

Beaver Island Rural Health Center

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November 2014

Dear Friend,

Soon many of the expensive and inconvenient overnight trips Beaver Island veterans used to make to regional Veterans Affairs facilities will no longer be necessary! After many months of work by the Beaver Island Rural Health Center (BIRHC) and the passage of a new federal law, a *ground-breaking memorandum of understanding is being developed between the two organizations.*

This “win-win” agreement will allow the men and women in our community who have served our country to receive health care through the VA on Beaver Island. The Health Center will benefit from the payments the VA will make to us for services provided here, such as primary care, lab work and general radiology. The VA in turn will enjoy reduced travel voucher expenses.

We share our achievements at this time of year to encourage you to consider a year-end gift to ensure that we can continue to improve and expand health care on Beaver Island.

Dr. Greg Trudell of the Gaylord VA Medical Center will partner with the Health Center’s two care providers to make sure that seasonal and year-round Beaver Island veterans get cutting edge preventative health care, some of it via telemedicine connection. We are honored and grateful that Dr. Trudell and top administrators of the Saginaw VA Medical Center have taken the time to visit Beaver Island and meet personally with many of our deserving veterans in order to understand their needs.

Two individuals on Beaver Island who are most responsible for making all this happen are Managing Director Donna Kubic and Emeritus Director of our Board Denny Cook. **“We are happy that we can now offer more services to our veterans and save them the stress and expense of going off-Island for primary care,”** Donna says.

A veteran himself, Denny agrees with Donna. **“Being able to receive preventative and primary care here on the Island will make it easier for our veterans to live healthier lives.”** He adds that the Island has a higher percentage of veterans than the general population.

The Health Center’s second proudest accomplishment in 2014 was the commissioning of a comprehensive and professional community survey. Its purpose was to determine how we can better serve seasonal and year round residents. The feedback included anonymous responses from patients and community members and two focus group discussions. With the results just in, the Board will be working hard in 2015 to set priorities for improvement. We thank all who took the time to participate and look forward to reporting our conclusions to you.



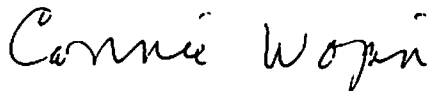
Former Board member and veteran Denny Cook worked hard to bring expanded VA services to the Island. The BIRHC is proud to support our veterans here.

At this holiday time, we encourage you to recognize a friend or loved one by making a gift in his or her honor. (Check this option on our donation envelope.) We will inform that person of your gift with a tasteful card and print the name in the Honor Roll section of our next newsletter. The memorial gifts will also be published in the Honor Roll.

To ensure proper recognition, please fill out and return the enclosed envelope along with your check made out to: "The Charlevoix County Community Foundation" and write BIRHC on the memo line. Special Projects Fund donations build the reserves we need to finance new projects. Endowment donations are invested by the CCCF and the income ensures long-term financial stability and eases the pressure of yearly fundraising. Please note that all contributions will go to the Special Projects Fund unless otherwise designated. Credit card donations are also welcomed.

We close with sincerest thanks to all of our faithful donors, including those whose names are on our Legacy Tree, pictured in the first page photograph. Your support of this Annual Appeal and our other fundraisers through the year is essential to our organization and is deeply appreciated.

With best wishes for good health and happiness,



Connie Wojan
President, BIRHC Board of Directors

BIRHC Board

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