



# CONNECTIONS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY



March 2015

## Memorial honors longtime physical therapist

Salina Regional Health Center mourned the loss of Brian Yockers last November after a long battle with a chronic illness. Brian was a physical therapist who spent his entire 27 year career at the hospital touching the lives of many patients and co-workers during his tenure.

Family and friends directed significant memorials to the Salina Regional Health Foundation in Brian's memory. The gifts will be used to establish a continuing education seminar every other year for physical therapists in Salina and the surrounding area.

The first seminar will be held May 2-3 at Salina Regional Health Center and will focus on the latest advancements in rehabilitation for spinal cord injuries. The program is free to all Salina Regional Health Center and Sunflower Health Network hospital staff members and therapists.

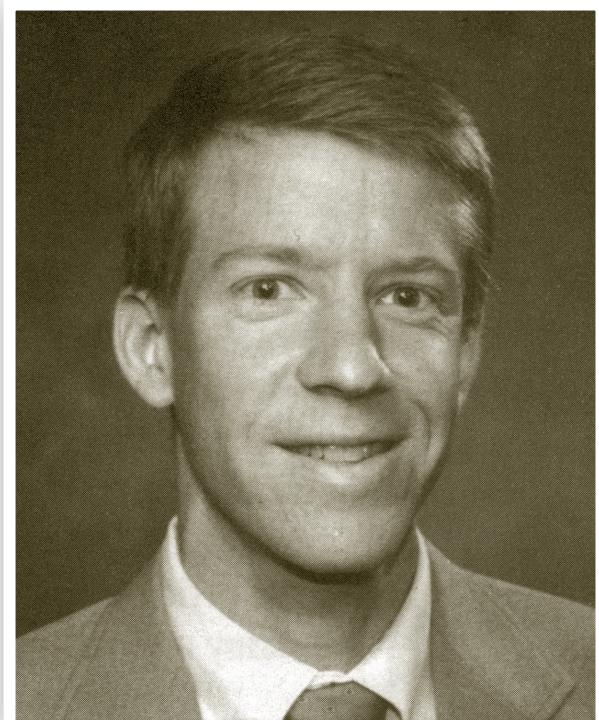
Brian was a clinical instructor for physical therapy students for many years. He also immersed himself with knowledge about the latest advancements in the profession – commonly bringing articles on new treatments to the attention of his colleagues.

Rick Smith, a fellow physical therapist on staff, remembers Brian served as his clinical instructor when he first started in the profession 17 years ago.

"A lot of us could go to Brian when we wanted to bounce ideas around for the best way to treat a particular patient," Smith said. "He was always looking for better ways to do things and he always worked to remain on the cutting edge. He was very well grounded in all the modalities and he was always happy to assist fellow employees any way he could."

Patti Aumick, Salina Regional's Rehabilitation Services director, says holding the education series in Brian's memory is a fitting tribute.

"He was an inspiration to many of our staff members and always very thorough with patients," Aumick said. "There were no short cuts with Brian. He paid attention to every detail."



**Brian Yockers**

1964 – 2014

# Grant helps underserved receive pneumococcal vaccine

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that pneumococcal pneumonia kills about 1 in 20 adults who contract the illness. Many more infected experience lengthy hospitalizations.

Vaccines are available to effectively prevent hospitalization and even death from invasive pneumonia. A grant from the Salina Regional Health Foundation is providing 100 free pneumococcal pneumonia vaccinations at the Salina Family Healthcare Center, which primarily cares for uninsured and underserved patients in the area.

The vaccines cost more than \$100 each and many patients who do not have health insurance do not have any other means to receive the vaccine. Pharmacists through the clinic are identifying patients at highest risk for invasive pneumonia, including those with cancer diagnoses, kidney failure or other immunocomprimitations to get them the vaccine.

“Studies have shown the vaccine to be 50 to 85 percent effective in preventing hospitalizations and invasive disease for the adults we’re trying to vaccinate,” said Wesleigh Bishop a Salina Regional Health Center pharmacist who counsels patients at the clinic. “We wouldn’t have been able to take on this project without the Foundation grant. We’ll be following these patients for hospital admissions from pneumonia-related illness to see how effective we can be.”



A Foundation grant is allowing pharmacy resident Katie Vogel to give out pneumococcal vaccinations through the Salina Family Healthcare Center to patients at high risk for contracting pneumonia.

## Many support Adopt-A-Day to honor loved ones

When family members of patients at Salina Regional Health Center are from out of town and need a place to stay they often turn to the Rebecca A. Morrison House. Cancer patients themselves from around the region also are welcome to use the house when receiving outpatient treatment at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center.

There is no charge for guests who stay at the Morrison House - though many do leave support. The service is supported entirely by donations. The Adopt-A-Day Program at the Morrison House is one effort that helps offset the operational costs of the service by recognizing donors who give a \$100 donation to sponsor a day at the house. Donors are recognized each day on a plaque in the house and on a display located in the hospital. Many choose special days in honor or memory of loved ones and about 60 days remain unsponsored this year.

Daran Neuschafer and his wife Kendra, Salina, adopted May 26th in honor of their wedding anniversary.

“The Morrison House is a testament to the type of community we have,” Daran Neuschafer said. “We understand that the hospital is a regional hospital and people need a place to stay or lie their head down for a bit when their loved ones are ill. It’s great we can provide this service.”

Mike and Polly Hoppock, Salina, pledged May 30th and August 17th - open dates near Polly’s birthday and their wedding anniversary. Polly is a longtime nurse at Salina Regional.

“We hear nothing but positive things about the Morrison House,” Mike Hoppock said. “For Salina Regional to have its own hospitality house that’s a warm and comfortable place for family members to stay really is amazing.”

Contact the Morrison House at (785) 452-7500 to learn how you can support the Adopt-A-Day program.



Lisa Hoffman notes the daily Adopt-A-Day sponsor on a plaque in the Morrison House.

# Foundation board welcomes new officers, trustees

The Salina Regional Health Foundation elected new officers for 2015 and welcomed two new trustees.

New officers are: Chair, Sid Reitz, attorney, Hampton & Royce; Vice Chair, Mike Hoppock, president, Land Title Services; Treasurer, Linda Salem, president, Great Plains Manufacturing; and Secretary, Natalie Fischer, human resources director, city of Salina.

Clark Renfro, senior vice president, Bennington State Bank, and Carmen San Martín, interim director, Child Advocacy and Parenting Services joined the board as new trustees. Aaron Morrison retired from the board after serving a maximum of nine years.

The Foundation is governed by a 19-member board of trustees who give their time and talent to enhance health services in the region.

"Good health is important to all of us and Salina Regional Health Center is one of our community's greatest assets," Reitz said. "The Salina Regional Health Foundation helps support programs and services at our community hospital so that people in Salina and north central Kansas have access to a wide range of quality medical services right here at home."



**Sid Reitz**

Board Chair

## Gift annuities make an attractive investment

With certificate of deposit interest rates still lower than many would like, many people are exploring investment alternatives.

Gift annuities have proven to be good investments for those who have a charitable intent, yet desire a disposable income stream. Under terms of a simple contract a donor can transfer cash, securities, land or other assets to the Salina Regional Health Foundation. In return the Foundation agrees to pay the donor a specified annuity as long as the annuitant is living.

Gift annuities offer a variety of benefits, including:

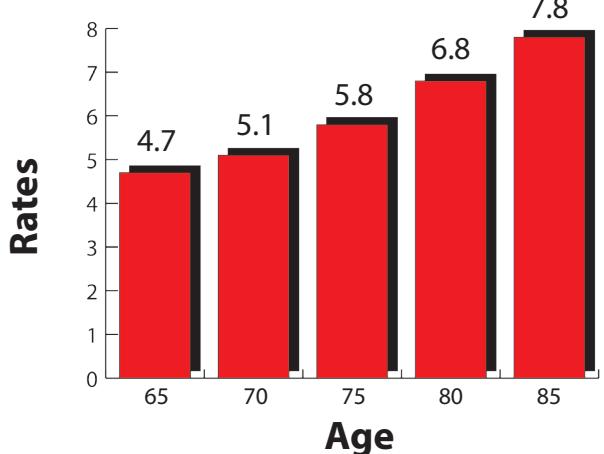
- High rates of return
- Lifetime income
- Charitable income tax deduction
- Partially tax-free income
- Satisfaction of helping others

As an example, let's say a husband and wife are 73 years old and 76 years old, and give \$10,000 to the Foundation through a gift annuity. In exchange for the gift, the Foundation will pay a 5 percent rate of return, or \$500 per year, on the gift annuity as long as either spouse is living. Single-life rates of return are even higher (See accompanying graph).

In addition, annuitants will receive a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of their gift. A portion of their annuity income also will be tax free for a period of years. This combines to make an effective pay-out rate of 7.2 percent.

Contact the Foundation at (785) 452-6088 to learn more about gift annuities. Actual calculations based upon your age and individual circumstances can be provided at no obligation.

### Charitable Gift Annuity Rates (Single Life)



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## Director's Message



**Tom Martin**  
Executive Director

I think this story can and should be told. We have something called the Employee Sharing Fund here at Salina Regional. Hospital employees deduct money from their own paychecks to this fund, so that gifts can discreetly be made to help fellow employees who might need a helping hand.

Brian Yockers gave, but also served on the Employee Sharing Fund committee. On one occasion, a hospital employee was awarded the maximum gift from the Sharing Fund, but still had unmet needs. Following the committee meeting, Brian quietly arranged to personally cover the remaining needs of this particular employee.

No one has ever heard that story, until now.



CONNECTIONS is published every other month by the Salina Regional Health Foundation. If you no longer wish to receive fund-raising contacts or materials, please notify: Privacy Office, Salina Regional Health Center, Health Information Management, P.O. Box 5080, Salina, KS 67402-5080/Phone: (785) 452-7313/Fax (785) 452-7312/E-mail:Privacy@srhc.com.