

**Fall 2012**



*CAHoots Newsletter is funded through the IN FLEX State Office of Rural Health (SORH).*

## **USDA Rural Development Funds New Hospital for Perry County**

The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development is improving the lives of the residents of Perry County by presenting a \$40,000,000 USDA Rural Development Community Facilities low interest loan to the Perry County Memorial Hospital. The Rural Development funds will be used to construct a new hospital for the rural community surrounding Tell City, Indiana.

Indiana USDA Rural Development State Director Phil Lehmkuhler announced the selection of the Community Facilities project. "The funds awarded to Perry County Hospital further demonstrate the Obama Administration's unyielding efforts to improve the quality of life for rural residents by ensuring that rural communities benefit from quality public facilities such as hospitals, court houses, and health centers," Lehmkuhler said.

Perry County Hospital Association member Dean Boerste stated, "This represents a great resource to enhance our vision of a future which provides the community with ongoing medical resources and state-of-the-art healthcare. The benefits of this facility will also contribute significantly to the area's economic development opportunities as well. As I also serve on the board of the Perry County Development Corporation, I know that all companies look at the quality of our health facility as part of their decision on selecting a new location for their business. I want to thank the Indiana USDA Rural Development for their assistance and guidance in obtaining this very low interest loan that will save our hospital millions of dollars over the years."

For additional information on RD projects, please visit Rural Development's new interactive web map featuring program funding and success stories for fiscal years 2009-2011. The data can be found at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RDSuccessStories.html>.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of Federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has an active portfolio of more than \$172 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*

## State Cancer Screening Program Receives Additional Funding

INDIANAPOLIS – Just in time for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, more Hoosiers will now have access to early detection screenings for breast and cervical cancer, thanks to a supplemental award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Indiana State Department of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. This award will provide assistance to 900 additional women. On average, the program serves between 6,000 and 7,000 women each year.

"Each year more than 4,200 Hoosiers are diagnosed with breast cancer, and more than 200 are diagnosed with cervical cancer," said State Health Commissioner Gregory Larkin, M.D. "We know that early detection is critical to survival rates, and this award will make a direct impact on the lives of women who would not have had access to screenings and diagnostic services otherwise."

The Indiana Breast and Cervical Cancer Program provides access to breast and cervical cancer screenings, diagnostic testing, and treatment for underserved and underinsured women. The state program is also responsible for implementing CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

Eligibility for the program is determined by age, income and family size. For more information or to see if you are eligible for the program, call 855-435-7178 or visit [www.in.gov/isdh/24967.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/24967.htm).

To learn more about breast and/or cervical cancer, including information on signs and symptoms, benefits of early detection and behaviors that can help decrease risk, please refer to the Indiana Cancer Facts and Figures 2012 report, a comprehensive report on the burden of cancer in Indiana, by visiting [www.indianacancer.org](http://www.indianacancer.org).

Organizations interested in impacting the burden of cancer in Indiana should consider participating in the Indiana Cancer Consortium (ICC). The ICC is a statewide network of partnerships whose mission is to reduce the cancer burden in Indiana through the development, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive plan that address cancer across the continuum from prevention through palliation. Participation in the ICC is open to all organizations and individuals interested in cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, quality of life, data collection and advocacy regarding cancer-related issues. To become a member of the ICC and find additional information about cancer prevention and control in Indiana, please visit the ICC's website at [www.indianacancer.org](http://www.indianacancer.org).

To visit the Indiana State Department of Health's website, go to [www.StateHealth.in.gov](http://www.StateHealth.in.gov).

## New PET/CT Scan Services at Sullivan County Community Hospital

Monday, October 8, marked the first day of new PET/CT scan services at Sullivan County Community Hospital. Shared Medical Services of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, has partnered with SCCH to bring the latest in hybrid diagnostic imaging technology to the Sullivan County area each week on Monday afternoons.

This hybrid technology combines the strengths of two well-established imaging modalities in one imaging session to more accurately diagnose and locate cancers while increasing patient comfort by reducing the number of scanning sessions a patient must undergo. A PET/CT scan is noninvasive, painless and takes about 30 minutes.

Currently, physicians can overlay the results of PET and CT scans performed separately to identify and locate tumors. However, because a patient may not be positioned identically for both scans, the two images may be difficult to line up exactly, degrading the accuracy of the diagnostic information. With the combined PET/CT technology, it allows physicians to rapidly perform both scans in one session without having to move the patient. Physicians can precisely overlay the data of the PET scan and the detailed CT scan to pinpoint the location and stage of tumors.

Shared Medical Services and SCCH will be providing the latest updates in imaging with detection of cells as small as 2 to 3 millimeters, making detection possible at an earlier stage for treatment and staging purposes.

For more information on the new PET/CT scan services at SCCH, visit the Shared Medical Services website at [www.sharedmed.com](http://www.sharedmed.com).

## Vertical Expansion Underway at Decatur County Memorial



Decatur County  
Memorial Hospital  
The Quality Care You Want. Close By.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) in Greensburg broke ground this week on an \$8 million vertical expansion while celebrating the Hospital's 90th birthday with the Greensburg/Decatur County community. The original hospital facility opened in 1922 as a memorial to those from the county who had served in World War I, and the Hospital has seen multiple expansions over the years.

The latest improvement will add two floors, including a new medical/surgical unit on the new third floor, which will feature all private rooms and serve as a replacement for the existing first floor unit. The construction will take place above the Women's Center and Emergency Department, which was constructed in 2004. The fourth floor of the new two-story addition will be shelled out for future service growth.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital CEO, Linda Simmons, stated "With this state-of-the-art unit, we look forward to providing enhanced services to the community and improving the privacy and comfort of our patients. As our community grows, we continue to respond to its needs, as well as the changing dynamics of healthcare."

A second phase to the project would see a new medical office building constructed with additional space for visiting specialists, a new cancer care unit and physical therapy. The Hospital Foundation of Decatur County will be conducting a campaign to raise over \$1,000,000 to assist with the projects. More information on the effort is available at [www.dcmh.net/campaign](http://www.dcmh.net/campaign).



The opportunity to name patient rooms in the new medical-surgical unit was announced earlier this year, and the Hospital Foundation made its own room naming commitment in March. Rooms may be named for families, organizations, or businesses for a multi-year gift of \$5,000 annually for five years, or a lump sum of \$25,000.

More information on Decatur County Memorial Hospital and its services may be found by visiting the website at [www.dcmh.net](http://www.dcmh.net) or [www.facebook.com/dcmhgreensburg](http://www.facebook.com/dcmhgreensburg).

## Rheumatologist Joins MMCH Medical Staff

This August, Alejandra Rodriguez, MD, joined Margaret Mary Community Hospital's medical staff as its new rheumatologist. Her office is located in the Batesville Medical Arts building on State Road 129 in Batesville.



Rheumatologists specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the joints, muscles and bones. There are more than 200 types of these diseases, including arthritis, gout, lupus and tendinitis.

Dr. Rodriguez received her medical degree from the National University of Colombia and completed her residency and fellowship at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. She recently moved to Batesville from Philadelphia with her husband and two young sons.

"I've found this community to be a very friendly, safe environment to raise a family," she said. "I look forward to meeting my patients and helping them restore their quality of life."

To make an appointment with Dr. Rodriguez, call her office at (812) 932-5108.

## Greene County General Hospital to Offer Smoke-Free Campus

Linton, IN (September 25, 2012): Greene County General Hospital has announced it will offer a smoke-free campus beginning Nov. 15 – the Great American Smokeout.



Beginning Nov. 15, the entire campus of Greene County General Hospital will become smoke free. "Greene County General Hospital is committed to the promotion of quality healthcare, which includes prevention of disease. With this commitment comes the responsibility of providing a safe and healthy environment for all people who enter our hospital and our campus," said Chief Nursing Officer Lea Ann Camp. "To establish and maintain the safest possible environment in which to deliver such health care, our campus will become smoke free."

Currently, free smoking/chew cessation classes are offered from 6-8 p.m. every Tuesday evening in the hospital conference room. The classes, which are offered until October 30, are funded through a grant with the Local Coordinating Counsel. Free nicotine replacement therapy is provided by the Greene County Health Department. To sign up for tobacco cessation classes, please call 812.847.9502.

## Greene County General Hospital Groundbreaking

A formal groundbreaking ceremony for Greene County General Hospital's \$7.5 million expansion/renovation project was held on October 12, 2012.



Several community members and representatives from local businesses joined hospital employees as the first shovels of dirt were turned.

"This addition will expand our ER from a 3-bed unit to an 8-room emergency department with state of the art facilities for patients. Our physical therapy department has been recognized by our patients as having the best staff in the area. The addition will allow us to have the best facilities as well. We will be constructing a physical therapy department that is not only larger than our existing facilities but full of modern patient conveniences," said Chief Financial Officer/Interim Chief Executive Officer Tim Norris. "Our lab and radiology departments will be remodeled into patient-friendly spaces. The pharmacy department will be relocated and expanded to allow for improved support of our patient care. Lastly, we have a new and modern main entrance complete with a patient-friendly waiting area and an expanded gift shop for our very supportive Auxiliary."

Construction of Phase I, which includes the new emergency department addition as well as the new main entrance and physical therapy renovation, is scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2013.

Construction of Phase II, which includes renovation of the mammography area, radiology area, ultrasound room, and imaging department, is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2014.

Until the construction is completed, there will be a bit of transition to go through.

“Our business office is being relocated to the house on the other side of the hospital. Our physical therapy department will be relocated to a mobile office space just outside the back of the hospital. Our main entrance and ER entrance will become a construction zone so a new temporary entrance will be built for the first construction phase,” Norris said. “This transition will not always be easy, but the good news is that this is Greene County. I know that the people of the Greene County have a ‘can-do’ attitude. It is that spirit that will be the driving force through all of the transition.”



*Those participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were: (from left) Gina Fish, radiology; Millie Jones, laboratory; Tim Norris, CFO/Interim CEO; Josh Wolfe, maintenance; Sue Eccles, auxiliary; Kristen Goodman, physical therapy; Tim Hale, emergency department; John Wilkes, Mayor of Linton; Lea Ann Camp, Chief Nursing Officer; Dewey Collins, maintenance; Mike Crane, Director of Pharmacy; and Dr. Michael Gamble, medical director of emergency department.*

## Greene County Health to Open Clinic at WestGate

Linton, IN (September 21, 2012): Greene County Health – a wholly owned subsidiary of Greene County General Hospital – has announced plans to open a clinic in the Greene County portion of the WestGate Tech Park.



“Ground breaking is anticipated in early November with construction to be completed late first quarter of 2013,” said Dan Zuerner of Garmong Construction Services.

Greene County Health at WestGate will serve as a family practice clinic, as well as a walk-in clinic. “Greene County Health strives to serve the healthcare needs of persons in our service area. WestGate is expanding, and the opportunity exists to provide medical services not only to those who work at WestGate, but also to those employees at Crane,” said John Rowe, president of the Greene County General Hospital, LLC Board of Trustees – the body that governs Greene County Health. “A facility at WestGate furthers the fulfillment of our mission. We look forward to working with the persons and businesses to provide quality and cost-effective healthcare.”

### About Greene County Health

Greene County Health is a family practice physician group that is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greene County General Hospital. Greene County Health offers full spectrum family medicine, which includes OB, minor surgery, and much more. Our practice locations include Bloomfield, Linton and Worthington. Greene County Health – Bloomfield is located at 200 East Main Street, Suite 4, in Bloomfield and can be reached by calling (812) 384-3508.

Greene County Health – Linton is located at 1210 North 1000 West, Linton, and can be reached by calling (812) 847-7005.

Greene County Health – Worthington is located at 102 East Main Street in Worthington and can be reached by calling (812) 875-2000.

## Dukes Memorial Hospital Unveils Renovated Suite Beginnings Obstetrics Unit



*Renovation and revitalization of obstetrics unit leads to various upgrades*

Peru, IN (October 9, 2012) – To celebrate the opening of Suite Beginnings, Dukes Memorial Hospital would like to invite the public to our Suite Beginnings Obstetrics Unit Open House and Trick-or-Treating event being held on Thursday, October 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Be one of the first to receive a peek inside our finished unit, take a staff-lead tour, and enjoy some refreshments. Each child who attends dressed in a Halloween costume will receive a complimentary goodie bag!

During the past six months, the Suite Beginnings Obstetrics Unit at Dukes Memorial Hospital (DMH) has undergone many changes. With the completion of this renovation, several exciting improvements and upgrades are in place and ready for use. Some of the upgrades in the publicly traveled areas of the unit include: all new flooring, wall coverings, and an entirely rebuilt centralized nurse's station with new countertops, cabinetry and furniture. Each private room was thoughtfully re-designed, while keeping our patients and their needs and desires in the forefront of our minds. We have included in the rooms upgraded flat-panel



televisions, new furniture, sinks and bathroom fixtures, as well as freshly painted walls, new flooring, and ceiling tiles. A tranquil color pallet was selected to promote relaxation, while feminine fabrics and upholstery were chosen for all furniture and privacy curtains. Just a quick glimpse into the unit reveals a total transformation from what it consisted of before to what it displays now. As an added personalized touch,



local professional photographer Bridgette Harmon-Smith, of Harmon Photography, has also graciously furnished the unit with several portraits that she has taken of individuals and families from Peru and the surrounding communities. Dukes Memorial Hospital feels that the use of her artwork illustrates yet another dimension of our dedication and commitment to the residents of the communities in which we serve.

“We are very excited to announce these upgrades and unveil them to our obstetrics and gynecological patients,” stated Debra Close,

CEO. “The new unit offers a serene environment that will allow our new mothers and babies to feel as if they’re in a relaxed retreat, one that we expect will foster a positive birthing experience from start to finish.” It is the desire of Dukes Memorial to stay competitive with all other area hospitals in the realm of maternity care. Whether you are a first time mother or you have had several children your expectations do not change. Expectant mothers have great expectations for their birthing experience and Dukes Memorial Hospital is striving to meet and exceed our patient’s expectations for their care experience during this special time.

### **About Dukes Memorial Hospital**

Dukes Memorial Hospital is a health care organization with the primary mission of offering high-quality, acute heart care and preventative medical care in a caring and compassionate manner to all people who live in, work in, or visit Miami County and its surrounding areas. Dukes Memorial Hospital is committed to building a healthier community. For more information on Dukes Memorial Hospital, contact Courtney Ogletree, Director of Marketing, at (765) 472-8016 or [cogletree@dukesmemorialhosp.com](mailto:cogletree@dukesmemorialhosp.com).

## Jasper County Hospital Acquires Technology to Reduce Patient Radiation

To make CT exams as safe and accurate as possible for its patients, Jasper County Hospital has acquired Toshiba America Medical Systems, Inc.'s Adaptive Iterative Dose Reduction 3D (AIDR 3D), the company's newest radiation dose reduction technology, for its Aquilion™ CT system. Jasper County Hospital is the second facility in the nation to have this technology.

"Toshiba's AIDR 3D reduces radiation dose, enabling safer CT exams for patients, while maintaining the image quality needed for diagnoses," explained Cindy Reed, RT(R)(M), Director of Radiology at Jasper County Hospital. "Combining Toshiba's AIDR 3D software with the Aquilion scanner helps our facility provide the best possible patient care."

AIDR 3D is Toshiba's third-generation dose reconstruction software that reduces a patient's exposure to radiation compared with conventional scanning. The software is designed to use the patient's data from the scanner creating a precise quality image but still expose the patient to less radiation.



The Jasper County Hospital Radiology Department is fully equipped to perform x-rays, digital mammography, CT scans, ultrasound, nuclear medicine and MRI. For more information, call (219) 866-5141, extension 2051.

## Jasper County Hospital Digital Mammography

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In order to help increase awareness of the disease and to emphasize the importance of mammography in the early detection of the disease, Jasper County Hospital is again offering a mammogram special. During the month of October, twenty-five certificates will be sold at the Registration/Information desk of the Hospital. The \$99 fee includes the mammogram and the radiologist interpretation. No insurance or benefit programs will be billed along with this special.



Since 2008, Jasper County Hospital has offered women the Selenia™ digital mammography system from Hologic®. "Digital mammography allows us to provide our patients with the highest quality of care in the prevention and early detection of breast cancer," states Cindy Reed, R.T (R)(M), Director of Diagnostic Imaging at Jasper County Hospital. "Digital mammography allows the radiologist to view the x-ray image more closely, zeroing in on suspicious or concerning areas, enabling them to make immediate decisions about additional images."

Steven Hossler, M.D., has been the Hospital's radiologist since September 2011. Dr. Hossler received his medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 1981. He became American Board of Radiology certified in 1985.

For more information about digital mammography or other radiological services at Jasper County Hospital, contact the Radiology Department at (219) 866-5141, extension 2051.

To schedule a mammogram, call Community Wide Scheduling at (219) 866-2026. A physician's order is required.

## Perry County Council Agrees to Back New-Hospital Financing *Groundbreaking likely early next year*

This article originally ran in the [Perry County News](#) on September 17, 2012  
Written by Kevin Koelling, Managing Editor

TELL CITY – Members of the Perry County Council added their stamp of approval Thursday, September 13th, 2012, to a lease that will permit construction of a new hospital to begin.

Council members attended a September 5 meeting of the county commissioners and heard a hospital official and financial consultants explain the need for a new facility and plans on how to finance it. As the [Perry County News](#) reported on September 10, officials hope to secure \$40 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture rural-development bonds to finance the construction, and that federal agency requires the county to certify it would use property taxes to repay the loan if the hospital becomes unable to.



“You all heard presentations from all of the accounting firms (at the commissioners meeting) as to the fact that it is highly, highly unlikely that will ever occur,” county attorney Chris Goffinet told the council Thursday. “This is like a mortgage for a home; it’s security for the loan. It’s a little added security for the United States government.”

A resolution the attorney prepared for the council to approve was identical to the one the commissioners signed except for the name of the county entity signing it, he said. It approved the lease and its repayment schedule and property-tax backup, if needed. As he has previously, he said examinations of the hospital’s previous revenues and conservative estimates of future earnings show the risk of the county having to foot the bill to be very low.

A Perry County Hospital Association, reconstituted for this project after a long period of inactivity, will be considered owners of the new facility and will lease it to the county until the bonds are repaid, he explained. Should the county be required to make any bond payments, the lease agreement will require the hospital to repay the county.

Councilman Ron Crawford was absent, so Councilman Stan Goffinet posed a question on his behalf.

“Say that our economy tanks and the hospital has to rely on property tax; how long will we have to pay that property tax before something is done?” he asked. “We can’t do it for five, six, seven, ten years. Who makes the decision that we’re going to have to do something, put (the hospital) up for sale or whatever?”

Chris Goffinet said the financial consultants examined financial statements that included the years 2007-09 “when the economy was not good at all – it was probably as bad as it’s been for a very long time – and even at that time, the hospital had sufficient revenues to make these payments. But if something bad like that would happen....ultimately, it would be the decision of the (hospital) board of trustees and the county acting together. At the end of the day, if it comes down to the fact that the tax burden is simply too great, the option would be to seek sale of the hospital. It’s no different than if you can’t make your house payment; you’ve either got to let it go back to the bank, or you’ve got to sell it. In this case, letting it go back to the bank is not an option because of the tax payments.”



The hospital official, President and Chief Executive Officer, Joe Stuber, said county officials are invited to a meeting each year in which the “state of the hospital,” including its financial status, are addressed. He also noted the State Board of Accounts conducts annual audits.

The lawyer also noted the hospital-association meetings are open to the public.

If the hospital can't make the payments, the council would have to set a tax rate to cover them, he confirmed in response to a question from Councilman Alan Cassidy. “I would point out that we've not ever used tax dollars to fund Perry County Memorial Hospital,” Chris Goffinet added.

“There is a full one-year payment, \$2 million, that has to be in escrow,” Stuber said. “Also, once we bring the building on board, and with all of the depreciation and interest expense....it's going to significantly increase our Medicare reimbursement; and at that point in time, the hospital board is going to start designating \$400,000 per year to save back to pay off the building. After 25 years, there will be \$10 million saved back to make a lump-sum payment at the 26-year mark.”

So, in addition to the escrow, those savings will ensure money is in the bank “to make the payments should we run into a four- or five-month period of a downturn or something like that. I've been here 13 years and I've looked at the financials (statements) well back in to the 60s, and the hospital has always been profitable and able to make its payments.”

A new hospital typically brings a 5- to 20-percent increase in volume, he added, but in projections for the new Perry County facility, “we were very conservative,” he said of those planning it. “We did not put any volume increases in whatsoever. We wanted to make sure we could afford the building if we got no bump at all in volume.”

Chris Goffinet also noted that if a problem making payment arises, it would not likely be a complete inability to pay. He also said the interest rate was projected intentionally high at 3.75 percent, while the rate stood at 3.5 percent.

Stuber added that if interest rates drop, those attached to the loan would, as well, but they can't go higher than the rate in effect when bonds are sold.

Chris Goffinet said Standard and Poor's gave the county an A rating, “and they knew at the time we were building this hospital, and that was for the jail bond.” One of the financial consultants, Gary Malone of Umbaugh and Associates, said the hospital loan will have no effect on the county's ability to borrow in the future, he added. “A fair amount of our debt that we have outstanding is coming off the books in the next five to seven years,” he also pointed out.

“I'm ready to pull the trigger on this and build a hospital,” Councilman Jim Adams said before offering a motion to adopt the resolution. Its approval was unanimous and elicited applause from the approximately 35 people in the audience.

The council will next meet at 4:30 p.m. today in the courthouse to consider making nonbinding recommendations on budgets proposed by the county's taxing entities.

Stuber said the land at the site of the new facility needs to be leveled somewhat and rock added to facilitate parking before a groundbreaking can occur. With other actions that must occur beforehand, “I'd say we're probably looking at after the first of the year,” he added.

## **DCMH CT Scanner Reduced Radiation**

Studies in the Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) radiology department have found yet another benefit being offered to area residents as a result of its new CT scanner, and it goes beyond image quality. Initially, this major improvement in imaging required a sizable investment; but it appears DCMH patients have now begun to realize the return on the Hospital's investment.

DCMH had a goal of offering the lowest possible radiation dose to patients and the community without sacrificing image quality. Radiology officials chose to purchase a Siemens Definition AS+ 128 Slice CT Scanner with Iterative Reconstruction in Image Space (IRIS) software. Since the installation, according to Jay Becker RT, RVT, RDMS, Radiology Director, DCMH has documented lowering dose by up to 60% on some CT scans.

To better gauge the impact IRIS had on its clinical cases, Decatur County Memorial Hospital's CT Technologists performed direct comparisons of images taken with and without IRIS. "I knew we were going to lower dose, but I was very surprised at how much we were lowering it," says Amanda Schutte RT R, CT, lead CT technologist. "For example, on one exam we went from 250mAs down to 150. I was really surprised at the drop and the fact that image quality didn't."

Barbara Taylor, MD, Chief of Radiology at Decatur County Memorial Hospital, expected the same, "When I heard there would be so much less radiation used, I assumed image quality would be suboptimal. I certainly didn't expect the image quality with IRIS to be as good as it is. If we hadn't seen side-by-side comparison of images, we would have told you there was no difference in dose between images," Taylor said. "I have also noticed an improvement in image quality for our bariatric patients. Sometimes on a larger patient if you try to keep the dose low, it just doesn't seem to have enough oomph," says Dr. Taylor. "However, when we added IRIS, it gave us the detail we needed."

Low-dose imaging was the right thing to do for DCMH patients and staff, but additionally it serves to differentiate the Hospital from its competitors. Some 3rd party payers and insurance companies are calling patients to try to steer their clients to lower cost imaging centers with lesser quality scanners that do not use lowering dose technologies. "We think it really makes a difference to our patients and helps us connect with our community by providing excellent quality, lower dose imaging," says Jay Becker RT, RVT, RDMS. Becker said patients are not only becoming increasingly aware of the radiation issue, but dosage also factors into physician's referral decisions. In fact, referrals for CT scans at Decatur County Memorial Hospital are up over 20% from last year which directly speaks to the quality issue.

The Hospital has also recently started doing Coronary Computed Tomography Angiograms (CCTA). According to Barbara Taylor, MD, Radiologist, "there are two key components for coronary CTA. The first is dose, and the second is temporal resolution. Our CT Scanner does this extremely well and provides beautiful images. Now that we have a low dose way to do coronary CTA, we will continue to see an increased in the number of referrals for this exam."

For more information on the CT offerings or other radiologic procedures, call (812) 663-1156. Information about the Hospital is also available at [www.dcmh.net](http://www.dcmh.net) or [www.facebook.com/dcmhgreensburg](http://www.facebook.com/dcmhgreensburg).

## Panks to Lead DCMH Campaign



HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION  
of Decatur County

The Hospital Foundation of Decatur County has announced Paul and RoJeanna Pank as the chairs of the upcoming "Reach" Capital Campaign to benefit a proposed phase II building expansion on the Hospital Campus. Their goal will be to raise more than \$1,000,000 to benefit the project which would include new Cancer Care, Physical Therapy, Hearing Center units and more.

Current Hospital Foundation Board President, Cleo Duncan made the announcement stating, "We could not be more pleased by the willingness of Paul and RoJeanna to give of their time to benefit our Hospital Foundation and our community's Hospital. Their generosity will help us reach our ultimate goal of providing additional privacy, comfort and convenience for patients in the area being served by DCMH."

The Panks are involved in a variety of community activities and have a great appreciation of the need for a strong healthcare facility as an economic driver in the community. They commented on the importance of community support for the effort, "Our Hospital is one of the most important community assets in Decatur County. By reaching out in support today, we will impact the health of our community for years to come."

According to Hospital Foundation Director David Fry, the Panks will lead a capital campaign team, which will include seven division chairs and literally dozens of volunteers. "We're excited to work more extensively with the Panks in building the campaign team over the next few weeks. The public portion of our campaign will

then launch immediately following the beginning of the New Year with our Associate campaign taking place in November.”

Fry said the current expansion underway at the Hospital is part of Phase I construction and includes a new third and fourth floor which will house the new medical surgical unit featuring all private rooms. While patient rooms in the unit may be named by businesses, families, and organizations the campaign being conducted will focus on the second phase of the project. Phase II should include a new ground floor cancer care unit, physical therapy, hearing center, additional parking and other renovations. “All of our proposed renovations impact patient privacy, comfort and convenience. With this being the case, the improvements are at the heart of what we do and very much needed to continue providing the quality care the community expects.”

Those seeking more information about the Hospital Foundation may find details at [www.dcmh.net/foundation](http://www.dcmh.net/foundation) or [www.facebook.com/dcmhfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/dcmhfoundation) and on the campaign by visiting [www.dcmh.net/campaign](http://www.dcmh.net/campaign) or by calling the Hospital Foundation at (812) 663-1220.