

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



December 2021

‘Tis the season at Center Street Park

The Salina Regional Health Foundation debuted a new holiday lighting attraction in late November at Center Street Park – home to Olivia’s Playground. The park is located at the intersection of Center and Fourth Streets in central Salina.

While the lights are visible from Center Street, the best way to view the attraction is on foot using the quarter-mile walking/running trail that winds around the park. Five themed displays are included around the path: Elf Village, Penguin Park, Secret Garden, 12 Days of Christmas and Winter Magic.

Olivia’s Playground at Center Street Park opened in June 2019 as a multigenerational park where people of all ages and abilities can exercise and play together. Salinans Sid and Susy Reitz were instrumental in bringing the park to the community. They were inspired by their granddaughter, Olivia Bloomfield, who uses a wheelchair and enjoys playing on inclusive playgrounds near her hometown in Leawood, Kan. The Reitz’s saw the need for an inclusive playground that was centrally located in Salina and open year-round. With support from the Foundation and many others in the community, the dream became a reality.

The Reitz’s also helped lead efforts to bring the holiday lighting display to the playground this year. Funding for the project was supported through a significant grant from the Don C. and Florence M. McCune Foundation and a gift from the Reitz family.

“Our family has always enjoyed seeing the various Christmas displays and we felt it would be wonderful to use the park, and the walking path, and make it a winter wonderland for everyone to enjoy,” Sid Reitz said. “We have always loved Christmas, and we wanted to share the magical spirit of the holidays with all ages and abilities.”

The lights will be on each evening through the holidays. Decorating the park is planned to be an annual event.



A holiday lighting display was unveiled to the community Nov. 20th at Center Street Park – home to Olivia’s Playground. The best way to view the attraction is on foot using the quarter-mile walking/running trail that winds around the park.

Grant purchases RapidAI software to enhance stroke care

A \$56,250 grant from the Salina Regional Health Foundation enabled the purchase of leading-edge computer software that allows doctors to more quickly and thoroughly evaluate patients for stroke and pursue the most appropriate treatment options.

The RapidAI software uses computer algorithms to guide care decisions, advanced imaging studies and a communications platform all rolled into one system. Doctors in Salina can see results from the brain imaging studies in as few as 90 seconds and specialists from Comprehensive Stroke Centers around the state can also securely view a patient's test results as they're collected.

Among the RapidAI enhancements is the ability to perform CT Perfusion tests that allow doctors to evaluate how brain tissue surrounding a blocked vessel has been impacted and if more damage is imminent. Brain tissue that shows poor perfusion of blood may already be lost or untreatable. Brain tissue that still shows good perfusion may still be salvageable with treatment. Treatments include clotbusting drugs given intravenously or a newer treatment called endovascular thrombectomy, which is available at Comprehensive Stroke Centers. To treat stroke endovascularly a specialist uses a catheterization procedure to go up into the vessels of the brain to physically remove the clot to restore blood flow.

"Thanks to the Foundation's support, the implementation of the Rapid software embraces the latest technology available for stroke care and gives us another tool in the toolbox for this life-threatening condition," said Jeremiah Ostmeyer, M.D., Emergency Department physician and medical director for the stroke program at Salina Regional.



Salina radiologist, Patrik Leonard, M.D., and Emergency Department physician, Jeremiah Ostmeyer, M.D., review the results of a CT Perfusion study, which is included as part of the RapidAI software for stroke treatment that was implemented earlier this year. The software purchase was funded by a grant from the Salina Regional Health Foundation.

Gifts support vision screening at Infant-Child Development

Salina Regional Health Center's Infant-Child Development Program will soon have access to a new vision screening tool to assess the children it serves with special needs. A significant gift from Mark and Jane Berkley through the Salina Regional Health Foundation and a \$1,000 grant from the Salina Charities League made the purchase possible.

Vision is essential to early childhood development and learning, and usage of the device will assist Salina ophthalmologist Linda Lawrence and optometrist Katy Ebert who offer special vision clinics to Infant-Child Development patients.

Both Mark and Jane Berkley have served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Jane served three, three-year terms on the board, and Mark plans to retire from the board after serving two terms at the end of the year. The Berkleys' relationship with the Foundation and the fact that Mark has suffered his own vision loss in recent years made the gift more meaningful.

"We've both really enjoyed our time serving on the Foundation board and have seen first-hand how important the mission of the organization is to the community," Mark Berkley said.



A photo vision screener like the one shown here will soon be utilized by staff members at Salina Regional's Infant-Child Development Program to assess children with special needs.

New Red Cross van in Salina supported by CHIP grant

Delivering supplies and equipment to daily blood drives throughout the region, and collecting blood donations for processing, testing and storage racks-up a lot of mileage each year.

When you consider there were 410 community blood drives in Saline County alone last year that collected and processed more than 5,000 units of life-saving blood products, you begin to get a sense for how busy the American Red Cross Blood Services division that serves the region is, and must remain, in order to meet the area's needs. They say every two seconds, somebody, somewhere needs blood.

To help replace an aging cargo van used to collect and deliver blood products in the region, the Salina Regional Health Foundation's Community Health Investment Program awarded a \$25,000 grant earlier this year to the American Red Cross to help place a new van in service.

"These vital vehicles drive our mission each day, driving thousands of miles each year, to help patients in need," said Jeny Mash, philanthropy officer with the American Red Cross. "We're proud to partner with the Foundation through CHIP to truly make a difference for those we serve in Salina and throughout Kansas."



A \$25,000 CHIP grant helped replace a Red Cross Blood Services van, which is based in Salina and serves the region.

Morrison House known as a 'home away from home'

When medical emergencies strike and hospitalization is required at Salina Regional Health Center, many families from around the region turn to the Rebecca A. Morrison House for a place to stay near their loved ones. Cancer patients from around the region undergoing outpatient treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center also stay at the Morrison House.



Morrison House Manager, Lisa Hoffman, decorates one of the Christmas trees on display for the holidays.

Since the service opened in 1993, more than 26,000 guests have stayed at the Morrison House from 443 Kansas communities and all 50 states. There is no charge for guests to stay at the Morrison House. The service is supported entirely by donation.

Guests have access to 14 private bedrooms with various sleeping arrangements. Fully stocked kitchens, laundry facilities, television and internet access are also available at the home. Rooms are allocated on a space-available basis and referrals are required from staff members at the hospital or cancer center.

"Many family members dealing with the medical needs of a loved one, as well as cancer patients undergoing treatment, have come to know the Morrison House as a home away from home," said Lisa Hoffman, Morrison House manager.

Send your support! ✂

Consider the Morrison House in your annual giving plans!



REBECCA A. MORRISON HOUSE
A Heartland Hospitality Home

There are many ways you can support the Rebecca A. Morrison House at Salina Regional Health Center. For a gift of \$100 you can sponsor a day at the Morrison House through the Adopt-A-Day program. Contact Morrison House Manager, Lisa Hoffman, by calling (785) 452-7500 for more information. You can also donate online at morrisonhouse.srhc.com and click on the donate button. Gifts of any amount are welcome and your gifts are tax deductible.

Mail checks to: Rebecca A. Morrison House
513 S. Eighth Street
Salina, KS 67401

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Salina Regional Health Foundation

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*To expand, manage and
distribute assets to
improve the health of
this regional community.*

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