TO YOUR

HEALTH

BOONE COUNTY HOSPITAL

Newsletter for the Boone County Community • Spring 2025

125 YEARS

Inside This Issue:

From the CEO: A Legacy of Healing, A Future of Hope 2

Ambulance Services: Ensuring Reliable Care 3

New Providers and Rehab Department Updates 4

Care, Certification, Community, and Celebration 6

BCH Foundation: Capital Equipment, Events, and Board Members 8

Project Be the Light: Shining Bright and How to Apply 10

Nursing Honor Guard: Serving Those Who Have Served Others 11

From the BCH CEO

A Legacy of Healing A Future of Hope

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and enjoying all that Spring has to offer.

At Boone County Hospital (BCH), our recent focus has been strategic and facility planning. We are excited to share that we have updated our Hospital vision to: "Our Hospital is a beacon of excellence and safety in healthcare with an exceptional workforce focused on patient care, operational efficiency, and community engagement." This vision statement reflects what BCH means to the community and sets the standard for what you can expect from us in the future.

Boone County Hospital has long been a pillar of strength in our community, providing care that has touched countless lives over the years. On June 28, we will celebrate our 125th anniversary—a milestone that speaks to the resilience and dedication of our staff and the community we serve. Just like the healthcare field, BCH has undergone many changes since its founding, but our mission to serve the people of Boone County and surrounding areas has remained unwavering.

Over the past year, BCH has experienced significant growth and financial stability, positioning us to focus on the future. We've worked diligently to ensure this stability will continue, allowing BCH to be here for many more years to come. We deeply value your continued support, which strengthens the foundation of our organization and empowers us to serve you better. Our community is at the heart of everything we do, and we strive to honor the relationships we've built while continuing to create new ones.

We remain committed to providing you with exceptional healthcare right here in your community and are incredibly grateful for your ongoing trust and support. Here's to a healthy and prosperous 2025!

- Mikaela Kienitz, Chief Executive Officer

Pictured above: Mikaela Kienitz, Boone County Hospital Chief Executive Officer

"Our community is at the heart of everything we do, and we strive to honor the relationships we've built while continuing to create new ones."

- Mikaela Kienitz

Ambulance Services

Ensuring Reliable Care

The Boone County ambulance service provides advanced-level Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and interfacility medical transport to the citizens of Boone County 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The service operates with three fully staffed crews, always ensuring coverage. Two of these crews are stationed at the Hospital, while the third is based at the Boone Fire Department through a contracted staffing agreement with the City of Boone. As demand has steadily increased, the service has responded to over 3,000 calls annually over the past four years.

In Boone County, the ambulance service is owned and operated by Boone County Hospital (BCH). We are committed to providing exceptional service, staffed by highly trained professionals with the necessary tools to save lives. Our goal is to ensure residents have access to timely, life-saving care, particularly in emergencies.

This past fall, I had the privilege of serving on a panel at the Iowa Hospital Association's Annual Meeting, where we discussed EMS availability across Iowa. The panel included representatives from hospital-owned ambulance services throughout the state. It was enlightening to hear how hospitals tackle the growing issue of EMS coverage in their areas and nearby communities. Unfortunately, many regions in Iowa lack EMS coverage, as it is not mandated like police and fire services—we, too, are affected by this, with neighboring communities lacking EMS.

One of the challenges we face in providing EMS at Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) like BCH is cost. While rural hospitals may seem like a natural solution to the EMS availability problem, EMS services are not considered part of the core services defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As a result, we are financially penalized for offering this vital service. For example, BCH was penalized $1.5 million last year for owning and operating the ambulance service. Furthermore, the cost of maintaining and updating equipment continues to rise. In 2023, BCH invested $560,000 into two new ambulances, not including the additional cost of equipment and medications necessary to respond to emergencies.

EMS staff are highly skilled and in demand, which increases the cost of staffing these services. BCH is proud to serve as an economic engine for Boone County, creating jobs and supporting our local workforce.

Despite the financial challenges, BCH operates an exceptional ambulance service with excellent response times. When you call 911, you can count on an ambulance showing up to assist you—and we are fortunate this is the case in Boone County. Many of the calls we respond to do not result in charges, meaning a significant portion of the service is provided free of charge to community members. Our ambulance service is also at numerous local events, such as the Boone Speedway, the Farm Progress Show, and various concerts, sporting events, and recreational activities.

In the past two years, the Hospital has begun levying taxes to help support the ambulance service. We were one of only two hospitals in the state with ambulance services that were not previously levying taxes. This tax levy helps offset some expenses and losses associated with operating the ambulance service but does not cover the full deficit. While these challenges may seem daunting, I want to reassure you that BCH remains fully committed to providing this crucial service. We are dedicated to being a strong resource and advocate for our community and will continue to meet the needs of those we serve.

"We are committed to providing exceptional service, staffed by highly trained professionals."

- Mikaela Kienitz

New Providers

Meet the New Faces at BCH

Boone County Hospital (BCH) is excited to welcome a talented group of new medical professionals, strengthening our commitment to comprehensive healthcare.

Dr. Zaki Ibrahim joined the BCH Specialty Clinic in the fall of 2024. He specializes in Orthopedic Spine Surgery and sees patients in the BCH Specialty Clinic. Dr. Ibrahim earned his Medical Degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN. Patients may require a referral depending on their insurance plan. To schedule an appointment, call (515) 440-2676.

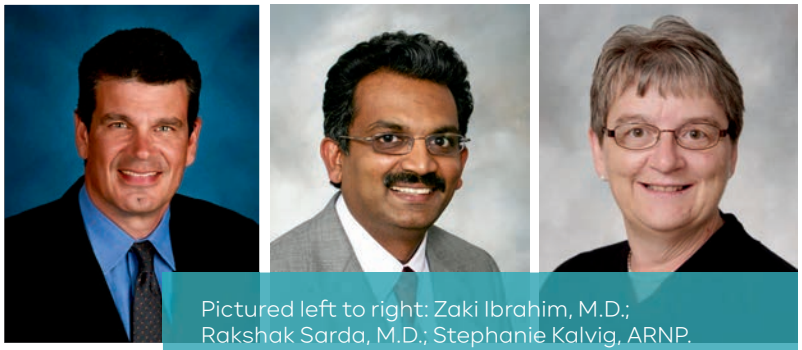
Iowa Heart has expanded its outreach cardiology coverage at the BCH Specialty Clinic. Stephanie Kalvig, ARNP, is available two to three days each month, and Dr. Rakshak Sarda sees patients one to two days per month. Together, they rotate clinic days to provide consistent, high-quality cardiology services. To schedule an appointment with Stephanie or Dr. Sarda, call (515) 433-8300.

Dr. Chad Stocker and Kendra Perry, ARNP, from Dermatology Central Iowa, now offer outreach services at the BCH Specialty Clinic two Fridays each month. They provide dermatology consultations and treatments. To schedule an appointment, call (515) 644-3400.

Janeen Busch, ARNP, provides dermatology services at Boone County Family Medicine South and has extended her hours. For an appointment with Janeen, call (515) 432-2335.

Janelle Elken, ARNP, joined the BCH Medical Staff in late 2024. She received her degree from Purdue Global University, Lafayette, IN. Janelle now provides care at Boone County Family Medicine (BCFM) in Ogden and the BCFM Walk-In Clinic in Boone, enhancing same-day access for our patients.

Thomas Bik, ARNP, now provides care at the Boone County Family Medicine Walk-In Clinic. He received his degree from Chamberlain University, Chicago, IL, and has most recently worked in a Post-Anesthesia



Pictured left to right: Zaki Ibrahim, M.D.; Rakshak Sarda, M.D.; Stephanie Kalvig, ARNP.

Pictured above: The renovated Rehabilitation Services department, made possible by support from the 2022 Harvest Festival Fund-a-Need.

Department Updates

Rehab Renovated

At Boone County Hospital, every department plays a vital role in helping patients heal - and our Rehabilitation Services team is no exception.

Each day, this department sees 60 to 80 patients recovering from injury, surgery, or

Pictured left to right: Chad Stocker, M.D.; Kendra Perry, ARNP; Janeen Bush, ARNP.

Care Unit. No appointment is needed to be seen by a provider in the Walk-in Clinic.

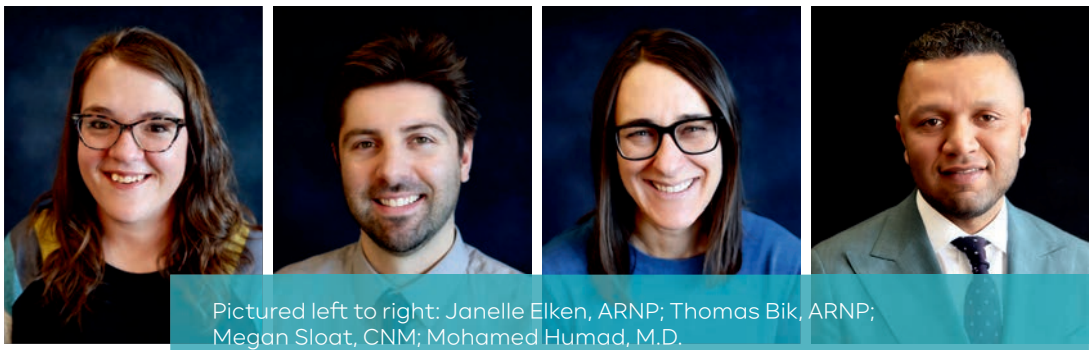
Megan Sloat, Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), now provides obstetrics and women's health at the Madrid Family Practice. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Yale University School of Nursing, New Haven, CT. Megan previously served as the Director of Midwifery and Women's Health in Ames and Des Moines since 2014. To schedule an appointment, call (515) 795-4300.

Dr. Mohamed Humad has joined the BCH Medical Staff and provides care in the Emergency Room alongside Drs. Evert, Krome, Sheffler, and Napier. He received his Medical Degree from Windsor University School of Medicine, Saint Kitts, West Indies. Before joining BCH, Dr. Humad worked in the Emergency Room at two hospitals and served as Medical Director at one of them.

Our commitment to expanding our services and enhancing our team ensures that patients receive the highest standard of medical attention across a wide range of specialties. Please welcome our new providers to the BCH Medical Staff.

To learn more about all the Boone County Hospital and Clinics providers, including specialties, locations, and how to schedule an appointment, visit our website, boonehospital.com. You can also scan the QR code below for quick access to our online provider directory.

Scan for BCH Provider Directory



Pictured left to right: Janelle Elken, ARNP; Thomas Bik, ARNP; Megan Sloat, CNM; Mohamed Humad, M.D.

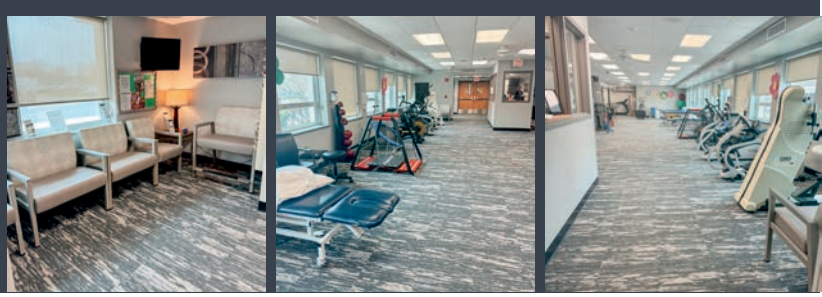
medical conditions impacting mobility and function. These individuals work one-on-one with skilled physical therapists who guide them toward strength, independence, and improved quality of life. It's hard work—for both patients and staff—and the space where that work happens matters.

Thanks to generous support from our community through the Boone County Hospital Foundation's 2022 Harvest Festival Fund-a-Need, the department has undergone a much-needed renovation, bringing new energy and comfort to the space where healing happens every day.

The facelift includes fresh paint, updated flooring, new furniture, and a reimagined layout that enhances the department's look and flow. The result is a brighter, more welcoming space that reflects the high-quality care our therapy team provides to every patient who walks through the doors.

The updated design improves aesthetics and supports a more functional and efficient space for patients and staff. Every detail was chosen with care to create a positive, healing-focused environment.

We are so thankful to everyone who made this project possible. Your donations are more than just dollars—they're an investment in the health and well-being of our community.



Wound and Hyperbaric Center

Award-Winning Care at BCH

BCH Wound and Hyperbaric Center has earned national recognition for excellence in patient care.

The Boone County Hospital (BCH) Wound and Hyperbaric Center is a recipient of the RestorixHealth's Clinical Distinction Award. Recipients of this award meet or exceed national clinical benchmarks over a set period.

"This achievement reaffirms the high quality of care the BCH Wound and Hyperbaric Center (W&HC) provides our patients every day," says Medical Director of the W&HC, Dr. John Erickson. "We are proud to be a recipient of an award that recognizes how our staff's hard work and dedication has produced positive patient outcomes."

The W&HC is dedicated to optimizing outcomes and preventing lower limb loss in patients with non-healing wounds. Their approach to wound care is comprehensive, coordinating traditional and advanced therapies that aid and accelerate the healing process.

The Center is staffed with clinicians who have advanced wound care and hyperbaric medicine training. Integrating a team of wound care professionals optimizes patient care while offering the most advanced healing options.

For more information, visit boonehospital.com or call for an appointment at (515) 433-8740.

Pictured above: Cathy Wetzler, Bob Getchman, Mikaela Kienitz, Evan Jorgenson, Troy Thompson.

Board of Trustees

Certified and Committed

In March 2025, 73 Iowa hospital trustees and 21 Iowa hospital boards were honored at the 2025 Iowa Hospital Association Governance Forum.

The Boone County Hospital Board of Trustees received a one-star certification. This certification provides a framework for hospital trustees and governing boards to demonstrate their individual and collective commitment to their governance roles and responsibilities. It comprises education and governance best practices.

Bob Getschman and Cathy Wetzeler were newly certified, and Lisa Kobernusz was recertified at the event. Trustees meet the certification requirements after completing 12 hours of healthcare-specific education over two years and confirming individually and as a Board that they are using recognized governance best practices. IHA also recognizes hospitals and health systems as one-, two- or three-star boards, depending on the percentage of board members certified.

"Receiving the one-star certification is a significant achievement for our Board and highlights our ongoing commitment to excellence in governance," says BCH Board of Trustees Chair Bob Getschman. "As trustees, we are dedicated to staying informed and continuously improving in key areas like finance, quality, and compliance, which are vital to the success of Boone County Hospital. This certification not only

validates our individual and collective efforts, but it also demonstrates to our community, employees, and stakeholders that we are committed to the highest standards of care and governance. We are proud of the progress we've made, and we remain focused on ensuring the continued well-being of the people we serve."

The IHA Board Certification Program reinforces board members' staying informed on the pressing healthcare topics of the day – finance, quality, compliance, and technology – while formally committing to good governance practices.

"Board recognition from IHA is an honor that speaks to the dedication and commitment of our Board members to Boone County Hospital and the communities that we serve," said Mikaela Kienitz, BCH CEO. "We are extremely fortunate to have such a great group of individuals on our Board who always look out for the betterment of our organization and our community."

BCH staff collected and delivered food to Adair County Health System employees displaced by the 2024 tornado.

Proudly Serving Our Community

At Boone County Hospital (BCH), we believe quality healthcare extends beyond our walls—it's about being an active, compassionate part of the community we serve.

In recent years, we've prioritized deepening our community involvement, participating in local events, parades, and sponsorships, and supporting programs that make a meaningful impact. BCH has provided over 300 community service and/or health-related events in the past two years.

We are just beginning our third year leading the Food for Kids Program. BCH distributed over 1,000 bags of food in 2024 to children in Boone, Ogden, and Madrid. During the holidays, our Angel Tree campaign ensures nursing home residents without family have a gift to open on Christmas.

Our Ambulance Department provides medical services at major local events, including RAGBRAI and Super Nationals, as well as sporting and other recreational activities. Many BCH employees also volunteer at the Free Clinic twice a month, offering medical and administrative support.

We proudly participate in community parades, speak at local group events, and serve with local civic organizations through board and committee involvement.

Through a partnership with our local school districts, we have increased the coverage provided by our Athletic Trainers. Donating these hours further supports the commitment to our community and our area youth.

These efforts reflect our continued mission to improve and enhance the health and well-being of those we serve.

BCH Celebrates 125 Years

We're marking a significant milestone: 125 years of dedicated service, compassion, and commitment to the health of our community - and we want to celebrate with you!

Join us for a community celebration on:
Saturday, June 28, 2025
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
BCH Parking Lots

This special event is our way of saying thank you to our incredible staff, patients, families, and neighbors who have been part of our journey over the years. It's a celebration for all ages, and we hope you'll bring your whole family to enjoy an afternoon full of fun, food, and reflection.

Here's what you can look forward to:
- Free lunch
- Dessert food trucks
- Kids activities
- Live music entertainment
- A look back at BCH's rich history and commitment

Let's come together as a community to honor the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a bright, healthy future.

Pictured above: Recent capital items purchased by the BCH Foundation include powered stair chairs, an electric ER stretcher, a UV disinfection robot, and a new patient chair—each helps enhance care and safety across the Hospital.

Capital Equipment

Foundation-Funded Upgrades Improve Care

The Boone County Hospital Foundation recently funded several key capital purchases that are making a meaningful impact at BCH.

These investments support patient care and staff safety, reflecting the Foundation's continued commitment to enhancing healthcare close to home.

Among the additions are Stryker-powered stair chairs for ambulance crews, designed to move patients up and down stairs safely using a powered track system - funded in part by grants from the Leonard A. Good Trust, Beckwith Family Charitable Foundation, and Pratt-Fenton Trust. The Emergency Department received a Big Wheel Electric ER Stretcher—one of the most-used pieces of equipment in the Hospital. This updated stretcher improves maneuverability and allows electric adjustments for the head and feet, enhancing patient comfort and staff ergonomics.

To support infection prevention, a Skytron UV disinfection robot was added. With two independently operating units, it helps reduce bacteria and viruses in multiple areas of the Hospital. The Wound and Hyperbaric Center also received a new patient chair.

Each of these upgrades helps create a safer, more efficient environment for patients and staff. To learn more about the Foundation or support future projects, visit boonehospital.com/foundation.

"Supporting the Hospital in being the best it can be for our community - that's what the Foundation is here for."

- Shellie Grabau

Pictured above: Joel Williams, outgoing BCH Foundation Board member, with current Board president Shellie Grabau.

Trestle Hustle June 21

The Boone County Hospital Foundation invites you to the 16th Annual Trestle Hustle! This year's event will take place on the scenic High Trestle Trail, a prime location for an exhilarating day of competition and camaraderie. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or a beginner, this event has something for everyone, welcoming participants of all abilities aged 14 and over.

Registration: $60 for 5K/10K, $70 for individual or relay Duathlon. Visit bit.ly/BCHF-TH to register.

Golf Tournament July 24

Get ready for a memorable day at the 10th Annual Mike Scheuermann Memorial Golf Tournament at Cedar Pointe Golf Course. Enjoy a full day of sportsmanship and fun, including breakfast sandwiches from Boone County Hospital Dietary, a pass-through brat lunch by VisionBank, and dinner as you leave the course.

Registration: $500 for a team of 4 ($125 per person). Registration opens in June, and space is limited. Visit bit.ly/BCHF-MASGolf for more information.

Harvest Festival October 24

Save the date for the 17th Annual Harvest Festival at the 1868 Farmhouse! Enjoy a themed dinner and dessert, participate in exciting games, and bid on incredible items in our live auction. The night will be filled with live entertainment and a special Fund-A-Need segment, all to support the Boone County Hospital Foundation. Dress to impress, and come ready to celebrate for a great cause.

Tickets: Go on sale in September. Visit bit.ly/BCHF-HF for more information.

Foundation Board Members

Recognizing Service and Growth

The Boone County Hospital Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to Joel Williams for his exceptional service over the past nine years. Joel served on the Foundation Board from 2016 to 2025, including seven years as our dedicated Board Treasurer. His leadership and financial guidance played a vital role in advancing the Foundation's mission.

As we thank Joel for his years of service, we are pleased to welcome a new face to the board. Raph Montag joins us as the newest Foundation Board Member, bringing a passion for community involvement and a heart for service. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and energy he will bring to our work.

Together, with the continued support of our Board members—past and present—we remain committed to enhancing patient care and strengthening Boone County Hospital's impact throughout our community.

BOONE COUNTY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

515.433.8487 | events@bchmail.org

PROJECT BE THE LIGHT

Cancer not only takes a toll on the body and spirit—it often brings overwhelming financial burdens as well. That's why the Boone County Hospital Foundation created Project Be the Light, a program designed to support Boone County families facing financial hardship due to a cancer diagnosis.

Since its inception, Project Be the Light has awarded $5,000 grants to three local families, helping them manage the financial strain that often accompanies treatment. These grants assist with essential needs such as medical bills, housing, utilities, transportation, and other living expenses.

The goal is simple yet powerful: to ease some stress so patients and their families can focus on what matters most—healing and being together.

But Project Be the Light is about more than financial aid. It's a reminder that no one in our community has to walk through a cancer journey alone. It reflects the compassion, generosity, and shared strength of those who give, making it possible to shine a light during some of life's darkest moments.

Know Someone in Need? Let Us Help!

If you or someone you love is facing the financial strain of a cancer diagnosis, Project Be the Light is here to help. These grants are designed to bring relief to Boone County families when they need it most. Visit boonehospital.com/foundation/pbtl to learn more and apply today.

A Community Shining Bright

Project Be the Light (PBTL) continues to shine bright thanks to the incredible generosity and spirit of our Boone County community. This initiative, which provides financial relief to local families facing a cancer diagnosis, has been the focus of several meaningful fundraising efforts over the past year—and the results have been nothing short of inspiring.

PBTL was selected as our Fund A Need for the 2024 Harvest Festival, and the response was overwhelming, with $67,000 raised in one night to support this vital cause.

That momentum carried into 2025. In January, the Wig Run Pub Crawl, organized by Kelli Casper, owner of Bottled Bliss, turned heads and lifted spirits—with every dollar raised going directly to Project Be the Light. Participating stops included Bottled Bliss, Yoke's Railhouse, Moose Lodge, VFW #817, Boone Valley Brewing, and Roosters—each playing a role in making the event a success. Then, in February, Boone Edge students Avery Chesnut and Hendrix Moorman hosted a Silent Disco, combining fun with purpose in a creative and memorable way. Together, these events raised over $2,000 for Project Be the Light.

Additionally, the Boone High Track team has lent their support by donating proceeds from sponsorships at the Don Howard Invitational, further showing how our youth are stepping up to make a difference.

These events are more than just fundraisers—they're reminders of the power of community. As we look ahead, we are grateful for the ongoing support and are committed to continuing this mission. Together, we are lighting the way for Boone County families navigating the challenges of cancer.

Nursing Honor Guard

Serving Those Who Have Served Others

A nurse's dedication to caring for others extends beyond a career - it is a calling, a lifelong commitment to service and compassion.

Boone County Hospital (BCH) has established a Nursing Honor Guard, created with the help of both retired and current nurses at BCH. The Nursing Honor Guard is a group of volunteer nurses (RNs, LPNs, active and retired) who honor and pay tribute to their fellow nurses during their final services. Just as military honor guards recognize those who have served their country, BCH aims to honor nurses for their lifelong commitment to caring for others.

The Guard honors this devotion by offering a heartfelt tribute during funeral or memorial services. Through a meaningful ceremony, we celebrate the legacy of each nurse and express our gratitude for their years of service. Available services include honorary pallbearers, the Nightingale Pledge, a final call to duty, a casket honor guard, and a white rose presented to the family.

"I'm incredibly excited and honored to be part of the inception of Boone County Hospital's first Nursing Honor Guard," says Juanita Gilley, BCH House Supervisor. "To honor and remember the nurses who have dedicated their lives to serving others through a beautiful ceremony is truly one of the greatest gifts we can offer."

The ceremony serves as a powerful reminder that the impact of a nurse's work extends far beyond hospital walls. It's a moment for families, colleagues, and communities to reflect on the selfless care, quiet strength, and countless lives touched by the hands of a compassionate nurse. These tributes often bring comfort and healing, helping families feel seen and supported during a difficult time.

Participation in the Nursing Honor Guard is a meaningful way for nurses to give back and remain connected to the profession they love. Whether retired or still active in the field, volunteers find deep fulfillment in honoring the legacy of their peers. It's more than a final farewell—it's a promise that the light of their service will never be forgotten.

If you are a nurse and would like to participate in the honor guard, or if you would like to request an honor guard at an upcoming funeral, please contact us at honorguard@bchmail.org or call (515) 433-8481. For more information, visit boonehospital.com.

"To honor and remember the nurses who have dedicated their lives to serving others through a beautiful ceremony is truly one of the greatest gifts we can offer."

- Juanita Gilley

BOONE COUNTY HOSPITAL
1015 UNION ST • BOONE, IOWA, 50036

HEALTH PORTAL

▸ FOR YOUR CHILD

Sign up to access your child's health record through the BCH Health Portal.

- Access health records of children ages infant to 17
- Communicate electronically with doctor's office for child
- Print immunization records

Get peace of mind and support your child's health - sign up today!

HEALTHY TALK WITH BCH

EMPOWERING YOUR WELLNESS ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME

bit.ly/BCH-HealthyTalk

Let's keep in touch

Boone County Hospital
1015 Union Street
Boone, Iowa, 50036

+1-515-432-3140
www.boonehospital.com

Make a donation

Boone County Hospital Foundation
1015 Union Street
Boone, Iowa, 50036

+1-515-433-8470
www.boonehospital.com/foundation