

# FOCUS



## New Norman and Ann Hoffman Emergency Center opens on Ridgeview's Waconia campus

The Norman and Ann Hoffman Emergency Center renovation and expansion project on Ridgeview's Waconia campus was completed in early October. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in lieu of a public event, a private gathering was held in October at which Ridgeview President and CEO Michael Phelps, Emergency Department physicians, and Ridgeview Foundation representatives had an opportunity to thank longtime Foundation supporters and the project's lead benefactors, Norman and Ann Hoffman, from Waconia. With the Hoffmans' lead gift, plus the collective support of the community, Ridgeview Foundation raised \$9 million for the project.

Renovation of the Emergency Department added 10,000 square feet to the existing 10,000-square-foot facility, enhancing patient privacy, services and technology. The \$18.8 million project highlights include:

- all rooms are flexible to accommodate varied populations;
- an Observation Unit for those not requiring transfer to a hospital bed but needing monitoring in a comforting environment;

- a mental health area, where those needing support and solitude can get the help they need;
- new trauma rooms with advanced technology for those most critically injured; and
- an improved design and workflow to streamline care.

With this project, Ridgeview's Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation department was moved to a new space in the lower level, with a gym, conference room and consult rooms.

"This is one of the most exciting and important improvements we have made to the Waconia campus, enhancing our capacity to provide lifesaving procedures and care for the thousands of patients and families who use our emergency services each year," Phelps said. "We are grateful for the generous support of the Hoffman family and many others to help Ridgeview expand our capacity to provide emergency services, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the former ED space was constructed in 1991. We wouldn't have been able to as effectively care for our patients without this significant addition."



**Katie Barnes**  
Ridgeview Foundation  
Board Chair

## Message from the Foundation Board:

What a crazy year. So much unknown, so much fear and angst. Mixed messages about the pandemic coming from every angle. Will I lose my job? Do I wear a mask? Will there be enough toilet paper? Are we going to die?

The one constant was you. Thanks for hanging in there with us. Thanks for not forgetting about Ridgeview as the world around us was in a pandemic-induced panic. Thank you for not taking your local healthcare providers for granted. Thank you for choosing Ridgeview to be the recipient of your generous support.

It's times like these that we fully appreciate how fortunate we are. We have friends, really good friends who will take care of us even during the most dire of times. We know how precious your philanthropy is and we are humbled that you've chosen us to be the recipient of your kindness.

The good news is that Ridgeview is doing fine - in fact, better than fine. Sure, it's been a tough year as the Governor suspended all elective procedures this spring. But Ridgeview is in recovery, returning to pre-pandemic volumes and executing all the elective procedures that were offered prior to the pandemic. We're going to make it and we're going to come out of this stronger than we entered it - in large part because of you.

## Ridgeview Anesthesia Group Donates \$100,000 for da Vinci® Robot

Physicians from Ridgeview Anesthesia Group recently donated \$100,000 to the Ridgeview Foundation for a new da Vinci® surgical robot.

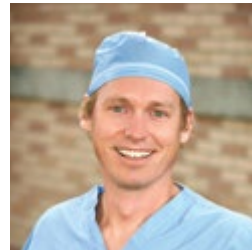
"Our team has been dedicated to the success of Ridgeview Foundation initiatives and the advancement of the hospital for many years," explained Nathan Beerling, MD, medical director of Ridgeview Anesthesia Group.

Seeing the need for new and upgraded technology, Ridgeview Anesthesia Group is grateful to provide support for the new surgical system. "Giving to Ridgeview is extremely important to ensure access to the type of care our community expects and deserves," Dr. Beerling explained.

Providing the highest-quality anesthesia care and management, the experienced members of the Ridgeview Anesthesia Group work with patients of all ages throughout the Ridgeview system. They are honored to be part of a health care system that is a life-changing community resource, Dr. Beerling said, and Ridgeview Anesthesia Group truly values its partnership with the hospital.

"We are very proud to be part of such an experienced and talented health care team at Ridgeview," Dr. Beerling said. "We enjoy the opportunity to provide our patients with exceptional and compassionate care, right in our own community."

Ridgeview Anesthesia Group believes the legacy of Ridgeview is rooted deep in the community. With its philanthropic efforts, the group hopes to guarantee the tradition of quality care for generations.



Nate Beerling, M.D.



Cody Honl, D.O.



Kent Forss, D.O.



Beau Reiner, M.D.

"Our goal is to support and care for the community, not just from a clinical health standpoint but also for the overall vibrancy of the community," Dr. Beerling explained. "When giving to Ridgeview, you can touch the lives of your neighbors, friends and family."

Gifts from physician partners like Ridgeview Anesthesia Group truly make a difference. They make a direct impact on Ridgeview's ability to provide state-of-the-art care.

"We are so grateful to the Ridgeview Anesthesia Group for their continued sponsorship of Ridgeview Foundation," explained Doug Stasek, executive director of Ridgeview Foundation. "Because of its generosity, we continue to meet the changing health care needs of the community, now and for years to come."

*Not pictured: Mark Reiner, M.D. and Paul Savaryn, M.D.*

## Compassionate Team Provides New Beginning Ridgeview Hospice gives comfort to Richard Bigaouette

Former farmer and construction worker, Richard Bigaouette of Hamburg, was excited to enjoy retirement. "My wife and I toured the countryside in our car. When we were not driving somewhere, I helped my wife with the flower garden and I mowed and trimmed the lawn," said Richard. "But it grew harder. It was harder to walk to the garage or to the garden. It was harder to mow, harder to breathe and harder to recover."

Richard eventually visited his doctor after extended periods of pain under his heart and experiencing shortness of breath. At the appointment, his oxygen levels were so low that he needed supplemental oxygen immediately or Richard risked being hospitalized.

Richard was diagnosed with end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and respiratory failure. COPD is a group of lung diseases that make it difficult to breathe due to blockages of the airflow.

After five years of living with COPD, Richard realized everyday activities were becoming even more difficult. "I was less active. I avoided being outside because the heat, humidity and the cold can affect my breathing. I was unable to use stairs," said Richard.

In December 2017, Richard moved to The Harbor at Peace Village, an assisted-living community in Norwood Young America, to receive more assistance. In March 2019, Richard entered the Ridgeview Hospice program.

"I had heard hospice was your last resort. You go into hospice and you're dead," said Richard. "It turned out to be a new beginning that saved my life."

Ridgeview Hospice provides Richard care he can't find anywhere else, and he's supported by the entire team. He enjoys many elements of Ridgeview Hospice, including music therapy, massage therapy, and visits with the chaplain and social workers.

"The music can't be beat!" said Richard. "It provides me with relaxation and a spiritual uplifting." He also enjoys massage therapy, saying, "It helps me feel less pain and I feel the calmness coming on. I can feel uptight and just hearing my massage therapist talk to me during our session gives me such a relaxing feeling."

Richard's faith is an important part of his life, which is why he relishes the weekly visits from the Ridgeview Hospice chaplain. "When the chaplain reads to me, it's the highlight of my day," said Richard. "God gave me life and hospice supports me physically, emotionally and spiritually," said Richard.



Richard feels much different as a result of Ridgeview Hospice. "I am more relaxed than I have been in my life," said Richard. "I honestly can't believe you can get this good of care. The team keeps coming and checking on me and offering more help. I trust everyone on the team like they are family."

This is especially meaningful in 2020, as COVID-19 restricted visitor access at The Harbor at Peace Village. As a result, Richard missed visits from his wife of 60 years, Ardene, and his eight children. "The hospice team keeps me uplifted and I would be lonely if they weren't showing up."

"I can let my mind wander and get down, but someone from hospice comes out and we get to talking. Suddenly, it's like I've lit a candle and I'm back on my feet again."

“ I had heard hospice was your last resort. You go on hospice and you're dead. It turned out to be a new beginning that saved my life.

— Richard Bigaouette

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## Socially distanced fun for all during September's successful golf event

More than 100 volunteers and 200 golfers joined us at Island View Golf Club for our 35th Annual Golf Celebration on Monday, Sept. 14. The event raised more than \$500,000 for Ridgeview's COVID-19 efforts. We enjoyed ample sunshine, snacks, silent auction bids and socially distanced fun. The celebration kicked off in the morning with a Coffee Cup tournament for the participating golfers. After that, a Founder's Cup tournament filled the afternoon.

It brought us great sadness that we couldn't gather under the tent to celebrate the vibrancy of our local dining scene, the Taste of the Ridgeview Region. Unfortunately, there's was no way to maintain social distancing for this popular event.

Our healthcare teams are remaining vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. They are on the front lines, ensuring our community is safe and healthcare is available to all. Our role in the Foundation has never been more difficult. In a year full of difficulty, your donations are truly making an impact. They help ensure our talented medical staff have access to the latest, cutting edge medical equipment and technology so Ridgeview remains a healthcare leader in the southwest metro.

Thank you for helping make this another successful event! Save the date for next year's event on June 21, 2021.





*big hats & bowties*  
UNDER THE  
**HARVEST**  
*Moon*  
ELEVENTH ANNUAL EVENT

## New virtual format; same fun experience

In November, we celebrated our 11th Annual Under the Harvest Moon event in style! More than 180 attendees donned their big hats and bow ties and raised more than \$300,000 for Ridgeview's COVID-19 relief efforts. This was our first virtual event and it was a success! Attendees picked up their "party-in-a-box" prior to the event, which included local restaurant gift cards, a commemorative mint julep cup, all the fixings to make a mint julep at home and a variety

of other goodies. Emcee Ian Leonard kept us entertained from the comfort of our homes, the best dressed couples were crowned, and the top winners of the mystery auction were revealed. We're so thankful that despite these unusual circumstances, we could all come together to enjoy each other while raising money for such an important cause. Save the date for next year's event on November 20, 2021.



# New COVID Call Center Connects the Community to Experts and Resources

Ridgeview has introduced a one-stop COVID-19 Call Center which simplifies everything related to COVID. Since the pandemic began, symptom guidelines, testing instructions and locations, rules for isolating—it all changes with little notice. It's difficult to stay on top of it all.

Now, you can call 952-442-7811 for COVID-19 guidance.

Ridgeview's COVID-19 Call Center is a new, reliable resource to help you. It is staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and callers have access to triage nurses who are knowledgeable about COVID and the most current Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines.



## Call Ridgeview's COVID Call Center to:

- Discuss your symptoms with a Call Center representative to determine your next steps.
- Learn if you qualify for testing and to schedule an appointment.
- Learn what to do if someone in your household tests positive.
- Inquire about your test results.
- Learn about insurance coverage for testing.
- Locate the closest testing site.
- Connect with other community resources, such as transportation to a testing site.

Labs are working around the clock, seven days a week, to process test results and Ridgeview is sharing results throughout the weekend. If you have a positive result, you will receive a personal call from a nurse so you have an opportunity to have a conversation about next steps. If you have a negative result, you will receive a text message from Ridgeview.

For the most up-to-date information about COVID-19, expert guidance and test scheduling, call Ridgeview's COVID Call Center at 952-442-7811.

## Ridgeview Announces Nurse Residency Program

Ridgeview is pleased to announce a new training program designed to transition new graduate nurses to the professional nursing environment using a combination of didactic and precepted clinical experiences. Designed and administered by the University of Iowa, this on-line program will aid Ridgeview in providing a welcoming environment to new graduate nurses as they transition from academia to practice.

Critical skills taught in this program are focused on clinical judgement and decision-making. The program strives to enhance new nurses' knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to continuously improve professional growth.

Newly hired nurses who are eligible (new graduate with less than 1 year experience) will be contacted regarding enrollment.



# Tax Benefits of the CARES Act

The new CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act is designed to help you, businesses and nonprofits facing economic hardship during the coronavirus pandemic.

## THE LAW, EXPLAINED BY A CHARITABLE PLANNING ATTORNEY

Here are a few key provisions of the CARES Act that may affect you and your charitable goals:

### REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS SUSPENDED

The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year. This probably comes as a relief to many of you who would have had to withdraw from your retirement accounts. Many of our donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRA. Despite the RMD suspension, remember that if you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name Ridgeview Foundation as a beneficiary.

### WHY A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA MAY STILL BE A GOOD IDEA

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

### NEW TAX INCENTIVES

The CARES Act expands charitable giving incentives and allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 of charitable contributions to qualified charities this year. You might think that this is a small amount and would not make a difference. But what if all of our donors gave "just" \$300? Such support would have a huge impact on those we serve.

For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as Ridgeview Foundation to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.

### YOUR CHARITABLE GOALS

We are deeply grateful for your continued kindness and support during this difficult time. Please contact Kelly Mulleady, CFRE at [kelly.mulleady@ridgeviewmedical.org](mailto:kelly.mulleady@ridgeviewmedical.org) or 952-777-5099 to discuss how your gift can help further our mission.

## Thank you to our incredible 2020 Corporate Sponsors!



To join this group of Corporate Partners in 2021 contact Liz Gerads at [liz.gerads@ridgeviewmedical.org](mailto:liz.gerads@ridgeviewmedical.org) or 952-442-8061

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NOVEMBER 20, 2021  
HAZELTINE NATIONAL GOLF CLUB  
12TH ANNUAL UNDER  
THE HARVEST MOON



JUNE 21, 2021  
ISLANDVIEW GOLF CLUB  
& TASTE CELEBRATION  
36TH ANNUAL GOLF



APRIL 23, 2021  
CHASKA CURLING CENTER  
FOR RIDGEVIEW  
3RD ANNUAL ROCKS



# SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR BIG 3 EVENTS

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- Nikki Vanecek, Minneapolis
- Steve Yetzer, Waconia

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- Michael Phelps, President and CEO, Ridgeview Medical Center
- Doug Stasek, Executive Director, Ridgeview Foundation