

NEWS RELEASE

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BOTHWELL REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER FOUNDATION EMBARKS ON FIRST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation announced today that it is undertaking its first capital campaign. The campaign, titled "For Your Health, Close to Home" hopes to raise \$3.5 million for the health center's planned addition of a new cancer and cardiovascular center.

The Foundation has already raised \$1.77 million, more than half of its goal, through donations from community leaders, hospital employees and volunteers, the Foundation board and its Capital Campaign Steering Committee, the BRHC Board of Trustees, and physicians, according to Foundation Board President Dave Floyd.

"This is an impressive amount for the Foundation's first capital campaign," said Floyd. "Equally impressive is this community's commitment to support the causes in which it believes."

Many donors have been eager to support this effort to improve cancer and cardiovascular services because they have been personally affected by cancer or heart disease, according Floyd.

The incidence of heart disease and cancer in Pettis and Benton Counties is greater than in most other counties in Missouri. Bothwell has seen a 23 percent increase in demand for cancer treatment in the past three years, and treatment levels for chemotherapy have more than doubled since 2005. The mortality rate due to heart disease is 17 percent higher in Pettis and Benton County residents than the national average.

Mary McIntosh and Joe Fischer, both of Sedalia, are serving as co-chairs of the Foundation's Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Both know firsthand how cancer and cardiovascular disease can impact a family.

"This effort to enhance cancer and cardiovascular care holds a very special significance for me and my family," said Fischer, whose wife, Susan, died two years ago from brain cancer. "Susan received radiation therapy here at Bothwell, so I've seen firsthand the good things that they do at this Cancer Center. The

care we received here was extraordinary. Supporting the Foundation's effort to raise funds to help other families experience this same care and have that same peace of mind was not something I hesitated to do."

The Bothwell Regional Health Center Board of Trustees approved a proposal in December to allow the health center to borrow \$18.3 million for construction projects, including the cancer and cardiovascular addition, which would be built on the east side of the hospital. The loan funds cover construction only, and additional funds will be needed for desired equipment and interior finishes to enhance the environment of care. Every dollar that the hospital doesn't have to borrow ensures greater financial stability and builds a stronger financial base for the future, Floyd said.

All gifts, including stock or property, are tax deductible. People interested in learning more about what they can do to enhance cancer and cardiovascular services in Pettis and Benton counties may contact Foundation Director Melia Douglass at 660-826-6263. The Foundation also plans to accept donations online soon at www.brhc.org.

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