

HEALTH *in the* HEARTLAND

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Sister Celeste’s journey in finding hope in recovery and her music

August 16th sticks out in Sister Celeste’s mind. It was like any other day, except that she woke up at the Dominican Sisters of Peace and couldn’t seem to form sentences as usual. After some tests at the doctor, they determined that the damage had been done- Celeste had a stroke. But the effects weren’t truly felt until about a week later. Celeste was traveling to Kansas City to record a CD with her sisters. Her language barrier seemed to be getting worse and it was decided they would go to the Emergency Room. After an MRI, Celeste was told more effects from her stroke were being seen and in order to recover, she would need therapy.

The scariest part of this for Celeste was the fear of losing her ability to play and sing music. Music has been a big part of her life since childhood, when she took piano lessons, on into adulthood when it became her passion. “I couldn’t find my music,” Celeste recalls after returning from Kansas City, unsure of where her sheet music and special glasses for playing the organ were located, or even if she would ever be able to play again. The frustration and feeling of loss she felt were overwhelming, leading her to seek solace the best way she knows how: through prayer. At a loss for which way to turn, she prayed “if You want me to play my music again, help me to find it!”

This led to Celeste’s journey to recovery, which started at Clara Barton Therapy Services. Celeste worked with Bobbi Cuffe, a therapy professional at Clara Barton, to regain her words and memory. Completing word finds,

constructing sentences, unscrambling words, and slowly relearning the names of objects were part of Celeste’s therapy. Her sisters at the Dominican Motherhouse even helped her therapists put together a log of every Dominican sister in Great Bend, so Celeste could work on remembering each of their names.

The journey wasn’t easy. Relying on the good will of others for transportation to and from her appointments left her feeling dependent on those around her, as she could not drive. While her music came back, some days it felt like the rest would not. “One day it felt like I went backwards,” Celeste remembers. Even through the hard times where she searched her mind for words that would not come, her joy and faith were ever present.

The support of her therapists’ constant encouragement to push forward and trust that her hard work would pay off reassured her. “They walked with me and worked with me. I am so grateful for the therapists at Clara Barton and all they did for me,” she says, referring to having Bobbi work with her and her fellow sisters at the Dominican Motherhouse walk through this experience with her. Being surrounded by support provided Celeste with the encouragement she needed to make small strides every day.

It was at an appointment with her neurologist that Sister Celeste realized how much her work and prayers had paid off when he stated that her therapy had done fantastic things for her. Celeste knows she “couldn’t have had a better



Sister Celeste enjoys playing for Mass at the Dominican Sisters of Peace and sharing her love of music with others. Since “getting her music back” she has played an hour a day ever since.

group to work with.”

“The most important thing I can do is share God’s love with others,” Celeste states proudly, and she fulfills her mission beautifully through music. Celeste knows, “Always being greeted with a

smile and the encouraging words of the Clara Barton staff helped me find hope in recovery.”

Clara Barton Therapy Services offer a wide variety of services in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language

therapy, ASTYM treatment, lymphedema care, wound care, and stress incontinence. With the expanded therapy gym and treatment rooms, they have the capability to specialize your therapy to you in a comfortable,

private setting, with the attention of professional and devoted staff. As Celeste shares, the therapy takes hard work, but at Clara Barton Hospital, doing the work with a smile and an encouraging word goes a long way.

Great Bend Regional Hospital Announces Hiring of a New CEO, Kerry Noble

On Monday, April 4th the board of directors for Great Bend Regional Hospital received the resignation of its Chief Executive Officer, Brent Hanson. He and his family will be moving to Houston, Texas where he has accepted a position as CEO for another healthcare facility.

Kerry Noble, an experienced hospital administration professional, has been appointed the new CEO for Great Bend Regional Hospital. Noble has more than 40 years’ experience in the financial management and healthcare industries, including 30 years as CEO for various proprietary, public, and physician-owned hospitals across the Midwest.

“I have been working alongside Great Bend Regional Hospital since 2011 on several projects,” Noble says. “With the help of the leadership team at the



KERRY NOBLE

hospital, I am looking forward to enhancing our operations and facilitating growth opportunities in the future.”

Noble earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration from Arkansas State University, and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He and his wife, Anna, of 45 years have two adult children and four grandchildren.

About Great Bend Regional Hospital
Great Bend Regional Hospital is a state-of-the-art 33-bed physician owned hospital offering emergency and urgent care services, orthopedics and general surgery, obstetrics and pediatrics, imaging and diagnostics, respiratory therapy, physical and occupational therapy, an in-house laboratory, and more. Also under the auspices of the hospital are two rural health clinics including Central Kansas Family Practice and the Heartland Regional Health Clinic. Learn more at www.gbregional.com. And be sure to like the Great Bend Regional Hospital page on Facebook. “Committed to and caring for the community!”



Sunflower Diversified Services’ supporters raise funds during the non-profit agency’s version of Deal or No Deal at its recent Charity Gala. The \$53,000 collected at the Gala will directly help children and adults with developmental disabilities and delays.

Community donates \$53,000 to people who rely on Sunflower Diversified

The community stood up and showed its support for people with developmental disabilities and delays by raising \$53,000 at the recent Sunflower Diversified Services Charity Gala.

“It is always gratifying to be reminded of the extent to which people will go to support their neighbors who need a helping hand,” Sunflower Executive Director Jim Johnson said. “Everyone who donated auction items, money, time or talent can be assured all proceeds will stay here at home to support local and area residents.”

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Johnson noted that the non-profit agency is especially pleased that out of the 175 people who attended the Gala, 60 were newcomers to this annual event.

“We are always pleased to have the opportunity to share Sunflower’s history and mission with new friends,” Johnson said. “And of course, our long-time supporters have our heartfelt appreciation.”

“With the uncertainty of state finances, private donations become even more important,”

he continued. “Proceeds from our Gala and other fundraisers throughout the year make it possible to follow through on our commitments. The money will be used for infant and toddler services, as well as programs that assist adults in achieving the most independent lifestyles possible.”

Connie Oetken, Sunflower director of development, noted that this 11th annual event fulfilled its promise of helping people with disabilities while offering a fun evening at the same time.

“Auctioneer Mike Niedens and Emcee Scott Donovan kept the crowd involved in all the action,” Oetken said. “Jane Isern and Gail Carpenter once again hosted our basketball arcade and Putt N Play to raise money and entertain our guests. These people and many, many others can take credit for our success.”

The Sunflower version of Deal or No Deal at the Gala raised \$3,750 of the total and some Gala donations were earmarked for Sunflower’s Invest in Kids Club.

The city of Great Bend, which operates the Great Bend Events Center, and Classic Inn, which catered the meal, also played instrumental roles in the Gala’s success, Oetken said.