JRMC Names New Community Development Director

On April 4, 2022, Amy Keltner began her journey as Jones Regional Medical Center’s new Community Development Director. Her role includes the organization of community events hosted or supported by JRMC, donor relations, acquiring and managing federal and state grants and funding and volunteer engagement.

Keltner’s experience includes non-profit business management and volunteer coordination. Previously she worked as the Community Resource and Volunteer Engagement Senior Specialist at United Way in Jones County. There, she directed a variety of programs including the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and supported over 600 volunteers in various community assignments. Keltner also worked with REM Development Services in Mount Vernon as program director.

“We are excited to have Amy Keltner join JRMC as our new Community Development Director,” said Eric Briesemeister, JRMC CEO. “Her work will support the development of our facility, services, and teams ultimately allowing us to continue to provide the healthcare we’d like our loved ones to receive.”

“I was attracted to this opportunity because of JRMC’s long history of providing exceptional patient care close to home,” shared Keltner. “I appreciate the enthusiasm and support Jones County residents express for their local hospital and I look forward to working with the community to advance the needs of JRMC and the patients it serves.”

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FROM THE CEO

We’ll be Here, Ready to Serve

Eric Briesemeister, CEO

Change is happening here at Jones Regional Medical Center. We’re gearing up for what appears to be our first real COVID/flu season. As you all know, over the past couple of years, COVID has dominated the landscape. We were either preparing for or responding to the latest surge of patients. But this year is different; we aren’t seeing the high spikes of activity that we might have expected to see.

Now, however, data from Australia tells us they’re having a higher-than-normal flu season. That would lead us to believe that we could experience a similar pattern here in the US over the winter. So, what will a COVID/flu season look like? We’re not certain.

Instead, we’ve seen big declines in the number of COVID positive patients and those hospitalized with COVID, which has been a welcome respite and relief for many.

The COVID/flu season. As you all know, over the past couple of years, COVID has dominated the landscape. We were either preparing for or responding to the latest surge of patients. But this year is different; we aren’t seeing the high spikes of activity that we might have expected to see.

What will a COVID/flu season look like? We’re not certain. But what I am certain about is that we’ll be here to meet the challenge. Just like we have for the past two plus years with COVID. Time and again, healthcare workers from around our area show up every day, to take amazing care of the people who come through our doors. We’ll continue to train and increase our preparedness. We’ll continue to show up every day and give our best to all of you. That’s consistency, that’s loving what you do, and that’s making an impact on others and making our community stronger every day.

So, sit back and enjoy some football, holiday parades and Iowa weather knowing that if you need us, we’ll be here, ready to serve.

Yours in Service,

Eric Briesemeister, CEO

Auxiliary Supports Students

By Clarice Clarke

Outside of work, Keltner, Kel is a wife and mom of two. Her children, Brooklyn (12) and Dylan (9), attend Clarke University to study Athletic Training.

As a family, we are all very active with our hobbies and activities. We’ve had to seek care at JRMC on more than one occasion for injuries or illness. I trust the care team activities. We’ve had to seek care at JRMC on more than seven years. The Keltner family, Keith, Amy, Brooklyn and Dylan

Auxiliary Support Continues

Members of the JRMC Auxiliary have supported the mission of JRMC for more than 60 years. Some of their contributions include:

- Urgent Care Thermometers
- ED Pediatric Room Painting
- Oximeters for COVID Patients
- Designated JRMC TV Channel within the hospital
- Medication Bags
- Gait Belts
- Stuffed Animals for Children
- And much, much more!

The Auxiliary looks forward to continuing to support and contribute to the success of advancing JRMC and our community. If you would like to learn more about the Auxiliary, give us a call at (319) 481-6118.

WeCare Campaign had a record-breaking year!

Each year, the JRMC Foundation hosts the WeCare Campaign, offering staff members and volunteers the opportunity to contribute to our hospital and rural clinics. Donors may choose various departments and programs to support as well give to our annual iGrant Program. The iGrant Program is an opportunity for department managers to request funding for various equipment purchases needed to best support our patients. This year, we had a record 113 participants bringing in $22,598 during the month of September. Our team members are amazing!
Local Philanthropist Ernest Buresh Passes Away

Ernest “Ernie” Buresh, long-time Anamosa resident and significant donor to JRMC, passed away in April at the age of 95.

As an Iowa farm boy during the great depression, Ernie grew up learning to be resourceful and maintain a positive attitude, no matter what life threw his way. He never felt like the smartest or most popular kid, but he was ambitious, hard-working and always maintained a bright disposition towards life. In an interview with the Cedar Rapids Gazette, he recalled, “I was ambitious, and had common sense, which to me meant being practical, to stop and think about what you’re doing. It’s training yourself to know the difference between needs and wants. It is having the right attitude.”

Leaving his Cedar Rapids home at 18 years old, Buresh spent two years in the United States Army before attending Iowa State University with the desire to be an architect. However, having only saved enough for a four-year degree, he decided on Agricultural Engineering. One year after college, he married the love of his life, Joanne Paulsen. He and Joanne built a small house in Swisher, Iowa and with much tenacity began an entrepreneurial journey of starting their own feed business in their basement, now known as Swisher Farm Supply.

But Ernie wanted more. At 28 years old, he attended the University of Iowa College of Law while simultaneously running his business, raising a family, and participating on the local school board. He even served a term as the Swisher Mayor. Graduating in 1957, he began to realize his ambition, hard-working and always maintaining a positive attitude, no matter what life threw his way. He never felt like the smartest or most popular kid, but he was ambitious, hard-working and always maintained a bright disposition towards life. In an interview with the Cedar Rapids Gazette, he recalled, “I was ambitious, and had common sense, which to me meant being practical, to stop and think about what you’re doing. It’s training yourself to know the difference between needs and wants. It is having the right attitude.”

Eventually, he and his wife Joanne along with their children Wendy and Sandra, moved to Anamosa, Iowa, becoming long-time residents for nearly thirty years.

In addition to Ernie’s values of hard work and positivity, he also had a very generous heart. He shared with the Gazette. “My mother always said that anything you give away comes back to you twice or more. She was always doing something for somebody.” This philosophy continued the rest of his life through generous giving and investment in Iowa communities.

As an honorary St. Luke’s Foundation board member since 1992 and Koehler Legacy Society member, Buresh invested much of his time and resources to the UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital Foundation and Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation. One significant and lasting donation was the Buresh family pledge of $1,000,000 to the foundation to be used in the building of Jones Regional Medical Center in October 2009. At the ribbon cutting he humbly shared “The people of Anamosa deserve credit for this gift, not us. They made it possible. Anamosa was very good to us for the 29 years we lived there. It was a good 29 years and we wanted to give back.”

The main hospital building is now in his and Joanne’s name, and he later would share that it was the “proudest gift” he would ever make.

“Every day, when I walk the halls of our hospital, I am reminded of Ernie’s generosity and how he impacted healthcare for all of us,” says Eric Briesemeister, Jones Regional Medical Center CEO. “He was an amazing man, a good friend, and his legacy will continue for many years to come.”

Local and dedicated philanthropists Ernie and Joanne Buresh

JRMC Guardian Angel Program provides positive praise for staff!

Many patients and families express their gratitude for the care they receive at Jones Regional Medical Center with smiles, handwritten notes, and homemade treats. The Guardian Angel program offers another option for saying thank you, while also making an impact on our ability to continue providing the upmost quality care.

The Guardian Angel program helps patients and their family members honor those who have truly made an impact on the care they receive at JRMC. Those who choose this method are able to provide a donation to the department of their choice in honor of the staff member they are recognizing. Awards are eligible to any role within the facility including doctors, volunteers, nurses, or other team members the nominator has crossed paths with.

When nominations are received, JRMC Foundation sets up an award ceremony to celebrate that person. The awardee is provided the letter of thank you, flowers, and a Guardian Angel pin to proudly display on their name badge. These award ceremonies are often a surprise to the person receiving them and is celebrated with a gathering of the staff member’s family and peers from around the hospital.

Thus far in 2022, JRMC has celebrated seven awardees in total. We are honored to have such amazing staff members on our team! Hearing the words “thank you” from a patient or family means so much. Gifts received through the Guardian Angel program pay tribute to the caregivers who have enriched your life while also providing resources for our hospital moving forward.

Congratulations to this year’s awardees: Dr. Greg Blythe, Nicole Hartwig, RN, Sileena Hendley, PCT, Michelle Lohberg, PA-C formerly at Anamosa Family Practice, Kayla McCormick, PT, Katie Merfeld, RN and Steph Voss, ED nurse manager.

If you are interested or have questions on our Guardian Angel program, please call the Foundation at (319) 481-6118.
2022 Comes with Upgrades!

Anamosa Area Ambulance Service has much to celebrate as we near the end of 2022. With support from a USDA grant, AAS has just brought home a brand new ambulance! This ambulance will replace a 2012 truck. While the 2012 has lived up to its fullest potential, the continued maintenance has finally brought it to the end of its road here in Jones County. The new ambulance has many features that the team is very excited to see. A look inside shows you a more centralized work area hosting a few new accessories such as an IV warming drawer, extra storage, easily accessible outlets, and a built-in car seat for safe transport. Sheila Fink, Director of Anamosa Area Ambulance Service stated “The 2012 was in the shop constantly for repairs which is typical of an ambulance that has accumulated 252K miles on it! Staff are grateful to have 2 very reliable ambulances (the 2017 and the new 2022) giving them more peace of mind in not worrying about what may go wrong while on a call.”

The cost of purchasing these new ambulances, just like most everything we’re seeing, is on the rise. Thankfully, Jones County recently voted YES FOR EMS in the November elections. This vote will now ensure $0.35 per every $1,000 in property tax is routed to our county EMS services. Shared throughout the county, EMS will see many benefits including increased ability to maintain equipment, education for our paramedics and EMTs, continued presence at events such as Great Jones County Fair and Pumpkinfest, and purchases of the latest lifesaving equipment and technology. With over 2,500 calls per year in Jones County, this approval will create many positive opportunities for EMS.

While things are looking up for the AAS, donations are still needed to continue the quality care in Jones County that we are all counting on in our time of need. If you would like to learn more about how to support the Anamosa Area Ambulance Service, give us a call at (319) 481-6118.

Do you have a Guardian Angel?

Guardian Angel gifts can be any size – there is no minimum or maximum donation amount to honor your caregiver. A recognition ceremony is held for every Guardian Angel gift – giving special honor to those who go above and beyond.

Yes, I wish to make a gift and thank my Guardian Angel!

Please complete this form and return it to JRMC Foundation.

I would like to donate $___________ to honor my Guardian Angel(s).

Please direct my gift to:

☐ Area of greatest need

☐ JRMC Department: __________

☐ JRMC Clinic: __________

Caregiver name(s) and Department/Clinic (last name not required):

Date(s) of service: __________

Donor Information (please print)

Please make checks payable to JRMC Foundation.

Name: ______________________________

Phone: ____________________________

Email: ______________________________

Address: ______________________________

City: ____________________________

State: ____________________________

Zip Code: _______________________

Donations received January 1, 2022 – August 15, 2022. If we have misspelled a name or missed someone, please notify us at (319) 481-6118 or email jrmc_foundation@unitypoint.org to correct our error.

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

Or mail your gift:

JRMC Department: __________

Area of greatest need

To: Gifts to Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation

1795 Hwy 64 East, Anamosa, IA 52205

Please direct your gift to: __________

We've made it easier for you to give, right on your mobile device or computer.

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.

Thank you for supporting the mission of Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation.

BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE! BECAUSE IT DOES!

Ways to support JRMC Foundation

Updated Online and Mobile Giving Option

Matching Gifts

Do's and Don'ts of Matching Gifts

• Double your gift to JRMC Foundation with an employer matching gift.

• Make your gift to JRMC Foundation a gift of love.

• Recipients of gifts from JRMC Foundation are not eligible to receive matching gifts.

• This is a federal income tax deduction.

• Gift transfers can be done by electronic transfer or certified mail.

• Include JRMC in your estate planning.

Thank you for supporting the mission of Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation.

Please consider including JRMC in your estate planning.

Thank you for supporting the mission of Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation.
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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

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