jeffrey and Glenna Myers, Mark and Ellen Newman, Richard, O'Brien, Luann and Tim O'Connor Jr., Ann Partridge, Dr. Pete and Sheila Peterson, Martha Ratliff, Bill and Suzanne Reed, Pat Rowley, Lee and Cheryl Sachnoff Philanthropic Fund, Charlotte Schultz, Philip Sells, Daryl and Ella Smith, Don and Carol Snider, Jeff Stone and Sarah Rohner, Lori Taylor-Blitz, John and Linda Teutsch, Ed and Linda Troutman, Brian and Jeanette Tully, James and Peggy VanStee, Alan and Beverly Vicstein, Michael Weede. William Wendell, Ed and Connie Wojan, WOMN LLC 20, and William M. Zahn.

## NEW 1953 SOCIETY MEMBERS:

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.

The 1953 Society has three levels: **FOUNDER** (two or more years of consecutive giving), **BUILDER** (ten to nineteen years of consecutive giving) and **BENEFACTOR** (twenty or more years of consecutive giving).

**Founder Level** (*new members*): Beaver Island Boat Company, Bruce and Edie Allen, Bernard Boyle, Jane Boyles-Visel, Michael and Robin Broder, Dean and Jody Cady, Ed and Bobbie Collins, Frank and Dana D'Andraia, Timothy and Laureen Fitzharris, William and Janice Freeman, Peter Goschi, Stephen and Marilyn Kesler, Anthony P. Majchrowski and Helen Kiszka, Ruth Lucchesi, Susan Katz McFall, Louis and Sharon Nesmer Fund, Pete and Sheila Peterson, John Martin and Molly Resnik Fund, Patricia Rowley, and Ed and Linda Troutman.

## NEW LEGACY TREE SOCIETY MEMBERS:

There are three levels, **LEAF** (donations of \$10,000);

**ACORN** (donations of \$15,000) and **BOULDER** (donations of \$25,000 or more).

**Leaf Level:** Bill and Nadra Johnson.

**Pfizer and J&J COVID-19 Vaccinations Available!**  
**Call 231-448-2275**



## NEWS (CONT.)

mentation of partnerships among organizations, health departments, hospitals, government and academia; and WHEREAS, Those collaborations and alliances go on to create new opportunities in the areas of network development, quality of care, emergency medical services, continuing education, and recruitment and retention of rural health care providers; and WHEREAS, It is the sense of this BIRHC Board of Directors that those organizations who enhance the well-being, health and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned recognition and applause; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED BY THE BIRHC Board of

Directors goes on record as recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Michigan Rural Health Center.

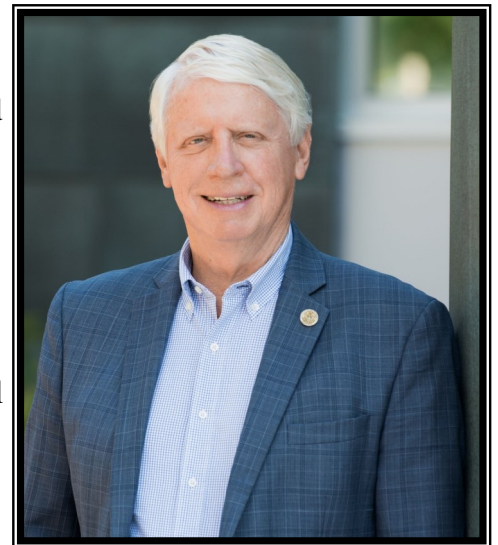
LAURA R. HANSEN - WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board of Directors to periodically recognize organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to supporting the operations and services of the Rural Health Center; and WHEREAS, the members of the BIRHC Board of Directors wish to congratulate Laura R. Hansen on the occasion of her retirement on July 16, 2021, after 29 years of service to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation; and WHEREAS, Laura R. Hansen has had a long and distinguished career as an accountant with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation where she has "cashed every check and written every check in C3F's 29 year history"; and WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Laura R. Hansen spent considerable time working with various Beaver Island Rural Health Center personnel, as well as staff at other Beaver Island not for profit organizations; and WHEREAS, Laura R. Hansen greatly enjoyed her work with C3F because she believed in the Foundation's mission, vision, and core values; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, BY THE BIRHC Board of Directors, that we congratulate Laura R. Hansen on her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedicated and exemplary service and assistance to the Rural Health Center and other Beaver Island philanthropic organizations.

JIM HAVEMAN - WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board of Directors to periodically recognize organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to supporting the operations and services of the Rural Health Center; and WHEREAS, Jim Haveman has been a champion, friend and supporter of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center for well over a decade, a role he has held with distinction, a role he has exercised with integrity and with wisdom gained from more than two decades of involvement in public service, management, and volunteer work; and WHEREAS Jim Haveman's government experience, deep commitment to health care, and his capacity to listen and counsel and his vast array of contacts in government and the health profession has been of immense value to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center; and now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, BY THE BIRHC Board of Directors with deep gratitude acknowledges the thoughtful and meaningful contributions of Jim Haveman's work on behalf of the Island's Health Center.

### ***Board Vacancy Filled***

The Directors of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center announce the appointment of Leslie R. Visser to its board of directors effective immediately.

Leslie is an accomplished manager and practitioner with nearly 30 years of collective experience, consisting of 18 years with Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services of Grand Rapids, Michigan and a decade working in various capacities in the behavioral health field. In addition, Dr. Visser is a Limited Licensed Psychologist and is a member of the adjunct faculty of Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids). Dr. Visser's recent community engagement commitments have included serving as a mentor in the DA Blodgett-St. Johns (Grand Rapids) Sisters in Support Program and as a member of the Blodgett-St. Johns Social Justice Committee and as Registration Coordinator, Toys for Tots of West Michigan. Director Cody Randall chaired the successful search.



## NEWS (CONT.)

Leslie Visser earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Communications; Master of Arts in Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology; and a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership and Development. Dr. Visser and her family are frequent visitors to the island and own property here as well. The Visser's are residents of Byron Center, Michigan.

### COVID Testing

The Island's frontline health workers joined healthcare staff across the country in battling COVID-19. As of July 2021 the medical team at the Health Center tested more than 438 residents and visitors for COVID-19 and 34 or 8% of these patients tested positive. During that time, the Health Center staff built relationships with some of these patients and their families and better understood the challenges of a long road to recovery paired with a need to get back to work to support their families. Listening to these worries, the medical team did their best to ensure patients had speedy recuperation.

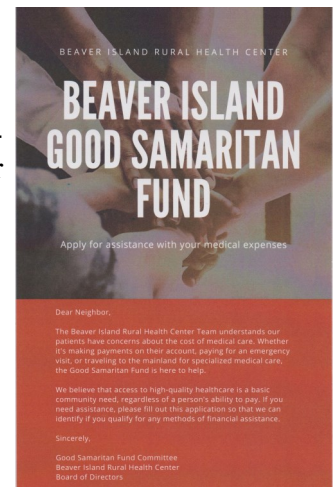
### Giving

**LEGACY TREE** - The Legacy Tree currently has 7 donors at the Leaf level (\$10,000), 16 at the Acorn Level (\$15,000) and 17 donors at the Boulder Level (\$25,000+).

**1953 SOCIETY** - The number of 1953 Society members now totals 150, with 148 at the Founders Level (2 to 9 years of consecutive giving) and one each at the Builder (10-19 years of consecutive giving) and Benefactor Levels (20+ years of consecutive giving).

### What is the Good Samaritan Fund?

**GOOD SAMARITAN:** A key part of the mission at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center is our care for patients who are experiencing high levels of vulnerability and hardship. For these patients a form of additional assistance would make a significant difference to their lives, contributing to their dignity, recovery and well-being. The Good Samaritan Fund enables the Health Center to assist our most vulnerable and disadvantaged patients through their journey with us. For example, some of our patients suffer from medical conditions that require access to mainland specialists, which makes medical travel a necessity. While insurance may cover actual treatment, it rarely covers the cost of travel. And sometimes patients go untreated simply because they can't get to the mainland medical experts who can effectively treat their condition. That's where the Good Samaritan fund makes a difference. The fund alleviates the financial burden of travel so families can focus on treatment and recovery. The Health Center is especially grateful for the generous support provided by Bill and Nadra Johnson, two caring individuals who took the initiative to infuse the Good Samaritan Fund with a level of support that makes a difference. To learn more about eligibility to receive funds please visit our application page or contact the Health Center. Director Lori Taylor-Blitz chaired a three-person committee that developed the Good Samaritan protocols.



### Great Lakes Energy People Fund

**GLE PEOPLE FUND** - Last November, the Center's fall fundraising appeal highlighted the need for hospice equipment and supplies. In February the Board moved forward with a Great Lakes Energy People Fund application for additional support to cover the acquisition of this specialized and expensive equipment. In April the Board received word that GLE had awarded \$5,500.00 for Hospice Equipment for the Beaver Island Rural Health Center project! The GLE funding, backed by direct donations already received from the fall appeal, enables the Center to purchase such items as an electric hospital bed, power lift chair, and alternating pressure mattress and related palliative care equipment. Directors Ed Troutman and Kate Lesse worked on this successful grant initiative.

### Michigan Center for Rural Health

**OPIOID ASSISTANCE:** In February the Michigan Center for Rural Health invited the Center to join the Northern MI Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC). Other area organizations who were solicited and became part of the consortium included: McLaren Northern MI Hospital, Munson Charlevoix Hospital, East Jordan Federally Qualified Health Center, Alcona Health Center – Harbor Springs, Second Chance Counseling, Bear River Health, Kama-la's House, Equip for Freedom, Community Recovery Alliance, Harbor Hall, Bay Area Substance Education Services (BASES), and Petoskey City Council. The Northern MI Opioid Response Consortium is an existing consortium, consisting of 32 members, providing services in eighteen rural northern MI counties. The NMORC assists in addressing prevention, treatment, and recovery of substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder. The Center's com-



## NEWS (CONT.)

mitment spans the entirety of the NMORC grant period (September 2021 – August 2024). As a consortium partner the Rural Health Center is able to participate in all aspects of the grant including, but not limited to: education and understanding of evidence-based treatments and prevention strategies.

### *Patient Surveys to Commence*

Every business, big or small, is lost without their clients' feedback and opinion. The Health Center Board of Directors believe patient satisfaction is equally important as customer satisfaction.

This year the Center shall introduce a short and anonymous patient satisfaction survey. One goal of this initiative is to obtain patient feedback on operations and services. Another objective is improving the patient experience. Director Kellie Sopczynski chaired the three-person Ad Hoc committee that developed the survey instrument.

### *Transitions*

**TREASURER** - Ed Troutman has resigned as Treasurer. Ed has sold his Island home and is permanently relocating to Indianapolis.

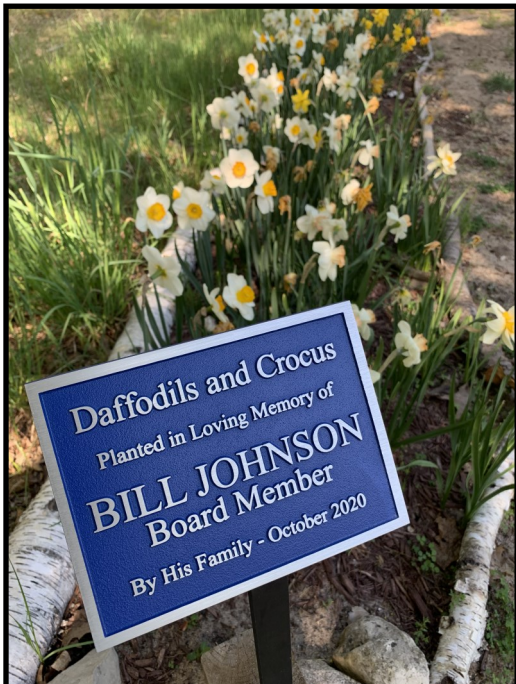
**NURSE PRACTITIONERS** - Cecilia Peasley (FNP-C), has announced her decision to retire. The Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center at their board meeting on June 10, 2021 approved the request of Ms. Peasley to go part-time effective July 1, 2021 and to retire effective September 30, 2021. The Board extended congratulations to Ms Peasley and expressed thanks to her for her good work during her tenure as a nurse practitioner at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR** - Health Center Managing Director Tammy Radionoff has requested to transfer to the position of Nurse Practitioner. The Board has established a review committee composed of medical staff, clinical staff, and Larry Birch, a member of the Board of Directors, to act on this request.

The Board of Directors at their quarterly meeting on June 10, 2021 approved the appointment of Ann Partridge to assume temporary duties as Managing Director of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center until such time as the position is permanently filled.

### *Website*

A request was submitted to NextLevel Solutions, who currently maintains the Center's webpages, for an estimate to improve the "ease of use," as well as the look and feel of the Center's web pages. NextLevel Solutions has indicated the approximate costs for the improvements would be under \$1000.



### *Wellness Garden*

What's up with the Wellness Garden? Volunteers started planting and caring for the land surrounding the Beaver Island Rural Health Center almost 14 years ago. In that time the number of gardeners went from 6 volunteers for 3 areas, to 15 part- and full-time volunteers for 10 areas including Forest View commons. The Wellness Gardeners raise money for funding this venture by having a series of Wellness Garden Benefit Events, such as plant sales, garden tours, silent auctions and other similar activities. No Health Center dollars are spent on these endeavors. If you would like to support the work of the Wellness Gardeners you may do so by sending a check % the BIRHC ( memo line: Wellness Garden Donation) and you can join the Gardeners for 2 hours each Wednesday morning from May through September. For more information about Wellness Gardeners activities and events please contact [leonorjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:leonorjacobson@gmail.com) - Leonor Jacobson, for the Wellness Gardeners

### *X-Ray Equipment*

The Board of Directors approved the purchase of new and improved-ray equipment for the Health Center. Federal COVID funds made the purchase possible. The medical x-ray equipment is valued at \$81,000. In addition, the control panel in one of two dental x-ray units failed and the Board authorized the expenditure of \$4,393.69 to replace the broken unit. Under thee contract with Dental Clinics North, the Center is responsible for the dental equipment.

**Beaver Island Rural Health Center**  
**37304 Kings Highway**  
**PO Box 146**  
**Beaver Island, MI 49782**



## BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

### **BIRHC Board of Directors**

#### ***Officers:***

**President – Frank D'Andraia**

**Vice President –**

**Diane McDonough**

**Treasurer – (Acting)**

**Frank D'Andraia**

**Secretary – Carla Martin**

#### ***Directors:***

**Larry Birch**

**Lori Taylor Blitz**

**Kate Leese**

**Cody Randal**

**Kellie Sopczynski**

**Leslie R. Visser**

### **HEALTH CENTER TEAM**

Kelly Becker, FNP-BC  
Kaylyn Jones, Admin Asst  
John Martin, DO  
Carol Nelson, RT  
Ann Partridge, Acting Mng Dir  
Cecilia Peasley, FNP-C  
Tammy Radionoff, AGNP-C

### **VISITING PROVIDERS\***

Mike Aenis, MPT  
Mark Babcock, PT, MPT  
Richard Gross, OPT Team  
Sean King, OPT Team  
Doug Kollar, OPT Team  
Daniel Mann, MD  
Edward Newcomb, MD  
Patrick Richmond, DPM  
Dan Taylor, MSW, CSW  
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: 8:30am - 5:00pm  
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. Select option 1 to reach 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.