



# Making a difference... TOGETHER

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## Advantages of monitoring system delights donor



Elizabeth Bushell has a place in her heart for the MeritCare Family Birth Center. Yes, she's a mother and a grandmother, but the connection began with her husband. Dr. Robert Bushell was with the Fargo Clinic (now MeritCare) since 1963 as a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Bushell died in 1980 and since then Elizabeth has been anxious to make a special project possible for OB-GYN and the Family Birth Center. Elizabeth started a fund at Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation that is devoted to medical funding. "I've given to other areas, such as the Children's Hospital at MeritCare, but I was so excited when Dr. Thomas Herzog came up with the wonderful idea and need for this project," says Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's gift assisted in the purchase of the OB Trace Vue. This is a computer software monitoring system that improves safety and enhances care for both mother and child during delivery. The system combines fetal and maternal monitoring with a laptop by each bed, with screens of information for both the mother and baby. "All of our mom's in active labor are placed on the monitoring system," says Peggy, a 30-year veteran RN in the Family Birth Center.

"The current status of the mother's contractions and the baby's heart rate can be viewed at any time from the patient's room, at the nurse's station or in remote locations such as the physician's office or home." Continues Peggy, "I worked with Dr. Bushell and at that time everything we charted was in long-hand. With this software system we can use mouse clicks for many things like when an IV was started; and it regularly charts vital signs. If the doctor is not available on the floor we can send information, including the strip that shows contractions and baby's heart rate, which can be viewed from any computer location." This is especially important if the nurse is concerned with the strip and the decision time is short. This remote monitoring wasn't possible without this system.

Both Elizabeth and Peggy addressed the advantages of the system. Peggy adds, "It gives me more time to spend with the patient, but also allows me to monitor her from the nurse's station when she is sleeping."

"I am thrilled I was able to make something possible for OB-GYN," says Elizabeth. "I see the benefit of greater access for the physicians and staff and how it streamlines the care of the patient. I am so glad it's working so well."



*Dr. Thomas Herzog, OB-GYN Managing Physician Partner, and Elizabeth Bushell*

## A surprising coincidence... A gift by one family touches another

Seldom do you give to a cause, then see the impact on someone you know. But that's exactly what happened to Pamela and Wayne Anderson of Fargo.

It all began when Pamela, who serves on the MeritCare Foundation Board and on the MeritCare Health System Board, became committed to the MeritCare Children's Hospital renovation. The reason? "Because it's kids — that's the number-one reason," she says.



*Pamela, Murphy and Wayne Anderson*

She and Wayne gave a leadership gift to the capital campaign, enabling them to sponsor a room. "We talked about it as a family, including our three children, and decided it would be good if we could sponsor one of the private rooms," says Pamela. "I think when sick children can comfortably be with their families, that helps them heal better and faster. We feel fortunate to be in a financial situation where we can help make that possible."

Pamela never imagined she would soon see the impact of their gift. Last May, Pamela, who at that time was regional trust manager at Wells Fargo and has since retired, received a phone call from Kayla Werk, one of her employees. "I couldn't believe it," says Pamela. "Kayla called me from Children's Hospital and told me what had happened with their baby. She told me everything was going to be fine, and then she said, 'And Pam, we're in your room!'"

\* \* \*

Brian and Kayla Werk of Fargo had just been home a day with their newborn, Andre, when they noticed a troubling symptom: he had vomited a small amount of bile. The evening of May 12, they took him to MeritCare Children's Southwest. "We just figured we'd come home a short time later with some medication," says Brian. "We were pretty surprised when they recommended we take him to Children's Hospital for further tests." Andre's symptom needed further investigation because it could have indicated a blockage in the digestive tract — a life-threatening condition that requires emergency surgery.

As soon as they stepped off the elevator and into Children's Hospital, they sensed the difference. "We'd been there once before years earlier, but then it was the more typical hospital setting — white walls, fluorescent lights, very institutional looking," says Brian. "Now it's just cool-looking and very welcoming — not just for the kids, but for the parents, too. The upbeat, colorful setting takes your mind off what's happening, and it calms you."

Kayla recalls her reaction the first time she walked into Andre's room. "I noticed a very colorful sign by the door that said the room was made possible by Pamela and Wayne Anderson. I couldn't believe it. Pamela was my manager," says Kayla. "I remember calling her and telling her what had happened and how much we appreciated the private, comfortable room she and Wayne had made possible. We could be with Andre the entire time, and that meant a lot to us as parents."

That evening and throughout the night, Andre underwent various tests and monitoring. Everything turned out fine, and the next day Andre was able to go home. But the experience left an impression.



*Aubrie, Kayla, Alexander, Andre and Brian Werk*

"We're a family of five with both parents working, so we're pretty consumed by schedules," says Brian. "I think the hospital experience with Andre caused us to slow down for just a moment and consider all we have. We're grateful for a healthy family, for the opportunity to receive good medical care locally and for a community that supports a place like MeritCare Children's Hospital. We just want to say thanks."

## Valuing their MeritCare connection

“Always being there when you need it. A constant, reliable place that you can depend on.” That is how Arlyce and Harris Widmer described MeritCare to the donors gathered at the 9th annual dinner of the Honor’s on October 18, 2005.



*Harris and Arlyce Widmer*

The Widmers are long time patients, supporters and friends of MeritCare. Though they described their own personal experiences as not quite so dramatic as many patients have experienced, they found a place they could rely on for high quality and caring healthcare. They forged a relationship with their doctors and related healthcare professionals that have made them feel like family. That relationship has lasted over forty years and through many changes in the Widmers’ lives.

Perhaps the most memorable experience was one felt by Arlyce when her mother was hospitalized. Thanks to MeritCare Social Services and a special social worker, transitioning her mother to the nursing home was made easier. The helping hand of MeritCare staff lightened the burden for Arlyce and her mother during a stressful and changing time.

The Honors is an annual event for our donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more in total donations. Each year, a special highlight of the Honors is hearing the testimony of committed donors. We are grateful to the Widmers for sharing their story and for their generous philanthropy.



Contemporary Builders, KVLV -TV11, and KX4 became partners to bring the Red River Valley the “Charity Home” on Osgood Villas of southwest Fargo.

Professionals in the region have come together to create a truly magnificent home, showcasing the latest amenities and technology in modern home building.

The Charity Home is almost finished and the public is invited to tour the home. The \$5 admission for the tour will benefit the MeritCare Roger Maris Cancer Center. Charity Home tours begin mid-February. The home will be open from 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and tours run for 6 weeks. The home is located at 5846 Osgood Parkway South, Fargo, ND 58104. The most convenient access is using 40th Avenue South to 58th Street South and follow the Charity Home signs.

For more information about dates of the tours log on to [KVLVTV11.com](http://KVLVTV11.com) or [KX4.com](http://KX4.com). Anyone interested in purchasing the home can contact Contemporary Builders.



## *Festival of Wreaths attracts record numbers*

The 2005 *Festival of Wreaths* raised a record amount of

donations — over \$125,000, up 9% from 2004. There was great attendance for the festival and the Saturday events, Breakfast with Santa, Pizza with Santa and the Gala, sold out!

A big thank you to all who attended and purchased items. Congratulations to the volunteer committee who plans this event. This year funds will be used for eating disorders after-care programs that provide emotional support for patients with anorexia, bulimia, and obesity.

We look forward to seeing you at the next *Festival of Wreaths* November 16, 17, and 18, 2006.



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**More information about how your donation is making a difference for patients and families at MeritCare can be found on our web site at [www.foundation.meritcare.com](http://www.foundation.meritcare.com)**

### **Scholarship applications open January 15**

Through the generosity of donors, MeritCare Foundation has established these scholarships to support individuals who are beginning or advancing their medical education.

#### **Albert Ronice Scholarship — One \$2,100 scholarship awarded**

Nursing students entering their 4th year of training for a Bachelor's degree in nursing through the Tri-College Nursing Program. Priority for this scholarship is: 1) graduate of St. Lukes' School of Nursing; 2) MeritCare associate; or 3) general nursing student.

#### **Alyce Ovidia Grangaard Memorial Scholarship — Three \$3,500 scholarships awarded**

North Dakota High School Seniors accepted into North Dakota State University or Concordia College pre-nursing program. Students must have applied for financial aid at that educational institution. Priority is given to those with financial need.

#### **Carla Jean Holter Memorial Scholarship — One \$1,000 scholarship awarded**

Current MeritCare nurses with proven financial need entering their 4th year of training in the Tri-College Nursing Program. Recipient is required to work at MeritCare for a minimum of one year following graduation.

#### **Mary Jo Langenwalter Scholarship — Two \$500 scholarships awarded**

Clinical Laboratory Science students interning at MeritCare who have a great financial need.

Scholarship forms and directions can be printed from the Foundation web site at [www.foundation.meritcare.com](http://www.foundation.meritcare.com) using the scholarship link on the left. Or contact Mary Schott at the Foundation at (701) 234-6246.

Application deadline for all scholarships is May 15.