

1980	1980	May, 1985	Oct. 1985	Oct. 1985
Several additions completed including a new emergency/trauma area, respiratory therapy and physical therapy departments, a new ambulance garage, a new kitchen facility and remodeling of the dietary area, remodeling of the administration and surgical areas, remodeling of the radiology department, and two additions to the existing patient care areas	Meals-On-Wheels program established through hospital dietary services	Swing Bed program fully certified	Care Call emergency paging system implemented to help elderly persons maintain independence	Hospital Dietary department began meal preparation for prisoners at Rice County jail

Leaving a Legacy Rice Community Healthcare Foundation

SUSAN SANKEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I love working as the executive director for the Rice Community Healthcare Foundation. I am driven by the importance of helping to sustain access to healthcare in our rural county in Kansas. Having grown up in an even less populated area, I know the impact of local services, and the impact of being without these services.



Local care means when our kids have an appointment, they miss only part of a day of school instead of an entire day of learning. It means we can visit more often those friends and family being cared for right here in our own community. It means we can get help quickly at a local 24 hour emergency room. It means we have a positive impact on our own local economy. Local health care means we are not just numbers, but real people with real needs and that someone is here to help us when we most need it.

RCHF was established in 1990 by a group of people with this same passion for sustaining local healthcare. It serves as a nonprofit affiliate of Hospital District No. 1 of Rice County, and a board of directors, representing the communities of Rice County, oversees its operations and activities. I sincerely appreciate all of you who contribute to RCHF and Hospital District No. 1 of Rice County. RCHF plays a leading role in expanding the healthcare services available in our community. The Healthcare Foundation supports Rice County District Hospital, Sterling Medical Center and Lyons Medical Center through new equipment, capital improvements, and community benefits.

This has been a year of change for our local health care system: the Sterling Medical Center and Lyons Medical Center have gone from being for-profit entities owned by out of town groups to now being under the umbrella of your local hospital district. The hospital has seen significant increases in the number of people using local services. Patient satisfaction surveys continue to reflect the remarkable patient care provided by hospital staff, with 95% giving a rating of "excellent."

This year, the Healthcare Foundation provided community grants to seven organizations with projects to improve health, including resources for local nursing homes and schools, wellness centers, Celebration Centre and the county health department. Funding was provided to the hospital for a new surgery table and in the spring, a health fair will be available to the public. With your help, we also started the RCHF Pink Fund to help people in need of mammogram screenings.

Donors to the Healthcare Foundation leave a legacy that impacts Rice County for GOOD and FOREVER. Thank you for investing in us to build a stronger Foundation dedicated to the health needs of Rice County, determined to help sustain access to LOCAL care. Your support demonstrates confidence in Rice County health care and I hope you will remember us as you plan your year-end gift giving. Your gift will make a real difference — now and in the future — for you and your family, your neighbors, and your entire community.

For more information about RCHF and current needs, please contact me: Susan Sankey, RCHF executive director, phone 620-257-7116; email foundation@rch-lyons.com; or mail RCHF, P.O. Box 828, Lyons, Kansas 67554.

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Did you know? DIABETES EDUCATION



Your local hospital has a diabetes education program to enable people with diabetes to maintain good health and enjoy a satisfying quality of life. Classes are taught in a group setting and the program is supported by the American Diabetes Association.

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"We're proud to be serving and proud to have Rice County District Hospital here to serve our county."