



2024 Regional Impact Report

Our System



We are affiliated with a wide variety of clinics, charitable organizations and three critical access hospitals in Concordia, Lindsborg and Abilene. Each hospital has its own board, but all employees are employed by SRHC.



North Central Kansas Medical Center

Family Care Center
Cloud County Foundation for Health Care

Lindsborg Community Hospital

Lindsborg Family Health Care Clinic
Lindsborg Urgent Care Clinic
Lindsborg Community Health Care Foundation

Memorial Health System

Heartland Health Care Clinic
Home Health & Hospice of Dickinson County
Frontier Estates
Village Manor
Impact Sports & Fitness
Memorial Hospital Wound Center
Pulmonary Rehabilitation
Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine
Senior Life Solutions

Salina Regional Health Center

COMCARE at Salina Regional Health Center
Heart Center at Salina Regional Health Center
Occupational Health Partners at Salina Regional Health Center
Salina Pediatric Care at Salina Regional Health Center
Salina Regional Endocrinology
Salina Regional ENT & Audiology
Salina Regional Home Medical Services
Salina Regional Neurosciences
Salina Regional Neurosurgery
Salina Regional Podiatry
Salina Regional Orthopedic Clinic
Salina Regional Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine
Salina Regional Sports Medicine
Salina Regional Surgical Associates

Salina Regional Urgent Care Clinic
Salina Women's Clinic at Salina Regional Health Center
Tammy Walker Cancer Center at Salina Regional Health Center
Vein Clinic at Salina Regional Health Center
Veridian Behavioral Health at Salina Regional Health Center
Salina Regional Occupational Health Partners
Salina Regional Outpatient Pharmacy
Salina Regional Home Medical Services
Rebecca A. Morrison House at Salina Regional Health Center
Salina Regional Mobile Imaging Service
Sunflower Health Network
Crossroads Health Resources

Focused on Quality

At Salina Regional Health Center, quality is not just a priority—it is one of our foundational pillars, and it truly defines everything we do. Over the years, we have focused on making significant improvements in both customer experience and patient care. This year, we are proud to share some remarkable achievements in these areas. For the first time, we received an A grade from The Leapfrog Group, a reflection of our commitment to the highest standard of care. Additionally, Salina Regional now holds the best readmission rate in the state of Kansas and is ranked 15th nationwide—a testament to the effectiveness of our efforts.

These achievements are no coincidence. They are the result of the tireless work of our dedicated team, led by experienced managers and leaders, and guided by the governance of our Board of Trustees. Together, we continue to raise the bar for healthcare quality and patient outcomes.



Joel Phelps
President/CEO

Multi-pronged approach lead efforts to achieve quality

Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC) has set a high standard in healthcare quality with patient safety as its top priority. Quality in healthcare encompasses the safety of patients, staff and visitors. Sepsis prevention, for example, is crucial to patient safety, as well as compliance with OSHA standards to protect staff members. Quality also extends to patient experience—our goal is not only to ensure patients are safe, but

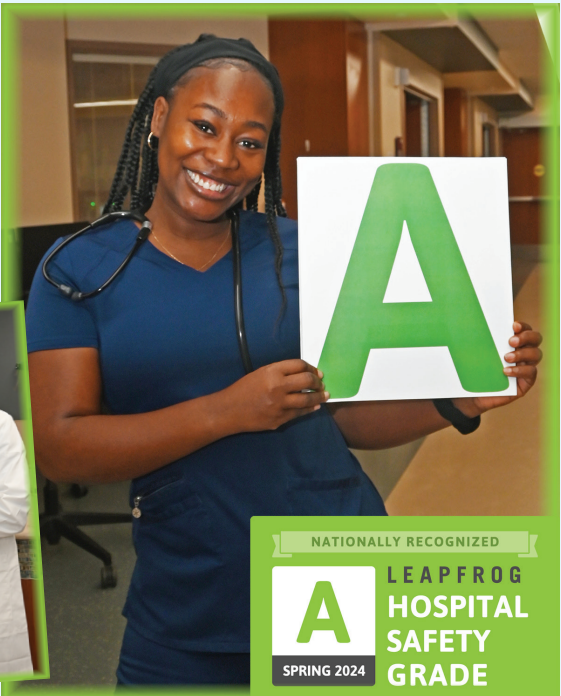
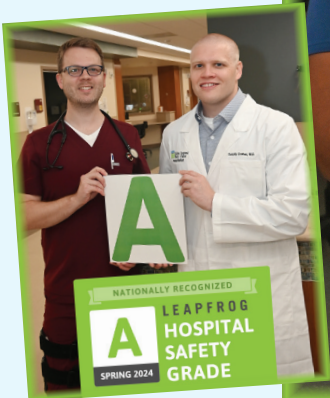
Blood tests in Salina Regional's laboratory are key to diagnosing patients with early signs of sepsis.



also to deliver a level of care that fosters satisfaction, learning and loyalty. Traditionally, we have measured quality by tracking patient satisfaction and their likelihood to recommend our services. Now, we are implementing the Net Promoter Score (NPS), which gauges patient loyalty, categorizing patients as promoters, passives or detractors, helping us assess if patients are so satisfied that they actively promote SRHC.

“You can’t approach quality in any organization using the method ‘because I say so.’ We have to tell the story of why. Why does this matter to the patient, staff member or physician? Our approach—explaining the why—has led to safer, higher-quality patient care.”

- James Barker, SRHC VP of Quality



As a result of these efforts, SRHC received an A grade from The Leapfrog Group in the spring of 2024, a consumer-friendly grading scale that identifies SRHC as one of the safest hospitals in America. In addition, SRHC achieved the top readmission rate in Kansas and ranks 15th nationally, according to CMS data. Low readmission rates are a direct indicator of quality care, requiring safe inpatient treatment, effective discharge planning, follow-up and coordinated post-discharge care. These achievements not only enhance patient outcomes and health, but also significantly reduce healthcare costs.

2024 Awards

- *BCBSKS Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care*
- *Tammy Walker Cancer Center 2023 Press Ganey Human Experience Pinnacle of Excellence Award*
- *A grade from The Leapfrog Group*
- *Chest Pain Center with Primary PCI reaccreditation*
- *High 5 Mom & Baby Premier Recognition*
- *CMS Rated No. 1 in Kansas and No. 15 in nation for readmission rates*
- *American Heart Assn. Get with the Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus Award*
- *American Heart Assn. Stroke Elite Plus Award*
- *American Heart Assn. Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll Award*

Salina Regional’s continued efforts to prioritize quality and safety demonstrate its commitment to providing the best possible care to our community and region.

Giving Back

The Salina Regional Health Foundation supports programs and services of Salina Regional Health Center as well as other community health-related agencies and organizations through the acceptance and stewardship of gifts. The mission of the Salina Regional Health Foundation is to expand, manage and distribute assets to improve the health of this regional community. This year, the Foundation Board granted funds to well-established projects and to new, exciting endeavors.

Our Foundation Board members are community-minded professionals who volunteer their time and talent to make a difference in the health and wellbeing of our regional community. We are grateful to be able to partner with so many like-minded organizations that strive to improve the lives of others.



Marla McElderry
Executive Director
Salina Regional Health Foundation

Community Health Investment Program awards \$518,108

The Salina Regional Health Foundation's Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) provides grants to organizations that, like the hospital, are working to improve the health of people in north central Kansas. The Foundation established the program in 1995, and Salina Regional Health Center continues to provide the primary funding. Since the program's inception, more than \$16.79 million in grants have been awarded to area community organizations.

In 2024, CHIP awarded 20 grants totaling \$518,108. Funding priorities for CHIP primarily focus on children's health, childhood obesity, mental health, substance abuse, aging populations, heart disease and stroke.



Community Health Investment Program 2024 Grant Recipients

Salina Baseball Enterprises (Baseball stadium)	\$125,000
Salina Area United Way (Early Childcare Initiative)	\$75,000
School Marathon Foundation (School Marathon Prog.)	\$50,000
Brookville Community Foundation (Community park)	\$40,000
Salina Grace Foundation (Resource Center & Winter Shelter)	\$28,000
City of Salina (Handheld lead paint analyzer)	\$25,000
Prairieland Market (New facility)	\$25,000
Good Neighbor Fund (Community grant requests)	\$21,900
Catholic Diocese of Salina (Junior/Senior High School online counseling services)	\$20,008
American Red Cross of Kansas (Community blood drives)	\$20,000
Blessed Hope Family (Support for foster, adoptive families)	\$20,000
Salina Education Foundation (Nurse emergency funds, Heartland Weekend Meals & other initiatives)	\$11,000
First Tee of Salina (New youth program location in Minneapolis, Kan.)	\$10,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina (Community Based Mentoring Program)	\$10,000
North Central Kansas-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging (Sunflower Senior Fair)	\$10,000
New Heights Therapeutic Riding, Inc. (Horse riding scholarships)	\$9,000
Salina Family YMCA (InBody health tracking device)	\$5,700
Saline Co. Food Action Community Team (Food assessment, communication costs)	\$5,000
Rolling Hills Zoo (Dream Night)	\$5,000
Smoky Hill Education Foundation (Educator Recharge Retreats)	\$2,500

Total Grants - \$518,108



Pestinger Family Stadium, Salina, opened in 2024 with support from CHIP.

Pestinger Family Stadium alleviates scheduling conflicts between local schools, increases opportunities for area youth

A \$125,000 grant to Salina Baseball Enterprises helped complete a second premier baseball stadium in Salina.

The new facility, Pestinger Family Stadium, sits just north of Dean Evans Stadium, offering a second turf baseball facility in the community. The additional stadium helps alleviate scheduling conflicts between Kansas Wesleyan University and three local high school varsity and junior varsity programs who use the facilities that are part of the Berkley Family Recreational Area. Coupled with other upgrades to the baseball complex, the renovations and additions make it possible to host premier baseball tournaments that will have a significant economic impact for the community.

Supporting area youth through increased participation in athletics is aimed at improving health and decreasing childhood obesity.

“Things like this are what makes Salina such a great community,” said Byron Tomlins, board member for Salina Baseball Enterprises. “We appreciate the Foundation’s support so much!”

School Marathon Program teaches grade school students how to achieve goals, live healthy lifestyles

A \$50,000 CHIP grant to the School Marathon Foundation supports the School Marathon Program at all 10 Salina public and private grade schools. Students set out to compete a marathon (26.2 miles) over the fall semester. Schools track student progress toward the goal during before- and after- school programs, physical education and other times throughout the day.

“We’ve been humbled that our hospital and its Foundation continues to fund this program every year,” said Dana Kossow, who originally started the program at Meadowlark Elementary School.



Students from all 10 Salina public and private grade schools participate in the School Marathon Program, which receives support from CHIP.

Brookville looks forward to completion of new community park

The Brookville Community Foundation, with assistance from a \$40,000 CHIP grant, is transforming the city park into a vibrant space designed to meet the needs of all ages and abilities in the Brookville area. This exciting renovation project will foster community health, recreation and connection through its inclusive design.

The re-imagined park will feature amenities for everyone – from toddlers to adults. For the youngest visitors, a fenced playground with a child gate will provide a secure environment, complete with age-appropriate playground equipment and a parent/child swing set. Older children, teens and young adults can enjoy basketball and pickleball courts offering spaces for friendly competition and physical activity.

Adults also will find opportunities to stay active with exercise equipment stations placed along a new walking and running path encircling the park. This pathway promises to be a hub for fitness enthusiasts and casual walkers alike, enhancing the overall health of the community.

Progress on the project is already visible with the completion of new bathrooms and the walking trail. Equipment for the playground and courts has been ordered and received with installation slated for spring 2025.

“I am profoundly grateful to the Salina Regional Health Foundation for its generous and transformative grant,” said Shawn Fisher, Brookville Community Foundation president. “This support is truly foundational to the success of Brookville’s ambitious park enhancement project, ensuring that our vision of a vibrant, accessible and thriving community space becomes a reality. On behalf of our entire community, thank you for investing in our future.”



New walking paths have been poured as the first step of the Brookville Park renovation. New playground equipment will be installed in 2025.

Foundation awards \$658,814 to local clinics, programs

In addition to the Community Health Investment Program, the Foundation Board of Trustees offers additional funding to Salina Regional Health Center clinics, programs and community initiatives that impact patient care. An additional \$658,814.90 in grants supporting 14 different initiatives were awarded by the Foundation Board in 2024. The Foundation Board has awarded \$62.938 million outside of CHIP since inception in 1995.



Scholarship support plays a critical role in helping fulfill future staffing needs that are vital to the organization's future. Funding also is utilized to improve patient care by implementing technology or services that will improve patient experience, but is not revenue-positive for the hospital. Foundation Board grants also may be utilized to support external agencies leveraging matching funding for services that will provide a long-term benefit to hospital patients and services.

KWU Nursing Program awarded \$50,000

Kansas Wesleyan University (KWU) and Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC) have cultivated a long-standing partnership that continues to enrich the healthcare community in Salina and beyond. Through collab-



The Nursing Program at KWU has had a long-standing partnership with Salina Regional Health Center.

orative efforts, the institutions have worked together on numerous capital and scholarship projects aimed at developing the next generation of healthcare professionals. This year, the Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to this shared mission by renewing its annual support for nursing at KWU, underscoring the value placed on the university's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

KWU's nursing program has gained a reputation for preparing students to excel in the demanding medical workplace. A cornerstone of this success is the partnership with SRHC, where employees serve as mentors to



2024 Foundation Board Grant Recipients	
SRHC Nursing Scholarships	\$217,000.00
SRHC Physician Recruitment Program	\$114,090.90
OCCK Transportation (Med-A-Van services)	\$90,000.00
Friends of Nursing Scholarships.....	\$53,000.00
Behavioral Health Court (City of Salina)	\$50,169.00
KWU Nursing Program	\$50,000.00
SRHC Podiatry Clinic (Specialty exam chairs, stools)	\$21,000.00
SRHC Infant-Child Development (Safety Improvement)	\$20,852.00
SRHC Tech Position Scholarships.....	\$15,000.00
SRHC Rehabilitation Dept. (Recumbent Cross Trainer)	\$7,690.00
SRHC Infant-Child Development (Speech Therapy Computer) ..	\$6,318.00
SRHC Tammy Walker Cancer Center (Transport chairs).....	\$6,000.00
SRHC Salina Women's Clinic (Handheld sono V-scan)	\$4,495.00
SRHC Behavioral Health Unit (Therapeutic Massage Chairs) ...	\$3,200.00
Total Grants - \$658,814.90	

KWU nursing students. These mentorships provide invaluable real-world insights and help bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice. Additionally, the teams at KWU and SRHC meet regularly to ensure continuous feedback and collaboration, refining the program to meet the ever-evolving needs of modern healthcare.

“The special relationship we have with Salina Regional Health Center is unique in academia,” said Dr. Matt Thompson, President of KWU. “It’s a true collaboration in every sense of the word. We try to be responsive to their workforce needs, and likewise, they are responsive to the support requests we make to bring our shared vision to life.”



Alyse Perkins works as a tech on 3 Southeast at Salina Regional Health Center while going to school at Cloud County Community College to complete her nursing degree. She received two years of scholarship support through the Foundation and accepted a position in the Birth Center after graduation.

Scholarships help recruit the next generation of nurses

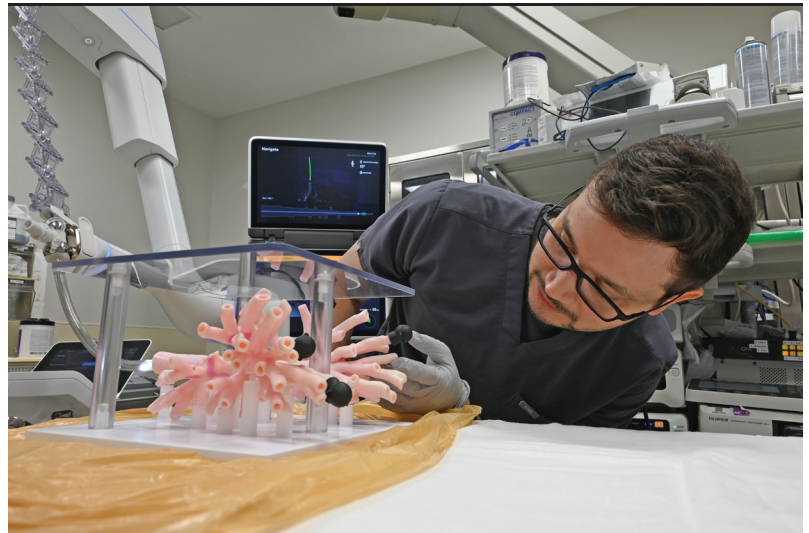
The Salina Regional Health Foundation offers substantial support to nursing students accepted into, or currently enrolled in, a nursing program through \$10,000 annual scholarships. Each scholarship requires a one-year service commitment to Salina Regional Health Center, or an affiliated hospital or clinic, ensuring that skilled nurses contribute to local healthcare. Scholarship funds are sent directly to the nursing programs, designated for educational expenses. In 2024, the Foundation awarded a total of \$217,000 in nursing scholarships reinforcing its dedication to developing a strong nursing workforce in the community.

“The Foundation nursing scholarships pay for your schooling and allow you to get ahead in life without student debt. Salina Regional Health Center has so many different employment opportunities throughout its system of hospitals and clinics. I’d recommend this program to anybody, and I’m very thankful for it.”

– Alyse Perkins, 3 Southeast Nurse Tech

Physician Stipend Program helps recruit future physicians

The Salina Regional Health Foundation's physician recruitment initiative supports eligible medical residents and fellows in their final two years of an approved residency or fellowship program. Candidates must fulfill a specialty need identified in the latest physician needs assessment to qualify. Through monthly stipends, which vary in amount and are intended to assist with living expenses, the program aims to ease financial burdens and attract skilled providers to the region. In 2024 alone, the Salina Regional Health Foundation awarded \$114,090 in stipends to new providers, strengthening local health-care services.



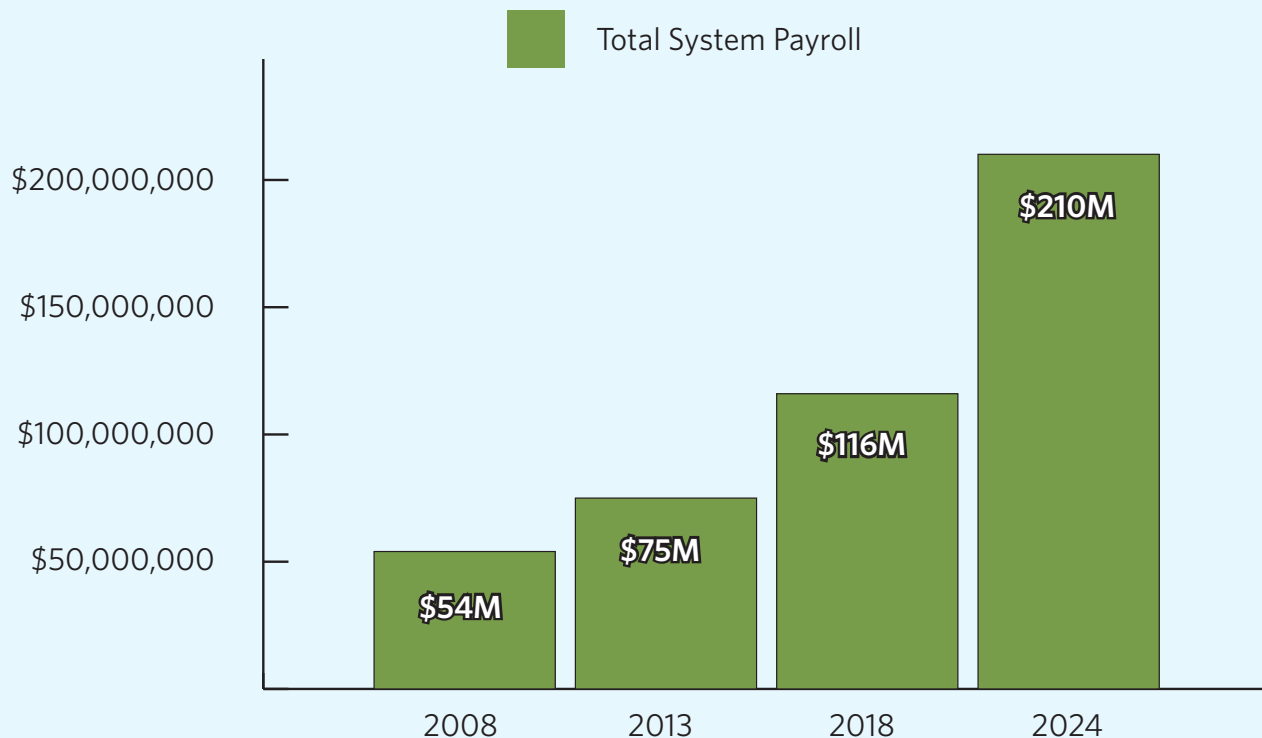
Jorge Cedano, MD, pulmonologist at Salina Regional Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine, implemented use of the new Ion Robotic Bronchoscopy System in 2024. The technology is groundbreaking for early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.



"The Salina Regional Health Foundation's Physician Recruitment Stipend Program had a profound impact on my family and me. The financial support it provided allowed me to concentrate on my medical training and prioritize the well-being of my loved ones. Freed from the burden of financial stress, I could devote my energy to honing my skills as an OB/GYN and cherish valuable time with my family. The Foundation's generosity made an extraordinary difference in my journey, and I am grateful to be a stipend recipient."

- Dr. Emily Budden, OB/GYN

Economic Impact



Saline County Impact

- The hospital industry in Saline County supports 2,043 jobs and an additional 1,179 jobs outside of healthcare.
- The hospital industry's \$153 million in hospital employee income produces another \$58.3 million in income from additional jobs within the county.
- Hospital employees spend an estimated \$97,151,000 in retail sales resulting in an estimated \$2,493,700 in local sales tax. This does not account for sales tax revenue generated from out-of-county medical visits to Saline County.

* Data provided by the October 2023 Importance of Health Care Sector to the Saline County Economy, prepared by the Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas.



Salina Regional
Health Center

2024 Quick Stats:

Employees - 2,560

Physicians - 89

Midlevels - 82

Nurses - 525

Babies Delivered - 1,173

Patient Encounters - 626,424

Total Virtual Care Visits - 14,260

Total Discharges - 7,335

Surgeries - 5,703

ER Visits - 31,291

Case Mix Index - 1.906

Charity Care Salina - \$5,808,544

Access to Specialty Care for Rural Living



Abilene

Podiatry

Dr. Rebecca Johnson

Oncology

Dr. Jeffrey Geitz

Dr. Peeran Sandhu

Endocrinology

Dr. Richard Gomendoza

Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Todd Reilly

OB/GYN

Dr. Emily Budden

Cardiology

Dr. David Battin

ENT & Audiology

Melissa Crawford, PA

Lindsey Petras, AuD

Belleville

ENT & Audiology

Dr. Mark Bell

Lindsey Petras, AuD

Beloit

ENT & Audiology

Dr. Mark Bell

Lindsey Petras, AuD

Neurosurgery

Dr. Scott Boswell

Concordia

Endocrinology

Kaleigh Knox, APRN

Pulmonology & Sleep

Medicine

Dr. Kent Berquist

Neurology

Dr. Trent Davis

Pediatric Neurology

Dr. Britton Zuccarelli

Podiatry

Dr. Rebecca Johnson

General Surgery

Dr. Justin Klaassen

Dr. Leah Speaks

Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Travis Rump

OB/GYN

Shanda Schroeder, APRN

Cardiology

Dr. David Battin

ENT & Audiology

Melissa Crawford, PA

Lindsey Petras, AuD

Clay Center

Hematology Oncology

Dr. Peeran Sandhu

Podiatry

Dr. Rebecca Johnson

Endocrinology

Dr. Richard Gomendoza

Clyde

Family Medicine

Dr. Dorothy Breault

Dr. Justin Poore

Great Bend

Neurosurgery

Dr. Scott Boswell

Hesston

Pediatric Neurology

Dr. Britton Zuccarelli

Hillsboro

Podiatry

Dr. Lucas Cosens

Hoisington

Neurosurgery

Dr. Scott Boswell

Sports Medicine /

Non-Operative Orthopedics

Dr. Kevin Klug

Jamestown

Family Medicine

Dr. Justin Poore

Lindsborg

General Surgery

Dr. Jesse Gray

Podiatry

Dr. Lucas Cosens

Cardiology

Dr. Karil Bellah

Sports Medicine /

Non-Operative Orthopedics

Dr. Kevin Klug

Lyons

Podiatry

Dr. Lucas Cosens

Manhattan

Pediatric Neurology

Dr. Britton Zuccarelli

McPherson

Pulmonology & Sleep

Medicine

Dr. Kent Berquist

Neurology

Dr. Doug Davis

Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Todd Reilly

Cardiology

Dr. Karil Bellah

Russell

Pediatric Neurology

Dr. Britton Zuccarelli

Endocrinology

Leslie Mack, APRN

ENT/Audiology

Dr. Mark Bell

Lindsay Petras, AuD

Smith Center

Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Travis Rump

Meeting Community Health



A helicopter lands on the rooftop heliport at Salina Regional Health Center to assist with the transfer of a patient. More patients are able to stay close to home following a traumatic accident thanks to Salina Regional Health Center's efforts to enhance access to care. Timely access to trauma care saves lives.

Level III Trauma Center celebrates 14 years of service

Fifteen years ago, Salina Regional Health Center set an ambitious goal to become a verified trauma center. This journey began in December 2010 with the pivotal decision to hire Rachelle Giroux, BSN, RN, as the Critical Diagnoses Director. Just one year later, SRHC achieved Level III Trauma Certification, revolutionizing patient care in north central Kansas.

A trauma is classified as any significant medical injury or incident, such as auto accidents, gunshot wounds, knife injuries and falls. The Level III Trauma designation at SRHC ensures that staff members are extensively trauma-trained, from nurses and physicians, to trauma surgeons and physical therapists.

"We time everything from the minute a patient enters the door," Giroux said. "We review every action and develop plans to improve care when needed. Consistency is key to this program's continued success."

Needs

This dedication to precision and improvement has resulted in SRHC's consistent Level III Trauma recertification over the years.

"Unless you've been through a certification process, it's hard to convey the commitment it takes to have a successful survey from the American College of Surgeons, and how rare it is for them to have found little to no issues with our program," Giroux explained.

Giroux attributes the team's excellence to a guiding principle she instills in the trauma staff: "I always ask everyone how they would want their son treated in an emergency. Is this the level of care they would expect for their mother? For their father?"

Over the years, the team has implemented several critical initiatives that have elevated the quality of care. One of these is the Emergency Department Head Alert protocol, which has reduced the average time to perform CT head scans by 15 minutes for patients meeting specific criteria. Another accomplishment includes significantly improving care for hip fracture patients – 98.8% of these patients underwent surgery within 48 hours, meeting the national Trauma Quality Improvement Program standard.

As one of the few high functioning Level III Trauma Centers in the state, SRHC shoulders the responsibility of providing care for a vast geographical area.

"I don't know what care in central Kansas looks like without us," Giroux said. "Somebody told me something that has stuck with me. They said that you shouldn't have to die based on where you live. I think that is the biggest impact we make to the state. We make it feasible to live and work in rural and frontier Kansas. I'm proud of that."



Salina Regional Health Center Trauma Surgeons Stacy Jones, MD, Leah Speaks, MD, Jesse Gray, MD, and Justin Klaassen, DO, share call to provide 24/7 access to trauma care.



Travis Rump, DO, orthopedic surgeon with Salina Regional Orthopedic and Sports Medicine, visits with a patient about knee replacement surgery.

Orthopedic and Sports Medicine keeps patients active

Serving an aging population and improved knowledge about the impact of concussions and sports injuries on the health of area athletes led Salina Regional Health Center to develop a comprehensive orthopedic and sports medicine service line to meet the diverse needs of patients across north central Kansas. Our two skilled orthopedic surgeons are highly trained in all areas of orthopedics, from joint

replacement surgery for the hip, knee and shoulder, to arthroscopy, sports medicine and trauma care.

They treat both pediatric and adult patients, addressing fractures, hand injuries and more. Supporting them are three Advanced Practice Providers (APPs): two assist both in the clinic and surgery, while one APP is dedicated to hospital-based pa-



tient care, rounding on orthopedic patients to ensure consistent, quality care. Additionally, we have two non-operative sports medicine physicians specializing in treating sports injuries and orthopedic conditions for patients of all ages that don't require surgery.

Our unique care model also includes five athletic trainers who work in the orthopedic and sports medicine clinic as well as on-site at local high schools. These trainers, with their expertise in the musculoskeletal system, offer pre- and post-operative support, exercise programs, casting, bracing and patient

education in the clinic. At the high schools, they provide injury prevention, assessment and management, and attend practice and games to support student-athletes when injuries occur.



Todd Reilly, DO, orthopedic surgeon with Salina Regional Orthopedic and Sports Medicine, offers the latest techniques in joint replacement of the shoulder, hip and knee, as well as hand, foot and ankle surgery.

Fulfilling Salina Regional's mission of bringing advanced care closer to home, our orthopedic surgeons extend their expertise to rural areas through outreach clinics in four communities. In these areas, they collaborate with local hospitals, utilizing their services for lab, imaging, physical therapy and even performing certain surgical procedures. This approach strengthens healthcare access for patients who would otherwise have to travel long distances.

Likewise, our sports medicine physicians support athletes at three NAIA colleges and one community college in the region, and provide outreach clinics in two rural communities offering non-operative sports and orthopedic care.

Salina Regional's orthopedic and sports medicine team utilizes the latest technologies to provide precise, effective care. Our orthopedic surgeons use the Mako robotic-assisted system for hip and knee replacements, enhancing the accuracy and placement of joints, which supports faster recovery and improved outcomes. Our sports medicine physicians employ



Matthew Pyle, DO, works with sports and activity related injuries and is board certified in both Family Medicine and Sports Medicine.

ultrasound-guided injections, as well as COOLIEF and Tenex treatments, for patients seeking relief without surgery.



Athletic trainers on staff work in the orthopedic and sports medicine clinic, and on-site at local high schools and universities.

Our comprehensive orthopedic and sports medicine care model ensures that patients throughout north central Kansas receive expert, convenient and technologically advanced care, fulfilling Salina Regional's commitment to meeting the region's healthcare needs.

Regional Partnership

Collaboration with Concordia sparks transformation

In the town of Concordia, Cloud County Health Center stood as a beacon of care and hope for decades. But by the late 2010s, the hospital faced an uncertain future. Aging facilities and rising operational challenges left its board questioning how long they could keep the doors open.

“Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC) came in at a time when we weren’t sure how much longer we could hang on,” recalled Phil Gilliland, Board Chairman. Cloud County Health Center became the hospital’s second affiliate and a lifeline for the community. “SRHC talked about a true community partnership, and our community has benefited in ways we never could have imagined those years ago.”

This partnership marked the beginning of a new chapter. Together, the community and SRHC embarked on an ambitious journey to replace the outdated hospital. By October 2022, their vision became reality: a state-of-the-art healthcare facility opened its doors along US Highway 81, renamed North Central Kansas Medical Center (NCKMC). The new location was more than just convenient — it was transformative. Positioned near Cloud County Community College (CCCC) and Concordia’s growing retail district, the hospital has become a hub of health and progress.

The land for the new hospital was a generous gift from the city of Concordia, a testament to the community’s



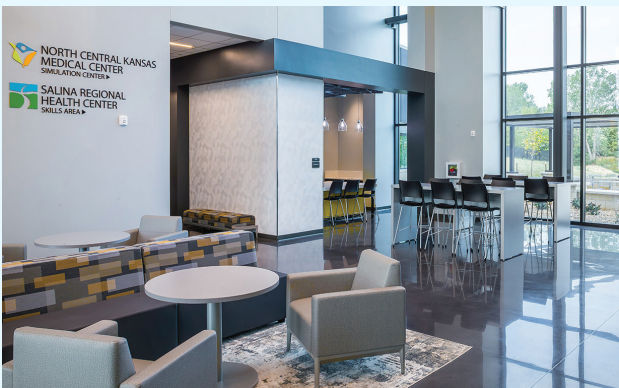
Concordia’s North Central Kansas Medical Center opened in 2022 next to Cloud County Community College and the community’s growing retail district. The partnership with Salina Regional Health Center allowed the progress without adding to the burden of local taxpayers.

commitment to its future. When the old hospital was razed, NCKMC and SRHC gave back once more, donating the cleared residential land to the city for a moderate-income housing district. That sparked another milestone — facilitating Concordia’s first new housing development in 40 years, which breathed new life into the area by creating homes for families.

The collaboration didn’t stop there. Recognizing the region’s need for a skilled healthcare workforce, SRHC and NCKMC invested in the creation of the Technical Education and Innovation Center, a cutting-edge space for CCCC’s nursing program. The center symbolized more than just a building; it was a bridge between education and opportunity.



Land where the former Cloud County Health Center once stood was donated back to the City of Concordia for a moderate-income housing development. The measure sparked the first new housing development in the community in 40 years.



Cloud County Community College’s new Technical Education and Innovation Center, which created cutting-edge space for the school’s nursing program, was supported by a donation from Salina Regional Health Center and North Central Kansas Medical Center.

“Addressing the region’s workforce needs while providing quality and affordable education are our top priorities,” said Amber Knoettgen, President of CCCC. “We’ve had a long relationship with SRHC and NCKMC through clinical rotations and, eventually, employing our students. When we conceptualized this new facility, I knew SRHC and NCKMC would be supportive. It’s a true give-and-take partnership, and it’s fun growing with them.”

Today, Concordia’s healthcare and educational sectors are thriving, thanks to a shared vision of community growth and resilience. What began as a lifeline became a partnership that not only saved a hospital but transformed an entire community.



Pediatric Neurologist Britton Zuccarelli, MD, sees a patient at Salina Pediatric Care.



2024 Fe for a Cure Race/Walk