



MAY 2022

How giving sounds to our littlest patients

Most babies are born with normal hearing and experience the beauty of sound from the beginning. Unfortunately, about 1-3 infants out of 1,000 are born with some degree of hearing loss. Those children cannot properly hear their parents speak, sing or read to them, which delays speech and language development. Early infant hearing testing, as soon as only a few hours old, is available and, since 2007, mandatory for hospitals to complete in Minnesota prior to discharge. Newborn hearing screening identifies babies at risk for hearing loss so they can be evaluated and treated early.



John and Helen Monson

Thanks to a generous gift from Long Prairie residents, **John and Helen Monson**, CentraCare – Long Prairie now has the latest infant hearing screening technology available. This new lightweight and portable equipment reads faster, which not only increases staff efficiency, but also can alleviate difficult readings due to restless babies.

"By upgrading our equipment to accurately address hearing issues in infants, parents can get the assistance they need for their child as soon as possible," said Jodi Hillmer, Director of Patient Care Services, "This new technology is a great benefit for our littlest patients at CentraCare – Long Prairie and brings peace of mind for parents."



Presenting the check to Dr. Palmer is Carol Lewis, Kiwanis past-president, and Art Grachek, program chair.

Kiwanis Club supports Clara's House

Thank you to our community partner, Kiwanis, for their support of Clara's House programs.

Dr. Scott Palmer, Director of Behavioral Health, shared the mission and services provided by Clara's House at a recent Kiwanis meeting.

Clara's House is a partial hospitalization program for children and adolescents ages 5-18 who have behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues. The facility serves hundreds of children each year.

[Learn more](#) about Clara's House.



Get to know our team: Allie Theisen, Admin. Assistant

If you've called the Foundation office, the friendly voice on the other end usually belongs to Allison (Allie) Theisen, who joined the Foundation team in May 2018.

As the administrative assistant for the Foundation, Allie answers the phones, arranges meetings, helps with committee work and events and many "other duties as assigned!" For example, Allie helped to coordinate meals donated by our generous community members for our health care workers during COVID surges.

"The favorite part of my job is working with our generous community members at our events, such as Holly Ball. I look forward to seeing everyone in-person after two years of virtual events," shared Allie.

Allie grew up on a 200-acre grain farm outside of Brandon, Minn. As the youngest of four children, Allie enjoyed all the things kids do who grow up in the country, including riding her bike on dirt roads, playing in the hayloft, 4H and the county fair, rock picking, loving the baby animals, selling sweet corn out of the back of a pick-up truck and swimming with cousins and friends! She currently lives in St. Cloud with her husband Gary and has two amazing "bonus" kids, Brennen and Brianna. They also have two very spoiled golden retrievers named Maggie and Parker.

Allie and Gary enjoy two main seasons -- hockey and camping. As season ticket holders for the SCSU Men's Hockey team, they spend many weekends watching hockey. They also have a seasonal camping spot in Miliona which they enjoy whenever they can. They love to cook, bake, barbecue/smoke meat and make their own sausage to share with family and friends. On a free weekend, they also have been known to go on a "Theisen Tour". (Definition: An unplanned road trip that goes where the road takes them. They just get in the car and figure it out along the way! Life is an adventure!)

Before working at CentraCare, Allie worked at Catholic Charities, St. Cloud Wireless Holdings (Cell2000 and Sprint) and Fingerhut.

"Growing up in a small town really prepared me for working for CentraCare Foundation. Every single person in a small community is important to the health and wellness of their community. This is similar to our work in the Foundation. Our team does amazing things and raises money to improve health and health care" added Allie.



Thank you to our health care heroes!



Since May is nationally the official month to recognize nurses and all health care workers, we want to extend our gratitude for our health care heroes who continue to make a difference for our patients and residents every day!

Especially during the challenges of the past two years, we appreciate that you chose to show up every day to care for your community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Do you want to recognize a special health care hero. We'd love to hear about them! Share your gratitude [here](#).



"Stand for kids" supports victims of child abuse

Did you know by the age of 18, one in 10 children will be a victim of sexual abuse or assault, and one in 7 will be a victim of physical abuse or neglect.

Since 2016, more than 1,400 children and vulnerable adults have received services from the [Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center](#) (CAC). These services include forensic interviews, advocacy, integrated behavioral health sessions, and medical exams -- all at no cost to the family thanks to community giving.

Philanthropy also helps to provide children and families with small comfort items and snacks at the CAC as well as gas or grocery gift cards for families traveling to medical or therapy appointments or court.

The CAC is a collaboration of representatives from medical, mental health, advocacy, prosecutors, law enforcement and social services. These professionals work together to provide victims of child abuse with a bright and happy future.

If you are willing to spread awareness and support for kids by displaying a free "Stand for Kids" lawn sign or want more information about CAC services, contact 320-229-5105.



2022 GOLF SCRAMBLE SERIES

<p>PAYNESVILLE FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022 11 am registration 12 pm start Koronis Hills Golf Club Paynesville</p>	<p>SAUK CENTRE TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 10:30 am registration 12 pm start Greystone Golf Club Sauk Centre</p>	<p>LONG PRAIRIE TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022 10 am registration 11 am start Long Prairie Country Club Long Prairie</p>
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Join your friends and neighbors while supporting local health care initiatives at one of CentraCare Foundation's golf scrambles this summer. [Click here](#) for details.

Are you interested in hosting a fundraising event?

As the charitable, tax-exempt organization for CentraCare, CentraCare Foundation has created policies and procedures designed to guide in planning fund-raising events and activities that benefit CentraCare.

If you are interested in hosting a fundraising event for a CentraCare program, visit our [website](#) or call 320-240-2810 to learn more.

We are so grateful for our community partners who make a difference for our patients through their efforts.



Follow us on Facebook

CentraCare Foundation has so many stories to share and people to thank that we've created our own [Facebook page](#) where you can find all these things and more! We invite you not only to like our page, but to take it a step further — invite your friends to the page to engage and interact with the posts on Facebook. And give feedback on how we can share the great things CentraCare Foundation is doing for community, our patients and their families thanks to the generous support of our employees and the community.



Contact us at 320-240-2810 or Foundation@CentraCare.com

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