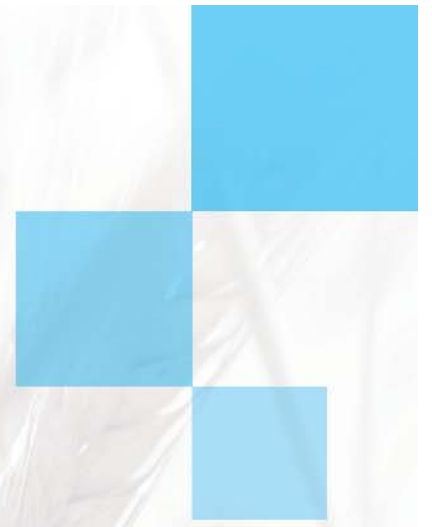


HOUSECALL

Quarterly



SUMMER 2008

INSIDE:

Dear Friends.....Page 2

A letter from CEO Larry Schrage

Upcoming EventsPage 2

VCCHS Building ProjectPage 3

Planning complete, design begins

Employee of the QuarterPage 5

Provider UpdatePage 5

David Farrar, PA completes Family Medicine training and Dr. Saleem joins the Specialty Clinic

A Chapel for VCCHSPage 6

The Boilsen family makes a generous donation

VCCHS Promotions.....Page 6

Two new promotions within VCCHS

Specialty Clinic Providers.....Page 7

Healthcare Decision DayBack

The importance of Advance Directives

Deficiency FreeBack

A letter from CEO Larry Schrage

VCCHS Trauma Care Saves Lives



COVER STORY:

Local man receives “Efficient, Thorough and Professional Care” through VCCHS Trauma Services.

Story on Page 4



VALLEY COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM

From The Desk of Larry Schrage

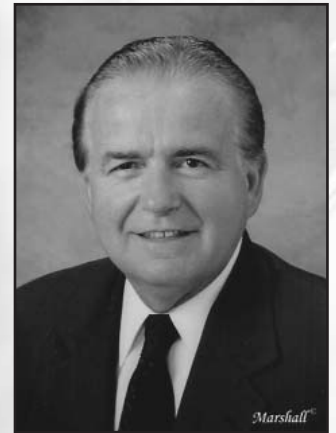
Dear Friends,

I am happy to be communicating with you once again and it is my hope that you are having a safe and enjoyable summer. This quarterly newsletter is designed for you and contains health care information I hope is informative. We invite you to offer comments on how we can continue to improve our communication to you. I also invite you to personally tell me how we can do things better as we work together for the future of health care delivery and service in this region.

In this quarterly issue let us focus on the purpose, values and mission of our healthcare system. It is very important that we work together as a community to ensure that we continue to do our absolute best for the future of community health care in this region. As you know we offer a diversified selection of health care services including long term care, home health care, hospice, and physician services which are an integrated part of our hospital services. Our hospital revolves around people, providers, nursing services, support staff and all the workers and families these people serve. The hospital literally exists for the patients and without them there is no need for a hospital. We recognize that important fact and is why all our employees understand the importance of serving the patients needs with compassion, respect and purpose to deliver the quality and safe healthcare which you expect.

The core values we follow as employees guide and shape the way the people who serve VCHS to fulfill their purpose and mission. Values align people and get them committed to working together for common goals. Our mission focuses on the present and provides a sense of purpose for everyone who provides care for our patients.

Grounded in purpose, values and mission the leadership team next creates a vision, a context within which the future of healthcare can be created. The vision must pull the healthcare program into the future and with your great support, you have created an assurance that we will have quality, convenient and accessible healthcare in this region for the next generations. Here at Valley County health System, we will do our very best to meet the healthcare needs of the community of patients that we serve.



Larry E. Schrage
Chief Executive Officer

VALLEY COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM *Upcoming Events*

**“Get the Scoop” on 55Plus Club®
Ice cream sundae kick-off party**

Sunday, September 7th
4:00 PM at Bussell Park

*If you are not a member, and are 55 yrs.
or older, please join us to learn more.*

**New Hospital Ground Breaking
with Special Guest Gov. Heineman**

Tuesday, October 7th
5:00pm

Business After Hours to follow

Celebrate Being A Woman

Monday, October 27th
6:00 PM

*There will be speakers, gifts,
a free meal and more!*



VCHS Building Project Remains on Schedule Planning Phase Complete, Design Process Begins

Since Valley County voters approved a ballot issue on May 13, board members and employees of Valley County Health System have been going through a very critical planning process for the new hospital facility. This process is required prior to the design phase of the new facility. It has been led by TSP, Inc. the Design/Builder who is providing planning, architectural, engineering and construction services for the project. TSP is a regional firm who is known for their expertise in creating much more than a healthcare facility. They create an environment conducive to healing by utilizing several techniques that make a project successful both functionally and aesthetically. Also involved in the planning phase has been Mary Wells Gorman, with Gorman Resources, a consultant to TSP who is a registered nurse, interior designer and medical planner with vast experience in healthcare facility operational and functional planning.

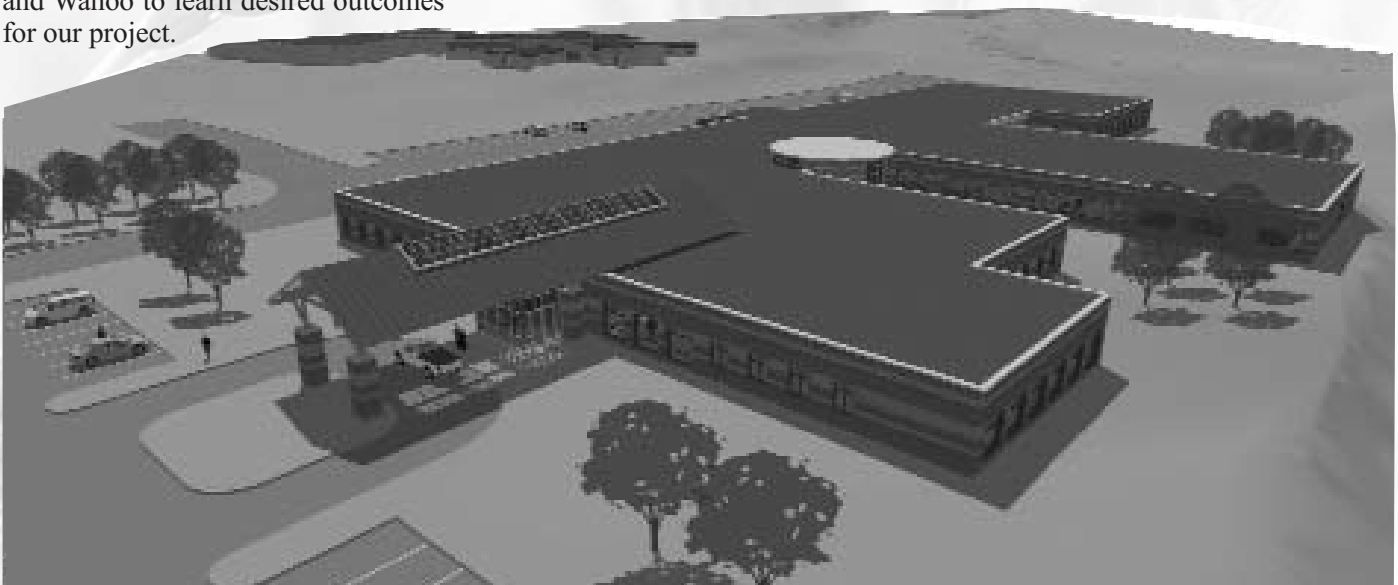
During this phase, a series of meetings have been held that have included operational and functional planning, the selection of the Care Delivery Model, space programming, creating a master project budget, master project schedule and community education planning. In addition, several managers toured the new hospitals in Crete and Wahoo to learn desired outcomes for our project.

It has become very clear to the employees and board members that this project involves much more than building four walls. It involves a new culture and method of providing care to our patients. Therefore, several processes will change prior to moving into the new facility. The new building will be designed around the Patient and Family Centered care model. This model allows patients and families to be together when at all possible, reduces stress for the patient by providing a quiet and relaxing environment, promotes wellness and healing, provides a private and safe environment, creates a seamless and timely experience and provides for optimal staff, family and patient interaction. A good example of this care model implementation in the new facility will be the inpatient rooms. All 17 rooms will be private and will allow adequate space for families to be in the room with the patient. The rooms will also provide a very safe and efficient environment for providing care. Another example will be the registration process. There will be a centralized registration/admissions area in the front lobby. All patients will register at this location for any service provided by the facility. The new facility will also incorporate the six elements of a healing environment. These are natural light,

views to nature, wayfinding-clarity of access throughout the facility, control of environment, cultural responsiveness and sustainable design.

The TSP/Gorman Resources Team issued the following statement regarding the process for this project to date. "It is great to have the Board members so involved in the process, from the Care Delivery model development, existing departmental analysis, Cultural Change opportunities, and site visits to see how others have solved similar problems. In addition, departmental managers are partnering to develop the interdisciplinary approaches to major issues including patient/customer experience, staff and patient safety, benchmarking with community and peer facility standards."

Over the next few months, the board and employees will begin the design phase of the project, which includes the facility design as well as the schematic design of each department. Once this process is complete, the board will approve the final design and a groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for early October. Site preparation will occur this fall with actual construction of the new facility beginning the spring of 2009.



VCCHS Trauma Care Saves Lives



Above: VCCHS emergency room with monitor equipment located at the top of the photo.

July 2, 2008 began like any other day for Jerry Bauer of Elyria. He went to work that morning for Marty Petska at his farm near Ord. It wasn't until he had an accident with a sweep auger and injured his leg that he realized just how important having emergency care close by really is. Ord Volunteer Fire & Rescue were first on the scene to assess the situation and provide medical assistance. Due to our designation as a Basic Level Trauma Center, our ambulance and paramedics were

called in to intercept at the scene. This was helpful to Jerry because the paramedics started him on IV medication prior to his arrival in the emergency room. During this time, the AirCare helicopter from Good Samaritan was called and was on the way to Ord for transporting Jerry to Kearney once stabilized.

As part of our trauma designation, Valley County Health System has the ability to communicate through the Teletrauma system. This system allowed

trauma experts at Good Samaritan in Kearney to view Jerry's leg and work in collaboration with our medical staff for stabilization before his transfer. This system saves time and provides an efficient way for the doctors in Kearney to know what to expect when the patient arrives in their emergency room.

"I received efficient, thorough and professional care from the time the Ord Volunteer Fire Department arrived through the time I was placed on the helicopter for transport to Kearney," stated Jerry. His wife Pat said she felt like she was taken care of as well as her husband was and that "everything seemed to click when he arrived to the ER. Everyone went into high

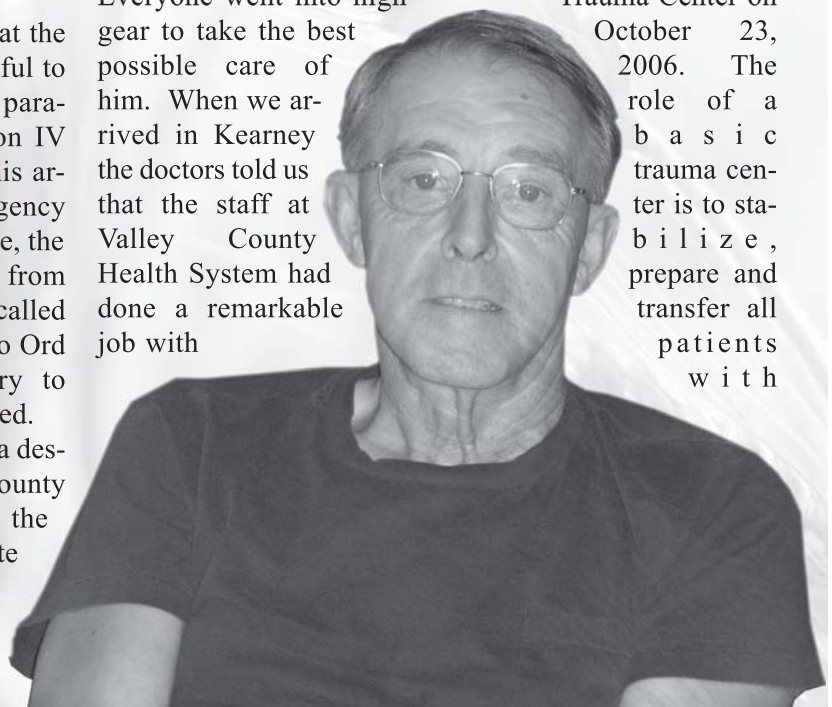
gear to take the best possible care of him. When we arrived in Kearney the doctors told us that the staff at Valley County Health System had done a remarkable job with

the Teletrauma system and preparation. The process worked very well."

During the time since the accident, Jerry has been visited by Home Health and will begin seeing VCCHS's wound care nurse in the near future. Their experience has been a good one and they are very thankful to have quality healthcare close to home. The Bauer's are also excited about the new hospital and commented how nice it will be to have private patient rooms for families to feel comfortable spending time with their loved ones.

Valley County Health System went through the required designation process and became designated as a Basic Level Trauma Center on

October 23, 2006. The role of a basic trauma center is to stabilize, prepare and transfer all patients with



continued from page 4

potentially life threatening injuries. With this level, VCHS is required to maintain certain continuing education for nursing and must have a nurse who has passed the trauma nursing core course available 24/7. VCHS has a quality assur-

“He received efficient, thorough and professional care.

When we arrived in Kearney, the doctors told us that the staff at VCHS had done a remarkable job.”

-Pat Bauer

ance process to monitor trauma and holds quarterly Trauma Team meetings to review cases.

VCHS also provides an annual recertification/education to all area EMS squads once a year. Valley County Health System

would like to thank the EMS squads for their contributions to the trauma program. These squads give a lot to the community on a volunteer basis. Valley County Health System’s ambulance works with the community EMS squads and provides an intercept in high level cases.

As mentioned earlier in this story, Valley County Health System is also part of the Teletrauma system. Teletrauma is a way for our providers to consult with the Good Samaritan Hospital Trauma Center in real-time video and audio for care of our patients. Trauma experts at Good Samaritan have a birds-eye view of the patient. Trauma experts are then able to collaborate with our medical staff based upon what they are seeing as well as information provided to them from VCHS staff.

Karla Kinney named Employee of the Quarter

Karla Kinney has been named Employee of the Quarter at Valley County Health System.

In a letter nominating Kinney for the honor, a co-worker wrote that Kinney provides friendship and support to each and every co-worker, resident, and visitor.

“She is the chain that continually drives our wheel. Without Karla, our wheel would not function properly,” the letter stated.

The letter also commended Kinney for all her hard work and great attitude.

Kinney, an Office Technician in Long Term Care, has worked at VCHS since July 2004.



Provider Update

David Farrar completes Family Medicine training

David Farrar, PA, MPAS (Master of Physician Assistant Studies) at Valley County Health System attended training from June 23-27 in Estes Park, CO.

The training was titled Family Medicine Review '08 and was sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. Topics included Hospital Medicine, Child and Adolescent Care, Women's Health, Sports Medicine, Ambulatory Family Medicine, Urgent Care, and Geriatrics.



Farrar, PA

For more information, or to schedule an appointment with Farrar, call the Ord Family Health Center at 308-728-3606.

Dr. Saleem joins VCHS Specialty Clinic

Dr. Zakaria Saleem has joined Valley County Health System Specialty Clinic one day each month. Dr. Saleem is a nephrologist with Wagoner Medical Group in Grand Island. As a nephrologist, Dr. Saleem specializes in the treatment of kidney disorders and hypertension.



Dr. Saleem

For more information, or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Saleem, call the Specialty Clinic Scheduling Office at 308-728-4249.

Boilesen family donates \$22,500 for a chapel in the new hospital

ORD, JULY 3RD – Gaylord Boilesen announced at the Valley County Health System Foundation Golf Tournament Auction that he and his three sisters, Janis Masters, Carol Burrow and Ila Ballou, will be making a contribution of \$22,500 for a chapel in the new hospital facility. This contribution will be in memory of their parents Floyd and Mildred Boilesen.

Mr. Boilesen gave remarks to kick off the 10th annual foundation auction by saying his parents moved to Ord 50 years ago and they were always proud of the community in which they lived. Floyd passed away 20 years ago and Mildred passed four years ago. The children have always wanted to make a contribution in their memory.

Gaylord went on to say that Ord is extremely fortunate to have the new hospital project and should be proud of what this will mean to the community. The family will donate \$7,500 per year for three years toward the new chapel. The family encourages others to think of similar contributions that could be made.

Valley County Health System thanks the Boilesen family for their generous gift and looks forward to working with them to develop the plans for a chapel in the new hospital facility, which will be completed in 2010.



Floyd and Mildred Boilesen

VALLEY COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM *Promotions:*

Bredthauer promoted to Acute Director of Nursing at VCHS

Vicki Bredthauer has been promoted to the position of Acute Director of Nursing at Valley County Health System. Vicki is taking the place of Barry Rubin who has resigned to move back to Arizona to be near family.

Vicki has been an employee of Valley County Health System for 14 years. Twelve of those years Vicki was a staff RN in acute care. Currently Vicki is the Trauma Coordinator, as well as the Infection Control and Education Coordinator. Vicki assumed her duties on August 4, 2008.

Seward promoted to Administrative Director of Patient Services at VCHS

Joyce Seward has been promoted to the position of Administrative Director of Patient Services at Valley County Health System. This position has been newly created for the purpose of advancing the continuum of medical care provided to all patients and residents who receive services from Valley County Health System.

Larry Schrage, CEO of Valley County Health System stated, “Joyce is a person with tremendous healthcare knowledge, relevant experience, education and excellent mentoring skills. She has been, and will continue to be an invaluable asset to Valley County Health System.”

Joyce has been an employee of Valley County Health System for 19 years. During that timeframe she has served in the capacities of Director of Nursing LTC, Infection Control – Employee Health, Education, Risk Manager, Quality Assurance Coordinator and Corporate Compliance Officer. Currently, Joyce is the Director of Clinics and she will stay in the role but will be hiring an assistant manager to assist her with those responsibilities.

VALLEY COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM

Specialty Clinic Providers



Blake Studley, Au.D.
Audiology



Dr. Dan McGowan
Cardiology



Dr. Joseph Kummer
Cardiology



Dr. Clyde Meckel
Cardiology



Dr. Bob Proffitt
*Ophthalmology
(Cataracts)*



Dr. Tom Nability
*Otolaryngology
(ENT)*



Dr. Richard Goble
*Otolaryngology
(ENT)*



Dr. Dan Cronk
General Surgery



Dr. Zakaria Saleem
Nephrology



Dr. George Adam
OB/GYN



Dr. Nick Hartl
Oncology



Dr. Frank Lesiak
Orthopedics



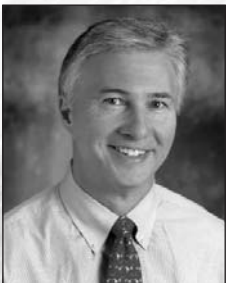
Dr. Jim Lewandowski
Podiatry



Dr. David Cantral
Pulmonology



Dr. Greg Alberts
Urology



Dr. Bruce Koefoot
Urology



Dr. James Wendt
Urology

All seventeen of these providers travel to Valley County Health System on a regular basis.

You can save valuable time and money by scheduling an appointment to see a specialist while they are here.

To schedule an appointment, call the Specialty Clinic Scheduler at 308-728-4249.

Healthcare Decisions Day highlights the importance of advance medical directives

Valley County Health System, along with other national, state and community organizations, is working to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision making - an effort that has culminated in the formal designation of a National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD).

VCCHS encourages area residents to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives (healthcare power of attorney and living

will) in accordance with Nebraska state laws.

“Advance Directive” is a general term that describes two types of legal documents - living wills and healthcare power of attorney. These documents allow a person to give instructions about future medical care, should he or she be unable to participate in healthcare decisions due to serious illness or incapacity.

A living will is a written statement that describes the type of care a person wishes to receive in the event he or she

is suffering from a terminal illness or is in a persistent vegetative state.

A power of attorney for healthcare is a document through which one person (the principal) authorizes another person (the agent) to make healthcare decisions on his or her behalf.

For more information about advance directives call Marilyn Winkelbauer at Valley County Health System Home Health and Hospice, or visit Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership on the web at www.nehospice.org.

Annual Survey declares Valley View Living Center DEFICIENCY FREE

The Department of Health and Human Services concluded their annual survey of our Long Term Care facility in May 2008. They congratulated our staff on the high standards of care they found in their survey saying they were very pleased with all aspects of

intermediate care given to our residents. Only one minor deficiency was cited which involved a delay in the timely reporting of an incident. We would like to thank all of the Long Term Care Staff for all they do for the residents we serve.

Visit us on the web at www.valleycountyhospital.org

CEO *Larry Schrage*

Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Bethanne Kunz

Public Relations Assistant/Graphic Designer
Megan E. Lister

Housecall Quarterly is published by Valley County Health System to provide general health information. It is not intended to provide personal medical advice. Models may be used for illustrative purposes. For more information, contact Bethanne Kunz at 308-728-4347 or bkunz@valleycountyhospital.org.



PERMIT NO. 21
POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT ORG.
ORD, NE 68862

POSTAL PATRON

To learn more about our services please call
308-728-3211 or 888-252-3874

Medical Clinics **Specialty Clinic**
308-728-3606 308-728-4249
or 800-365-5247