The hospital is celebrating the new mRNA vaccines available to help fight COVID-19. Front line staff members are receiving their second Moderna vaccine dose this month. In addition, hospital leadership is supporting Public Health’s coordination of efficient vaccine distribution within the county when the vaccine is made available to a larger share of the population.

Mammography Department Receives “Gold Standard” ACR Accreditation. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. GCMH’s Mammography Department recently became accredited with the ACR for the next three years after a successful application process.

The hospital’s Board of Commissioners approved moving ahead with a 2023 modernization building project to include increased space and improvements to Surgery, Radiology & Imaging and Lab. New construction is slated to begin in May or June of 2022.

GCMH is named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital among more than 1,300 critical access hospitals across the United States. The recognition is from a national agency, the Chartis Center for Rural Health, that focuses on improving and sustaining rural health care, and relies upon a Hospital Strength Index™ to assess and measure hospital performance across eight pillars.

The annual Gala & Auction fundraiser sponsored by the GCMH Foundation launched in a virtual format on March 27. The community responded by purchasing Party Boxes and tuning in to a Gala video program and online auction, which raised $33,000 for equipment needs in the Surgery department.

Extraordinary efforts to save a life earned thirteen local individuals the Red Cross National Lifesaving Award. GCMH was proud to provide the virtual link from Red Cross executives and host the honorees on site. Adam Weig, who suffered a cardiac arrest in his rural Parkersburg home, and his wife Sammi were on hand to personally thank the Parkersburg Ambulance team, the Grundy County Sheriff dispatcher and deputies who came to his aid, and the doctors and nurses of GCMH’s Emergency Department.

Employees 149

Emergency Visits 4,554

Outpatient Visits 50,940

$12.1 Million Economic Impact

Financial impact generated for Grundy County

Inpatient Admissions 281
Our very own Cardiac Rehabilitation nurse Erika Leonard RN BSN BA CCRP is recognized as one of the 2021 class of 100 Great Iowa Nurses.

The GCMH Foundation awarded more than $9,000 in Sara Lee Yoder FOCUS grants to five different departments. Thanks to the generosity of legacy donor Sara Lee Yoder, the grants help provide for patient needs and enhance the patient experience but are not covered in the department’s usual budget.

GCMH provides First Aid Education at Elementary Ag Safety Day for county school children.

Emergency Department treatment room is now converted to a Safe Room for the treatment of behavioral health patients who may have suicidal ideations. Close to $20,000 was raised by the Foundation’s Annual Gala & Auction to complete the project.

Dr. Todd Shover joins GCMH’s Emergency Department as an Emergency Physician. Prior to coming to GCMH, he spent 13 years at Waverly Health Center, practicing Emergency Medicine. He chose to practice here at GCMH because he knows the important role that critical access hospitals play by providing high-quality emergency and trauma care to rural communities.

GCMH Imaging adds Breast MRI. In an effort to provide the highest quality of women’s health care close to home, GCMH Radiology Services is now performing Breast MRIs. Increasingly, women with a strong family history of breast cancer, or mutation genes such as BRCA1 or BRCA2, can benefit from the enhanced screening that a Breast MRI provides. This screening would be in addition to the yearly mammogram that is recommended for all women age 40 and older.

GCMH Chief Medical Officer and UnityPoint Clinic pediatrics and internal medicine physician Dr. Eric Neverman received word of his acceptance into the UnityPoint Health Physician Leadership Academy. Those chosen for the Academy will learn the skills required to effectively lead through an ever-changing health care environment and significantly contribute to the strategic direction of UnityPoint Health.

In an effort to boost local COVID-19 vaccination rates the hospital and Grundy County Public Health are teaming up to provide Pop-Up Vaccine Sites, staffed by members of the GCMH nursing team. “The Pop-Up Sites are aimed at meeting people where they are and making it convenient for them to receive the vaccine. Protecting more people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 is the goal of vaccine outreach efforts,” says Adam Scherling, hospital administrator.
• Hospital associates held a “Backpack Challenge” to fill more than 20 new backpacks with school supplies for area children. Together, GCMH employees raised over 600 items to be donated to Operation Threshold’s back-to-school supply drive.

• In an effort to keep our patients & associates safe, UnityPoint Health and GCMH announced a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all health system employees. The requirement calls for all employees to be fully vaccinated or receive a qualified exemption by November 1.

• Scholarship Committee members of the hospital’s Foundation Board award $13,500 in Health Care Career Scholarships to nine area students. The students are pursuing health care careers that include nursing, health care management, and radiology and imaging.

• GCMH Re-Activates Incident Command- GCMH responds to a rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 illness and hospitalization in region by engaging its Incident Command team for twice weekly meetings. The hospital’s service area is operating in the “Red”, or high transmission category. Concerns surround the inability to transfer patients who need a higher level of care due to high levels of patients at senior affiliate hospitals, including Allen in Waterloo. Local ambulance teams are responding to the need by transporting patients further distances for available hospital beds.

• An increasing need for mental health services has been partially met through the addition of two extra days of Mental Health Clinic time each month. New Specialty Clinic Provider, Megan Heise, ARNP, is seeing patients three Thursdays each month at the hospital. She is a psychiatric nurse practitioner with UnityPoint Health – Blackhawk Grundy Mental Health Center.

• GCMH is named both a Cedar Valley Employer of Choice and a Des Moines Register Top Workplace this month. The dual recognition is especially significant as our team has faced the challenges of a national health crisis for more than eighteen months.

• GCMH Welcomes New Senior Life Solutions Program & staff. The new program will provide individual and group therapy for Medicare beneficiaries who are referred for a variety of behavioral health.

• LTC Demolition- The first steps in the demolition process of the Long Term Care (LTC) Building are underway with completion scheduled for early December. The former long term care building was opened as a nursing home in 1970, and residents moved to the new Creekside long term care cottages in 2018.
GCMH celebrates the completion of another **successful DNV accreditation survey**. The team had many accolades for the hospital’s safe patient care and overall operation.

**GCMH Lab: “0” deficiencies in recent CLIA inspection.** “The results show that we are providing top quality results for our patients and ordering providers,” says lab team lead Eric Wenzel MLT (ASCP). The lab inspection included new analyzers that were put into operation recently, which Eric notes is especially challenging when facing an inspection. Kudos to the Lab team!

GCMH offers **boosters for all associates** after the FDA and CDC approved their efficacy in reducing serious illness from the newer strains of the COVID-19 virus.

**A new logo and theme is introduced for the 2022-23 Building Project.** The project expands Imaging, Lab, and Surgery, where increased space and efficiency are needed to sustain and grow operations and meet the health care needs of our communities far into the future.

Specialty Clinic provider Mandy Vervaecke, ARNP was awarded the system-wide **FOCUS Luminary Award** to recognize team members who are consistently living our FOCUS values. Mandy has provided her services to the GCMH Wound Clinic for more than ten years. We’re proud to have her at GCMH each Wednesday!

**A new specialty care service** is introduced to GCMH - The Diabetes and Endocrinology Clinic is held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. After an initial consult with Dr. Chitrapathi (Chitra Reddy) Yerrapareddy, M.D. at UnityPoint Clinic – Prairie Parkway, patients can now continue their care locally with Deborah Van Dyke, DNP, ARNP, at the GCMH Specialty Clinic.

**GCMH Administrator, Adam Scherling, MHA, was recognized as a Top 20 under 40 recipient.** The leadership award showcases Cedar Valley residents who exemplify strong leadership in their respective fields.

**The hospital’s Joy Committee leads a Christmas toy drive** to benefit families through the Christmas in Grundy County project.

Longtime Emergency Department lead Sara Hook, RN, is transitioning to a department staff nurse role, while Cambray Penning, RN, has been named as the **new department lead and trauma coordinator**.

GCMH and senior affiliate Allen Hospital are not immune from the **nationwide shortage of healthcare professionals**. The hospital has several current openings and plans to expand staffing as the pandemic enters a new phase of wider contagion. Hospital leadership introduces several workforce recruitment and retention strategies.