“Memorial Lodge” was donated to Memorial Hospital Foundation by Mrs. Theresa Vonderschmitt.

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It’s always a wonderful feeling to hear from community members who want to do something good for Memorial Hospital and our patients. Some time ago, Charlotte Donan presented a proposal to develop a Healing Garden at the hospital – an outdoor space designed to be comforting and calming to the spirit. Charlotte teamed up with Beth Dawkins and together they led a campaign to raise 100% of the funding needed to build this green space, securing all the money needed from private donations.

Within a matter of months, a location on the northeast side of the hospital’s LCM Tower was selected and the design for the garden was finalized. Construction began in late March, and today we have a beautiful addition to the hospital’s landscape, complete with a waterfall feature, lush greenery, soft lighting, pavered pathways, arbor, gazebo and benches.

While Charlotte and Beth are the original visionaries for this project, I also want to recognize Zach Dawkins, Kevin Tretter, PE, Seufert Construction, and Scott Buschkoetter, Buschkoetter’s Nursery – Lawn & Garden Center, along with their staffs, for bringing the vision into reality. This team’s talent, creativity, and efforts are most appreciated. The Healing Garden is sure to be a favorite spot for our patients, their families, and our staff to sit in quiet conversation, relaxation, meditation, and prayer.

As you may know, our Medical Staff has grown tremendously in the past twenty years. It’s a great credit to the existing staff that we are able to continue recruiting physicians of the same high caliber. Quality begets quality! Earlier this year, we welcomed to our hospital Dr. Robert White and Dr. Christopher Scipione. In July, Drs. Kristin and Nicholas Werne returned home to establish their medical careers in Dubois County. Here’s a brief synopsis of each of them:

Psychiatrist Robert White, M.D. received his medical degree at University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and completed a psychiatry residency at Duke University Medical Center. Since 1995, he has provided psychiatric and substance abuse treatment to adult and geriatric patients in Evansville, Muncie, Richmond, and Ft. Wayne. He is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology and holds certification with the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Christopher Scipione, M.D. received his medical degree at Chicago Medical School – Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, and completed a residency in emergency medicine at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. Dr. Scipione has worked in Emergency Departments at Womack Army Hospital in North Carolina as well as at hospitals in Michigan and Wisconsin. He is board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

Obstetrician/Gynecologist Kristin Spellmeyer Werne, M.D. received her medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis in June. She has joined Drs. Scott Beckman and Steve Hopf at Jasper Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Nicholas Werne, M.D. received his medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine, and completed a residency in internal medicine at Ball Memorial Hospital. Since 2007, Dr. Werne worked as a hospitalist at St. Vincent Carmel Hospital. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and has joined Drs. Hopkins, Campbell and Fehrenbacher at Internal Medicine of Dubois County.

In closing, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust you place in the staff of Memorial Hospital! We appreciate the opportunity to serve you during some of the most vulnerable times of your life.

Sincerely,
Ray Snowden
President & CEO
The Vonderschmitt equine facility on the south side of Jasper became the property of Memorial Hospital Foundation via a most generous gift from Mrs. Theresa Vonderschmitt in October 2009.

Mrs. Vonderschmitt said, “This is my way of giving back to the community. Although I surprised myself by gifting the property about 10 years sooner than I had originally planned, the hospital is now able to plan ahead to meet the future needs of our community.” The donation includes 180 acres of land, a large arena and stable area that are completely wired and ready to be converted into any usable facility, a lodge with bedrooms, laundry room, and a lounge with a kitchenette and additional bedrooms.

The Vonderschmitt home is located on the other side of the lake and is not part of the donation.

Mrs. Vonderschmitt is on the Board of Directors of Japan Communications, Inc. in Japan and Trustee of William Woods University in Missouri. She is also an owner and manager of B&T Vonderschmitt, LLC and Equitrain, LLC. She received her Bachelor of Economics and Finance from Fordham University in New York and MBA with concentration in Finance from Santa Clara University in California.

Her husband, Bernie Vonderschmitt, was a co-founder of Xilinx, Inc., a semiconductor company in Silicon Valley. He was a Senior VP of RCA and Zilog prior to Xilinx. He received his BS in engineering from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, MS in Electrical Engineering from University of Pennsylvania and MBA from Rider University. He was also a recipient of honorary Doctorates from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology and Rider University. Mr. Vonderschmitt passed away in 2004 at Memorial Hospital.

Because of her experience of meeting many excellent and caring nurses at the hospital, Mrs. Vonderschmitt started a “Second Chance Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Bernie Vonderschmitt” at VUJC.

When asked about the hospital’s intentions for the future of what has become known as “Memorial Lodge,” Sr. M. Adrian Davis, LCM, PhD, Board Chairperson, noted, “At the present time, we’re using this magnificent facility for meetings and other hospital-sponsored functions. We’re extremely grateful for Mrs. Vonderschmitt’s kindness and generosity. This is truly a remarkable gift!”

Memorial Hospital’s new partnership with CarePayment® provides patients with the ability to have more financial control over payment of their hospital expenses. The new partnership enables the hospital’s patients to pay for their hospital services at 0% interest over a 25-month period.

This program makes unexpected medical bills less burdensome especially for those who are uninsured or are facing high insurance plan deductibles, co-payments, and other out-of-pocket costs.

“We continue to search for ways to improve our overall patient experience,” said Kyle Bennett, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Memorial Hospital. “The CarePayment® system is another way that we can offer our care and compassion while providing patients with a payment option that is manageable and convenient for them.”

CarePayment®’s CEO Jim Quist added, “We’re proud of the opportunity to partner with Memorial Hospital, and we look forward to providing a worthwhile benefit to the patients and community.

Regardless of insurance coverage, credit history or employment, Memorial Hospital will refer patients automatically to CarePayment® if they have a balance on their hospital account two months after receiving their first statement. Through a pre-approved application process, the patient will receive a 0% interest hospital-sponsored loyalty card. The patient’s monthly minimum payment will be 4% of the account balance or $25, whichever is greater.

For more information about CarePayment®, please call Memorial Hospital’s Patient Financial Services staff at 482-0651.
Urinary Incontinence

Imagine for a moment that you’re sitting in the first pew of the church during your daughter’s wedding. She looks stunningly beautiful, and your new son-in-law is everything you’ve dreamed of as a mate for your only child. The day is simply perfect. Suddenly, you’re desperately in need of using the restroom — and it’s at the rear of the church. You simply can’t wait for the service to end.

...Ever been in a similar situation? It’s uncomfortable to imagine, isn’t it?

According to physical therapist Tina Heim, “Some women (and men) experience a loss of bladder control causing an involuntary leakage of urine, which is referred to as urinary incontinence.” The CDC reports that urinary incontinence affects at least 10 million persons in the United States, and it’s especially common in persons 65 years and greater. As many as three-fourths of women report at least some urinary leakage, and 20–50% report more frequent leakage. It’s estimated that 7–10% of women experience severe leakage.

Two types of urinary incontinence are most common:

• Stress incontinence is involuntary leakage on effort or exertion when sneezing or coughing.
• Urge incontinence is involuntary leakage accompanied by or immediately preceded by an urge to urinate.

Research suggests that age, pregnancy, childbirth, obesity, functional and/or cognitive impairments are associated with increased rates of incontinence as well as the severity of the condition. It’s also noted that fewer than half of the women report seeking medical care. Those most likely to contact a medical doctor are those who use pads, those who have large volume leakage, and those who have impairment in the activities of daily living.

Urge incontinence can generally be treated with nonsurgical therapies. These include medication, strengthening exercise, biofeedback, bladder retraining, and electrical stimulation. While surgery may be needed for some stress urinary incontinence, nonsurgical therapies such as pelvic muscle rehabilitation (Kegel exercises), vaginal and urethral devices, bladder training and biofeedback are frequently used.

Shala Cunningham, PT, notes that “Physical therapists specializing in women’s health issues evaluate and design an individualized treatment program for each woman. Physical therapy can help a woman regain control over her bladder (and life), reduce the use of medication and pads for incontinence; and possibly prevent the need for surgical intervention.”

If you experience incontinence during normal daily activities or while sneezing, coughing, or laughing; or if you have trouble with frequent urination, starting or holding the urine stream, or getting to the bathroom in time, you’re not alone. You could easily be helped by your physician’s referral to Memorial Hospital’s Women’s Rehabilitation Services. The physical therapists are dedicated to providing women with the highest quality of specialized care as they address the specific needs of women throughout the life cycle.

Other life cycle conditions they treat include pregnancy/postpartum issues, bowel incontinence, pelvic pain, chronic low back pain, osteoporosis, and lymphedema, etc.

For more information, please call the Women’s Rehabilitation Services staff at 482-0682.

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