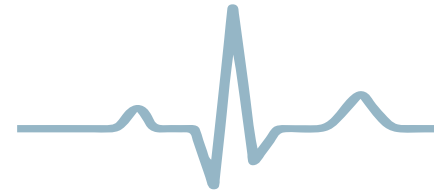


HealthBeat

SPRING 2023



Patti Banks, CEO
Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital



"We've become a leader in the healthcare community. We continue to innovate and find new ways to care for our patients and the greater Ely region."

For the team at EBCH, 2023 is all about welcoming positive change and continuing to serve Ely and the surrounding communities to the best of our abilities.

One way we are doing this is through new services—most recently partnering with a Certified Athletic Trainer who himself grew up in Ely and was a student athlete here.

"We've definitely seen a need for this—particularly at local sporting events—so we're thrilled that we can now offer immediate health support to these young athletes when they need it most," CEO Patti Banks shared.

EBCH has also spent time enhancing its Transitional Care Services (formerly known as the Swing Bed program), an extended-stay rehab program which assists patients in safely and successfully returning

home after acute medical care. The program focuses on providing a level of individualized care not seen in most other skilled nursing facilities.

"Due to many factors, there has been a real need for this type of program in our community," Patti said, "So I wanted EBCH to be able to not only offer one—but also make it an exceptional experience for our patients."

"Our Transitional Care program has been in place for many years, known as swing bed, and before the pandemic it was part of our strategic plan to grow the program. Now, by enhancing our Transitional Care program, we can help with the backlog of patients at other facilities," Patti added.

To help support EBCH's mission of patient and community care, we are also focusing on our Ely Health & Hospital Foundation to

help expand the ways in which it supports health in our community. With each passing year, and particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we see diverse needs within our community that we hope to address through foundation funding.

Now, more than ever before, EBCH recognizes that these diverse needs cannot all be addressed with medical care alone.

"We're looking to provide more for the community than healthcare," Patti explained. "People in our communities struggle with food insecurity, access to reliable internet or utilities, transportation limitations and more. It's my goal that EBCH not only provides excellent healthcare for those who need it, but also collaborates to provide care for people in other ways – to meet their needs where they are at."



ATHLETIC TRAINER RETURNS HOME to Care for Local Athletes, Students

When Louie Gerzin was playing college baseball something clicked for him—he did not want his time in athletics to end simply because he was nearly done with school. Instead, he set his sights on a new goal: to become a certified athletic trainer.

And, fortunately for our community, he succeeded.

"I was born and raised in Ely MN," Louie shared, "so I knew that once I had my degree, I wanted to come home and use it to care for athletes in the community."

Louie's position is a result of a partnership between Orthopaedic Associates and EBCH to provide an Athletic Trainer to Ely Memorial High School and MN North - Vermilion Campus.

"I would like to thank the EBCH team and the Orthopaedic Associates team for providing me this opportunity," Louie said.

Louie looks forward to providing acute care immediately following an injury as well as ongoing care to rehabilitate after an injury, or to prevent injuries from occurring. He splits his time between

the high school and college during the week and attends all home sporting events so that he is available when student athletes need him most.

"There was certainly a need for this in the community," Joe Keranen, EBCH Rehab Team Leader, said. "Having an athletic trainer at the local schools and available during events really enhances safety—including knowing concussion protocol and orthopedic injury assessment."

Now, just over a year into his work as a certified athletic trainer, Louie is hitting his stride as a healthcare provider for the community.

"My biggest goal as an athletic trainer is to get athletes ready to play and then keep them playing," Louie explained. "It's about making sure they're safe playing the sports they love."

Louie has an office at both schools, and students—whether they are athletes or not—are more than welcome to stop by if they have any injuries, illness, questions or concerns. This includes injuries like sprains, overuse injuries, back pain and more.

As his career advances, Louie is determined to provide the highest level of care he can. He is already finding new ways to enhance the experience of local student athletes—starting with preseason sports screenings. These screenings, slated to begin this spring, will be completed with EBCH physical and occupational therapists. They will help ensure student athletes are ready to perform optimally in their chosen sport. This proactive care will keep athletes safer and reduce the risk of preventable injuries.

Louie collaborates with the rehab team at EBCH and works as an athletic trainer with orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Harms at Orthopaedic Associates as his licensing physician. This partnership with Orthopaedic Associates allows us to provide an excellent standard of care to our community.

"I'm just so excited to have this opportunity to care for these athletes," Louie explained. "It truly is a dream come true to work in my hometown. I'm really enjoying the work so far and am excited for what the future holds."



EBCH TRANSITIONAL CARE SERVICES

Help Patients Safely Go from Hospital to Home

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital's Transitional Care Services are second to none. This care—otherwise known as swing bed services—is the bridge between acute hospital care for an illness, surgery, or other health event and a return to independent living outside of a healthcare facility.

Patients in the Transitional Care Program at EBCH receive an individualized care plan that consists of skilled treatment, such as physical or occupational therapy, medication management, and round-the-clock care from nursing staff. It allows patients to recover comfortably, close to home—a major benefit for members of our community.

"Our transitional care team reviews every patient referred to determine if they're eligible for the program. We make sure that our team can provide the specific care needed and that the patient recovering can safely return to home." Linda O'Neill DeRemee, EBCH Social Worker shared. "It's a fantastic program—especially for us to have locally. The comfort and convenience of remaining close to home really does make a difference in recovery."

While many healthcare facilities offer some form of transitional care, EBCH offers a program with benefits that set it apart—and make it an excellent choice if you or someone you love need skilled transitional care.

These benefits include:

- Low patient-to-staff ratio – typically 2:1
- Personalized care plans based on specific health needs and recovery goals
- Robust therapy department (wound care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, & many specialty therapies)
- Onsite pharmacists
- 24/7 nursing care
- Continuity of care if already seeing a local provider
- Comfortable, private rooms

Greg Jonas, Nursing Services Team Leader, shared, "I was born and raised in this community, and it's great to see the hard work we've put into developing this program pay off. With this program, we want to make sure our community knows they can rehab and recover close to home—making it easier to return to a healthy life."

The Transitional Care team receives referrals to the program and coordinates care for each patient that is eligible. Typically, anyone who has had at least a three-night hospital stay or requires the need for skilled rehab qualifies. Once someone is approved to receive Transitional Care Services, one of the team members will manage the patient's case to ensure they have all they need to successfully rehab.

"We try to make the process of being accepted into the program as simple as possible for patients," Linda said. "But I think it's important for people to know we encourage them to be proactive and ask about EBCH's program—many don't know this high level of care is available locally."

If you ever need skilled Transitional Care Services, the program at EBCH is here for you. It can help you get from hospital to home comfortably, conveniently—and with an exceptional level of personalized care. If you would like to learn more, please call Linda O'Neill DeRemee at **218-365-8758.**

ELY HEALTH & HOSPITAL FOUNDATION: Advancing Local, Compassionate Healthcare

Since 2002, the Ely Health & Hospital Foundation has generated resources to sustain and advance the high-quality healthcare provided by Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to the communities we serve. And the foundation's resources come from the members and donors who believe in the foundation's mission—and generously contribute to it.

"It truly is a foundation of philanthropy," Jodi Martin, EBCH Marketing & Communications Team Leader, shared. "While the foundation officially started in 2002, back in 1957 when EBCH was first founded, people donated to help ensure that the hospital could provide the care that this community needed. And that giving spirit continues with the foundation and its investment in EBCH today."

So, how do funds donated to the foundation help community healthcare? Here is a quick list:

- Provide modern, compassionate healthcare for residents and visitors
- Technological advancement with state-of-the-art medical equipment
- Provide free flu shots
- Protect essential services
- Provide medical equipment to the local school districts, including ISD #696 (Ely) and District #2142 (Babbitt)
- Health awareness ads and newspaper articles
- Blood drives
- Free sports screenings in the Wellness Center

There are many ways to contribute to the foundation, but a wonderful way to donate and get directly involved is to become a member.

By becoming a member, you not only contribute resources that the foundation will use to advance our communities' healthcare, but also get one vote for foundation board members and are able to attend the foundation's annual meeting. This allows you to help shape the overall direction of the foundation and how it uses its resources. You can become a member with a one-time \$100 donation—the same amount as when the hospital first opened.

"Foundation members truly have a frontline look of what's happening at the hospital and how funds are being used," Jodi explained. "Their support allows EBCH to continue its mission of advancing healthcare in our region."

Outside of foundation membership, there are many other ways to donate, including:

- **Memorials**
Give a donation of any amount in memory of a loved one
- **Tree of Life**
Donate \$1,000 or more and have your name etched onto a leaf of the Tree of Life – a recognition tree located in EBCH
- **Endowment fund**
- **Corporate matching gift**
- **Planned giving**

"I've seen firsthand all the good the foundation has done for our community, and it makes me so proud to be a part of it," Jodi said. "As we continue to recover and regroup post-pandemic, we're looking forward to helping EBCH achieve its post-pandemic goals for care in the community."



To learn more about the foundation, to donate, or to become a member, you can contact Jodi Martin by email at jmartin@ebch.org or by phone at **218-365-8739**.