

# GREAT NEWS

DECEMBER 2020

## HCHC Moves to Secure Lease Agreement with Great River Health

The Henry County Health Center (HCHC) Board of Trustees on Nov. 17 approved a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue an expanded lease agreement with Great River Health. In the coming weeks, the two organizations will perform due diligence and formalize the decision with a HCHC Board vote to approve the plan at its Dec. 15 meeting. The lease agreement will be put to a vote before Henry County residents and finalized if the special proposition is approved in a March special election.

“For more than 10 years, we have partnered with Great River Health under a management agreement at HCHC,” said Robb Gardner, chief executive officer. “This expanded relationship is a great opportunity to continue serving the health care needs of Henry County residents into the future.”

Under the lease agreement, many of HCHC’s existing ties to the community will remain unchanged: Henry County Health Center will continue to be the name of hospital, and HCHC Foundation funds will stay in the community.

“This is an investment in our region. HCHC patients are oftentimes family members, friends, and neighbors,” said Kent Severson, chairman, HCHC Board of Trustees. “As the landscape changes for rural health care across the country, it’s important we maintain the trust and connection our hospital provides to Mount Pleasant and surrounding communities. This decision means continued, quality access to health care for everyone in the region – and a way for us to better manage anticipated challenges that lie ahead.”

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“Many of us know Great River Health is a trusted partner with a proven track record of strengthening local health care. We have known and worked with Great River Health employees for many years, and its providers and leaders already know and value their commitment to Henry County Health Center,” said Gardner. “Great River Health is located here in southeast Iowa and its leadership team understands the importance of local health care management.”

“The trustees are all Henry County residents who, after weighing several options in the last year, came to this decision with our friends and neighbors in mind,” said HCHC Board of Trustees member Carla McNamee. “HCHC is currently in a strong position, and acting now to prepare for the future will ensure we all will have the health care services we need close to home.”

Registered Henry County voters will ultimately vote to approve the lease agreement proposition on Tuesday, March 2. If the proposition is approved, HCHC providers and staff members will remain HCHC associates and retain their existing benefits. At this time, it is not anticipated there will be any position eliminations resulting from this agreement.

“Great River Health has demonstrated its goodwill with how they delivered a solution that helped us retain emergency medical services in the county,” said Severson. “Had Great River Health not stepped in to manage this situation with our county, we may have lost this service that provides emergency transport for approximately 1,900 requests each year. That’s the kind of collaboration we can count on with this agreement.”

## About Henry County Health Center

Henry County Health Center is a Mount Pleasant-based hospital with a rich heritage of caring for patients and area residents since 1921. Located at the crossroads of southeast Iowa, HCHC is a 74-bed facility, featuring 25 acute-care beds, along with a 49-bed long-term care facility, Park Place Elder Living. HCHC remains a leader in health care and is well respected by hospitals of all sizes. With technological innovation and associates who are compassionate and committed to those it serves, HCHC strives for excellence in all it does.



## Atkinson Named Employee of the Month

Liz Atkinson was named Employee of the Month at Great River Medical Center. She is a registered nurse in the Emergency Department.

Liz goes above and beyond with her patients, including throwing a birthday party for a patient who was in the department. She demonstrates respect with every patient no matter the situation. She listens and communicates effectively, and she works well with staff.

## December Casual Days

Employees purchase \$2 stickers for the opportunity to wear jeans to work on designated Fridays. The Dec. 18 casual day is free to thank employees for donating throughout the year.

Dec. 4 Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

## Great River Friends Ends Year With Annual Giving Campaign

Great River Friends' Annual Giving Campaign is more important than ever because several of the organization's fundraisers were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Great River Friends' annual donations provide programs that benefit patients and their families, and scholarships for students studying health careers.

In 2020, Friends provided funding for:

- COVID-19 mask-making supplies
- Music & Memories program, entertainment and activities for the Klein Center
- Pediatric immobilizer for X-rays
- Donor breast milk for newborns who need it
- Swaddling sleep sacks for every newborn delivered at Great River Medical Center
- Supplies for making comfort pillows for patients
- Gardening supplies for use by patients in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Program
- Long-handled sponges given to patients in the Rehabilitation Unit
- Plant watering system and plant care for large plants throughout the hospital

Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to Great River Friends.

# Thank a health care worker today!



## Stay Safe This Winter

### Walk like a penguin

It happens every winter: falls claim the lives of hundreds of people and leave others with major injuries. Black ice – sometimes called clear ice – can be the culprit. It is a thin coating of transparent ice covering sidewalks and roads. Follow these tips to avoid falls:

- Walk like a penguin. Extend your arms out to your side, bend your knees and shuffle side to side as you move forward.
- If there is ice on a sidewalk, walk in the grass for better traction. Use handrails, if available.
- Avoid carrying loads. Keep your hands free for balance rather than in your pockets.
- Choose winter shoes with rubber soles to maintain traction. Attach spikeless gripper sole covers to shoes or boots.
- If you use a cane, attach an ice gripper tip with spikes.
- Never be in a hurry. Slow down and be aware of your surroundings.
- Wear clothing that doesn't obscure your vision, such as scarves and hoods. You need the ability to spot possible icy conditions.
- Carry cat litter. Toss it on slick surfaces to provide traction.

## What Are Your Holiday Plans?

A COVID-19 surge is expected in the next week, which may be attributed to Thanksgiving gatherings. COVID-19 is here to stay for the holidays. What are your plans? Great River Health recommends celebrating with only the people who live in your household. If you choose to be with more people, please follow suggestions from family physician David Carlson, MD.

[Click the photo to view Dr. Carlson's video.](#)





# WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Fort Madison Community Hospital and Great River Medical Center are working to protect the health of southeast Iowa. This means caring for our sickest patients while helping others remain well.



[fmchosp.com](http://fmchosp.com) | [greatriverhealth.org](http://greatriverhealth.org)

# Employee Profile

## Beth Conrad

Scheduler  
Wound & Hyperbaric



### Start date:

Aug. 1, 2016

### What a typical day looks like for me:

I schedule appointments, answer phone calls and fax documentation – typical office work.

### What I wanted to be when I grew up:

A music teacher

### Hometown / Where I live now:

Montrose, Iowa / Burlington

### Family:

- Husband, Mike
- Daughters Kirsten, 25; Danielle, 23; Sofia, 16
- Son, Chance, 14

### Things I enjoy:

Reading, watching movies, knitting, exercising, listening to music and working on puzzles

### People would be surprised to know ...

My daughter Sofia has Down syndrome and a heart condition.

### My motto or personal mantra:

Be kind!

### My favorite line from a movie:

"Find this road. It's like Bob's Road." ("Twister")

### Who I root for:

Hawkeyes

### The most-recent app I've downloaded:

Disney Plus

### Hidden talent:

I have the gift of gab. I can talk to anyone whether I know them or not!

### My biggest achievement:

Raising four amazing kiddos!