



Issue 3

May 15, 2008

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

** SPECIAL EDITION **

Relighting the Match TCH Foundation Embarks on \$600,000 Capital Campaign

We know what your thinking, *“That is an awful lot of money, how can we possibly come up with that?”* What if we told you, we have already raised over one third of that amount? Now does it seem a little more possible?

For well over a year now, the hospital administration and Board of Directors have seen the need to expand services at the hospital and clinic. In a town survey that was taken last year, several questions were asked of the community how they felt about various aspects of the hospital and clinic. The results of that survey showed overwhelmingly that the community wanted the hospital to increase the number of services provided and expand the clinic facility.

The hospital staff has worked hard over the last year to add services that would directly benefit the needs of this community. A few of the services that have been added are: Endoscopy and Colonoscopy procedures, Cardiology clinic with the ability to perform ECG, stress tests, spirometry for patients with breathing issues, tympanometer to test hearing, and soon to come an Ear, Nose and Throat clinic as well as a Pain Management Clinic.

In order for TCH to continue providing the quality of care the community desires, there are number of services that still need to be added. The most

important is CT scanning. A CT scanner is a necessary piece of equipment for diagnosing many illnesses and injuries. TCH was part of a mobile CT service that was discontinued over a year ago. Since then, those needing CT scanning have had to make the trip to Norfolk to have this done. Having a scanner on site would greatly enhance the care we are able to provide.

Another piece of equipment that will enhance the quality of care is a Cardiovascular Ultrasound. Cardiac Echo is an important part of a thorough cardiovascular exam. This machine will allow the cardiologist to view how the heart muscle reacts when stress is applied. With this machine, the cardiologist can more accurately diagnose potential heart problems.

If you have visited the clinic recently you would have noticed how much smaller it seems. Last year, when Dr. Fennessy starting practicing here, the reception and business office in the clinic was cut in half in order to make an office for Dr. Fennessy to work from. You may have also noticed that one of the bathrooms is being used as a supply storage closet. The patient records room is at maximum capacity and there is not always enough exam rooms to go around. The clinic, which was built in 1998, was designed as a single practitioner clinic, we now have

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TCH FOUNDATION

Tony Miller - President

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Where Did the Previous \$\$ Go?

Now that TCH has embarked on another large fundraising campaign, some may be wondering, "Where did all that money go from the last Capital Campaign?" In 2005, the hospital was desperately needing to automate its financial accounting and billing systems. In the midst of the computer age, TCH was still keeping account information in paper form. Also, the word was out that Medicare and other insurance carriers would no longer accept paper statements, all claims would need to be filed electronically. For TCH, that meant changes had to be made! Corporate accounting software is not cheap, and when it in-

volves healthcare, the cost even goes higher.

After a brief stay in our hospital, Raymond Whitwer wanted to do something to help, and so he offered a challenge to the Tilden community. If the town could raise \$100,000, he would match it with a \$100,000 of his own!

The Board of Directors, the hospital staff and numerous local citizens took up the challenge to "Light the Match". Within six months the \$100,000 was raised and Raymond matched it.

After the funds were raised, TCH

contracted with Dairyland Healthcare Solutions to provide the hardware (computer servers) and software needed to automate the financial record keeping, claims filing, billing, and patient information systems. All this was to the tune of \$226,000. Along with that, the 1950 kitchen stove was replaced and a Hematology machine for performing various blood tests was purchased.

The fundraising campaign of 2005 was only the beginning of major improvements and renovations that have since taken place at your local hospital.

A Few Facts About TCH

As most of you know, less than 5 years ago, the Tilden Community Hospital was on the verge of closing its doors permanently. The hospital was in serious financial trouble, no updates or upgrades were being done on the buildings, grounds and equipment, and the employment roll was dwindling due to lack of patients utilizing the facility.

Today, the story is much different. The end of 2007 found the hospital operating in the black for the fourth straight year in a row. Over the past three years the hospital has undergone many renovations and upgrades to the old facility including renovation of;

- ◆ the Business Office,
- ◆ Hospital Medical Records and Transcription Offices,
- ◆ Nurse's Station,
- ◆ Whirlpool Room,
- ◆ Pharmacy and Central Supply,

- ◆ Director of Nursing Office,
- ◆ Outpatient Clinic Office and Waiting Room,
- ◆ Patient Rooms which included new beds, new TVs and a new Nurse Call System,
- ◆ Computer Network and electronic accounting and billing.
- ◆ Automatic lawn sprinkler system
- ◆ New roof on 1950 building
- ◆ New exhaust and Fire Suppression systems in the kitchen

Tilden Community Hospital is the largest employer in the city of Tilden with an employee roster of 75, (only 67 in 2004) and an annual payroll of \$1.6 million. That amount plays an important role in the economic viability of this town as employees purchase houses, groceries, gas and other supplies right here in Tilden. In the fall of 2004, there were only 5 Registered Nurses providing care at TCH, today there

are 15. Nearly every shift is staffed by 2 R.N.s.

Why more employees? The volume of patients seen has increased dramatically over the past 4 years. In 2004, TCH had 98 acute admissions with a total of 201 inpatients, including those being held for observation and those requiring skilled care. The last 3 years the hospital had an average of 177 acute admissions and a total average of 301.

There is no denying the fact the city of Tilden as well as communities around benefit from having this hospital here. Not only by having emergency and skilled health care close at hand, but the fact that TCH is a major source of revenue for the community by providing jobs and utilizing local business for supplies and services helps make Tilden the great little town that it is.

Proposed Clinic Plan



Relighting the Match ... (Continued from Front Page)

three practitioners working out of this small facility.

One other project that looms large for the hospital is the eventual im-

Relighting the Match



CT Scanner	\$200,000
C.V. Ultrasound.....	\$24,000
Clinic Expansion...	\$200,000
EMR	\$200,000

plementation of an Electronic Medical Record, (EMR). The federal government has mandated that by 2014 all medical records have to be collected and stored in electronic format. This project will take a couple years to phase in and the costs will be enormous.

All the projects that were just listed are vital to the future operations of the Tilden hospital. Because of the huge costs involved, this is not a project the hospital can handle on its own. We need your help!

As mentioned earlier, the hospital staff and Foundation have already

raised \$229,000 from various donors and foundations. \$200,000 of that is a very generous matching donation from the Lied Foundation. The matching funds were given specifically to enable the hospital to acquire a CT scanner, cardiac ultrasound and begin implementation of an EMR. It will be up to the community to meet that match and provide the additional funds needed to complete those projects. The administration continues to seek funds from outside foundations and agencies, but many of these give only when local communities are willing to match funds.

You will be hearing more about this fundraising campaign in the weeks and months ahead. We are hoping to see these funds raised by the end of this year!

The hospital staff have plans to renovate the "Giving Tree" located in the main lobby as a way to recognize those who give to various hospital projects.

How YOU Can Help

If you would like to play a part in the growth of your local hospital by making a donation, please make checks payable to Tilden Community Hospital Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. If you have any questions regarding the

proposed projects, please contact one of the following:

- Lon Knievel - 368-5343
- Duane Eggers - 368-5642
- Arlene Hofmann - 368-5384



Mission Statement

Tilden Community Hospital is committed to improving the health and wellness of our region by providing high quality, personalized health care with compassion, dignity and respect in a cost effective and safe manner.

We will accomplish our mission by:

- ◆ *Providing individualized, personal care to each person we serve, to the best of our ability*
- ◆ *Seeking avenues in which to educate the community towards healthier living.*
- ◆ *Promoting and developing professionalism in all that we do.*
- ◆ *Understanding and caring for the needs of not only the patient, but the families of those we serve.*
- ◆ *Valuing the contribution and expertise that each employee brings, and by continuing to work together in a team approach.*
- ◆ *Making wise financial decisions so that we are able to continue providing high quality health care in a cost effective manner.*
- ◆ *By networking with our local communities and with others in the healthcare field*

Services Provided at TCH

PROVIDED BY TCH RURAL HEALTHCLINIC

Medical treatment for acute illness
 Emergency procedures as a first response to common life threatening injuries
 Physicals (adult and pediatric)
 Child well care visits
 Pap smear
 EKG
 Diagnostic Laboratory Testing
 Chemical examinations of urine by stick including Ketones, Hematocrit/Hemoglobin / Examination of stool specimens for occult blood / Mono Test / Pregnancy tests / Strep A test / Influenza test / Blood glucose / Hemoglobin A1C / Whole blood serum H. Pylori test / Primary culturing for transmittal to laboratory

PROVIDED BY TILDEN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Acute Care
 24 Hour Emergency Care
 Intermediate Care
 Observation
 Coronary Care
 Skilled Care
 Nursing Service
 Pharmacy
 Radiology
 MRI
 Laboratory
 Physical Therapy
 Whirlpool therapy baths
 Dietary Service
 Blood Services
 Drug Testing
 Pathology Services

PROVIDED BY OUTREACH CLINIC

Cardiology/Cardiac Echo/Stress Test
 Endoscopy/Colonoscopy Procedures
 Ear, Nose and Throat
 Podiatry
 Orthopedics
 Physical Therapy
 Occupational Therapy
 Mammograms
 Bone Density
 Ultrasound

ACTIVE MEDICAL STAFF

Dr. Thomas Fennessy
 General Practitioner
 Derek Nelson, P.A.-C
 Physician Assistant
 Julie Wilhelm, P.A.-C
 Physician Assistant