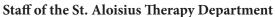


## FORE VORD

St. Aloisius Medical Center - Harvey, North Dakota 'Quality care with a personal touch'

**July 2020** 







The new exercise area located in the lower level of the clinic

### Therapy department keeps growing brightly

It is an exciting time for the St. Aloisius Therapy Department. Even during the limitations placed upon us by Covid-19, we've been able to grow and shine.

Our staff numbers have exploded and we are able to better serve our community. Our fun-loving and dedicated staff, beginning with Physical Therapy, are Physical Therapists (PT) Brenda Finley, Kelly Christenson and Amanda Weinmann. Our Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA), Karissa Lautt and Darla McDonald, help round out our PT staff. Our Occupational Therapy staff includes Occupational Therapist (OT) Sheri Martin, and Certified Occupational

Therapy Assistants (COTA) are Robin Arnold and Joe Volk. Susan Bartz is our full-time Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). Our support staff consists of Rita Weninger, Laurie Pellett, and Jennifer Faul.

Our expanding service line provided by our PT's includes dry needling, lymphedema care and treatment for Vertigo. Our OT staff provides many services including hand therapy, treatment for sensory processing disorders in children and fine motor skill development in children and adults. Susan, our SLP, specializes in Loud/Voice Therapy for patients with Parkinson's, Autism Therapy for all ages and early intervention

services for children birth to age six.

We had a grand opening celebration in early March as well as a blessing by Father Kevin. Our beautiful and light-filled department is located in the lower level of the clinic. Our new space boasts a gym that has doubled in size, an increase in treatment rooms from two to five, a welcoming reception area and a functional office for our staff.

Please take advantage of your local, experienced and well-qualified therapy team to serve all of your therapy needs!

### St. Aloisius Clinic Update

St Aloisius Clinic continues to see patients. Services include annual physicals, well baby and child checkups, DOT physicals, consults or any health concerns.

St. Aloisius Clinic takes the safety and health of everyone who comes to us for care very seriously. Our goal is to protect patients and staff from exposure to any illness. Infection control precautions during this medical pandemic include:

- Questions are asked on the phone at time of booking the appointment.
- Upon entering the clinic, you will be asked questions regarding symptoms or exposure to the coronavirus. Your temperature will be taken. You will wear a mask that can be supplied by the clinic during your time in the building. You will

also be encouraged to use hand sanitizer often.

- Staff may be wearing masks with eye protection during your visit.
- We ask that only patients enter the clinic, unless medical assistance is needed by a caregiver during the appointment.
- Social distancing is recommended in the waiting area. The chairs are spaced for exposure control.

Dr. Dean has a direct line for all COVID questions and concerns. Please call him at 701-324-5125.

St. Aloisius Medical Center is able to conduct testing for the coronavirus.

Please call 701-324-5131 today to schedule an appointment at our clinic.

#### COVID-19 UPDATES AND REMINDERS

SAMC is monitoring new developments related to the Coronavirus and continues to follow CDC guidelines.

Visit our website at **staloisius.com** and/or our facebook page for updates and steps to take if you think you have COVID-19.

And don't forget to:

- Follow social distancing guidelines.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Take a walk, bike, hike, do yard-work...for your health!



**Christy Arends** 

### Christy Arends certified specialist

St Aloisius Medical Center is proud to recognize Christy Arends on achieving her Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Coding & Billing Specialist certification.

The CAH-CBS training and exam was offered by The Association for Rural & Community Health Professional Coding. The objectives of the training were to achieve a thorough understanding of a Critical Access Hospitals revenue cycle including clinical documentation, professional coding, and medical billing processes.

Christy has worked in the St Aloisius Business Office for the past 5 years and has played a vital role in the facility's revenue cycle. Congratulations Christy!

# 2020 Proud Moments and Accomplishments

As 2020 continues, we look back at some of our accomplishments so far:

- With the onset of the coronavirus, we find ourselves marveling on how change has forged our Ministry and community and what has become a new "normal". (i.e. facemasks, social distancing, more hand washing, spacing patient appointments further apart, fewer chairs in waiting rooms, etc.).
- Our Therapy Department made their new "home" in the old dental clinic area in the basement of the clinic building which allows them a much larger space for the exercise area, more office space and exams rooms to accommodate the increase in staff to fulfill the therapy needs
- The 'Silver Lining Day' parade was a highlight for both residents and staff. It was great to have so much community participation!
- We have found some great staff to fill vacant positions at St. Aloisius but we do have several vacant positions. You can see our job listings on our website <a href="https://www.staloisius.com">www.staloisius.com</a> under 'Careers.' We are so grateful to be able to have our jobs continue throughout Covid-19 as some staff had the ability to work offsite for a period of time. May the good Lord continue to bless us with employees who provide the <a href="https://example.com/best/best/best/">best/best/best/</a> care for those that we are entrusted to serve.

- St. Aloisius has remained financially viable throughout the first half of 2020 despite the decreases in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Our 2020 BSC Nursing Class in Harvey (3 students) are in their last month of class and clinical study and should complete their LPN program by the end of July 2020. We are proud to have the opportunity in Harvey to "Grow our own nurses".
- Becca Patzer, LTC, completed certification for skin and wound care for LTC.
- Christy Arends, Business Office, completed Critical Access Hospital Coding & Billing Specialist Certification.

We are honored by the support of the communities we serve and caring staff at St. Aloisius and are truly amazed at what God's people can accomplish through His guidance.

# ForeWord is primarily published for the friends and family of St. Aloisius Medical Center

#### Editor

Pam Stewart

#### **Contributing Writers**

Brenda Finley Sarah Gregg Jessica Hanson Beth Huseth Kim Rust

#### **Board of Directors**

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Alfred Sams, Interim CEO, Harvey

St. Aloisius Medical Center 325 Brewster St. E. Harvey, ND 58341 (701) 324-4651



This is our recent CNA class at St. Aloisius Medical Center. We are so glad to be holding CNA classes again.

Congratulations to CNA students! Pictured at right, unmasked: Kalyn Keller, Tyjah Hornbacher, Madison Jones, Brianna Fike and Chelsie Mattson.

### **Diabetes Education**

#### Telehealth and In-Person Visits Available

If you are having difficulty with the management of your blood sugars or have questions concerning medications, technology, or monitoring, then a visit with a diabetes educator can help you develop the skills and confidence to manage this condition. Diabetes self-management includes understanding the medications you are taking, what your finger stick blood sugars and labs mean, and what complications/findings should be brought up with your primary care provider.

St. Aloisius has the capabilities to bring clients in for outpatient appointments. If you are a Medicare beneficiary and unable to come to the hospital, then telehealth can be arranged. We are here to help and would like to assist you in your journey to better health!

For appointments or questions, please call Sarah Gregg at 701-324-4769 Ext. 5416.



Sarah Gregg, RN, BSN Diabetes Education & Care Specialist



Benjamin Weckerly receives 'Champion' pin award and St. Aloisius t-shirt presented by Alfred Sams, St. Aloisius Medical Center Interim CEO

Benjamin Weckerly recognized with Champion award

When Benjamin Weckerly decided to donate his savings to St. Aloisius Medical Center to help with the coronavirus, I'm guessing that he didn't know how his generous spirit would impact our whole community and beyond. The story of his donation was printed in the local newspaper, The Herald-Press, and was also posted on the St. Aloisius Facebook page. We will share the original story here:

#### Benjamin Weckerly a true 'Bright Light'

Eight year old Benjamin Weckerly sent a letter with a check to St. Aloisius Medical Center which reads: *Hi, my name is Benjamin. I have been saving my money. I have also been hearing about the coronavirus and wanted to help. I hope this money will help with the coronavirus. Thank you everyone at the hospital for helping people. Thanks, Benjamin.* 

It is always heartwarming and humbling to receive donations when there is a disaster or in this case a pandemic. And it is amazing how our communities come together to uplift each other and to be of assistance during those times. We have all struggled at one time or other to grasp just what this pandemic will mean for our future and how soon we will see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Benjamin is a true 'bright light' for St. Aloisius and our communities. This young man truly has a giving and caring heart and we appreciate his compassionate spirit. He donated the money he had been saving for something special for himself in order to help someone else. Thank you, Benjamin, for your generous donation.

That's not the end of this story though. Benjamin was asked to visit St. Aloisius Medical Center on June 17, 2020 for a presentation where he received a "Champion" pin award from Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System (SMPHS) in Fargo and a St. Aloisius T-shirt. The "Champion" pin is not presented often and has not been presented in our area until now. Our Interim CEO, Alfred Sams, was on hand to make the presentation with many of our St. Aloisius staff present for this award.

We are so proud of you Benjamin!

# Community Cares Coalition

Community Cares Coalition continues to be active even during the COVID season. One thing we have observed is the increase in conversation throughout our state and nation with mental health. Governor Burgum has focused on the Mental Health needs in ND and brought the conversation into everyday events.

The Harvey community has risen to the understanding that Mental Health is as important as physical health. Research has shown that they often affect each other. The Community Cares Coalition is working closely with F5 to provide peer-to-peer support to those experiencing addiction and/or mental health issues. The Coalition and F5 are present at the Harvey Chamber office every Monday 9 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Call them @ 701-210-2491 or just stop by.

Numerous events have occurred during the past 6 months. WCDHU provided the Mental Health First Aide class to our community and over 30 people attended. The City of Harvey hosted a Mental Health forum with First Lady Kathryn Burgum speaking. We've acquired green flags that were flown in town with "YOUR MIND MATTERS" waving throughout town. Although the Splash Dash was cancelled for July 4, we are working on offering it at another time this summer. We also hope to provide a "LIGHTING THE DARKNESS" event this fall.

### Job Opportunities

St. Aloisius Medical Center is currently seeking caring individuals for the following positions: Housekeeping, Switchboard, Registered Health Information Tech Supervisor, Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA), Nurses (LPN/RN/Charge Nurse), and Radiology Technician and Pharmacist.

For current job openings please visit <a href="https://www.staloisius.com/">https://www.staloisius.com/</a> and click on Careers.

St. Aloisius offers a competitive benefit package that includes health insurance, dental, vision, life insurance, HSA, Flex, and 401k. We also offer discounted onsite daycare for employees.

For more information, please call Ashley Van Dolah, Human Resources Director Phone: 324-5123 or e-mail avandolah@staloisius.com



Sarah Gregg, Nursing Instructor, Michele Frank, Heather Osborn and Jessica Coombs

### Home-grown nurses

now helps train others to become nurses in her home community of Harvey.

Nurses like Gregg are part of the success story of the Dakota Nursing Program, which brings together college nursing programs and rural hospitals to address the state's nursing shortage.

Gregg said she had just moved to Harvey in 2011 when she heard about the program. She already held a bachelor's degree in biology and was an Emergency Medical Technician, which easily fulfilled the prerequisites to secure a spot in St. Aloisius Medical Center's first nursing class.

"I think it would actually have been impossible for me to pursue nursing at that point in my life had I not had the program in Harvey. We are at least an hour or two away from Bismarck or Minot," Gregg said.

Gregg, who became the nurse educator at St. Aloisius last August, is a registered nurse working toward her master's degree. A nurse holding a four-year bachelor degree can teach the clinical LPN program. To teach the RN course, a nurse must have a master's degree. Once eligible to offer both LPN and RN programs, the intent is to alternate the courses each year. Gregg's plan is to be ready to teach the RN program in 2021.

Of the 19 graduates since the program's start in Harvey in 2011, seven are employed at the local nursing home and Gregg works at the hospital.

Gregg said the accelerated course is intensive for students during the 11 months of practical nurse training and additional nine months for registered nursing training. The result is a high quality education, she said.

"We put out very good nurses, very competent nurses," she said.

Three students currently are enrolled in

Sarah Gregg is a home-grown nurse who an LPN course in Harvey. Gregg said she hopes to spur increased enrollment because the local medical community still needs more nurses. The hospital has had to rely on traveling staff to meet its needs.

> Across the state, the Dakota Nursing Program has 195 students enrolled in the LPN training and about 140 in the associate-degree RN training, said Julie Traynor, program director, Devils Lake.

> The program trains more than 300 practical nurses and associate-degree nurses each year through the four participating colleges. Training is offered in 15 locations across North Dakota through a combination of face-to-face lab and clinical courses and theory courses over Interactive Video Network and online formats.

> Our Harvey, ND nursing program is operated in conjunction with Bismarck State College (BSC). The three current BSC nursing students, Michele Frank, Heather Osborn and Jessica Coombs, are excited to be back in class and clinicals this summer. The last semester is jam-packed full of studying and clinical experiences. This group of students will be completing the 11-month Practical Nursing certificate program at the end of July. Make sure to congratulate them on all their hard work so far and wish them luck as they finish up their studies!

> We want to extend our congratulations to Jessica Coombs who was the recipient of the Faith Vebsky Nursing Scholarship.

Congratulations!!

If anyone has any questions about how to apply to nursing school, please email Sarah Gregg at sarah.gregg@bismarckstate.edu

Excerpts from previous Minot Daily News story used with permission.

### In-Network vs. **Out-of-Network**

What happens if the healthcare facility or provider is out-of-network with my insurance? How do I know if my insurance is in-network or not? These are questions the St. Aloisius Business Office hears on occasion as we continue to expand our patient base throughout the state. Here are a few tips to help clarify some questions on in-network versus out-of-network.

Out-of-network means that the doctor or facility providing services does not have a contract with your health insurance company. Not all plans will cover your services if your health care provider is out-of-network. If you do receive medical services out-ofnetwork, your cost share will often times be higher. On the other hand, if your insurance company is in-network, the provider or facility has negotiated a contract with your insurance company.

The business office recommends that if patients have questions about their insurance benefits or coverage, to first contact their insurance plan directly. Most insurance cards should have a customer service phone number on the back of their card to help answer any questions you may have. Many times there is coverage and benefit information on the insurance plan websites or portals as well. They can answer questions on what services are covered, if a facility is "in" or "out" of network, and if your service requires preauthorization or not. St Aloisius staff is willing to help with any questions as well; however our staff is unable to know all of the specific requirements of the numerous individual insurance plans. We are definitely able to assist and help contact insurance companies, but ultimately it is the policyholders responsibility to know their coverage.

We are in an ever-changing world of healthcare and we are here to help in any way we can. Individual insurance plans all have their own unique requirements and coverage benefits, so we are glad to assist with answering any questions our patients and community may have.

St. Aloisius

### Clinic Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday Walk-In 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

701-324-5131



### Thank You!

We are sending a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to St. Aloisius Medical Center throughout this trying time with Covid-19. Whether it was food, masks, equipment, flowers, lunch certificates, etc. we are so grateful for your thoughtfulness and we are honored to be a part of and remembered by the communities we serve. If you have made a donation and we have missed your name on this list please accept our deepest apology. We thank you all so much for your kindness.

Wendy and Kim Opp

Harvey Fire Dept.

Local Businesses – Flowers

Sister Mary Agnes and Sister Ann Germaine David Clough

Kotaco

**Arthur Companies** 

Susan Shearer

Julie Keller- Food

1st State Bank- Food

JoAnn Selvedt

Eleanore Dossenko - Food

Hinrichs Super Valu - Food/Muffins

Debbie Kourajian – Food

Ryan Filler – Food

Joan Frey- Masks

Judy Longtin- Masks

Carol McKinven- Masks

Thea Monson- Masks

Louisa Harness- Masks

Angie Mack - Masks

Judy Frueh - Masks

Harvey Elementary School - Gloves

Linda Knudtson – Food

Tara Berg ND Human Service – Cards to residents

1st International Bank – Lunch Certificate to local businesses

Verendrye Electric – Subway Lunch Mid Dakota Construction, Terry and Bob Kraft

American Family Ins., Brian Bender-Donuts

Harvey Eagles - Supper Fundraiser for SAMC Christine Neys - brownies and caramel rolls for the clinic staff

Coca Cola company - cases of drinks

#### Jessica Coombs receives Faith Vebsky Scholarship

Jessica Coombs was chosen to receive the annual Faith Vebsky Scholarship for 2020. The scholarship is awarded to an employee at St. Aloisius Medical Center who is in their second semester of study in the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Registered Nurse (RN) in the St. Aloisius Nursing Program and has signed an Educational Assistance Agreement which includes a commitment to work at St. Aloisius for 5 years following completion of their nursing program.

Jessica began working as a Nurse Aide in our Acute Care in 2014 but wasn't sure that nursing or any part of that field was what she wanted to do with her life. She shared that her parents always encouraged her to do her best and to strive for excellence in everything. Eventually though, she began to enjoy it more and was encouraged to take the Certified Nurse's Aide (C.N.A) class. Her co-workers and our nursing instructor at that time also encouraged Jessica to take the nursing classes at St. Aloisius. Jessica is currently completing her clinical rotation of the LPN program at St. Aloisius and she plans to begin the RN program when it is available in Harvey in 2021.

This scholarship is given in memory of Faith Vebsky who was an employee of St. Aloisius Medical Center, Long Term Care from August 24, 2009 to September 12, 2014. Faith obtained her Associated Science Practical Nurse license



Jessica Coombs

through an outreach nursing program from Wahpeton State College while she was working as a C.N.A. However, Faith passed away of cancer on September 12, 2014 and is remembered as a positive role model, leader, friend, and employee. She was dedicated to her calling as a nurse. The scholarship can be used toward the student's cost of taking their board exam or other educational or travel costs.

Congratulations, Jessica, for receiving this award and for your dedication to the nursing education program and St. Aloisius Medical Center

### Memorials and Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the gifts and memorials we receive. Your suppot helps make it possible for us to continue our mission of "Healing Hospitality" and quality care to the communities we serve. Thank you, again, for your generous donations:

NOTE: The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System, which includes St. Aloisius Medical Center, is considered a Qualified North Dakota Endowment Fund. Are you aware of the tax incentive (income tax credit) for charitable gifts made to qualifying ND charitable organizations? If you are interested in learning more about charitable gift donations, please contact us!

#### MEMORIALS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Donation to the Serenity Garden in memory of Kelly Schimke from Bruce & Sandy Teubner

Donation to LTC Activities in memory of Maggie Thomas from Rodney & Kristi Jaeger

Donation to LTC Activities BINGO in memory of Elenora Knoll from Ken & Susan Bachmeier

Donation to LTC Activities BINGO in memory of Nitz sisters from Anna Schneibel

Donation of a sitting walker in memory of Frances Mayer from Mayer farms

Donation to help with the Coronavirus from Benjamin Weckerly

Donation to the Serenity Garden in memory of Hertha Rath from Bruce & Sandy Teubner Invacare Bed from Garrett Frueh

Mid Dakota Construction donated use of their equipment to move load to hospital roof from Terry and Bob Kraft

Birdhouses for LTC (school project) from Gage Balfour

#### THANK YOU CARDS AND NOTES:

Dear Hero: Thank you so much for all you are doing to help fight the coronavirus. It means a lot that you would risk your life to save ours. Stay safe and stay healthy. (from North Carolina)

Thank you for your kindness and care you have shown our loved one while he was a resident at the nursing home and for remembering us during this difficult time.

To all the staff on Unit B: Just wanted you to know how much you are appreciated for all you do for our residents and loved ones. We miss seeing all of you and visiting our family/friends in the nursing home. We know how difficult this must be for the residents and we are grateful for such dedicated and caring staff. Take care of them and take care of you!

Thank you for the gift of an ice cream cone. I enjoyed volunteering to call volunteers to help at Wellness Days and the Health fair. Thank you to all departments at St. Aloisius for the care given to hospital patients and LTC residents.

Thank you all for your dedication at this time! God Bless!



**Becca Patzer** 

### **Becca Patzer** wound care specialist

Becca Patzer recently completed certification requirement for Certified Wound Care Nurse Specialist in our Long Term Care. This certification was a 60-hour course with a certification test. Becca indicated that it took her about three weeks to complete.

Congratulations Becca!

### Resources

We provide an extensive resource list of services available to the communities we serve. The resource list is updated at least monthly and is available on our website at staloisius.com. Look under the 'Patients' tab, 'Resources' tab, and 'Other Resources.'

A few excerpts of the resources are listed below.

FirstLink 2-1-1 Helpline - A free 24-hour phone number that can help you find resources in food, housing, support groups, substance use disorder services, education, health care, transportation, mental health services and more. The helpline also provides confidential listening and  $\ensuremath{\text{support}}$  . Dial 2-1-1. Their website is https://myfirstlink. org/community-resources/

#### Abuse resources

Safe Alternatives for Abused Families (SAAF) 662-7378, 800-662-7378

Child Abuse and Neglect - 24 hour intake phone 701-649-0039

#### Alcohol/Addiction Treatment

Treatment Centers Directory - 1-800-838-1752

CHI Health at Home Hospice - 866-753-7327 Heart of America Hospice - Rugby - 776-5261

Mental Health Services/Counseling Suicide Hotline - 800-472-2911

**Vulnerable Adult Protective Services** 1-855-462-5465

#### 2020-2021 School Year Sports Physicals

July 23rd @ Harvey High School 1-5 pm July 30th @ Fessenden School 1-5 pm Aug 6th @ Harvey High School 1-5 pm Cost - \$20 due at time of physical (cash or make check payable to St Aloisius)

Prior to participation (including practice) a student participating in NDHSAA sanctioned athletic activities must have an annual NDHSAA-approved Athletic Pre-Participation Health History Screening and Physical Examination clearance form completed by a qualified health care profession-

Preparticipation Physical Examinations completed for the 2019-20 school year will be accepted during the 2020-21 school year upon submission of a parent and athlete signed waiver (previously known as Form

B). Students who did not have a Preparticipation Physical Examinations completed for the 2019-20 school year must complete a Preparticipation Physical Examinations completed for the 2020-21 school year.

2020-21 Physical Form B

https://ndhsaa.com/uploads/files/ NDHSAA-Preparticipation-Form-B.pdf NDHSAA Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Form must be filled out by parent/ athlete prior to physical evaluation. https:// ndhsaa.com/files/NDHSAA\_Physical\_ Form.pdf

#### St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic **Services and Providers**

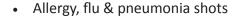


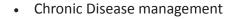
Dr. Rick Geier, MD Family Practice

Dr. Kelly Krohn, MD

Bone Health

Monday—Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday Walk-In Clinic 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 701 324-5131





Physicals: Annuals, sports & insurance

- Surgical services—biopsies
  - All joint injections
- Diabetes Education / Management
  - 3D Mammography
- Dept. of Transportation Physicals
  - Blood pressure checks
- Mole/wart/skin lesion removal
  - Excisions
  - Sports medicine
- Well baby and child examinations
- DXA-Scan (Bone Density, Osteoporosis)
  - Full-service Lab and Radiology
  - Scopes, EGD & Colonoscopies



Dr. Imran Dean, MD Family Practice



Kim Thorson, FNP



Deb Buxa, FNP



Dr. Ronald Skipper, MD

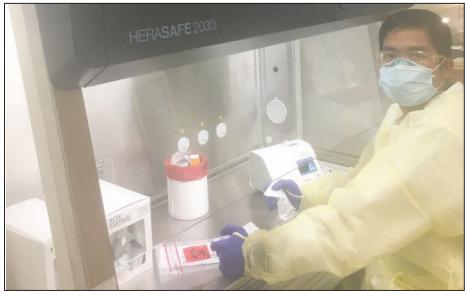
**General Surgeon** 

Dr. Michael Page, MD Scopes

Our Clinic is open on SATURDAY! Patients can "walk-in" for non-emergent care such as cold, flu, fever, etc. No appointment will be made for our Saturday "walk-in" clinics. As always, if you are having chest pain or have other emergency care needs, please call 911 and/or come to our Emergency Room at the hospital.



Lisa Neumiller, FNP



### **New BSC II** Cabinet and **COVID-19 Testing**

Art Payawal, Lab Technician suited up to work at the Bio Safety Cabinet

St. Aloisius Laboratory has implemented a BSC II (Bio Safety Cabinet Class II) to their list of Instrumentation. This BSC microbiological safety cabinet is designed to maximize sample protection and user safety, with an emphasis on containment, comfort and convenience.

The Herasafe 2030i has automatic safety

features that maintain proper airflow and ment for the Laboratory Staff for the newly monitor critical conditions in real time without user interaction. The filter system contains two HEPA filters and a coarse filter. It has an electronic sash with a fully hinged opening for easy access and a UV germicidal light for disinfecting.

This BSC provides a safer testing environ-

implemented COVID-19 testing. We have begun testing on the ABBOTT ID NOW for COVID-19. This instrumentation is a rapid molecular test using a nasal pharyngeal swab. The test results from this test method are used as a tool combined with the clinical presentation of the patient for COVID-19.

# Outstanding Rural and Public Health Award Nominations

In January 2020, a nomination was submitted to the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health for Outstanding Rural Health Program Award for our St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic.

Even though we were not the chosen for this award, these submissions are still story worthy and we are proud to share it.

St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic was nominated for Outstanding Rural Health Program Award 2020

St. Aloisius Medical Center (SAMC), Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health Systems nominated the St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic/Outpatient services which collaborate to deliver rural health care in Harvey and also to patients from several nearby communities.

The Sisters of Mary Presentation (SMP) have provided healthcare in Harvey ND for 81 years. Originally this ministry began as only a hospital after previous hospitals had failed. The original clinic building was built in the 1970s and in 1982 employed seven physicians and two mid-level practitioners. By 1987 the clinic was no longer in service and the building was used for administrative offices and laboratory until we reopened a clinic in August 2018. St. Aloisius, as a Critical Access Hospital, also provides acute, emergency room, long term care and outpatient services.

One physician, Dr. Rick Geier and one midlevel provider, Kim Thorson NP started averaging over 500 visits per month the first 3 months in clinic. Dr. Kelly Krohn provides monthly BONE HEALTH clinics and we added a DEXA Scan to Radiology. In January 2019, Dr. Imran Dean was hired full time. Dr. Ronald Skipper previously provided scopes and surgical services once a month at St Aloisius but increased to twice a month. Dr. Michael Page contracts with SAMC for two days a month for scope procedures as well. The most recent collaboration was the addition of the Family Care Clinic staff into our clinic, which included two midlevel providers, Deb Buxa NP and Lisa Neumiller NP. Statistics list the outpatient visits in 2018 at 5,153 and they skyrocketed to 8,273 in 2019.

Outpatient services have existed for many years at St Aloisius Medical Center but the growth in our outpatient services collaborating with the clinic is phenomenal. We have seen expansion in many areas such as radiology, laboratory, scope procedures and therapies in the past 18 months but the area to highlight is the Therapy department. Therapy staff has grown from 1.5 full time equivalent physical therapists, a contracted speech therapist and occupational therapist and two occupational therapy assistants in 2018 to current levels of 2.5 physical therapists, one full time employed occupational therapist, two physical therapy assistants/ occupational therapy assistants, and one full time employed speech therapist. Additional techniques of dry needling and lymphedema have been added within the therapy department. In order to provide space for the expanded staff and new services, a physical move to a newly renovated area in the clinic building was made in February.

Coordination of services with Harvey Public school restarted a program for Health Occupations students for the first time in ten years wherein this year students are working in the Physical Therapy Department. Another collaboration with the local high school, has been utilizing Kim Thorson NP, Brenda Finley PT and Amanda Sansaver PT as Athletic Medical Support at sporting events to ensure on-site evaluations to the students.

There were numerous nominations and only one can receive the award.

Congratulations to St. Aloisius Clinic for being nominated.



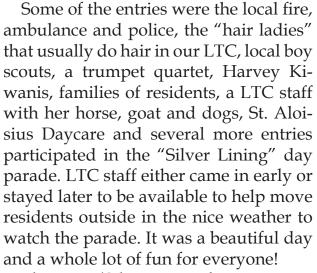
### Silver Lining Day Parade





The State of North Dakota proclaimed June 23, 2020 as 'Silver Lining Day.' This special day was designated to celebrate North Dakota Long Term Care facilities, staff and residents who have responded to the challenges and pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Aloisius Medical Center invited the community to participate with a parade to celebrate the 'Silver Lining Day' and the response was amazing. Beth Huseth, Community Liaison for St. Aloisius Medical Center, invited anyone who wanted to join the parade to come.



There is a 'Silver Lining!'











