

# CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



Fall 2023

## Morrison House celebrates 30th anniversary in November

Thirty years ago on November 24th, 1993, the Rebecca A. Morrison House at Salina Regional Health Center opened its doors as a hospitality house serving guests of patients in the hospital from out of town.

The home originally opened as a six bedroom residence, but after its early years of success, the facility was expanded and upgraded in 2002 to include 14-bedrooms with elevators to make all rooms accessible to those with disabilities.

Over the years guests have come from all 50 states, 18 foreign countries and 445 Kansas communities. Today, patients undergoing treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center also have access to the home – saving countless miles of travel to and from appointments.

There is no charge to guests who stay at the Morrison House. The service is owned and operated by the Salina Regional Health Foundation and supported entirely by donations. While many guests do leave donations, many area organizations, churches and individuals also support the home.

Many supporters participate in the Morrison House's Adopt-A-Day program. For a \$100 donation you can choose a day to support the services of the home. Adopt-A-Day donors are recognized each day on a calendar at the Morrison House and in the main lobby at Salina Regional Health Center. Call the Morrison House at (785) 452-7500 to learn more about Adopt-A-Day and other ways you can support the service.

The Morrison House will also be the featured recipient of the Salina Regional Health Foundation's GivingTuesday fundraising initiative on November 28th. Follow the Morrison House and Salina Regional Health Foundation on Facebook to learn how you can support GivingTuesday and the Morrison House's 30th anniversary.



The Rebecca A. Morrison House at Salina Regional Health Center will celebrate its 30th anniversary in November. Since opening in 1993, the home has served guests from all 50 states, 18 foreign countries and 445 Kansas communities.

## MCA membership important for local cancer patients

As a member of the Masonic Cancer Alliance (MCA), patients and staff at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center have access to some of the latest research, clinical trials, educational programs and information impacting survivorship for many forms of cancer.

The MCA was founded by the University of Kansas Cancer Center to improve access to cancer care across the state. Through the alliance, many of the same clinical trials and research available at KU are available to patients close to home. The Tammy Walker Cancer Center's annual membership dues to the MCA are paid by the Salina Regional Health Foundation.

KU's efforts through the MCA helped it earn the prestigious Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute last year. The Tammy Walker Cancer Center is one of the MCA's leading members enrolling patients in clinical trials, which provide patients access to some of the latest advancements being studied to treat cancer.

"Our MCA membership is extremely valuable," said Jeffrey Geitz, M.D., medical oncologist at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center. "Our access to clinical trials at KU and relationships and collaboration we have with other cancer centers in the alliance is extremely beneficial to our patients."

## CHIP grant supports new childcare center at Salina church

A recent \$19,500 Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) grant to First Covenant Church in Salina is helping a new childcare center.

The grant was used to facilitate minor construction required for the childcare center at the church. Magnolia Kids Childcare Center hopes to officially open in December and will have space to accommodate up to 39 kids when fully staffed and operational.

"Our church saw the community's need for additional childcare offerings and recognized we have a fantastic facility that could accommodate a childcare center," said Susie Omli, board chair at First Covenant Church. "This will be a ministry of our church that operates as its own entity."

Magnolia Kids plans to have openings for 9 infants, 10 toddlers and 20 preschoolers through age 6.

The effort is aimed at alleviating a critical need for childcare in Saline County. Childcare Aware of Kansas has estimated that Saline County has a shortage of more than 1,000 childcare openings.

"The Foundation's support for the program is very generous, and we're so thankful," Omli said.



The Tammy Walker Cancer Center's annual membership dues for the Masonic Cancer Alliance are paid by the Salina Regional Health Foundation.



First Covenant Church in Salina plans to open a new childcare center in December thanks to assistance from a Salina Regional Health Foundation CHIP grant.

# Infant Child Development a blessing to area families

Salina Regional Health Center's Infant Child Development program provides Early Childhood Developmental Services to children from birth to age three with a wide range of disabilities and developmental delays from Saline, Ellsworth and Ottawa counties. It also provides individualized care for older special needs children, and children from other areas of central Kansas where limited developmental services are available.

The program offers many forms of physical, occupational and speech therapies and early childhood special education. Most of the time these interventions are performed by staff in the child's home, childcare setting or other natural places in the community. The program also hosts special vision, hearing and nutrition clinics with local specialists.

As a state and grant funded program designated to serve three local counties from ages birth to three, no family is ever turned away from receiving services based on ability to pay. While some insurances do provide levels of coverage, frequently reimbursement does not match costs for providing care. No family is ever charged for services that are not covered.

An endowment held by the Salina Regional Health Foundation for Infant Child Development helps offset annual operational deficits for the program. Other gifts from trusts and donations help provide specialized pediatric therapy equipment needed for patients such as special communication devices, positioning equipment, and other adaptive or mobility technology.

"We maintain a lending library of specialized equipment that these families often borrow from to try at home," said Joyce Trower, Infant Child Development director. "Whenever there's something new we think would benefit a patient, or something we don't have available to lend, we turn to the Foundation for assistance."

There are a number of ways you can support Infant Child Development by making a gift through the Salina Regional Health Foundation.



Infant Child Development Speech Therapist Amanda Hamilton works with Terra Stricklin, Abilene, using a communication device.



Total Gift:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



Salina Regional  
Infant Child Development



# Helping Hand

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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SCAN ME

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