



NEWS RELEASE

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BOTHWELL FOUNDATION RECEIVES DONATION TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW FUNDS FOR HEALTH CARE

The generosity of a Sedalia couple has allowed the Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation to endow funds that will benefit treatment programs for two of the area's most serious health concerns.

The Foundation announced Monday evening the creation of the Frances Loveall Stroke Recovery Fund and the Gene Loveall Cancer Services Fund. The funds were named in honor of Gene and Frances Loveall, a Sedalia couple who made a \$100,000 contribution to the Foundation. The donation will be split evenly between the two funds.

"We're very excited about the creation of these two funds because they allow us to continue to invest in new equipment and other developments to improve the delivery of stroke recovery programs and cancer treatment at Bothwell Regional Health Center," said Foundation President David Floyd. "The Lovealls know firsthand how important these services are to the community, and their donation will help other patients who face the same health issues."

"We've seen the joy in giving, and the joy from the recipients of gifts, and we wanted to do more while we are still here to enjoy it," Loveall said. "The hospital was the first thing that came to mind. We're doing this out of our own hearts because it makes us feel good."

The Lovealls chose to direct their donation to stroke recovery and cancer because of their own personal experiences. Loveall was treated for prostate cancer at Bothwell about three years ago, and Mrs. Loveall received in-patient



Gene Loveall, left, along with his wife Frances, talks about what prompted them to make a donation to the Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation during a reception in their honor on Monday, Oct. 24.

and out-patient physical, occupational and speech therapy at Bothwell in 2003 following a stroke.

“She was in Columbia for about four weeks after her stroke,” Loveall said of his wife of 61 years. “I was driving back and forth until we were able to move her here to Bothwell. She stayed here for another three weeks and did therapy, and even after she was able to go home, we came back for more therapy. Frances basically had to relearn how to do a lot of things, and the people here helped me get her back.”

Loveall also praised radiation oncologist Dr. William Decker and the staff of the Susan O'Brien Fischer Cancer Center for the treatment and care he received after his cancer diagnosis.

“They were just the best,” Loveall said.

The Lovealls moved to Sedalia in 1987 after selling a chain of five western wear stores they owned and operated in North Carolina. Loveall opened the first store in Jacksonville, N.C., after retiring from the Marine Corps and spending time as advertising manager of a Sears store and managing two radio stations.

“The ‘Urban Cowboy’ thing was big then, and everybody wanted hats and boots,” Loveall said, referring to the John Travolta movie. “I opened that first store and before long I had five of them.”

After selling the stores, the couple came to Missouri, Loveall’s home state, looking for property. They bought 40 acres outside the west city limits, and it wasn’t long before Loveall opened Gene’s Boots & Hats in the Thompson Hills Shopping Center. He sold the store a couple of years later.

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Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation was formed in 2005 to develop relationships and resources to financially support the health center. The Foundation receives contributions from patients, employees, physicians, volunteers, and friends in the region. These gifts help equip the health center with the latest medical technology, provide scholarships and on-going employee training, develop new services, and fund important health-related initiatives.

Bothwell Regional Health Center is a 140-bed regional health center serving west-central Missouri with state-of-the-art technology and comprehensive health and wellness services including surgical, cancer, orthopedic, cardiovascular, women's health, and therapy services. For more information on Bothwell and its services, visit the website at www.brhc.org.