

The Health News

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

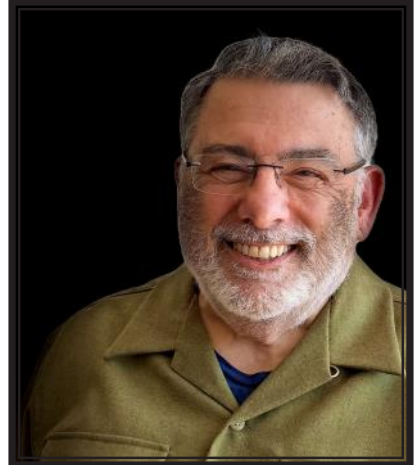
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www.biruralhealth.org

Winter 2025

Giving to the Health Center Is a Meaningful and Worthy Cause

During the past year the health center has continued to move forward with efforts to upgrade medical equipment, address building maintenance and safety issues, provide special dental care for school age children, introduce new services, such as pediatric and hospice care, and underwrite medical training for up to four islanders to become certified home healthcare aids. These endeavors have been made possible thanks to a proactive board committed to sound fiscal policies that include growing revenue and leveraging donor support. To continue to improve and expand island health care the board needs your help.



Please consider a donation to the health center to ensure the availability of convenient quality health care and to help sustain important special services, such as the Good Samaritan Fund. This program aims to alleviate the financial burden associated with serious health issues by covering certain medical expenses associated with required off island medical care.

Now more than ever, giving matters. ---Frank D'Andraia, President BIRHC Board of Directors

Board Appointments

Earlier in the year the board re-elected Connie Wojan to a second three-year term as a director and elected Rita Peirano to her first three-year term. Both these individuals bring valuable expertise to the board.

Connie Wojan is a former six-term president of the board, and her knowledge of center operations and practices is broad as well as deep. Connie and her husband Ed are members of the Center's 1953 Society (Benefactor) and Legacy Tree Society (Acorn).

Rita Peirano has thirty-four years of nursing and administrative experience in both hospital and outpatient settings, with over sixteen years of clinical practice. Peirano has worked as a registered nurse in various specialties at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and has significant management and budget experience.

In addition to her election as a director, Ms. Peirano will serve as BIRHC Treasurer.

Rita and her husband Craig are members of the Center's 1953 Society (Founder).



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Donor Impact on Patient Care

In fiscal year 2024/2025, support from our community has been invaluable in acquiring new and replacement equipment and in underwriting training programs or special initiatives. Some of the equipment received (or on order) are listed below, along with special initiatives that were underwritten, as well as our ongoing initiatives and wish list. The Beaver Island Rural Health Center is grateful to the community for making this support possible as well as the following organizations and businesses who provided resources that allowed the center to leverage center dollars: Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge 2886 and the Richard J. and Frances B. Swiat Foundation, as well as Island Airways, Fresh Air Aviation, McDonough's Market, Beaver Island Coffee Company, and Wojan Excavating.

Ordered/Completed:

- LifePak 15 Defibrillator
- iPads for Portable/Pt Imaging Connections to EMR & Telehealth
- IV Pumps
- Special Initiatives: Certification Training for Home Health Care Workers
- Special Initiatives: Donor Gratitude Gathering
- Welch-Allyn Vitals Monitor BP/TEMP/SpO2
- Welch-Allyn Scale-Tronix (Floor Scale with Handrails)

Wish List/Ongoing:

- Autoclave
- Dermatoscope
- Exam Room Table/Hi-Lo Adjustable
- Good Samaritan Fund
- Optical Equipment for Securing Visiting Provider
- Special Initiatives: Free Dental check up for all school age children (5th consecutive year)
- Vaccine & Medication Refrigerator
- Vaginal Exam Light

Special Projects

The board approved moving forward with repairing the Center's HVAC air handlers and replacing associated equipment, which is about 25 years old.

The Center has received a generous grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation to assist with the HVAC costs. In addition, the center applied for a second grant from another regional group. If the second grant application is successful, 60% of the equipment replacement costs will be paid for by the two grants. A decision on the second grant is expected in December.

In early June the center successfully partnered with Munson Healthcare to bring hospice services back to the island. Since June 5 residents have requested palliative care.

The initiative to bring pediatric care to the island moved a step closer to getting underway. The center has invited a retiring Petoskey-based pediatrician to interview in early 2026 to participate in the center's pilot program to judge pediatric demand.

On May 29 Comfort Keepers hosted a community reception in the BIRHC Wellness Garden to introduce their new Beaver Island Home Health employees and answer questions about their services. The takeaways: 'Don't be afraid to ask!' and 'A unique Island calls for unique solutions.' If you are interested in finding out more about Comfort Keepers services on Beaver Island, call Ian Straley at 231-778-8048.

Left to Right:
Comfort Keepers General Manager, Bethany Korbel;
new Beaver Island employees Briana Maudrie, Lonnie Allen and Frankie Lamb; Territory Manager, Ian Straley



BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

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 support, the Health Center could not fulfill its 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:

Lois **Campbell**, PhD; Marjory **Dinwiddie**; Eleanor **Hagerman**; Kim Michele **Hughes**; John **Jansson**; Jack **Kelly**; Paul J. 'PJ' **Niehaus**; Dave **Paul**; Lee **Sachnoff** (multiple); Rosemary Nackerman **Smith**; Ed **Troutman**; Lorraine **Tubbs** (multiple); and Jean **Palmer** and George "Satch" **Wierenga**.

IN HONOR OF:

John & Laurene **Adams**; Laurene **Adams** (multiple); Lucy **Aram**; Peggy & Norman **Banghart**; Magaret **Bass**; Duane & Mary **Bidwell**; Daniel Morris **Boyle**; Ann & David **Broder** (multiple); Dick **Burris**; Don **Cole**; Helen **Collar**; Charles **Dennis**; Grace Gatliff **Doig**; Fred C. **Douglas, Sr.**; David A. **Duda**; Gloria M. **Dugan**; Mike **Dunn**; Roy **Elsworth**; Robert **Gillespie**; Ruth **Hirschey**; **Hoffman-Collar-Broder** Family; **Hoffman-Collar** Families; Bill **Johnson**; Eleanor **Hagerman**; Don & JoAnn **Holzauer**; Gerald **LaFreniere**; Neva **Larson**; Lil **Left** (95th Birthday); Martin L **Maehr**; Chuck **Marshall**; Pam **Moxham**; Joe **Moore**; Paul & Florence **Neumann**; Ann **Partridge**; Rolland & Mildred **Peterson**; Mike **Purdue** (multiple); John **Rowley**; Lee **Sachnoff** (multiple); Gerald **Sowa**; Ann & Ray **Stanhope**; Sharon **Tolan**; Helen **Toms**; Don & Joan **Vyse** (multiple); Patrick **Wearn**; Bob & Sue **Welke**; Walter A. **Wojan** (numerous); Walter & Vera **Wojan** (multiple); John and Trudy **Works** (multiple); and BJ **Wycoff** (multiple).

DONORS:

1953 SOCIETY:

(Named in honor of the 100 Island residents who met in 1953 to establish what was to become the Beaver Island Rural Health Center).

FOUNDER: 2 to 9 years of consecutive giving **BUILDER:** 10-19 to years of consecutive giving

BENEFACTOR: 20 or more years of consecutive giving

LEGACY TREE SOCIETY:

LEAF: Lifetime contributions totaling \$10,000 - \$14,999 **ACORN:** Lifetime contributions totaling \$15,000 - \$24,999

BOULDER: Lifetime contributions totaling, \$25,000 or more

Ann E. **Adams**; Kim and Steven **Angell** (New); **Anonymous** (3); Bill **DeBiasi** and Ann **Adams**, 1953 Society (Founder); Mary E. **Adams** 1953 Society (Founder); **Airway Automation**, 1953 Society (Builder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Chris and Linda **Allen**, 1953 Society (Builder); Robert and Alana **Anderson** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Acorn); Paul and Nancy **Armstrong**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Jon and Teresa **Ayers**, 1953 Society (Builder); **Banghart Family**, 1953 Society (Founder); Lesia Batschyndei, (New); Nishta and Narendra K. **Bhatia**, 1953 Society (Builder); **Beaver Island Boat Company**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Beaver Island Coffee Company**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary** 1953 Society (Founder) and Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); **Beaver Island Golf Course**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Beaver Island Retreat**; Royce and Margie **Beers** 1953 Society (Founder); **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**, Lodge 2886, 1953 Society (Founder) and Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); Tracey **Bidwell**, 1953 Society (Founder); Connie and Robert **Birdsall**, (New); Lori **Taylor-Blitz**, 1953 Society (Founder); Eric D. **Blalock**, 1953 Society (Builder); Michael C. and Polly A. **Bodjanac** (New); Jon and Suze **Bonadeo**, 1953 Society (Founder); Bernard **Boyle**, 1953 Society (Founder); Sally **Boyle**, 1953 Society (Founder); George **Broder**, 1953 Society (Founder); Josh **Broder**, 1953 Society (Founder); Susan **Neitlich** and Matthew **Broder**, 1953 Society (Founder); Mike and Robin **Broder**, 1953 Society (Founder); John C. **Boucher**, Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Greg and Patricia **Brynaert**, 1953 Society (Founder); Dean L. and Rosemarie **Buntrock Foundation**, 1953 Society (Founder); Jon and Catherine **Burhans Family**, 1953 Society (Builder); Dean and Jodie **Cady**, 1953 Society (Founder); Gary and Beverly **Cantwell**, 1953 Society (Founder); David J. and Tracy Reed **Case** (New); **Central Drug**; Beatrice **Chandler** (New); **Charitable Aid Foundation of America** (New); **Charlevoix County Community Foundation**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Shari Ann (Huston) **Cheshire**, 1953 Society (Founder); James and Judy **Connelly**, 1953 Society (Founder); Ethelynn **Mehren-Costa** (New); Frank and Dana **D'Andraia**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Acorn); Annette **Dashiell**, 1953 Society (Benefactor); Peter **De Groot**, 1953 Society (Founder); Arthur and Kristine **deVaux**, 1953 Society (Builder); Elizabeth **deVaux**, 1953 Society (Founder); Kenneth and Ann **Dill** (New); William J. and Karen Sue **Disch** (New); Lori and Terry **Dolley**, (New); Amy **Dombkowski**, (New); Fred and Nancy **Douglas**, 1953 Society (Builder); Marilyn Clark **Duda**, 1953 Society (Founder); Michael and Lea Ann **Dunn**, 1953 Society (Founder); Vince and Meg **Ebersoldt** (New); Karen and Thomas **Ehrhard**, 1953 Society (Founder); Richard and Nancy **Ellis**, 1953 Society (Founder); Randy and Janet **Eshenroder**, 1953 Society (Founder); James and Nancy **Evans**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Jim Wojan Excavating**, 1953 Society (Founder); Edward and Elissa **Farmer**, 1953 Society (Founder); Powell and Sandra **Felix**, 1953 Society (Builder); John **Fiegen**, 1953 Society (Founder); Timothy and Laureen **Fitzharris**, 1953 Society (Founder); Mark **Franz** (New); Nancy **Ferguson** and John **Fratrick**, 1953 Society (Builder); William and Janice **Freeman**, 1953 Society (Founder) and Legacy Tree Society (Acorn); **Fresh Air Aviation** (New);

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

DONORS: (cont.)

John M. **Galia** 1953 Society (Founder); James and Mary **Gillingham**, 1953 Society (Founder); Lisa **Gillespie**, 1953 Society (Founder); Paul and Anne **Glendon**, 1953 Society (Benefactor) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); John and Lenore **Gordon**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Grand Haven (MI) Area Community Foundation**; Steve **Hagerman**, 1953 Society (Founder); Jim and Jenifer **Harless**, 1953 Society (Founder); Gerald and Susan **Harris**, 1953 Society (Builder); Dan and Sue **Haveman**, 1953 Society (Founder); James and Barbara **Haveman**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Acorn); Melinda A. **Hill** (New); Karen M. **Hirschey**, (New); William R. **Hirschey**, 1953 Society (Founder); Therese **Hodges**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Hogarth's Pest Control**, 1953 Society (Founder); Shane **Hoover**, (New); John N. **Humitz**, 1953 Society (Builder); Allen I., Jr. & Cynthia L. **Hunting**, 1953 Society (Founder); Peter and Ruth **Igoe**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); **Island Airways** (New); Ronald and Helen **Jakubas**, 1953 Society (Founder); John and Carol **Jansson**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); **Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago**; Marion **Keller**, (New); **Kennedy Family**, (New); Stephen and Marilyn **Kessler**, 1953 Society (Founder); Howard A. **Konetchy**, 1953 Society (Founder); Glen **LaFreniere**, 1953 Society (Founder); Mark and Jacque **LaFreniere**, 1953 Society (Founder); Donovan and Amy **Langford III**, 1953 Society (Founder); Lars and Doris **Larson**, 1953 Society (Founder); James and Caroline **Latta**, 1953 Society (Builder); Gregory and Mary Jane Fox **Lawson**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Acorn); John and Marilyn **Lefler**, 1953 Society (Founder); Barry and Marion **Lloyd** (New); Robert **Lordson** (New); David R. **Lucas**, 1953 Society (Founder); Nicholas L. **Lyons**, 1953 Society (Founder); Jim and Tricia **Manning** (New); **McDonough's Market, Inc.**, 1953 Society (Founder); Bill and Tamara **McDonough**, 1953 Society (Founder); Theodora **McKiernan**, 1953 Society (Founder); James and Sarah **MaClean**, (New); Jim & Ticia **Manning**, (New); Kimberly **Marzela** (New); Patrick and Mary **Mauro**, 1953 Society (Founder); Sandra S. **Michelsen**, 1953 Society (Founder); Julie **Ebers** and Robert A. **Neff**, 1953 Society (Founder); Allen & Kathryn **Neovins**, 1953 Society (Founder); Mark and Ellen **Newman**, 1953 Society (Founder); Timothy and Luann **O'Connor**, 1953 Society (Founder); Ann **Partridge**, 1953 Society (Founder); Dave and Jan **Paul**, 1953 Society (Founder); Craig and Rita **Peirano**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Petrarca, Gleason, Boyle & Izzo, LLC**; John **Peters and Friends** (New); Erik L. **Peterson**, 1953 Society (Builder); Kate **Maehr** & Sam **Pickering**, 1953 Society (Founder); Peter and Debra **Plastrik**, 1953 Society (Founder); James **Gavelek** and Taffy **Raphael**, 1953 Society (Founder); Tony **Eliassen** and Martha **Ratliff**, 1953 Society (Founder); William and Suzanne **Reed**, 1953 Society (Builder); Myles and Sally **Rehkopf**, 1953 Society (Founder); John **Martin** and Molly **Resnick**, 1953 Society (Founder); Dr. Patrick D. **Richmond**, (New); Randy and Carol **Roberts**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); Paul and Carol **Rose**, 1953 Society (Founder); Curits W. **Schaap**, Nancy A. **Rosso** and Patricia **Rowley**, 1953 Society (Founder); Emily **Ruddell**, 1953 Society (Founder) and Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); **Lee and Cheryl Sachnoff Philanthropic Fund**, 1953 Society (Founder); Susan **Scherer**, 1953 Society (Founder); Eileen **Schroeder**, (New); A. **Schultz**, 1953 Society (Founder); Robert and Heather **Schultz**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Jessica and Keely **Morse**, (New); Katie **See** & Mike **Kamrin** 1953 Society (Founder); Larry and Bev **Seiford**, 1953 Society (Founder); Richard and June **Shibley** 1953 Society (Founder); Ted **Sirotko** (New); Richard **Smies** (New); Daryl and Ella **Smith**, 1953 Society (Founder) and Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); Harvey T. and Mary Jo **Smith** (New); Rosemary **Smith**, 1953 Society (Founder); Don and Carol **Snider**, 1953 Society (Founder); Donna **Spanhak**, 1953 Society (Founder); Don and Barabra **Spencer**, 1953 Society (Builder); Donna **Stambaugh**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Simple Life Tree Care, LLC**; Ray and Ann **Stanhope**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Mark and Sue **Stansberry**, (New); Steve and Dianne **Steinglass**, 1953 Society (Founder); David and Janet **Sweet**, (New); Richard J. and Frances B. **Swiat Foundation**, 1953 Society (Founder); Brian D. and Jaimie M. **Tenhopen** (New); John and Linda **Teutsch**, 1953 Society (Founder); Robert and Sharon Toms, 1953 Society (Builder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Jeffrey and Nancy **Traudt**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); Deborah Kennedy Tubbs, (New); Timothy **Turner**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Warren **Udelson** (New); **Universal Sign Systems**; Alan and Beverly **Vicstein**, 1953 Society (Founder); Jane E. **Boyles-Visel**, 1953 Society (Founder); James and Leslie **Visser**, 1953 Society (Founder); Richard **Warren**, 1953 Society (Founder); Linda **Wearn**, 1953 Society (Builder); Laura **Wegener**, (New); Heidi **Vigil**, (New); Thomas **Weeks**, (New); Roberta (Bobbi) **Welke**, 1953 Society (Founder); **Wild Strawberry Cafe**; Brian and Sue **Williams** (New); **Ed Wojan Realty**, 1953 Society (Founder); Ed and Connie **Wojan** 1953 Society (Benefactor) & Legacy Tree Society (Acorn); Edward and Willa **Wolcott**, 1953 Society (Founder); John and Carolyn **Works**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Boulder); Phil **Wycoff**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Society (Leaf); and William and Meredith **Zahn**, 1953 Society (Founder).

On Being Anonymous...

The Center is happy to work with individuals to ensure they may privately donate funds to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, without receiving any unwanted attention. To initiate an anonymous donation please call the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) at +1 231-536-2440 and indicate you wish to make an anonymous donation to the BIRHC. C3F will respect your privacy and process your gift to the Center without fanfare or attribution.

Annual Bocce Tournament Benefits The RHC



*Pictured Left to Right:
Second Place Team,
Laurie and Jon Galia.
Tournament Organizer
and BIRHC Board President,
Frank D'Andraia.
First Place Team,
Linda Wearn and
Tom Reynolds.
Third Place Team,
Daniel Doig and
Megan Tuohy.*

On Sunday, August 10th, sixteen teams competed in a traditional club bocce tournament at Font Lake Park in Peaine Township.

The traditional format features two-person teams. In each frame, four people (2 per team) roll from the same end, and every player throws two balls. That totals 8 balls on the court at once. The resulting chaos features daunting congestion and rapid play. Fun!

August 10th was a picture-perfect day for a benefit tournament with sunny skies and temperatures in the high 70s – exactly the tonic needed for a blissful summer afternoon of competitive old-world bocce. Laughs were plenty, but competition was keen.

Linda Wearn & Tom Reynolds of St. James made a showcase of their amazing skills of sharp pointing and precision shooting to earn First Place in the 9th Annual Roll. Jon & Laurie Galia of St. James Township took 2nd place. The Galia's were previous tournament champs and were hoping to reprise their past victory. Unfortunately, they were not able to withstand the full court press made by Wearn and Reynolds, who have regularly participated in the Roll. Finishing third were Dan Doig and Megan Tuohy, newcomers to the tournament. Doig and Tuohy made a spirited attempt to win second place, but their scrappy effort was derailed by Jon & Laurie Galia.

Since the tournament began in 2017, about \$21,000 in ticket proceeds have been given to Island not-for-profit organizations. In addition to the Rural Health Center, other Island organizations that have benefited from past tournament ticket sales have included the Community Center/WVBI (2024), Beaver Island Historical Society (2023), Beaver Island Food Bank (2022), Bocce Courts Construction Font Lake Township Park (2021), Forest View Senior Housing (2019), Friends of Beaver Island Animals (2018), and the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance (2017). There was no tournament in 2020 due to COVID.

Tickets cover admission to play, use of bocce equipment, and lunch. A number of attendees opt for lunch only, plus the opportunity to cheer on the players, observe the games, and enjoy a day out in the sun.

With delicious food and camaraderie, the 9th Annual "Roll" is a celebration of the sport and in support of a good cause, the island's Rural Health Center. According to Ann Partridge, the BIRHC's Managing Director, the proceeds from the 2025 Roll were placed in the center's Special Projects Fund.

Make a Lasting Impact—Charitable Giving

Estate Planned giving is a wonderful way to make an impactful contribution to a cause you care about while leaving a lasting legacy. With a planned gift to the BIRHC, you can help ensure that the island's rural health center can continue to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our island community, now and long into the future. You can choose a specialty that means the most to you, such as maternal and child health, nursing education, and more.



There are many ways to make a planned gift that offers benefits to you and your family, including wills, trusts, life insurance, retirement assets, or a one-time gift. The Legacy Tree Society is composed of generous and forward-thinking individuals who have committed to the future of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center and to the health and well-being of our community. For more information please contact Frank D'Andraia, 231-448-2603.

Community Partner Helps Fund New Equipment for Island's Health Center

The Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary has assisted in purchasing essential equipment for the Beaver Island Rural Health Center valued at about \$50,000.

Chief among the purchases was a defibrillator and special accessories. The LifePak 15 Defibrillator/Monitor is used in emergency medical situations to monitor vital signs and deliver defibrillation to patients experiencing cardiac arrest. It provides real-time patient data, including ECG monitoring, and can perform manual defibrillation, synchronized cardioversion, and noninvasive pacing. Another feature of special interest to BIRHC clinicians is the fact that the LifePak enables them to expedite treatment or transport from afar.



In addition the Auxiliary underwrote the purchase of IV Pumps. IV pumps, or infusion pumps, are medical devices that deliver fluids, medications, or nutrients directly into a patient's circulatory system in a controlled manner. They are commonly used in the health center and other healthcare settings to ensure precise dosing and continuous administration of treatments. IV pumps can range in price from around \$650 for refurbished models to over \$3,000 for new or advanced models. Thanks to the Auxiliary, the BIRHC was able to purchase two new pumps valued at almost \$6,000.

These special and high cost equipment purchases continue the Auxiliary's long standing support for community health initiatives by ensuring that high-quality healthcare remains accessible throughout the island.

"This new equipment represents not only an investment in the BIRHC, but in the health and well-being of our community," said Ann Partridge, BIRHC Managing Director. She added, "the BI Fire Department Auxiliary remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting health-related initiatives that strengthen the quality of life for all who call Beaver Island home. We are grateful and appreciative for the Auxiliary support."

The mission of the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary, is to support the island fire department through community outreach, fundraising, administrative tasks, and non-emergency assistance, enhancing public safety and firefighting efforts. The auxiliary operates the "Island Treasures Resale Shop" which is celebrating its 18th year at its Donegal Bay Road location.

Elks Grant *(continued from page 5)*

The latest online demographic data estimates the island's year round population now totals 752, representing a 14.5% increase since 2010.

The median age in Beaver Island is 62, with the population distributed as follows: about 14.1% are children under 15, then 2.9% are in the 15 to 24 age group. Adults between 25 and 44 make up 11% of the population, while another 25.9% fall into the 45 to 64 bracket. Finally, around 46% are 65 or older.

Frank D'Andraia, the President of the BIRHC Board said, "The members of local Elks lodge #2886 and its Exalted Ruler Lori Taylor Blitz, as well as the RHC board and donors, have all been steadfast proponents of this meaningful collaboration." He added, "This purposeful partnership has made a difference, for oral health is linked to overall health. The mouth is a gateway to the digestive and respiratory systems. Bacteria from oral infections can enter the bloodstream, potentially leading to serious health issues like heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Providing a free dental check-up for our large senior population is a good thing and we thank the Elks for enabling the RHC to expand dental care coverage."



Donor Dollars Stretched By Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians

There were lots of winners on July 28th when the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (GTB) announced the awarding of \$706,559 in gaming revenue to local units of government in Michigan. The money represented 2% of the band's video gaming revenue for 2025. The distribution is one of two 2% allocations the band gives annually. The 2% allocation began in 1994 and since that time the Grand Traverse Band has allocated \$48,488,375 to local organizations, including several on Beaver Island.

Traverse City Public Schools hit the jackpot at the July 28th award ceremonies when Tribal Council Chairwoman Sandra Witherspoon of Charlevoix announced the TC Public Schools had been awarded \$103,000 in support of the school's Indian Education Program. The smallest grant award was \$1,652 and it was given to Acme Township to purchase equipment for the new town hall kitchen.

The seven member GTB Tribal Council selects which organizations receive a grant. Chairwoman Witherspoon indicated the band received 63 grant requests totaling \$1,930,320 and the Tribal Council selected 39 applicants to receive support. Three of the 39 recipients were from Charlevoix County. The trifecta winners from Charlevoix were the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office (\$25,000 for blight cleanup on Beaver Island and the mainland); the Charlevoix Township Fire Department (\$25,000 to buy three sets of turnout gear, a thermal imaging camera and other fire equipment) and the Beaver Island Rural Health Center (\$2,584 to assist with the purchase of a portable ultrasound system). A budget-friendly handheld ultrasound scanner costs about \$6,000.

Frank D'Andraia, President of the BIRHC Board of Directors, accepted the award from the Tribal Council. D'Andraia indicated this is the 4th award the center has received from the band since the program was initiated. He said GTB has awarded the health center about \$80,000 in grants since 2002. D'Andraia added, "The Health center is grateful to the tribe for their continued support, for the tribal grants have allowed the center to leverage its purchasing power."

Among those attending the award ceremonies was tribal Councilor Brian S. Napont, who grew up on Beaver Island. D'Andraia noted that upon conclusion of the formal program Councilor Napont came over and introduced himself and congratulated the health center for submitting a successful grant application and expressed pleasure in seeing a representative of the center attend the award ceremony. Napont was elected to the GTB Tribal Council in 2022.

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 –

Lori Taylor Blitz

Treasurer – Rita Peirano

Secretary – Connie Wojan

Directors:

Paul Cole

St James Township Rep

Maria DalPra

Peaine Township Rep

Brad Grassmick

Tim O'Connor

Leslie Visser

HEALTH CENTER TEAM

Daniel Doig, Svcs Coord

Timothy King, MD

Daniel Mann, MD

Robert Marsh, Maintenance

John Martin, DO

Amanda McGee, FNP-C

Ann Partridge, Managing Director

Nicole Shepardson, Medical Asst

Kimberly Wysocki, PA-C

VISITING PROVIDERS*

Dental Clinics North, Dental Svcs

Terry Braciszewski, Ph D, MSCP

Patrick Richmond, DPM

Dan Schoeber, PT, MPT

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.

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.