Sleepy Eye Healthcare Foundation

Caring for our community

Winter 2012

Sleepy Eye Healthcare Foundation

400 4th Ave. NW
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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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The Sleepy Eye Healthcare Foundation is a 501-3-C organization that accepts tax deductible donations for the Sleepy Eye Medical Center.

Gifts of $1,000 or more, which can accumulate over time, are recognized on our Donor Honor Wall. The financial support of our generous donors is very important in helping us provide the excellent healthcare that our community expects and deserves.

For more information on this quarterly publication contact Leo Derkowski, Marketing and Public Relations at 507-794-3691 ext. 316

A close call for Vesty Schroepfer

Pearl and Vesty Schroepfer

When Sylvester "Vesty" Schroepfer checked in to the Sleepy Eye Medical center a few months ago to treat a fever and infection, little did he know he was in for a brush with death. He was responding well to treatments and was about to be discharged, but the Physical Therapy Department thought they detected a slight problem with a cough. His physician, Dr. Harman Dhaliwal, decided to keep him in the hospital one more night for observation. At 4:00 in the morning Vesty collapsed in his hospital room. Nurse Dustin Wilfarht, who was in the room at the time, immediately began CPR on the unresponsive Vesty, who had no pulse, and brought him back to consciousness.

Dustin called Dr. Dhaliwal who made it to the hospital in about six minutes (it sure is nice to have our physicians living in town). Dr. Dhaliwal correctly concluded that Vesty's condition was quite serious, although he appeared to be all right. She decided to transport Vesty to Abbott Northwestern for further evaluation. She suspected blood clots – a pulmonary embolism – a very serious, life threatening condition.

The Intensive Care Unit attending physician at Abbott Northwestern was reluctant to send a helicopter and said ground transportation would be adequate. Dr. Dhaliwal was convinced of the accuracy of her diagnosis and insisted on the helicopter, which was then dispatched to Sleepy Eye. In 20 minutes Vesty was on the way to Minneapolis.

At Abbott Northwestern Vesty had another near-death episode and testing determined that Dr. Dhaliwal's diagnosis was correct – blot clots and pulmonary embolism. Vesty was treated at Abbott Northwestern for eleven days and then sent back to SEMC for further monitoring and continued treatment.

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A close call for Vesty Schroepfer (Cont.)

In reflecting on the events, Dr. Dhaliwal described Vesty as a "medical miracle." "Everything worked toward saving Vesty's life. If Dustin didn't do CPR quickly enough and didn't call me in, who knows what might have happened," she said. And if Dr. Dhaliwal did not correctly diagnose the problem and adamantly insist on transporting Vesty immediately to Abbott Northwestern by helicopter, it's doubtful that Vesty would be around today.

Dr. Harman Dhaliwal

Dustin Wilfarht, RN

"Even though we are a small hospital we have to be prepared to handle anything that comes up in our community," said Dr. Dhaliwal. "I came here straight out of my residency and I was a bit apprehensive knowing that there would be times when I was it, that I would be on the spot, the only doctor available. Now after a few years here in Sleepy Eye I feel more comfortable. I'm glad I made the decision to come here to SEMC."

You can be sure that Vesty agrees with Dr. Dhaliwal's decision too. Although he understandably doesn't remember too much about what transpired on that eventful early morning, he says with conviction in his understated way, "That Dr. Dhaliwal – she's pretty good."

Memorial Donations In Memory of

Irene Fischer
Ines Lochner
Francis Broich
Myrtle Kyar
Donald Morash
Armin Grundmeyer
Ervin Fischer
Villa Lietz
Albert Schroepfer
Roman Hillesheim
Ed Heidemann

The Sleepy Eye Healthcare Foundation is grateful for memorials made in memory of these individuals.

Annual golf tournament was a success

It seems like it was ages ago when we stood in the warm sunshine and belted a ball down the middle of the fairway (or other more adventuresome locations). Even though months have passed since the conclusion of the eighth annual SEMC Golf Tournament this is the first opportunity we've had to tell you about the results. After expenses we netted $2,167.42 for the Foundation. Many thanks to our sponsors for making our tournament a success:

- Larson Allen
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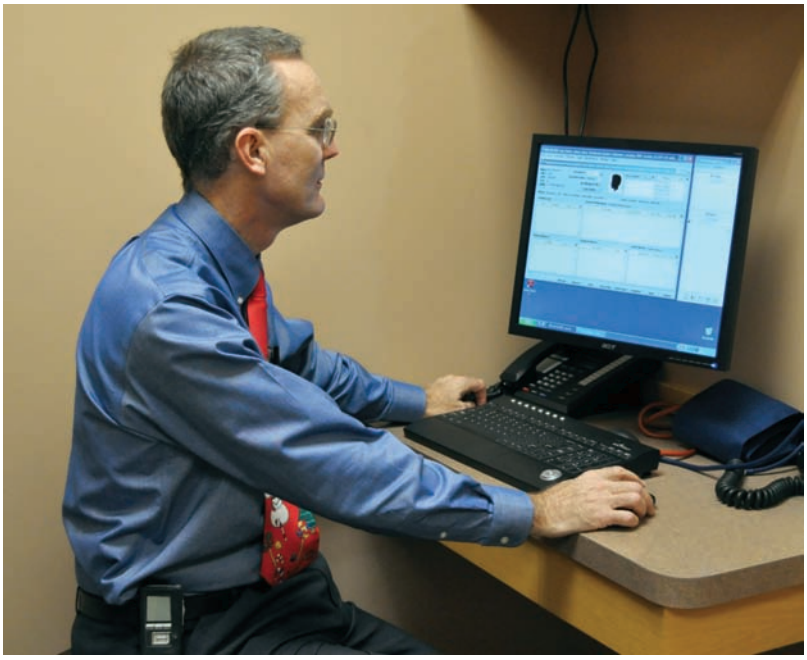
- SouthPoint Federal Credit Union

Donate Online at www.semedicalcenter.org

The SEMC Online Bill Pay system is now available to anyone who wants to make a donation to the Sleepy Eye Medical Center Foundation. Access to the system is on the Foundation web page on the SEMC website. The Online Bill Pay system accepts credit cards, debit cards and eChecks. System users get an immediate confirmation of payment and automatically receive a receipt by email.



Dr. James Joyce accesses a patient record in the clinic

SEMC Goes Live with Electronic Health Record

In September the Sleepy Eye Medical Center went live with its electronic health record system in the clinic. Components of the system were already operational in other areas of the facility and we are excited about implementing this important step. In the near future almost all aspects of patient care will be maintained electronically. When you visit SEMC your up-to-date health information will be readily availble to your care providers. During the initial phases of implementation staff will be entering medical histories and gathering other information to enter into the health record.

Remodeling on the agenda for 2012

The Sleepy Eye Medical Center plans to remodel and refurbish the patient rooms that were not upgraded in the last project in 2004. In addition, the plan calls for creating another obstetrics room.

"We constantly monitor comments from our clients and from time to time we hear that some of our rooms needed work to bring them up to par with the rooms we remodelled in 2004," said Kevin Sellheim, CEO and Administrator. "We want to continue to improves the patient experience in the hospital so this is a timely and worthwhile project to undertake next year." An architect has been retained to draw up recommendations and an estimate for the project.

Welcome to our newest arrivals

Dustin
Parents
Lisa & Mark

Macy Ann
Parents
Jenny & Jared

Kendall
Parents
Heather & Brent

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