

FOUNDATION FORWARD

MARCH 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have had a lot of activity here at the hospital, both stressful and positive. In this edition, you'll find news of people like Maria Collins, a senior at Southwestern who is using her senior project to bring light to mental health awareness in healthcare settings, and a few opportunities to get involved with your local hospital. Plus, we are sharing positive updates about our lab, continued engagement with our internal and external donors, an opportunity to show your love of WNH through the Best of Cowley County Readers' Choice Awards, and more. More to come in next month's newsletter, so stay tuned. In the meantime, please put the following dates on your calendar - 10th annual Wine-O Trail run on May 21 and the 14th annual gala at the Burford theater on October 15. Wine-O information is included on page 3, and more information about this year's gala will go out in the next few months. Thank you all for your steadfast and strong support of your community hospital.



Annika Morris
WNHF Director

DONUTS WITH DONORS

WNH employees were treated to a special donut day this month - the annual Donuts with Donors event! All employees were invited to share their feedback about giving to the foundation whether they are a current donor or not. They then had the opportunity to pick a donut-themed prize and renew their annual contributions if they chose to do so. Thank you to all who participated. We can't wait to read through all of your feedback!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 30 - **Doctors' Day.** We will be celebrating our doctors - on Wednesday, March 30 as part of National Doctors' Day. If you love your doctor and want to show your appreciation for all they do, send them a note to say thanks! We will be celebrating our nurses and hospital staff later in April and in early May. Watch our Facebook page for updates!

April 15 - **PFAC meeting.** Do you have constructive feedback on our patient and visitor experience or ideas to improve our hospital? Are you passionate about the continuous improvement of quality, safety, and the overall experience of care at William Newton Hospital?

We invite you to check out a Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC) meeting!

Please contact our Quality Improvement Manager Sarah Clawson at 620-222-6225 or email sarah.clawson@wnmh.org to let us know you'll be there. PFAC meetings are great opportunities to identify needs and concerns, generate new ideas, and act as an advocate of the patient and visitor experience at WNH.

Attending this meeting does not mean you have to commit to joining the PFAC right away, however if you enjoy it and would like to be more involved, applications will be available.

Learn more about the PFAC at www.wnhcares.org/patients-visitors/patient-and-family-advisory-council

April 21, 11:45am @ American Legion - **Kiwanis** speaking opportunity about prescription assistance. If you might be interested in participating, please contact our office.

CONTACT US

Annika | foundationdir@wnmh.org | 620.222.6276
Brittney | brittney.carson@wnmh.org | 620.222.6275

Offices #226 & 228
Located on the 2nd floor
of William Newton Hospital

VOTE FOR THE 'BEST OF COWLEY COUNTY' READERS' CHOICE AWARDS!

Have you cast your vote in the "Best of Cowley County" Readers' Choice awards for the Cowley CourierTraveler? Help make sure WNH takes the top spot for the sixth year in a row!

Visit the voting site by clicking this link: <https://ctr.secondstreetapp.com/2022-Best-of-Cowley-County-Readers-Choice-Awards-2/>

William Newton Hospital categories in Health & Wellness include:

- Hospital
- Home Health
- Place to Have a Baby
- Hearing Center
- Physical Therapy

In addition, there are a number of WNH Physicians & Specialties listed:

- General Surgery
- Ob/Gyn Women's Health
- Internal Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Cardiology
- Orthopedics

The William Newton Healthcare Foundation is also listed under Services/Non-Profit.

You will be asked to provide some basic demographic information. Voting in just those categories should take less than 5 minutes. Thank you for your votes of confidence in WNH!



HOSPITAL MAKING LABORATORY IMPROVEMENTS

William Newton Hospital has been making numerous process improvements in its clinical laboratory.

The lab underwent a full review from its licensing body CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) in the summer of 2021. Several recommendations were made, and the team has been working with the experienced A & J Laboratory Consulting firm to implement changes.

"After this full review, our lab team has made tremendous improvements mainly having to do with policies, documentation, and staffing," said William Newton Hospital CEO Ben Quinton. "It is important to note these changes are mostly clerical. Not a single patient has been harmed, nor have any bad outcomes occurred."

Quinton said last month, CLIA arrived on campus to resurvey the laboratory. "While the CLIA surveyors were complimentary of the immense progress the lab has made, we are continuing to work on a few key areas. One necessary improvement identified was an aspect of our blood bank protocols, regarding the receipt of units of blood from an outside reference lab and how we document the receipt of these units into our own system."

Quinton went on to explain that while this protocol is updated, the hospital decided to take a temporary

pause from performing blood transfusions. "Doing this will allow time to ensure that staff, some who are new, are properly trained on this important protocol." During the temporary pause, if a patient were to need a blood transfusion, William Newton Hospital has transfer agreements in place with surrounding hospitals to meet these needs.

Over the past two years, the lab has also been impacted by nationwide staffing and supply chain shortages and has scaled back some of its services.

"Just like the national nursing shortage, there is also a severe shortage of lab techs," Quinton explained. "In spite of this, our lab team has overcome many of those challenges."

While the William Newton Hospital laboratory, like most hospital laboratories, does send various tests to outside labs, it has continued to provide 24/7 inpatient services and continues providing numerous outpatient services as well.

"We understand the inconvenience this causes, but the safety of our patients is our number one concern," Quinton said. "It is our goal for William Newton Hospital's clinical laboratory to be a shining example for compliance and patient safety, and to resume full operations as quickly as possible."



WINE-O TRAIL RUN

Wine-O spots are still open for the 5k and 2-Mile walk! Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/KS/Winfield/WineOTrailRun>.

Race Perk: New this year, all participants get free admission to a post-run concert with Backrhodes...and yes, there will be food trucks!

THANKFUL THURSDAYS

Our most recent Thankful Thursday winners are **Jenny Busch**, HPW, **Teresa Sherrard**, Occupational Health, **Elizabeth Vargas-Lopez**, Central Supply, **Claudean Wingert**, Business Office. They chose gifts cards to Junk Generation, Beiderman's, Dillons, and Walnut Valley Meat Market. Thank you to our anonymous employee donor who is choosing to continue making Thankful Thursdays possible at WNH!



SPRING INTO ACTION FOR HEALTHCARE - DONATIONS NEEDED



Hello! My name is Maria Collins and I am currently a senior at Southwestern College working towards my Bachelor of Health Science and Biochemistry. I am also minoring in leadership and on the leadership team, so you might have seen me around town at our annual garage sale or even painting houses at our annual freshman workday. I am a pre-medical student and work as a medical assistant at Urgent Care of Cowley County in Winfield, so I understand how stressful these times can be as a healthcare professional. April is Stress Awareness Month, and I care so much about the mental health of healthcare workers in our community. I previously had the opportunity to work with the ethics manager for Ascension hospitals in Kansas during the initial COVID-19 shutdown. This opportunity opened my eyes to the morally distressing situations one can be placed in

on a daily basis at work. Oftentimes, we don't know what to do in these situations or even how to talk about it. After extensively researching various resources for coping with these feelings, I have resolved to create a community movement called Spring into Action for Healthcare that will be happening this April! The 3rd week of April will be devoted to creating awareness about moral distress and healthcare burnout. In addition, there will be lots of fun goodies and events happening that week as a way to appreciate our local healthcare providers who do so much for our community. My vision is to conclude the week with a community celebration in Winfield on Friday, April 22. Please save the date!

I would like to personally invite you to Spring Into Action for Healthcare this April and consider donating time or resources to say thank you and support our local healthcare workers. **We are currently in need of monetary donations to provide food and beverages for healthcare workers during the 3rd week of April at multiple facilities** including: William Newton Hospital, Family Care Center, Urgent Care of Cowley County, City-Cowley Cowley Health Department, William Newton Hillside Family Medicine, numerous providers at the Physicians Pavilion, and Dexter Community Rural Health Clinic. I am also working towards including all healthcare providers within the county. If you would like to support Cowley County's healthcare community in some way or have a business that would give food or product, **please contact me by phone (316) 209-6101 or email maria.collins@sckans.edu**. Thank you for your support and caring for the healthcare workers in your community!