

CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



December 2022

Grant helps pharmacy become Dispensary of Hope

A recent Salina Regional Health Foundation grant is supporting the Outpatient Pharmacy at Salina Regional Health Center in becoming a Dispensary of Hope to increase medication access for uninsured and low income patients.

Dispensary of Hope is a non-profit U.S. medication distributor that has over 200 distribution sites across 30 states. In Kansas there is only one Dispensary of Hope site located in Wichita.

Patients who are uninsured and meet income requirements 300% below the federal poverty level can receive their much-needed medications free of charge.

“Recent additions to the Dispensary of Hope formulary, especially some insulin formulations, make this program attractive,” said Steven Blanner, Pharmacy director at Salina Regional.

The service will begin being offered in early 2023 and patients from all over the region will be able to receive their medications through the Outpatient Pharmacy at Salina Regional if they’re qualified for the program. Healthcare providers from around the region will be receiving information about how to get their patients enrolled.

“We anticipate serving uninsured and low income patients from throughout the region, not just patients in Salina,” Blanner said.

The cost for some forms of insulin used by patients with diabetes can be more than \$300 per month. Many other life saving medications also are expensive.

Recent research at a Dispensary of Hope health system showed a reduction in cost for serving these qualified patients of \$3,161 per year. Additionally, the study demonstrated a 20% reduction in inpatient stays for participants in the program.

“The Foundation’s support allows us to get the program up and running quickly to meet patient needs,” Blanner said.



Pharmacist Carleigh Krueger at Salina Regional Health Center’s Outpatient Pharmacy hands a prescription to a patient. A recent Foundation grant supports the Outpatient Pharmacy in becoming a Dispensary of Hope to provide uninsured and low income patients free prescriptions.

Cancer patient sees Morrison House as a godsend

Radiation treatment for cancer often requires daily appointments over the course of multiple weeks. Patients from outside Salina receiving care at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center are welcome to stay at the Rebecca A. Morrison House to help alleviate travel time and expenses.

There is no charge for guests who stay at the Morrison House. The service is supported entirely by donations.

Gary De Kler, Beloit, was a guest at the Morrison House this summer while undergoing treatment for prostate cancer. He would often stay Monday through Friday and return home on the weekends.

“People can spend fortunes on hotels and gas during situations like this,” De Kler said. “I can’t tell you what a tremendous gift the Morrison House is. It speaks a lot of Salina as a community to have a place like this for patients and families. From a humanitarian standpoint, it’s the single-greatest gift I’ve experienced in my lifetime.”

De Kler brought groceries and fixed many of his meals using the house’s stocked kitchens, kept up with laundry and found himself completely at ease with his surroundings. His private bedroom and bathroom was comfortable, but he often spent time in the common areas of the home visiting with staff, other patients and family members.

De Kler wrapped up his radiation treatments in late July and the results to date have been promising. He continues to take hormonal therapies to battle the disease and his doctor will continue to monitor for signs of recurrence.

There are a number of ways you can support the Morrison House. Visit srhealthfoundation.com to learn more.



Lisa Hoffman, Morrison House manager, refreshes Gary De Kler's coffee. De Kler spent five weeks at the house this summer while undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer.

CHIP grant supports 5 Red Cross Community Blood Drives in 2023

Every two seconds someone in the United States needs lifesaving blood. A \$19,500 Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) grant is supporting the American Red Cross Kansas-Oklahoma Region's efforts to conduct five community blood drives in Salina in 2023.

The Red Cross estimates that each community blood drive costs about \$3,900 including staff wages, equipment and transportation expenses. The Red Cross's costs for conducting community blood drives have been rising due to inflation and the need for increased safety measures required since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.



A \$19,500 Community Health Investment Program grant is sponsoring five Red Cross community blood drives in Salina in 2023. The next drive will be held December 28-30.

Stress from the pandemic also has at times decreased inventory of blood supplies to critically low levels never seen before for certain blood products.

“We are grateful for the Foundation’s continued partnership as a major supporter for blood services in Saline County,” said Jeny Mash, Kansas philanthropy officer with the Red Cross. “We also ask for the community’s support by donating at these upcoming drives.”

The next Salina community blood drive will be held at Sunrise Presbyterian Church December 28-30. You can register to donate by visiting redcrossblood.org and type in the sponsor code ‘Salina.’

Get in the holiday spirit at Olivia's Playground

Center Street Park – home to Olivia's Playground – is lit for the holidays once again. The Salina Regional Health Foundation first turned the park into a holiday lighting attraction last year, and it was widely enjoyed by the community.

The park is located at the intersection of Center and Fourth streets in central Salina near the Smoky Hill River Channel. The best way to view the attraction is on foot using the quarter-mile walking/running trail that winds around the park.

Features include Elf Village, Penguin Park, Secret Gardens, 12 Days of Christmas, Winter Magic and a large ornament that has become a popular spot for families to snap holiday photos. New features this year include lighted arches over a portion of the trail and an 18-foot by 20-foot "Peace on Earth" globe.

The lights will be on each evening through the holidays. You can learn more about Olivia's Playground by visiting srhealthfoundation.com.



Many families took holiday portraits using the ornament feature when it debuted last year at Olivia's Playground.

Holiday Giving

Consider the Salina Regional Health Foundation in your year-end giving. Here are a few options:



\$ _____



\$ _____



\$ _____



\$ _____



\$ _____



\$ _____

Total Gift: \$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Name on Card: _____

Card No.: _____

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Make checks payable to Salina Regional Health Foundation. Mail to: P.O. Box 618 • Salina, KS • 67402-0618

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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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