



Community Connection

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF BREMEN — INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT



www.bremenhospital.com • Fall 2013

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Thanks, Doc

Dr. Bowen was a loyal supporter of our small rural hospital

by Deb Kipfer

This is the first issue of the *Community Connection* since Dr. Otis Bowen passed away in May. There have been many tributes and accolades given to him, but the hospital and some of our long term employees have their own reflections of the man fondly known as “Doc”.

The hospital would not be here without the work of the physicians who came before and on whose backs our foundation was built. The Will Myers family established the Bremen Convalescent Home in 1943. This house later became the Community Hospital of German Township when the township residents purchased the hospital. At the hospital’s 50th anniversary celebration in 1997, we were privileged to have three of the founding doctors speak and reminisce about their early days in Bremen and their affiliation with the hospital. The keynote speakers on that evening were Dr. Otis Bowen, Dr. Marshall Stine and Dr. Cecil R. Burket.

Dr. Bowen began his part of the presentation reflecting on the early days in 1946 when he and his family first decided to move to Bremen after World War II. At that time there was only one physician in Bremen, Dr. Burke, who wanted to

return to the mission field. The next physician coming to Bremen was Dr. Earl Cripe who opened his practice the same day as Dr. Bowen on

June 1, 1946. In 1948, Dr. Bowen convinced Dr. Marshall Stine to move to Bremen and practice medicine with him. The two physicians began seeking a third physician to help care for patients in their busy medical practice. In July 1951, Dr. Cecil Burket joined the other two physicians. The trio formed a successful partnership which continued until 1964 when Dr. Bowen established a solo practice in the basement of his house. All three physicians recalled the early days of working hand in hand with the hospital staff. Even though it was long hours and hard work, they were grateful to have practiced in our community where everyone worked toward the common goal of supporting our hospital and physicians.

Jeannie Crothers, RN, who worked with Dr. Bowen was happy to offer her memories. She assisted him with delivery of many of the estimated 3000 “Bowen babies.” She had said that he was always very professional and that his patients loved him because of his compassion and caring bedside manner. Jeannie was always amazed at his memory and especially his memory for names. She said during the delivery process, which was often lengthy, he would get to know his patients and the patients family members personally. He asked a lot of questions and listened intently to the answers. When he saw the

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*New Doc in Town
(June, 1946)*



*Dr. Bowen, Dr. Burkett and Dr. Stine attended the
Stockholders’ Meeting June 16, 1997.*

Employee of the Year 2013

Jill Yeager



Jill Yeager, an employee of Therapy Services at Community Hospital of Bremen since 1994 was nominated and selected by her co-workers for her devotion to her job and willingness to go “above and beyond” her job duties. Notorious for giving wake up calls to patients reminding them of their appointments, she is also known for promoting the services of our hospital. Jill is a devoted

volunteer at hospital fundraising events as well. Congratulations, Jill!

2013 Scholarship Recipients



Congratulations Corynne Lindsey, recipient of the CHB Employee Medical Scholarship. Corynne is studying nursing at Purdue University and is the daughter of Mark and Holly Lindsey.



Congratulations Joanna Richardson, CHB Bowen Medical Scholarship Recipient. Joanna, the daughter of Jim and Terri Richardson, will be studying nursing at Indiana University of South Bend.



Community Hospital of Bremen would like to congratulate Jasmine Aguayo, the CHB Auxiliary Scholarship recipient for 2013. Jasmine is in the Pre-Med Program at Bethel College, where she plays soccer for the Pilots. Jasmine is the daughter of Tara Aguayo and Henry Aguayo.

Be An Informed Healthcare Consumer

Communication between patients and providers is an integral part of today’s healthcare reform environment. Community Hospital of Bremen wants to make you aware of certain redirection tactics that are being used by some health insurance companies. Our goal is to empower our patients to make informed decisions by having all the facts, not just those provided by their healthcare plan.

Certain insurance companies are contacting their policyholders after they have been approved through a standard authorization process. These individuals have primarily been scheduled for “high dollar” imaging procedures such as MRI or CT scans. The approach that is being used by the company is that they believe there is a less expensive alternative than where the patient was originally scheduled and they are trying to redirect the patients to those facilities. Representatives from these insurers have even gone so far as to exclude certain healthcare facilities as an option in their online prior authorization systems, even though the facility is contracted for all services.

Patients are being told through these calls that they could save significant dollars out of their pockets by having the service performed at alternative imaging centers, some of which are located a significant distance from where the patient lives. The accuracy of the expected patient savings tends to be overstated. It has been proven that the company is using inaccurate data and the cost estimates being given do not take into account the patient’s benefit plan design or where they are in the plan year in terms of deductibles and out of pocket maximums. In addition, if the image quality of a scan is not adequate, the patient may be directed elsewhere for a second scan and incur additional out of pocket costs. Add in the cost of travel and the time and convenience factors and the total costs could definitely exceed the benefit received.

CHB recognizes the need for patients to be aware of their choices when it comes to the care they receive. However, it is our belief, that transparency of service options should include accurate information related to quality, accessibility and cost estimation comparisons. Before you cancel or reschedule your tests here at the hospital, please call the CHB Radiology Department (574-546-8081). The staff would be happy to give you an accurate quote as well as address any other concerns that you might have.

Help Save a Life

Community Hospital of Bremen (CHB) is proud to announce its program "Help Save a Life," which offers **free screening mammograms** to uninsured women in the local community. A grant from the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust has made this program possible. CHB is able to provide a limited number of free screening mammograms to uninsured women who meet the American Cancer Society's guidelines for a screening mammogram. Women must be over 40 (or have a strong family history of breast cancer), symptom free and have not had a mammogram in the last year (365 days). Appointments are available Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm through November 30, 2013. Please contact Deb Wolf at (574) 546-8081 to find out if you qualify.

Health Care Reform Navigator at CHB

The most sweeping elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA-Healthcare Reform) will begin rolling out on October 1, 2013 with the planned opening of the federal insurance exchange also known as the "Health Insurance Marketplace." In 2014, most Americans will be required to purchase or enroll in health coverage.

The ACA combines multiple healthcare reimbursement programs into the Health Insurance Marketplace. Individuals may now qualify for premium tax credit, commercial insurance, cost sharing assistance, Medicaid, CHIP or a combination of these. This legislation made significant changes to both state and federal eligibility requirements for Medicaid and other healthcare reimbursement programs.

Community Hospital of Bremen has a patient advocate (Navigator) on site bi-weekly to help guide individuals and/or their family member through this new healthcare system. This individual holds the appropriate federal and state credentials necessary to provide information as well as screen and enroll applicants for healthcare insurance coverage. The advocate is taking appointments on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. This service is free and open to the public.

For questions or to schedule an appointment, please contact Carol at 574-546-8048 or Barb at 574-546-8024.

Physician Corner

Community Hospital of Bremen proudly welcomes the following physicians to our Emergency Department Team:



Andre Creese, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Board Certified
in Emergency Medicine



Stephen Miller, D.O.
Emergency Medicine
Board Certified in Family
Practice



Janine Andriusis, D.O.
Emergency Medicine
Board Eligible



Kari Sears, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Resident-Memorial Hospital

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Mark Your Calendars!

October

Books Are Fun Sale

October 4, 2013
8 AM to 4:00 PM
Hospital Conference Room

LaBraid Coffee Cake & Cookie Sale

Order by October 18, 2013
Pick up November 8, 2013
2 PM to 6 PM
Order forms available in the
hospital gift shop or from any
auxiliary member

SafeSitter Class

October 18, 2013
8 AM to 5 PM
Hospital Clinic (Plymouth Street)
Call 574-546-8044 to register

November

CHB Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

November 6th thru 8th, 2013
Clinic Lobby (Plymouth Street)
8 AM to 5 PM Thursday and Friday
8 AM to Noon on Saturday

Thanks, Doc.

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patient or their family members in town or on the street, he would always remember the facts he had learned and the family members that they were connected to. Jeannie said that he delivered his last baby the day before he was inaugurated governor in 1973. At the time he retired, he was delivering his third generation of babies for some families.

Dr. Bowen remained a loyal supporter of our small rural hospital throughout his life both personally and professionally. When our staff members would attend meetings throughout the state, many times, the other participants would not have heard of our facility or where we were located. We only had to say the word, "Doc Bowen's hometown hospital". This phrase would illicit an immediate response of, "Oh, yes, how is Doc doing?" Our association with him opened many relationships and doors that would have otherwise been difficult to access or open. Scott Graybill and I worked with Doc on many different occasions throughout our twenty-three years as administrators here at CHB. He never turned us



Dr. Bowen, Scott Graybill, and Dr. Burket cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Community Hospital of Bremen in 2006.

down when asked to attend a ribbon cutting, ground breaking, write a letter of support or anything else that we asked of him. I am sure that he was an integral part of helping us to secure the funding and loans used to build our new facility and was very proud when we opened our doors. He had seen us grow from a house on Whitlock Street to a multimillion dollar state of the art facility.

So, thanks, Doc. It has been our privilege to have you as a part of our facility all these years. Your physical presence will be missed but your spirit of compassion and caring will always be felt in our halls.