



The Rev. Barb Koenig is grateful for the life-saving measures taken by Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center when she suddenly became ill.

Grateful for LIFE-SAVING HELP

hen Barb Koenig became ill on Oct. 1, 2018, she thought she had the stomach flu. Two days later, she summoned the ambulance, and was taken to Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) in Elgin, where a life-saving procedure was performed before the Elgin pastor was hospitalized for more than a month.

"By Wednesday morning, I just knew I couldn't do it, that I needed help," she described. "I felt really stupid calling and asking for help, but I'm so glad I did. I think sometimes when you feel that way, you wait too long and I almost waited too long."

But when the ambulance crew arrived, she knew she had made the right call.

"The ambulance crew was absolutely wonderful," she said. "I was so scared. Just to know that somebody was there to help me, to know that I could kind of let go."

The ambulance crew made sure Barb's two cats stayed in the house, retrieved her medication and made sure she had her cellphone with her continued on next page

JMHCC Lifelines • Winter 2019

JMHCC 601 East St. North PO Box 367 Elgin, ND 58533 701-584-2792 www.jacobsonhospital.org www.facebook.com/JMHCC

INSIDE:



continued from previous page before taking her to JMHCC.

Arriving at JMHCC, Barb felt comforted, but she was in dire need of care. Barb went into respiratory distress, which was secondary to an infection in her kidneys as well as obstruction from kidney stones which caused her to become septic.

"Just to see familiar faces was so comforting – people that I knew," she said. "To see them, I felt safe. I felt like they were going to take care of me and they were going to do the best for me."

Barb's last memory of that day was being asked which hospital she wanted to be transferred to, as it became apparent Barb needed more urgent care, including surgery.

At JMHCC, Carey Rivinius, DNP, FNP-C, intubated Barb to continue her breathing, a life-saving procedure that kept Barb alive during the ambulance ride to Bismarck. Dense fog kept the air flight grounded that day.

"I wasn't stable when I got to JMHCC and they had to stabilize me and I'm not sure that what they had to do could have been done in an ambulance," Barb said. "I just can't say enough good about the medical staff here and how much they helped me. I'm so grateful that we have a hospital here. It makes a difference."

- Barb Koenig

"I knew the people here were taking good care of me," she added.

In Bismarck, Barb underwent surgery and her family was summoned.

"I think the thing that really scared me more than anything else was when I woke up in intensive care at Sanford and I looked over and there was my dad and my brother and my sister-inlaw, my cousin, all three of my kids, two of my grandkids and my daughter-in-law. I thought, 'Oh, you really did it this time,' " she described.

Even while she recovered in Bismarck, Barb felt the care emanating from JMHCC.

"I kept hearing all along that they were checking in on me, and that made me feel good, too," she said.

Barb was hospitalized "a Biblical 40 days" in Bismarck before returning to Elgin for another two weeks of recovery in the swing bed unit at JMHCC.

While staying in the swing bed unit at JMHCC, Barb was able to find the

atmosphere she needed to recover.

"I had parishioners in there and it was kind of like my first toe dip into getting into pastoring again, but I also wanted them to understand that I was there to heal, too. It worked out really well," she said. "It was a healing place to be."

Barb still continues her recovery, with care at JMHCC and the Elgin Community Clinic.

"Even to this day, they're watching out for me," she said. "They've always been right on top of it and I appreciate that. I'm still not 100 percent yet. I still do not have that concept of how sick I was."

As a pastor, Barb moved to Elgin about two years ago. She pastors at the rural Ebenezer United Church of Christ and the Bethesda United Methodist Church in Elgin, and she appreciates the help and concern of her parishioners while she was ill also.

While she was hospitalized, parish-

JMHCC Lifelines • Winter 2019

JMHCC

601 East St. North PO Box 367 Elgin, ND 58533 701-584-2792 www.jacobsonhospital.org www.facebook.com/JMHCC





Welcome!

Welcome to Lifelines, a newsletter which is published quarterly by the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation, serving the region.

The mission of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center: Advance the health of the communities with respect and accountability, providing peace of mind close to home.

The vision of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center: Strive to be the community choice by providing excellent health care through continuous improvement.

The mission of the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation:

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation, in support of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, is to engage and foster health care philanthropy, and provide funds, support and programs to enhance continuous health care excellence for our region. ioners took care of her two cats and still take her garbage outside for her.

"The churches have just been wonderful," she said.

Since Barb would have had to navigate several steps to enter the Ebenezer United Church of Christ, parishioners moved their church services to the Elgin Community Center for a time. Barb also needed to sit when she preached for a time.

"They've been so accommodating and so caring," she said. "I'm so grateful to everyone."

Barb appreciates the peace of mind she found close to home at JMHCC during her illness.

"Whenever I move, I always check and see about the hospital situation. Whenever I look at a place, I look at what the medical facilities are," she said. "I just can't say enough good about the medical staff here and how much they helped me. I'm so grateful that we have a hospital here. It makes a difference." ■

Simple to Serious We treat it all at Glen Ullin Family Medical Clinic We don't just treat the sniffles! We treat your serious ailments, too! Now with extended hours! 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m. CT on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 602 Ash Avenue, Glen Ullin • 701-348-9175 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CT Monday, Thursday, Friday 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m. CT Tuesday, Wednesday Walk-ins welcome Memorial FNP Carrie Gerving has an extensive

background in providing care to all ages



FNP Rhonda Schmidt has a wide range of experience in treating all ailments, with a particular interest in pain management.



ive from the heart on Giving Hearts Day Feb. 14 and help Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation (JMHF) reach its \$73,000 goal for its next fundraising campaign, "A Place Called Home, Phase II."

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the JMHF will participate in Giving Hearts Day, a 24-hour online fundraising event.

With your generosity, the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation hopes to raise funds during Giving Hearts Day to support Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) in Elgin to replace flooring and wall covering on the main floor of the hospital. These areas are badly worn and in need of updating.

"We have long-term patients/residents who call JMHCC home and we want a warm, inviting atmosphere for them, as well as all our patients," said JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller.

To make a secure online contribution to the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation during the Giving Hearts Day event, simply go to the online site on Feb. 14 at www.givingheartsday.org.

You may also donate by sending a check dated Feb. 14 to: JMHF, PO Box 367, Elgin, ND 58533.

Donors will be recognized with a heart placed at JMHCC at these levels:

- Small heart \$100-\$500
- Medium heart \$501 to \$1,000
- Large heart \$1,001 and above

Donors are also encouraged to honor a loved one with a donation in memory of a loved one or to honor a parent or grandparent. Families are encouraged to join together to donate to honor a loved one to have a heart placed on the wall at JMHCC in their name.

Those who do not wish to participate in Giving Hearts Day, but who want to donate to this vital project, are welcome to send a check at any time to the Foundation, with a note that the donation is for the campaign. The Elgin Lions Club has donated a \$4,000 match to the Giving Hearts Day event.

"The Elgin Lions Club has been a tremendous supporter of JMHCC and its projects over the years and we are grateful for this continued support of Giving Hearts Day," Stoller said. ■







JMHCC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Winter 2019 • Lifelines • 5

New Leipzig named Cardiac Ready Community

ew Leipzig is the second community in Grant County to be designated as a Cardiac Ready Community after meeting certain criteria and applying for the designation.

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) spearheaded the effort to work with community representatives to designate New Leipzig as a Cardiac Ready Community through the N.D. Department of Health. Signs will be placed along Highway 21 so responders, residents and people passing through know the community is a Cardiac Ready Community.

Elgin was designated as a Cardiac Ready Community last spring.

To become certified, each community must satisfy specific criteria. These standards prepare residents with the skills to respond to a cardiac event. Standards must be reached in CPR instruction, public access to AEDs, blood pressure screenings, resuscitation protocols and transport plans for EMS and the hospital.

Once a community meets the established criteria, it can apply to be designated as a North Dakota Cardiac Ready Community. A Cardiac Ready Community designation promotes survival of a cardiac event which occurs outside of the hospital setting. Cardiac Ready Communities are empowered to actively lower cardiac mortality rates.

"During a cardiac emergency, the first five minutes are critical. With the placement of AEDs, people trained in CPR and emergency responders in place, New Leipzig is prepared to increase survival rates," said JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller.

The goal is to have a community prepared to respond and assist if an individual has a cardiac event. To do this, it is important for individuals to be able to recognize a cardiac JMHCC helped obtain grant funding to purchase two additional AEDs to place in New Leipzig.

AEDs are now located at:

- fire hall
- community center
- Stelter Repair
- Immanuel Lutheran Church.

emergency, know how to dial 9-1-1 to access first responders immediately, begin CPR and have public access to AEDs. An AED is an automated external defibrillator, a portable electronic device which uses audio and visual commands to direct a layperson to treat a cardiac event through the application of the device.

In New Leipzig, AEDs are located at the fire hall and the community center. JMHCC also assisted New Leipzig in obtaining grant funds to place additional AEDs at Stelter Repair and Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Signs will be posted at these locations so residents know where these devices are located.

To receive the designation, JMHCC organized community stakeholders and served as the lead coordinator. Stakeholders included ambulance, fire department, city, sheriff's department, emergency management and Custer Health representatives, as well as hospital staff. The N.D. Department of Health evaluated the community's current readiness and its plan to meet program criteria. This included access to AEDs, awareness campaigns – which will be ongoing – and CPR training.

"With all the hard work and dedication, you have made your community safer and healthier," shared Danielle Schoch, with the N.D. Department of Health Division of Emergency Medical Services. "The North Dakota Department of Health and Division of EMS congratulate and wish your community continued success and wellness."

JMHCC will continue to work so that all of Grant County is prepared for cardiac events.

The Cardiac Ready Communities project is a partnership of the N.D. Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Systems and the American Heart Association through the North Dakota Cardiac System of Care. The designation is valid for three years, at which time the communities will need to renew the designation. ■

Common styrs of CARDIAC ENERGENCY

Men are most likely to experience chest pain or discomfort, as well as chest pressure.

Women are most likely to also experience chest pain or discomfort, but also more likely to experience shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.



Are you loyal, driven, and compassionate?

Join our team of like-minded people.

All full-time and part-time positions are eligible for our competitive benefits package. Contact Kristin at (701) 584-7247 or kheid@jmhcc.org to apply. JMHCC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dietary aide

One full time and one part time; rotating days and evenings, weekends and holidays. \$2,000 sign-on bonus.

Housekeeper

Two full time; rotating weekends and holidays. \$2,000 sign-on bonus.

Laundry aide

As needed

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Enrich the lives of patients while choosing your own schedule in full-time or part-time LPN position. Competitive pay and benefits; eligible for \$15,000 student loan repayment and \$5,000 sign-on bonus.

Registered Nurse (RN)

Make a difference and gain valuable experience as a fulltime or part-time charge nurse at JMHCC! This position is eligible for a \$5,000 sign-on bonus and \$15,000 student loan repayment program, along with competitive pay and benefits.

Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

Support and empower patients through hands-on care in a meaningful CNA role at Jacobson Memorial Hospital. CNA certification required, but we can assist you in obtaining certification if necessary. Full-time or part-time positions are available. These positions are eligible for a \$4,000 sign-on bonus, along with competitive wages and benefits package.

Serving with commitment, compassion, excellence and integrity

