



## Membership Drive to Begin

Many of you have met our new CEO Austin Gillard, but if you haven't, I hope you will have the opportunity in the near future. Austin began in May of this year and has repeatedly expressed his gratitude for our Foundation.

Over the past decade, charitable donations from the Clay County Hospital Foundation have totaled nearly two million dollars. Our support allows the hospital to do some things that might not be possible otherwise. We support the hospital ensuring the residents of our county as well as the surrounding counties have access to quality healthcare, now and in the future.

I want to thank each of you for your continued financial support of the foundation. There are many charitable institutions in need of financial support, so I am ever grateful for your steadfast generosity. When you see one of the members of the board, I would like for you to thank them for their dedication to our organization.

We are launching a membership drive, asking friends and neighbors with charitable inclinations to join us in our efforts.

If you know someone who might be interested in supporting our efforts, please contact one of your board members or me to extend an invitation for membership.

Recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of the Clay County Hospital Foundation. Membership in the Foundation gives a person the opportunity to improve their own life and their community.

Through your support of our foundation and community, you will leave a legacy for those who follow after us. As much good as we have done over the past ten years, we could do even more with your help.

Our foundation board invites you to consider the wonderful things made possible by your support and to help us be the difference in our community as we face the challenges of the future.

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## BOARD MEMBERS

- President Mike Floersch
- Secretary Marion Stuart
- Treasurer Sandy Fox
- Director Marcia J. Newell
- Austin M. Gillard
- Jim Braden
- Gary Griffiths
- Dustin Mullin
- Grace Oetinger
- Terri Parry
- Scott Patterson
- Preston Rook
- Ron Roth
- Mike Ryan
- Walt Slingsby
- Charlotte Stagner
- Clyde Wollenberg

## Director's Letter *by Marcia J. Newell*

Although we go through life knowing it is inevitable we will experience a loss in our lives at one time or another, we never seem to be prepared. Finding the words to express our feelings about saying good bye to dear friends is very difficult.

Death has taken several of our membership in 2015. Their community involvement and financial support through the years have been vital to the success of our organization.

When people serve so selflessly, you would think writing a tribute would flow easily. Yet I find myself struggling to do justice to two men who not only served on the board of the foundation, but served their country and this community in so many ways. My words aren't adequate, so please overlook my shortcomings and accept the heartfelt gratitude that comes from all of our foundation members with the loss of Lloyd Starkweather in February of this year; and Chuck Stuart in October. When I began in 2005, both families invited me into their homes and welcomed me with friendship. They fit the definition offered by Lois Wyse, "A good friend is a connection to life – a tie to the past, a road to the future, the key to sanity in a totally insane world."

Lloyd was 87 years old when we met. He was an active member of the foundation and worked on my first capital campaign with enthusiasm. As the years went by, Lloyd's eyesight failed and he was no longer able to drive his friend, Pauline Snodgrass to the weekly Lion's Club meetings. I honestly think Lloyd was more frustrated because he was unable to help others than he was for himself. I began driving, and that experience was one of the most humorous of my adult life! I could write a book (a big book) about the funny and interesting things Lloyd and Pauline said to one another and about Clay Center.

On those weekly drives, I learned the history of our school, downtown buildings, homes and families. For someone who came from a small community, I recognized the significance of those things to our identity and that knowledge made me feel as if I belonged. Lloyd and Virginia Starkweather made me feel at home.

Lloyd often spoke of his appreciation for the many

opportunities he had growing up as a boy in Clay Center. He learned the value of hard work and the importance of an education. He graduated from Kansas State University and enlisted in



the Army Air Corps where he flew 50 combat missions in a B-17 "Flying Fortress" during World War II. His faith, courage and willingness to serve were evident throughout his life as well as the determination to give back to the place he was proud to call home. Clay Center and the Clay

County Hospital Foundation were the recipients of his generosity.

One of Lloyd's favorite sayings was, "Whatever will be, will be." He took each day as it came, appreciated its blessings and gave generously. That's a powerful example for those of us left behind.

Chuck was 82 years old when we met. Although he had retired as president of the foundation when I arrived, his wife Marion was serving on the board. I had heard so much about his work with the foundation, I wanted to meet him myself. He was fun, opinionated, kind and maybe a little curious about me. I had no experience, but was optimistic. I needed all the help I could get and who better to learn from than a lifelong educator? That first get-together turned into one of many. The lessons I learned at the Stuart kitchen table gave me a sense of what was possible with the foundation and a deep appreciation for Clay Center.



History of the foundation and the fundraising effort that ultimately built the physician's clinic; an outpatient clinic and wellness center was helpful, but the gift of knowing the man behind those initial efforts provided vision.

*Continued to page 3*

## ...Director's Letter

I feel confident in saying Chuck was the foundation upon which the Clay County Hospital Foundation was built. From Chuck's research in the 1980's, he produced "Keys to Successful Fundraising". He wasn't simply raising money for the hospital; he was asking people to be committed to providing quality healthcare for this community. As a volunteer, he was leading other volunteers with the admonition- "Be committed yourself before you ask others to pledge support." Chuck spoke often of gratitude for his adoptive family, his wife, Marion and the many opportunities he'd had in life. He gave generously out of a sense of gratitude for what had been given to him.

During the last couple of years, Chuck's health failed him, but his mind was sharp. I was with him after a surgery where he was enduring terrific pain. He told Marion, "If this is what our boys feel after being injured in war, we have to give more to "Wounded Warriors". Selflessly, Chuck dedicated his time and effort to improving the lives of those around him. I was lucky enough to be one of those who benefitted from his guidance and so was our foundation.

On numerous occasions Chuck said he wanted "Anchors Aweigh", played at his funeral and his family honored that request. The word "weigh" in this sense comes from

the archaic word meaning to heave, hoist or raise. "Aweigh" means that action has been completed. The anchor is aweigh when it is pulled from the bottom. This event is duly noted in the ship's log.

*Anchors Aweigh....*

*Until we meet once more.*

*Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.*

*Blue of the mighty deep:*

*Gold of God's great sun.*

*Let these our colors be*

*Till all of time be done.*

*On seven seas we learn*

*Our fleet's stern call:*

*Faith, courage, service true,*

*With honor, over honor, over all.*

So, Anchors Aweigh, my friends, Lloyd and Chuck. Your efforts have been duly noted, forever logged in our memories.



## Piotique Parade Health of the Future

Each department plays an important role as members of the healthcare team and by representing the hospital outside of the workplace. Every year, employees make the float project a success for the Piotique Parade. This year was no exception! "Health for the Future" was our takeoff on the old movie, "Back to the Future".

We built a clock tower, flying DeLorean and had characters playing the part of Marty and Doc Brown. (I think one of the guitar players looks like our board member, Walt Slingsby!) Hover board signs with healthcare services decorated the sides of the float. We had a lot of volunteers dressed through the decades to throw candy. It was a great day for Piotique!



## Emergency Entrance Change

In an effort to serve our patients more efficiently, access to the Emergency Department is now shared with the Outpatient Clinic entrance on the west side of the hospital. This entrance is available to the public twenty-four hours a day. Implementation of the entrance change prompted the need for new signage. The Foundation purchased the materials, and Ray Dean Knox offered his metal fabricating expertise.

or night. Dustin Knox, Ray Dean's son assisted in the metal working. Hospital Employee Justin Urban applied the reflective vinyl and completed the painting. Ray Dean Knox has more than a charitable connection to the hospital. His daughters, Shandi Slater and Shanna Joy serve Clay County Medical Center as Registered Nurses and his granddaughter Madison Knox is a Certified Nursing Assistant.

## Fluoroscopy

In July, Clay County Medical Center installed a GE Legacy Radiography and Fluoroscopy machine. Courtesy of the Foundation, it is located in a newly remodeled area in the Radiology Department.

Fluoroscopy is an x-ray procedure that makes it possible to see internal organs in motion. Fluoroscopy uses x-ray to produce real-time video images. A TV camera displays images on a video monitor. The Speech pathology department at Clay County Medical Center provides evaluation and treatment of swallowing difficulties and speech language disorders. Difficulties may emerge from the general aging process. They may also be present in neurological diseases such as Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, oral cancer, dementia and stroke.

Members of the Radiology team include Dr. Pamela B. Davis, Radiologist; Brenda Bohnenblust, Speech/Language Pathologist; Justin Begnoche, Director of Radiology and Radiology Technicians- Tammy Herra; Jenn Bush; Julia Mesallies; Cody Kandt



## Contributions to Facility

Art can provide a very important therapeutic element in the health care environment. In hospitals, it is a positive distraction for patients, visitors, and staff. Healthcare consumers typically have only a layman's perspective with which to judge the quality of care they receive, and their impression is heavily influenced by the elements they are comfortable evaluating - good food, friendly staff, a clean and attractive facility. The Foundation's assistance in these areas is important for the patient, their family and visitors. It also has a positive impact upon the hospital's satisfaction scores. Dr. Fernando Urgarte, a Marysville surgeon, exhibited his photography and donated two lovely pieces for the hospital.

The Foundation also provided funds to replace the carpet in 2015. The improvement has made a significant difference aesthetically, in hallway acoustics, and improves the noise level for the patient experience.



# Excellence in Outcomes

In November of this year, Clay County Medical Center was recognized by iVantage Health Analytics and the National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH) for overall excellence in Outcomes, reflecting top quartile performance among all acute care hospitals in the nation. Our new CEO, Austin Gillard commented, "It is an honor that Clay County Medical Center has been recognized as a national leader for the exceptional care and patient outcomes we provide." He continued, "Quality and Patient care is our main objective. The collaboration between patients, staff, and family is one of a kind and a critical piece in our success. I believe those relationships, along with our irreplaceable patient care staff, is what has led to our excellence in Quality and Outcomes."

The rankings have been designated by the Hospital Strength INDEX™, the indus-

try's most comprehensive and objective assessment of hospital performance, captures performance metrics for more than 4,000 acute care hospitals, including over 1,300 rural and Critical Access Hospitals. Leveraging data from public data sources, INDEX aggregates data from 66 individual metrics into three major categories and 9 pillars to derive a single strength overall rating for each facility. In light of the regulatory and financial pressures rural hospitals face, we are truly proud of this recognition.



## CONTACT

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Foundation

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## DONATION/PLEDGE/GIFT DESIGNATION FORM

**Please cut out and return form to:**  
Clay County Hospital Foundation  
617 Liberty, P.O. Box 512, Clay Center, KS 67432

***Make any address changes on the back or fill in our address if blank.***

### **OUTRIGHT CONTRIBUTION**

I/We wish to make an outright gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to make an gift of:  Property  Stocks, Securities  Real Estate  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEDGE**

I/We wish to make a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We promise to make our gift in equal installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning in (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We intend to make payments:  Monthly  Quarterly  Semi-annually  Annually

### **DEFERRED GIFT**

I/We wish to make a deferred gift through:

Will Provision  Charitable Trust  Life Insurance  Life Estate

### **GIFT DESIGNATION**

I/We wish my/our gift to be used:  For General

Designated for the specific area of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me to arrange for a Foundation representative to visit.

Please contact me regarding a tour of the facilities.

Please send me more information how I can leave a gift in my Will.

# THE FOUNDATION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

by Austin M. Gillard, CEO



*Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.*

- John F. Kennedy

A hospital is not operationally the same business it was in the 1960s as the environment of healthcare has radically changed. Hospitals are no longer just inpatient facilities; instead, a majority of the need for hospital services is for outpatient care. I appreciate the Foundation's support allowing us to have Health Facilities Group conduct a study evaluating our physical structure's ability to meet the healthcare needs of this community.

We have outgrown some of the spaces as new services are offered, as things are done differently, and as newer equipment and technology are utilized. Because of legislation, reimbursement, and public expectations, what used to be physically in the right place is not anymore. When undertaking any hospital remodeling project, it is important that a facility must be kept operational during the construction process and also be safe for patients and staff. Your support is crucial to our success and I thank you for involvement.

For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, please call (785) 632-2144. Please write to us if you wish to have your name removed from our list to receive fund-raising requests in support of Clay County Hospital Foundation or Clay County Medical Center. Both entities are 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organizations.

## Foundation News



Clay County Hospital  
FOUNDATION

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