Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Receives Top Rural Hospital Recognition from National Leapfrog Group

Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce it has been recognized as a national “Top Rural Hospital” by The Leapfrog Group, an organization that evaluates the performance of U.S. hospitals. The award showcases hospitals that performed at the highest levels nationally based on Leapfrog’s quality and safety standards, considered the most rigorous of its kind.

“Our primary imperative is high quality, safe care for our patients and families,” said Chief Operating Officer Jan Stone at Gerber Memorial. “The Leapfrog honor validates our ongoing efforts to provide the controls, processes and effective team communication that assure safe, compassionate care and optimal health outcomes.”

At the ceremony, the organization was also presented a special tribute from the State of Michigan that reflects the caliber of hard work and commitment by Gerber Memorial employees to provide such professional, compassionate care.

The 2015 Leapfrog Top Rural Hospital award was given to fewer than 5 percent of U.S. hospitals. The award is based on the hospital’s value score, a combination of quality scores and resource use. The hospital must also meet Leapfrog’s standard for preventing medication errors. Gerber Memorial was one of 98 Top Hospitals recognized nationally, and one of only 24 considered rural hospitals.
Fremont Area Community Foundation and Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital share a common vision of improving the health of the communities they serve. Thank you to the Fremont Area Community Foundation for a grant to Tamarac, a Spectrum Health fitness and wellness facility in Fremont. Tamarac treats the whole person by providing access to wellness education in addition to fitness training.

In 1933, two visionary philanthropists laid the groundwork for what would become Fremont Area Community Foundation. Since 1972, the foundation has been giving back to thousands of Newago County residents. The foundation identifies five areas of focus: education, community and economic development, natural resources, nonprofit sustainability, and poverty to prosperity. “Rural areas with low levels of educational attainment experience higher rates of poverty and unemployment” said Carla Roberts, President and CEO of Fremont Area Community Foundation. “Wellness and access to care are part of the educational process because a healthy body is just as important as a healthy mind. Tamarac is a great partner because their offerings go beyond exercise. It provides the opportunity to learn about a more holistic approach to health. This grant provides access to Tamarac membership for residents who would not otherwise be able to take advantage of this resource and includes the option of a personal trainer to guide their wellness journey.”

For Jasen Routley, the funding allows him a membership and personal training close to home. He can develop and maintain the necessary strength to remain living independently—something that was uncertain 11 years ago when he was paralyzed in an ATV accident. “After the accident, I was driving to Grand Rapids two times a week and I simply couldn’t afford to continue,” said Jasen. “My workouts here are three days each week and help me maintain strength and improve my quality of life. I am able to drive my vehicle, which gives me the ability to enjoy a variety of activities with my son.” Jasen co-manages and runs a boat rental service on Fremont Lake and enjoys being outdoors as much as possible. “I am thankful for everything Spectrum Health, Tamarac and the Fremont Area Foundation does for me and my family.”

Joshua Gustafson, director of community health for Tamarac, and Carla agree Tamarac is more than a gym. “We believe fitness is only one of the factors contributing to overall health improvement,” said Josh. “We help people improve each aspect of their health while empowering and educating them along the way.” Tamarac is a great example that health and well-being are essential to overall health.

**By the numbers**

$43,472

The dollar amount of un-reimbursed care and scholarships provided for area residents. Portions of this amount were subsidized through generous donations to Tamarac. July 1 through June 30.

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Carla Roberts
Jasen Routley and Joshua Gustafson
Annual Gerber Memorial Golf Scramble Raises more than $31,000 for Cancer Center.

Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial employees and our generous community partners chipped in for a good cause at the 16th annual SHGM Golf Scramble on June 3, raising more than $31,000 under perfect blue skies and in 70-degree weather.

The amount is the largest the golf event has raised. Proceeds will go toward Spectrum Health’s Cancer Center at Gerber Memorial. Dozens of seasoned and novice golfers participated in the event at Pilgrim’s Run Golf Club in Pierson.

Greg Staskewicz, host of The Gerber Guest House and a first-time participant of the fundraiser, said he was thrilled to support the event and do his part to help in the fight against cancer.

“Golf is a great game that doesn’t stand in the way of charitable activities, so I’m glad I can show my support,” Staskewicz said. “Events like this are a way for people in our community to give back. And the people of West Michigan are among the most giving and charitable around.”

Staskewicz’s younger brother is a cancer survivor who overcame his illness and showed him how good medical support, faith and hard work can beat back stage 4 Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“As long as I can do something for the next person, I’d do it,” Staskewicz said.

The event also featured another first: A hole-in-one, by Scott White, who used a driver to sink his shot on the Par 4, 10th hole, known as the “Wicket Gate.” The 290-yard hole-in-one was White’s first ever.

The Golf Scramble continues the fundraising success of the Gerber Memorial fund development team of director Paul Bedient and specialist Loretta Towne.

Just weeks earlier, they announced Gerber Memorial’s record-setting “I Give” campaign, with 196 Gerber Memorial employees donating $33,000, eclipsing the $20,000 raised in 2015. Bedient and Towne – who both began working at Gerber only in February, 2016 – took a different approach to the “I Give” campaign this year. They reached out to each of Gerber Memorial’s offices, talked to employees and attracted many new first-time donors. System-wide, the campaign raised more than $549,000.
Tamarac’s Annual Turkey Trot
Offers a “Buffet” of Choices

For 2016, you get to have it “your way” for Tamarac’s Annual Turkey Trot. New this year will be chip-timed races (10k and 5k), a 5k walk and a 1/2 mile Fun Run for kids. And, when you register by Thursday, September 15, you’ll be able to take advantage of Tamarac’s “Train2Trot” program for free. This is a 10-week training program to help you with either the 10k or the 5k. You’ll receive individualized coaching, weekly group training runs and a weekly email packed with tips and the training schedule. The 5k and 10k runs begin at 8 a.m. as does the 5K walk. The kids’ Fun Run begins at 9:15 a.m. Final registration is November 22, 2016. You can find all the information at www.tamaracwellness.org/events.

New Faces for Gerber Memorial’s Development Department

There are two new faces in Gerber Memorial’s Fund Development office. Fund Development Director Paul Bedient began his position at the start of 2016, and Fund Development Specialist Loretta Towne joined Bedient in February.

Bedient was the development director for the Tri-Cities (Grand Haven) YMCA and, prior to that, publisher of the Grand Haven Tribune.

“This is an exciting opportunity for me because Gerber Memorial is highly respected as one of the nation’s top rural hospitals. I’ve always been active with a variety of nonprofit organizations, and Gerber Memorial is a perfect fit, I believe,” Bedient said.

He has served in numerous leadership roles on nonprofit boards, including the Mainstreet Program, Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Cities YMCA, Leadership Connect, Michigan Press Association, Michigan Newspapers Inc. and the Michigan Press Association Foundation. He currently resides in Grand Haven and has four children and five grandchildren.

Born and raised in Fremont and a “Gerber Baby,” Towne joins the Fund Development Department after being with the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and, most recently, Spectrum Health’s foundation in Grand Rapids.

“I am excited to be returning home to live and work in the community that I love. I’m happy to do what I enjoy in a career while giving back to the Fremont and Newaygo County areas,” Towne said.

She enjoys spending time with her family and keeping up with her nephews and nieces. Other hobbies include reading, gardening and volunteering with the Fremont Future Farmers of America, where she serves as the Fremont FFA alumni and friends president.