By Randy Vlasin

Executive Director

Chase County Hospital Foundation

The Chase County Hospital Board of Trustees and staff have been working through plans for a major renovation project at Chase County Community Hospital.

Upgrades being considered include patient rooms, emergency room services, labor and delivery, physical therapy and cardiac rehab, specialty clinic, as well as other areas.

The original plans have undergone numerous revisions during the year. These revisions along with cost estimates continue to be analyzed by the Chase County Hospital Board of Trustees. The goal is to find an option which provides the best solution to meeting community needs now and in the future as well as being economically feasible. Planning for this renovation will continue to be a key priority in 2013.

Here are some other highlights the past year.

Cardiologist joins specialty clinic

Dr. Iyad Azzam, MD, from Midlands Cardiology Group in Kearney began serving patients through the Chase County Community Hospital Specialty Clinic program in 2012.

Dr. Azzam received his medical degree from the University of Baghdad, College of Medicine in Baghdad, Iraq. His internal medicine internship and residency was done at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center in New Jersey.

His Cardiovascular Disease and Hypertension Fellowship was completed at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ and the Interventional Cardiology fellowship was obtained at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, FL.

Dr. Azzam is a fellow in the American College of Cardiology as well as the Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention.

PA Intern from UNMC trains at Chase County Clinic

Megan Schliefert, a student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center enrolled in the Physician's Assistant Program, began a three-month training rotation in mid-September and finished in mid-December. Schliefert will graduate in 2013 and pursue a career as a Physician's Assistant.

New equipment provides expanded services

Chase County Community Hospital purchased a Forced Triad Energy Platform for use in surgical procedures. This new equipment offers surgeons a wide range of options including electrosurgical cutting and coagulation and more efficient tissue fusion. This technology also provides for improved tissue-sensing and more consistent tissue and vessel fusion.

The main benefits to patients are it aids in shorter operation time and quicker recovery. The new equipment was funded through a private grant secured by the Chase County Hospital Foundation.

C-Arm—This new addition provides and imaging process that uses X-rays to obtain real-time moving images of the internal structures of a patient. The benefits include real time imaging that aids physicians to tracking endoscopes and catheters, identify foreign bodies and can be used to help place stents. All this can be captured dynamically and images stored electronically.

Treadmill—A new commercial treadmill was added to the Cardiac Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy Departments. It is used to help cardiac patients in their recovery and physical therapy patients to strengthen legs.

It is capable of monitoring heart rates and is capable of being pre-programed for custom work outs. Funding for the treadmill was provided by donors to the Chase County Hospital Foundation.

Board of Trustees searches for interim-CEO

The CCCH Board of Trustees is currently in the process of searching for an interim CEO. They have visited with several candidates and interviews will continue into January.

Staff looks forward to serving community in New Year

The primary objective of Chase County Community Hospital is to provide quality care for local residents. Sustaining critical healthcare services is important to the health of area residents as well as the health of our local economy.

The staff and management of Chase County Community Hospital and Clinic wish to thank those residents who choose our healthcare system to meet their needs. We look forward to serving you in 2013!