Highlights From 2014 - 2015

• Milbank Area Hospital Avera was named a 2014 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital for the second year in a row.

• Family fitness was promoted with two road race events.

• Third-year medical students Nicholas Kohles and John Person were hosted in Milbank with the Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM) program rotation. The FARM program combats the rural physician shortage by exposing students to the challenges and unique opportunities in rural medicine.

QUALITY

• Installed three new infusion therapy chairs to increase comfort for infusion therapy patients, with funding provided by It Only Takes a Spark Walk.

• Received a grant for a LUCAS2 Chest Compression System, a tool that standardizes chest compressions in accordance with the latest scientific guidelines and provides the same quality for all patients. By doing this, it frees up rescuers to focus on other lifesaving tasks and creates new rescue opportunities.

• Donated (from the Hospital Auxiliary) Little Anne CPR manikins for training purposes to provide more realistic adult CPR training without compromising quality or usability. The Little Anne manikins are durable and designed for convenience making hands-on practice possible.

• Acquired a Drager BiPAP/ventilator for patients with breathing problems.

• Equipped a third room with Avera eCARE™ emergency equipment. Through this two-way video technology, emergency makes available board-certified emergency physicians and emergency-trained nurses to assist local providers in treating trauma, heart attack, stroke and other critical conditions.

• Offered eConsult psychiatry services with Dr. James Chiu from Avera St. Luke’s Hospital.

New Technology and Programs

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• Family fitness was promoted with two road race events.

Notable Employee

His contributions to Milbank Area Hospital Avera include:

• Attending training schools across the U.S. sponsored by equipment manufacturers to bring the latest lab technology to the community

• Establishing the Arterial Blood Gas Analysis program at Milbank Area Hospital Avera to care for critical patients

• Transitioning the Community Blood Bank Donor Program to the American Red Cross so that blood supply can be shared between local hospitals while increasing the number of donors

• Ensuring the lab’s day-to-day workflow meets federal and state regulations

• Serving on the Medical Laboratory Program Advisory Board at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D., which led to on-site clinical lab training for tech students

Drager thanks the clinic and hospital staff, administration and his family for their great support. Specifically, he acknowledges Drs. Barry Pitt-Hart, Joel Ziebarth and Raed Sulaiman who have served as Medical Laboratory Directors and provided expert advice, continuing education and friendship throughout the years.

John Drager
Lab Manager
40 years of service

Drager is thankful for the opportunity to return to his hometown with his family to provide advanced clinical laboratory care and technology to the Milbank community.

Avera’s health ministry is focused on helping people feel better and live healthier so they can experience all the good gifts that life has to offer. Caring for the whole person – body, mind and spirit – is central to the Avera mission. We’re privileged to not only deliver the highest quality expertise and technology, but also to make an emotional and spiritual connection with patients and their families.
In September 2014, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Milbank Health care campus took place. The $23 million health care campus will be complete in the fall of 2016. The 75,000-square-foot facility located on 18 acres in east Milbank will bring the hospital and clinic under one roof.

Features include:
- Improved patient experience and privacy
- Easy access to the 22 local and specialty care providers that serve the Milbank health care community
- State-of-the-art equipment and technology advancements
- Pre- and post-operation rooms so patients do not have to leave the surgical area, enhancing patient privacy
- Outpatient physical therapy and occupational therapy provided by Big Stone Therapies
- Chapel sponsored by the Justin/Dolan family and stained glass window and altar from the former Blue Cloud Abbey
- Dean Delores patient pharmacy, with drive-up window on the northwest side
- Rodney dialysis and Phase 3 cardiac rehab will be added as new services
- Stimulating economic growth by providing eight to 12 additional positions

In 2016, the Moment of the Year award was given to Peggy Schuelke, CNP.

Community Benefits

- Sponsored the Farley Fest 5K and Smile 2-mile walk with 130 participants. Also hosted obstacle course for children under age 12.
- Employees raised $3,200 for the Only Fakes a Spark Cancer Walk.
- Employees raised $9,000 for the capital campaign for the new health care campus.
- Employees donated $4,000 to the Grant County Combined Appeal campaign.
- Gave a $1,000 scholarship to a Milbank High School senior pursuing health care careers.
- Hosted Camp Med for 7th grade students to expose them to health care careers.
- Hosted a health fair for 4th and 5th grade students featuring the Mega Heart from the Avera Heart Hospital.
- Facilitated a Mission Motherhood educational event that connected moms in the area by focusing on the topics of family, fitness, finances, faith, health and education.
- Partnered with the local Fraternal Order of Police to host the first annual Glow Run with the proceeds donated to Grant County Combined Appeal.
- Hosted a diabetes education event for the community focusing on medications, nutrition and diabetic services.
- Held a monthly cancer support group at the hospital for those affected by cancer.
- Offered reduced-price lab work and completed screenings during Heart Health Month.
- Provided job-shadowing and preceptorship opportunities for nursing, pharmacy and medical students.
- Co-hosted the annual tailgate party for the Milbank Area Bulldogs high school football team, serving 460 people and giving away 226 T-shirts to Milbank and Grant Deuel students. Donated $1,200 to the school to start a HOSA program for future health professionals for the 2015–2016 school year.
- Participated in local emergency and disaster planning committee meetings.
- Participated in the Milbank Tobacco Coalition, which provides smoking cessation education and promotes smoke-free environments.