Mission

The mission of UnityPoint Health® - St. Luke’s Foundation is to support UnityPoint Health - Cedar Rapids in giving the health care we’d like our loved ones to receive.

News and Information

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. You can help raise awareness of the growing need to protect children in our community from abuse and neglect when you support the Child Protection Center. Make your gift online at unitypoint.org/donate.

- April is also Volunteer Appreciation Month. Volunteers are important members of our UnityPoint Health - Cedar Rapids family. Please take this opportunity to thank a volunteer the next time you’re at St. Luke’s and let them know how much they matter. Learn about volunteer opportunities at bit.ly/STLvolunteers.

- May is a time for remembering lost loved ones. You can pay tribute to a special life with your $50 gift to our annual Memorial Day weekend tribute. We will display a rose in St. Luke’s A Avenue lobby throughout Memorial Day weekend with a personalized memory tag of the life being honored. Make your gift online at give.unitypoint.org/MemorialRoses.
Last April, Dr. Keith Krewer, retired physician, and a member of St. Luke’s Foundation board, saw a presentation on the $25 million expansion of UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids cardiovascular services. He talked to his wife, Cheryl, about supporting the campaign, and she agreed it was the right thing to do.

“The next day I had a heart attack,” says Keith. “I experienced everything from the ER to the cath lab, where I had a stent placed, followed by three months of cardiac rehab. Every step reinforced my belief that giving back to St. Luke’s was the right decision.”

Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the U.S. today. With the population growing in Eastern Iowa, particularly among people 65 and up, the demand for St. Luke’s outpatient cardiovascular services is expected to increase by 20 percent over the next decade.

Phase 1 of the Heart & Vascular Center expansion added a second electrophysiology area to correct issues with the heart’s rhythm. Phases 2 and 3 will expand St. Luke’s capacity to perform vascular procedures; interventional radiology techniques for unblocking vessels and dissolving clots; and advanced, minimally invasive procedures to treat problems with the heart’s structure, including revolutionary Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR). St. Luke’s introduced TAVR to the Cedar Rapids community in 2016, and is the only TAVR-certified hospital in Iowa.

As part of the expansion, Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab moved to its new home in PCI Medical Pavilion 1. Nurse Manager Julie Peterson, RN, explains, “The new space is working well. The cardiologists and cardiac surgeons are in the same building, patients can come to one location for doctor appointments and rehab. Whether you’ve had a heart attack, heart surgery or other cardiovascular event, our goal is to help you recover your health and your confidence.”

Keith Krewer credits St. Luke’s Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab with helping him return to his active lifestyle. He adds, “If I had my druthers, I’d rather not have a heart attack, but I did, and I was in the right place and in the right hands. We’re fortunate to have an outstanding cardiovascular care system here at St. Luke’s. Cheryl and I want St. Luke’s Heart & Vascular Center to continue to be at the top of its game for a long time to come.”

You can help build healthier futures for heart and vascular patients in our community when you support St. Luke’s Heart Expansion Campaign. For more information, call St. Luke’s Foundation at (319) 369-7716.

NYQUIST FAMILY MAKES $1 MILLION GIFT

UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Foundation is proud to announce a gift of $1 million from the Sarah Nyquist Trust. Sarah’s parents, John and Alice Nyquist, were longtime friends and supporters of St. Luke’s Hospital. John, who passed away in 2010, served on the hospital board for many years and Alice, who passed in 2012, was a 60-year member of St. Luke’s Auxiliary. Sarah Nyquist died in 2022.

Alice’s nephew, G. Richard Johnson, says, “St. Luke’s has always been the hospital of choice in our family and John and Alice in particular were very strong supporters.

St. Luke’s was one of their passions and Sarah’s estate is honoring that.”

The $1 million gift will go to the expansion of St. Luke’s Heart & Vascular Center. Johnson adds, “Heart disease runs in many families, including ours. John and Alice would be very proud to know that St. Luke’s Heart & Vascular Center, which has helped members of their own family, will benefit families in the Cedar Rapids community for generations to come.”
Ivy Maybanks has a severe form of asthma. She spent her seventh birthday in St. Luke’s Hospital after she woke up unable to breathe. “I didn’t know if I was going to make it,” Ivy recalls. She also remembers the kindness of her care team, who decorated her room and gave her a birthday cake and presents.

Within a year, Ivy was back at St. Luke’s ER, followed by a LifeGuard Air Ambulance ride to the University of Iowa. This time Ivy got a new friend—a stuffed giraffe in a UnityPoint Health T-shirt—to make her trip a little easier. She named her new pal Georgia.

Since then, Ivy has developed rare, excruciating headaches that have landed her back in the hospital multiple times. Through it all, Ivy, now 12 years old, has had Georgia at her side.

“I always take Georgia with me,” explains Ivy. “They take really good care of me at St. Luke’s, but the headaches are really awful. And when you’re a kid who is sad and confused in the hospital, a little friend to snuggle is the best.”

Soon Ivy began to wonder if there were kids in the hospital who did not have their own stuffed animal to hug and love. “Ivy is a kind, sensitive person,” says her mom Genie. “When she came up with the idea to help children at St. Luke’s, I told her she could open a GoFundMe page.”

Their goal was to raise enough money to purchase 100 “Georgia giraffes.” The page generated more than that, and with additional support from the silenced Cedar Rapids, Ivy donated more than 400 giraffes to St. Luke’s.

Jenny Haverly, RN, supervisor of St. Luke’s Children’s Center, says when a child one year old or up is admitted to St. Luke’s, a giraffe is placed on their bed. “It’s one of the first things they see when they enter their room. It also gives them something to focus on and cuddle with if we have to do an IV start or a blood draw.”

Ivy wrote a little note that’s tied around each giraffe’s neck. “It explains how Georgia helped her and how Ivy is helping others,” says Jenny. “Now another patient has donated board games to us. He says getting his giraffe inspired him to want to give back, too.”

Belle Edwards was just 10 days old when she and her mom boarded a LifeGuard Air Ambulance for an emergency flight from Vinton to UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s. Critically ill with RSV, tiny Belle would spend two terrifying weeks fighting for her life.

“We were greeted with a team of doctors and nurses who thoroughly examined Belle,” recall her parents, Nate and Leah Edwards. “Because Belle’s left lung collapsed, she had to be placed on a ventilator. Belle also developed a rare complication that was causing her to retain water. Leah and Nate said St. Luke’s Neonatologist Dr. Andrew Nordine explained Belle’s condition and discussed their options for her care.

“He let us know he had consulted with doctors at the University of Iowa, who offered to transfer Belle there. But we felt so confident in the care she was receiving at St. Luke’s, we declined the transfer. In the days that followed, we were constantly encouraged by every single person who entered Belle’s room. They made us feel she was their top priority and they were going to do whatever it took to make Belle and us more comfortable as she was recovering.”

Nate and Leah add, “To this day our sons talk about Nurse Jim who brought them special toys when they visited their baby sister and made them feel cared for, too!”

Want to express your appreciation to the caregivers who made a difference for you or a loved one? Guardian Angel gifts can be of any size, and a ceremony honors those who go above and beyond for you. For more information, call the St. Luke’s Foundation at (319) 369-7716.
A cancer diagnosis is overwhelming. Battling cancer can zap an individual’s physical, emotional and financial resources.

Fortunately, at Helen G. Nassif Community Cancer Center, no one has to fight cancer alone. A partnership of UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital and Physicians’ Clinic of Iowa, in collaboration with community-based specialty providers, Nassif Community Cancer Center supports patients and their family members from diagnosis through survivorship.

For patients facing economic challenges, Nassif Community Cancer Center’s Spirit Patient Assistance Fund offers vital financial help. Since 2014 with donations from community members, local partners and patient families, the Spirit Fund has helped almost 600 cancer patients by providing more than $265,000 in financial support.

To qualify, patients must have a household income at or below 250 percent of poverty to receive up to $500 assistance annually. Spirit Fund dollars have paid for medical and supportive supplies such as lymphedema treatments and ostomy supplies that are not covered by insurance. Gas cards helped patients travel back and forth for their daily or weekly cancer treatments. Spirit Fund dollars have also put food on patients’ dinner tables and kept their utilities on.

“It’s an unbelievable feeling I have survived pancreatic cancer for over 27 months,” says one survivor. “It hasn’t been easy, but with the support of my wife, doctors and nurses, it gives me power to fight and not give up. Nassif Community Cancer Center provided our family with financial, emotional and physical support. We are forever grateful.”

You can help ease the burden for cancer patients and their families when you support Nassif Community Cancer Center’s Spirit Patient Assistance Fund. Donate at communitycancercenter.org/donate or call (319) 369-8100 for more information.

The Allsop family is grateful for the wonderful healthcare they’ve received from St. Luke’s Hospital. Over the years, the Allsops, led by longtime Cedar Rapids residents Robert and Beth, have given back generously as supporters of St. Luke’s Foundation and members of the Koehler Legacy Society.

After Bob’s passing in 2022, Beth Allsop, her son Steve and his wife, Mary Beth, wanted to create something special to honor the outstanding caregivers at St. Luke’s. The family worked with the Foundation to create two new awards that recognize individuals who embody the characteristics of compassionate care and who help create the healing environment at St. Luke’s.

The Steve and Mary Beth Allsop Compassionate Care Award honors a frontline clinical healthcare worker who demonstrates exemplary compassion in their caregiving skills. Kyle Kuehler, social worker on the 3 East child and adolescent behavioral health unit, became the first recipient of this annual award in December 2023. Kyle’s peers call him the “3 East lighthouse”—a calm and reliable leader who serves as an amazing voice and advocate for the children and families they serve.

The Allsop Family Exemplary Service Award recognizes a non-clinical hospital service provider who goes the extra mile in the execution of his or her duties. The inaugural award was presented to Karla Woodman, patient care technician on the Cardiology and 4 West Telemetry unit. Karla is known for treating every patient like family and consistently going above and beyond. Her positive energy, hard work and kindness influence others.

Both awards come with a cash bonus. Individuals are nominated by their managers and the recipients’ names will be permanently displayed on a plaque next to the St. Luke’s cafeteria.

There are many ways to support outstanding healthcare at St. Luke’s. For more information, please contact St. Luke’s Foundation at (319) 369-7716.
THE CARL & MARY KOEHLER LEGACY SOCIETY AND ST. LUKE’S FOUNDATION FOUNDER’S AWARD

When a homeless man died of injuries in 1881 because there was no medical care in Cedar Rapids, the Rev. Samuel Ringgold made an impassioned plea for “a real hospital, so that citizens and strangers alike can be cared for.” One person after another stepped forward, embracing generosity as a way of life, and St. Luke’s Hospital was born.

Today, St. Luke’s Foundation continues to honor the spirit of giving that helps us improve the health of the people and communities we serve.

The Carl & Mary Koehler Legacy Society, established in 2003, recognizes individuals who have remembered St. Luke’s Foundation with an estate or other planned gifts arranged during their lifetime. In 2023, we were proud to welcome these estate gifts and new Koehler Society members for their legacy of generosity and caring.

The Foundation congratulates Lois Buntz on being selected as board chair. We also want to recognize outgoing board chair Kathy Epley for her outstanding service. Special thanks, too, to Tami Culver and Don Johnson, who are retiring from the board.

We are proud to welcome new board members Brian Globokar and Mary Hagan. Brian is Senior Vice President and Director of Wealth Management with Hills Bank and Trust. Brian served on the Abbe Center for Mental Health Board and is a current member of UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital Board. Mary retired after a 43-year career in nursing with UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids and UnityPoint Health - Waterloo, including serving as VP of Patient Care/Chief Nurse Executive at Allen Hospital.

Finally, our hearts go out to the family of Gary Speicher, who passed away in November 2023. Gary leaves a legacy of generosity and service. He served on the Foundation board since 2017, supported the Foundation financially and volunteered his time leading the Passport to Retirement program benefiting UnityPoint Health – CR employees.

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St. Luke’s Foundation was founded in 1977 to support UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids in giving the health care we’d like our loved ones to receive. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our donors, board members and team members, we’ve raised more than $50 million to ensure our community continues to have vital health services close to home.

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$1,000,000+
Sarah L. Nyquist Estate +

$250,000+
Dr. David+ and Joan+ Thaler Estate
United Way of East Central Iowa

$100,000+
Wilma Bloster Estate +
Gems of Hope
Grandon Charitable Foundation
Dr. Keith and Cheryl Kremer
Linn County Auditor
Rose Schwiichtenberg Estate +
Wayne and Nan Kocurek

$50,000+
Aiming For A Cure Foundation
Edina Gelski Estate
The Hall-Perrine Foundation

$25,000+
American Cancer Society
Cedar Rapids RoughRiders
Arlene Dayhoff Estate +
Farmers State Bank, Marion
I Know Jack Foundation

$15,000+
Elizabeth Allisop
Steve and Mary Beth Allisop
American Heart Association
Charlie and Pat Becker
M. Paul & Glennys Brimmer Foundation
CauseTeam
Graham Construction
Hunter Companies
Doug and Sharon Laird
LT Memorial Foundation
Matt Rossi
Transamerica

Variety - The Children’s Charity

Mary Myers
Gene and Jeanie Neighbor
New Leader Manufacturing
Dave Nieuwisma
Dr. Donald and Joyce Paynter
Pipe Pro, Inc.
Radiology Consultants of Iowa, PLC
Therese Rowell
St. Luke’s Medical Staff
Gary and Susan Streut
Ted and Cathy Townsend
TrueNorth Companies

$2,500+
100+ Who Care - Cedar Rapids Metro
Dr. Ken and Kathy Anderson
Chrome Divas of Cedar Rapids
ColBank
Coldwell Bankers - Hedges Associates Inc.
Gerold Dooley
Eastern Iowa Airport
Don and Gwen Eells
Faye Gerner
John and Linda Hecksmiller
Michael and Jill Heinrich
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Kathy Haran
Hassan and Salma Igram
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Joe and Candy Linn
Dr. Steven and Joy Mindrup
Chris Montross and Patty Seger
National Financial Services
Mary and Steve Odegaard
Ruth Pearson
David Phillips
Richard and Bonnie Raddatz
Dr. Brian Ray
Dr. Ronald and Sue Reider
Susanna Reklyan
Ronni Ruzicka
Chris and Nikki Skogman
Surgery Center Cedar Rapids
David and Sue Tisdahl
Lori Weih and Ben Wickum
White Cross Society

$1,000,000+
The Accel Group
Action Sewer & Septic Service, Inc.
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Aliant Energy Foundation
Dr. Dustin and Tonya Arnold
Brian and Melissa Atkinson
Garrett and Morgan Atkinson
Randy and Julia Bauer
Valissa and Jeffrey Berg
Dr. Arlon Berkhof and Tara Beem
Bern Family Foundation
Kratz Betts
Judy and Gary Bjornsen
Peg Bradlee
Dennis Bradlee +
Sheryl Brehm
Mike Bringle
Lois and Bob Buntz
Steven and Suzanne Caves
Julie L. Coppock
Jack Cox
Betty Debban
Denver and Carol Dillard
Rick and Jean Dobyns
Jonathan Doerenfeld
Dominick J. McDermott Trust
Dr. Craig and Barbara Dove
Linda East
Rex and Kathy Eno
Faith Mission Thrift Store
Linda Feller
Suzanne Felton
Dr. Jay and Katherine Friesen
Dr. Ron and Corinne Gambach
Charles Gardner
April Golwitzer
Dr. Matthew and Carrie Gray

GreenState Credit Union
Donald and Angela Gudenkauf
Jeremy Hague
Dr. Emilie and Casey Hansen
Karen Hansen
Dr. Marlee Hansen
Rhonda Harmon
Cassie and Philip Hartgrave
Dr. David and Susan Haupt
Sally Hendrickson
Edgar+ and Pat Hermann
Hills Bank and Trust Company
Shirley and Bill Holtey
Senator Merlin Hulse
John and Sandra Ireda
Ironside Apparel & Promotions, Inc.
Dr. Eric Johnson
Dr. Melissa Kahler
Dr. Kathryn Kaufman
John and Pat Kerr
Kenneth K. Kinsey Family Foundation
Kenneth and Jeanette Kinsey
Knights of Columbus - St. Thomas Council # 1962
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Dr. James and Nancy LaMorgese
Niki and Ryan Lee
Linn Area Credit Union
Linn County Anesthesiologists, P.C.
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Justin McDonald
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Robert Schreckengost
David and Jennifer Schuchmann
Brian and Molly Scott
John Sheehan
Sue Slattery
Don and Coletta Slezak
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Luke’s Administration
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Eric Suter
Target
Terracor Consultants
Texas Instruments Foundation
Texas Roadhouse
Patrick and Mindy Thies
Charities Aid Foundation of America
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Kay Detweiler
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Jennifer Hinz
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Nancy Houts
Carla Huber
Gail Humbles

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Jean Trinair
Dr. Chris and Charity Tyler
University District Dental Society
Cheryl Uthof
Sara and Dan Veerhusen
Dr. Steven Wahle and JoAn
German Wahle
Walter-Kelly Memorial Golf Tournament
Andrea Watkinson
Megan Weber
Edith Willey
Elaine Young
Richard Young and Carol Young
Dr. Clete Younger

$500+
Joan Anderson
Jon Bancks
Stacey Barrett
Dr. James and Rachelle Bell
Angela Berns
Christopher Berry
Peggy Bock
Valerie Boddicker
Bradley & Riley PC
Walter Brown
Kathryn Brunssen
David and Donna Buresh
Dr. Stephen and Katie Burke
Dianna Burnett
Adam Chapman
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Cockburn Family Trust
Mona and Don Cook
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Roger Cousins
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Connie Dintker
Penny DuLessa
Dr. Dianna Edwards
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Anthony Eschelman and Amy Smolucha
Elizabeth Etten
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lori Hampton
Dr. Tork and Lynn Harman
Mary Henry
Lucas Hicks
Bradley Hoeppner
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Richard and Ellen Hull

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David Leigh
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Leah and Justin Loomer
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Katie Maybanks
Patrick and Susan McCormick
Linda McNamara Earley
Julie McNeal
Carol Meade
Jean Meeks
Sarah Meester
Dick and Mary Meisterling
MidwestOne Bank
Sue Mincks
Jon Moeller
Mulligan’s Pub
Megan Munoz
Nancy Murphy
Janice Mussell
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Glen Rickey
Robert Risdal
Ross Robinson
Paris Robby
Richard and Lynn Russ
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Shawn Snitkey
Shannon and Aria Soensken
Elizabeth Standifer
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Roxann Steine
TellFriends Foundation
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Van Meter, Inc.
Sandra Vosseller
Janice Wahle
Luann and Dennis W emancan
Dr. John Warren and Jean Treder
Tara and Steven Weir
Keith Whipple
Gayle Wiegman
Jill Wilson
Kara Wilson
Rae Zahradnik

$250+
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Lisa Ainsworth
Karen Allyn
Anderson Financial Services, Inc.
Megan Andresen
Janet Avis
Peggy Beatty
Julie Behr
Mary Behrens
Sarah Bengston
Todd Betzer
Myrt and William Bowers
Derek and Cindy Brown
Kellie Buel
Mark Butsch
Terisa and James Byers
Vanessa Calderon
DJ Castelein
Chanties Aid Foundation of America
Dr. William Ching
Diana and Joe Cira
Clark’s Pharmacy
Michelle Clasen
Mary Clouse
Kieran Coe
Darwin and Elizabeth Coleman
Lori Corey
Rene Crumley
Kay Detweiler
Dennis Downer
DR Decision Resources LLC
Sallie and James Driscoll
Shayla Dursky
Jim Eichhorn
Jaxon Eilers
Knut Elwick
Marlyn Enos
Laurel Estes
Velma Faler
Lori Fangman
Monica Farmer
Kenn Feldhaus
Marvel+ and Richard Foons
Dorina Forkenbrock
Paula Fry
Lisa Gantenbein
Tim Garner
Mary Gensicke
Renae Gibson
Kara Gillund
Brian and Beth Globokar
Richard and Janet Glynn
September Gorsh
Linda Grash
Carol Haendler
Robert Hampton
John Harris
Peggy Hartzell
Heather Hazelwood
Rose Hedges
Sarah Hefflefinger
Christal Henderson
Jacqueline Henry
Laura Hepker
Denise Hines
Dot Hinman
Jennifer Hinz
Victoria and Larry Holst
Nancy Houts
Carla Huber
Gail Humbles
Helen G. Nassif Community Cancer Center Family Care Program event
at the Kernels sponsored by Aiming for a Cure

Chrome Divas 2023 check presentation
Team Breast Friends 2023 check presentation
Hospice team members at Hospice open house

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ST. LUKE’S SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI BRUNCH

Enjoy social time with your fellow alums as well as a special presentation at the annual Alumni Brunch. Join us Saturday, May 4, from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m., at St. Luke’s Center for Women’s & Children’s Health, 150 11th St., NE, Cedar Rapids, lower-level classrooms. For more information, call St. Luke’s Foundation at (319) 369-7716.

10TH ANNUAL LT RIDE FOR BABIES

LT Memorial Foundation will hold its 10th Annual Ride for Babies on Saturday, August 10. Timothy Ray Teel II (LT) was born premature in 2014 and lived just six days. His family formed the LT Memorial Foundation to help support the Ronald McDonald Family Room, NICU and Butterfly Bereavement Suite at St. Luke’s Women’s and Children’s Center. For more information, visit facebook.com/LTFoundation2014.

COFFEE WITH CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Save the Date! St. Luke’s Foundation invites you to join us for coffee and goodies on Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Circle of Friends is open to friends of UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids, including St. Luke’s Auxiliary members, volunteers, former or retired team members, former board members, and School of Nursing alumni. For more information, call (319) 369-7716.