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## Significant Successes in Physical Therapy Thanks to New Equipment

Jones Regional Medical Center is proud to announce a significant advancement in its rehab therapy department with the acquisition of a state-of-the-art U-shaped Solo Step, made possible in part through generous funding through the Foundation and our community donors. This innovative equipment marks a milestone in our commitment to providing exceptional care and rehabilitation services to our patients, offering a range of benefits that enhance therapy outcomes and patient experiences.

The new Solo Step is designed to facilitate a wide range of therapeutic exercises and activities. Its unique U-shaped design provides enhanced stability and support, making it ideal for patients recovering from various musculoskeletal and neurological conditions. Here are some key benefits and features of this innovative equipment:



Jennifer Lux, SLP with Axel

1. **Enhanced Safety:** The equipment itself offers a sturdy harness system which supports up to 500 lbs. and secures around the entire midsection of the body. The system is also set up to begin at the previously set up parallel bars for additional balance support, reducing the risk of falls and injuries during rehabilitation sessions. This safety feature is crucial for our patients with balance and mobility challenges but also reduces the risk of injury for our team members who may be handling a fall risk.
2. **Versatile Exercise Options:** With its adjustable height and wide range of configurations, therapists can customize exercises tailored to each patient's needs and progress. From basic balance exercises to advanced gait training, the Solo Step offers versatility that optimizes therapeutic outcomes.
3. **Progress Tracking:** The Solo Step's design allows therapists to track patient progress accurately. Incremental adjustments in height and difficulty levels

*(continued on page 3)*



# Honoring Generosity with Gratitude: The Heartfelt Impact of Giving



Eric Briesemeister, CEO

In the hallways of almost any hospital or clinic, amidst the steady rhythm of healing and the dedication of our healthcare heroes, there exists a silent symphony of generosity – a choir composed by the selfless contributions of our supporters. As we pause to reflect on the impact of their support, I am reminded that gratitude is not merely a sentiment; it is a transformative force that has the power to change lives and improve health.

Our supporters at JRMC are many. Whether it's their donation of time or finances, their commitment to our mission – to provide exceptional care and support to those in need – serves as a guiding light of hope in our pursuit of healing and compassion. Through their philanthropy, our supporters have not only provided vital resources and cutting-edge technology; they have also infused JRMC with a spirit of generosity and kindness that touches every corner of our institution. From funding life-saving medical equipment to supporting programs that enhance patient care and comfort, their contributions have paved the way for countless moments of healing and hope.

But perhaps even more remarkable is the intangible legacy of gratitude they have given us. In every life touched, every heart healed, and every smile restored, we see the ripple effect of their generosity – providing a testimony to the enduring power of compassion and empathy. Each donation of time or treasures, no matter the size, is a testament to the belief that together, we can make a difference – one life, one moment, one act of kindness at a time.

Our donors serve as an example to all of their unwavering belief in the transformative power of compassion. Their generosity reminds us that even in the face of adversity, there is always reason to be grateful – for the kindness of strangers, the resilience of the human spirit, and the unwavering power of hope. Their support is more than a gift; it is a beacon of light that illuminates the path to healing and hope for all who walk through our doors. Their support helps us to ensure we are changing lives and shaping a future filled with gratitude, compassion, and endless possibility.

And for that, my friends, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you that have given.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Briesemeister". The script is elegant and cursive.

Eric Briesemeister, CEO

## Honoring Roman and Rosie Welter

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Roman Welter, a dedicated supporter and cherished member of our JRMC family. Roman and his beloved wife Rosie have enriched countless lives through their generosity and commitment to the community. We are grateful to Roman for honoring JRMC with a planned gift, ensuring his legacy of support will continue for years to come.

A planned gift allows donors to align their philanthropic goals with their values and passions. As long-time supporters of providing educational opportunities and scholarships to JRMC team members, Roman and Rosie Welter knew a planned gift would allow them to support the hospital's mission in perpetuity.

Their contributions have opened doors for countless individuals, fostering growth and development within our team. Their legacy will continue to enable our team to



Roman and Rosie Welter

pursue their educational aspirations, ultimately enhancing the care we provide to our patients. Their spirit will live on through the opportunities they have created for our JRMC family.

## (Cover story continued)

enable gradual progression, ensuring that therapy sessions remain challenging, yet manageable for patients at every stage of recovery.

**4. Improved Patient Confidence:** By providing a stable and supportive environment, the Solo Step helps boost patient confidence. Confidence plays a significant role in recovery, encouraging patients to actively engage in exercises and activities that promote mobility and independence.

**5. Development through Sensory and Play Exploration:** The Solo Step allows children to develop through guided sensory, motor and play exploration giving them a chance to experience appropriate responses to stimuli and social interactions. The harness system allows for children to swing or zip line along the track while incorporating therapy interventions or rewards.

Acquiring this new piece of equipment into our Rehab therapy department showcases JRMC's ongoing commitment to excellence in healthcare delivery. In the few short months of integration of the Solo Step into our therapy routine, we have seen many positive outcomes.

In the therapy setting, the Solo Step is sometimes used as a zipline or swing to assist with sensory regulation and increase patient motivation. It has also been used to provide trunk support to kids with ataxia. By utilizing the Solo Step in the speech therapy setting it provides sensory strategies and motivates patients resulting in increased social interaction and communication.

The swinging motion of the Solo Step assists in calming over-stimulated senses allowing patients to attend better to tasks which ultimately results in more ability to learn. This is especially beneficial in patients with autism because it incorporates speech and language targets during movement in place of seated tasks which results in longer periods of attention and reduction in distractions. Speech Therapist, Jennifer Lux states, "I have noticed increased verbalizations in my patients with autism when we are engaged in swinging or ziplining on the Solo Step." Patients have had positive reactions to utilizing the Solo Step and have asked to use it session after session. The parents of our pediatric patients have also reported their children have talked about it several days after the session. The parents too have seen positive impacts on sensory regulation and engagement with their children since implementing the Solo Step into treatment sessions. Karen Arriaga said this about the Solo Step, "Both Axel and Gio were motivated to work more. I feel like it helped them have something to look forward to when coming to speech therapy."

In highlighting the transformative impact of acquiring advanced equipment in our facility, we want to take a moment to thank you, the donors, who make these moments possible. Thank you for being the difference makers who find the value in our facility here in Jones County and trust us with your generous donations to make purchases like this available. We would not be where we are at today without your support. **If you would like to learn more on how to support Jones Regional Medical Center, please call our Foundation at 319-481-6118.**

## Volunteer Spotlight : Meet Sarah

Sarah has been a volunteer at Jones Regional Medical Center (JRMC) since 2019. Over the years, she has formed many friendships within the hospital and looks forward to each visit, enjoying the friendly environment and the camaraderie with fellow volunteers and staff. Sarah enjoys engaging in conversations and sharing laughs & jokes with her friends at JRMC.

In her free time, Sarah loves watching YouTube videos, relaxing, and spending quality time with her family. It's rare to see her without a cup of coffee in hand in one of many of her fancy coffee cups. She especially loves the cappuccino machine and the double chocolate chip muffins available at the hospital.

Sarah is a 2017 graduate of Monticello High School and an alumna of the St. Luke's Hospital Project Search program,

which prepared her well for her role at JRMC. One of her favorite annual events is the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine, where she gets to dress up in a beautiful dress, have her hair and makeup done, and enjoy a limousine ride.

In addition to her volunteering, Sarah works at Gingham Dog in Monticello. Her contributions and spirit are greatly appreciated at JRMC.

Thank you for everything you do, Sarah. We love having you here!



Sarah

## Celebrating Dr. Vernon on a job well done!

At the end of February, Dr. Vernon hung up his stethoscope for the last time and officially retired from Anamosa Family Medicine after forty years serving as a physician in Anamosa. In working with Dr. Vernon there is a sense of humility in him that you don't get to see very often. Dr. Vernon makes sure to share regularly how lucky he has been to serve our community and could not have done it if not for the support of his wife, Mary Sue. Together they raised their family of four children while each pursuing their dreams of successful careers. Mary Sue was active in the community teaching at Anamosa High School for fourteen years and contributing her skills with Starlighters II Community Theater. Dr. Vernon paved the way for healthcare in our community from the start of his residency in 1986 through his retirement early this year. He holds many achievements including:

- Preceptor for Medical Students, Interns, Residents, 1986 - present
- Physician Lead for Pharmacist Administered Immunization Pilot, 1996
- Patient Care Partner Award, Iowa Pharmacy Association, June 2002
- Physician Lead for Pharmacist - Monitored Anticoagulation Pilot, 2007
- Rural Physician Lead for IPOST pilot study - 2010
- Lifetime Achievement Award, UnityPoint Clinics, 2019
- St. Luke's Humanitarian Award, 2023

Not to mention, Dr. Vernon was the ONLY physician in the area working for two years with varied circumstances and situations at all hours of the day and night.

Upon announcing his upcoming retirement, JRMC Foundation wanted to find a way to honor his commitment and assist in carrying his legacy forward. With support from Dr. Vernon and Mary Sue, we have

created a gift in their honor for the establishment of an endowed fund at the Foundation that will allow for the advancement of educational pursuits of UnityPoint Health team members who exemplify Dr. Vernon and Mary Sue's passion for lifelong learning while serving in the health care field in Jones County. As requested by Dr. Vernon and Mary Sue, this will be called "The Charles B. and Mary Susan Vernon JRMC Staff Development Scholarship Fund".

**This fund will continue to grow and thrive for years to come as we support the education of our team members. If you would like to honor Dr. Vernon with a donation to this fund, please contact Amy Keltner at (319) 481-6118 or go online at [www.unitypoint.org](http://www.unitypoint.org)**



Dr. Vernon and Mary Sue Vernon

## New Equipment for Environmental Services Thanks to Donations from WeCare!

A new ATP Testing Device, is now being utilized in our Environmental Services department thanks to an iGrant award given this last fall. We are excited to add this piece of equipment to our housekeeping routine as it allows for an instant evaluation of cleanliness levels and ensures hygiene safety. It also contributes to our already impressive 0% infection rate and to the safety of our patients, staff, and visitors. Being able to purchase this equipment is thanks to our team members who participate in the WeCare Giving Campaign that supplies the funding for our departmental iGrants. What a great addition to our program!



EVS Team Lead Julie Tubbs utilizing the new tool in our Inpatient Department

## Annual Auxiliary Luncheon Shows Great Participation

In February, several members of our Jones Regional Medical Center Auxiliary took part in our annual luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of the Auxiliary and the hospital and learn what to look for in the future. They were dazzled with entertainment by Pete Temple and enjoyed a nice meal hosted by The Avacentre. During the meeting portion we elected Deanna Butterworth as the incoming President with Sandy Marlin as the incoming Vice President. We also elected Lisa LaBarge & April Golwitzer as At-Large Members to round out the board with Donna Hansen as Secretary, Marilyn Albaugh as Treasurer, and Susan Good and Jane Ann Rix as At-Large Members.



Eric Briesemeister highlighted some powerful impacts of the hospital over the past year including the fact that we are a #1 rated hospital for Mortality and Morbidity, Readmissions, Patient Satisfaction and Employee Engagement. We offer the best care in the region! Our hospital was also recently awarded the Top 100 Hospital award for the 8th year! These things only happen because of our entire team at JRMC working together to create such a positive and productive atmosphere. As Eric finished, Deanna took the floor and explained the Auxiliary's new impact goal for 2024. While we know that JRMC has been working hard to be a safe working environment for our employees, patients, and visitors by enhancing security, lighting and video surveillance, it's hard to ignore the world around us and how threats to our system can occur. Because of this, the Auxiliary Board has put a focus on raising funds throughout 2024 to donate \$20,000 to JRMC in support of security enhancements.



Auxiliary Luncheon

These enhancements will include more lighting, panic buttons and protective film on windows. The Auxiliary Board has already committed \$8,000 to the cause and is now looking for Auxiliary members' support.

If you would like to know more about how to join the Auxiliary as a member or donate to the cause, please reach out to the JRMC Foundation at (319) 481-6118.

## Cardiac Rehab Shows Off New Wheels Thanks to Donors!

Thanks to recent donations from the community, our Cardiac Rehab program was able to purchase a new Cardiostrider. This piece of equipment is especially important to our program as the majority of our patients enjoy and feel comfortable on this machine. Having another one to add to the mix will assist in the workflow, allowing more people to use this machine. of others!



Michelle Arp, RN showing off the new Cardiostrider



# Gifts to Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Knuth  
Alan Jacobs Farm  
*In memory of Keith Dirks*  
Alex Carlson  
Lisa & Daryl Schepanski  
Allan Sather  
*In memory of Henry Sather*  
Allison Niedermann  
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Alvin and Sharon Johnson  
Amber L. Collum  
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Amy and Keith Keltner  
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Betty Paschall  
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Gary Henderson  
Gary and Jane Ann Rix  
George Brunscheen  
*In memory of Keith Dirks*  
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*In memory of Bonnie Tobiason*  
George Zirkelbach  
Gerald Rohr  
Gina D. Clymer  
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 Karen Lammers  
 Karen M. Martin  
 Karen Smith  
 Karen Biere  
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 Karen Wheeler  
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 Katherine I. Meyers  
 Kathleen Hansen  
 Larry & Kathy Bearce  
 Kay Smith  
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*In memory of Orville Meyer, Betty Hartwig*  
Michelle L. Vandenberg  
Michelle and Steve Niermann  
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Molly A. Clemens  
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Pamela and Dan Goodyear  
Richard and Patricia Delagardelle  
Patrick and JoAnn Callahan  
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*In memory of Keith Dirks*  
Pauline Antons  
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*In memory of Margaret Harms*  
Richard Ginn  
Richard "Dick" Hall  
Richard and Nancy Stout  
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*In memory of Dolores Wood, Kenny Zimmerman, Hank Biere, Anna Askam, Keith Schlemmer, Rick Mayberry, Kevin Rohwedder, Alan Rohwedder, Don Gapinski, Don Starry, Keith Dirks, Aaron McAtee, Derek Summers, Sandy Stephen*  
Richard and Doris McAtee  
Richard M. and Reva Van Antwerp  
Rise Counseling  
Bob & Darla Algoe

Robert and Glenda Brannon  
*In memory of Bernie Kennebeck*  
Bob and Charlene George  
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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Andreesen  
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Samantha J. White  
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Ken and Sandy Marlin  
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Scott & Holly Kelly  
*In memory of Barry Anderson, Dennis Bayne, Dale Gerst, Orville Meyer*  
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SEI  
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Tracy A. Nissen  
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Tricia and Jason Dausener  
Trudy Dirks  
*In memory of Keith Dirks*  
Tuesday Night Bowling League  
Tyler and Christie Remley  
University of Dubuque  
Velma Huebner  
Verna Lewison  
Virginia Dearborn  
Virginia Danielson  
Viv Norton  
Wayne and Carole Lerch  
Wayne B. Hall  
Wendy Bieber  
William Dirks  
*In memory of Keith Dirks*

**Donations received through March 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023. If we have misspelled a name or missed someone, please notify us at (319) 481-6118 or email [jrmc\\_foundation@unitypoint.org](mailto:jrmc_foundation@unitypoint.org) to correct our error.**



## Building Jones County Nurses Honor Guard



Those who attended the inaugural meeting of the Nurses Honor Guard at JRMC included both current and retired nurses. Seated from left are Betty Prull, Larita Kurt, Lynn Rollinger, Betty Hasler, Sarah Foulks, and Rita Welter. Back row, Bed Byers, Jenni Otting, Shannon Frink, Jaclyn Jackson, Sue Schemmel, Julie Brown, Marilyn Hanna, and Kim Boyd.

In a heartfelt gesture of respect and camaraderie, the dedicated staff at Jones Regional Medical Center have come together to establish the Jones County chapter of the Nurses Honor Guard. This initiative, born out of a deep sense of appreciation for the profession and a desire to honor their fallen colleagues, marks a significant milestone in the community's healthcare landscape.

The Nurses Honor Guard is a solemn tradition within the nursing community, symbolizing the respect and dignity accorded to nurses who have passed on. It is a way to pay tribute to their invaluable contributions to healthcare and to honor their memory. This program can be requested by the family of the deceased during funeral planning and presented at the wake, funeral, or graveside service.

The establishment of this chapter reflects the strong sense of community and unity among the healthcare workers in Jones and surrounding counties. As we embrace and develop this new initiative, both active and retired nurses have enthusiastically contributed financial resources and volunteered their time to ensure the necessary requirements are met when the program is called upon.

As a new chapter, we are still encouraging active and retired nurses to reach out and build a community of support moving forward.

**If you would like to learn more on participating or providing financial support, reach out to Pam Goodyear in the JRMC Foundation at (319) 481-6326.**

Dearest Readers,

It is not often that I reach out on a personal level or share my personal thoughts through *The Pulse*. However, on this particular day, I have been blessed to meet one of our patients that truly touched my heart. Her visit was a gift that I had not been expecting.

There are times in life when we live each day without a thought in the world regarding our body. Sometimes, it isn't until we are face to face with someone who is fighting each passing day to make it a good one, that we remember just how precious life really is. This is exactly what just occurred for me with one of our patients who is frequenting our Infusion Center. Yes, Jones Regional Medical Center has an Infusion Center and it truly is a magnificent space that has an amazing impact on those who need it. This person, Sharon Roller, had asked for me to come visit with her. You see, Sharon is battling cancer and well aware of just how little time she has left with us. Sharon reached out to me because in one of her recent visits with her Oncologist, Dr. Fusselman, they had a conversation regarding the services here at Jones Regional Medical Center and just how lucky we are to offer such treatments to local patients. After reaching out, Dr. Fusselman shared with me "JPMC staff are good at working patients in who are in critical need of vital care treatments. I appreciate their flexibility to work with local patients so these folks have less travel time into larger facilities and more time to relax and have a positive quality of life." Sharon noted just how grateful she is that our facility is here as she visits here three times a week for necessary treatment to keep her as comfortable and healthy as possible so that she may enjoy the time that she has with her loved ones. As Sharon was sharing with me her experience, my mind drifted to my own mom who had a very similar experience and I was the one who painstakingly took her to several appointments on a weekly basis for several years in order to maintain her health while we could. Visiting with Sharon and hearing her story of pride in our services made me feel elated! How lucky are we to have an Infusion Center right here in Jones County?? As we wrapped up our conversation, Sharon stated that she feels it's important that everyone in Jones County and the surrounding areas knows just what we have to offer at Jones Regional Medical Center. She felt it was important to spread the word to patients who need the care and to our donors who want to help support the programming. I couldn't agree more.

Our Infusion Center plays a crucial role in the comprehensive healthcare services offered by our hospital. It serves as a specialized unit where patients receive intravenous medications, fluids, blood transfusions, and other treatments that cannot be administered orally. This is particularly vital for patients with chronic illnesses such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, infectious diseases, and certain neurological conditions. By being able to provide this space, our hospital can streamline patient care, improve treatment outcomes, reduce hospital stays, and enhance the overall patient experience. If you would like to learn more about how to support the Infusion Center at Jones Regional Medical Center, reach out at any time.

**Warmest Regards,**

**Amy Keltner**

Foundation Director

(319) 481-6118

# Ways to Support JRMC Foundation

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## Updated Online and Mobile Giving Option

We've made it easier for you to give, right on your mobile device or computer. To give a gift or to honor a caregiver or loved one visit [unitypoint.org/anamosa/donate-online](http://unitypoint.org/anamosa/donate-online)

*Or mail your gift:*

JRMC Foundation  
1795 Hwy 64 East, Anamosa, IA 52205  
Phone: (319) 481-6118 or (319) 481-6326  
Email: [jrmc\\_foundation@unitypoint.org](mailto:jrmc_foundation@unitypoint.org)

## Matching Gifts

Does your employer offer matching gifts? Consider doubling your gift to JRMC Foundation with an employer matching gift.

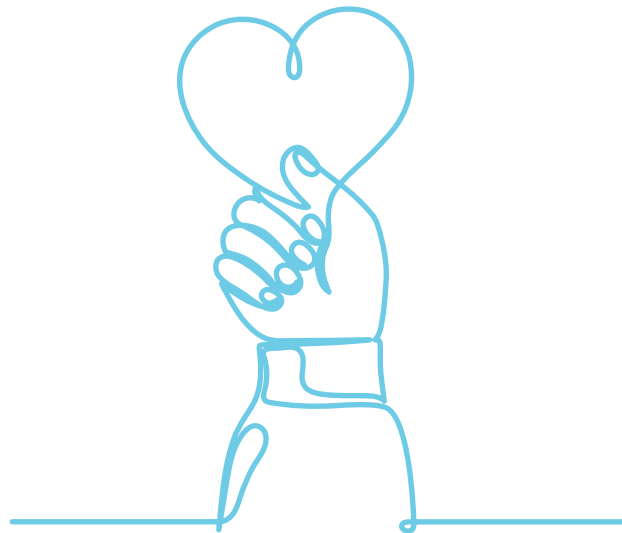
## Honor your Loved Ones

- Thank you for considering a gift to the JRMC foundation with your loved one's memorials.

## Appreciated securities, stocks and bonds

- Avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated stock
- Receive a charitable income tax deduction
- Gift transfers can be done by electronic transfer or certified mail

**Please consider** including JRMC in your estate planning.



**AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN  
BECAUSE OF YOU**



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1795 Hwy. 64 East | Anamosa, IA 52205

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*If you are interested in learning more about the Foundation and how you can best support JRMC, please contact:*

Amy Keltner, Director, Community Development  
(319) 481-6118 or Amy.Keltner@unitypoint.org

Pamela Goodyear, Volunteer & Community Development Associate  
(319) 481-6326 or Pamela.Goodyear@unitypoint.org

Mail your gift or contact us with questions at:

**JRMC Foundation**

1795 Hwy 64 East, Anamosa, IA 52205

email: jrmc\_foundation@unitypoint.org

### OUR MISSION:

Improve the health of the people and communities we serve.



**UnityPoint Health**  
Jones Regional Medical Center



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