Rooted in Our Community

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary

1941-2016

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
75 Years of Healthcare Excellence, Close to Home

When the John and Mary E. Kirby Hospital opened its doors in 1941, we quickly became a landmark in the local community, rooted in strong service and dedicated to healthcare excellence. Times may have changed, but over the past 75 years, we’ve remained committed to patient-centered care, the latest in medical technology and ongoing community outreach.

During this 75th anniversary, we want to thank our staff, The Kirby Foundation, our patients and you for your unwavering support of and dedication to our mission of making Piatt County and the surrounding areas healthier places to live. We take pride in remembering our past, and we look forward to a strong future together.
From humble beginnings in Ireland, John Kirby rose to become one of the most generous, progressive and influential members of our community. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we pause to remember our roots and appreciate the hard work and dedication that has made Kirby Medical Center the distinguished local healthcare organization it is today.

Image above: John, Mary and Nell Kirby

Take a Step Back in Time....
Welcome to 1941...

Thousands crowded the halls to tour the new John and Mary E. Kirby Hospital when it officially opened its doors in January 1941 with a staff of 15 doctors, four nurses and eight service employees. There were undoubtedly many “oohs” and “aahs” as Piatt County residents viewed the luxurious and modern amenities, including tilting mattresses, six fireplaces, decorative carvings and rooms filled with Chippendale furniture. The landscaped grounds featured a courtyard and fish pool surrounded by pathways for roaming patients, employees and guests.

Kirby offered the latest medical technology and highest standards of care with stainless-steel operating equipment, repositionable operating tables, one of only two electric dishwashers in the community and an array of electric lights (bed lights, door lights, hall lights, infra-red rays and even floor lights).
1950
FEBRUARY 4, Nell M. England dies and leaves her entire estate to the hospital. Learn more about Nell’s legacy on page 17.

1969
Over the years, the Kirby Auxiliary gradually ceased activity until hospital administrator Tom Dixon approaches Lois Crouse with the idea of reactivating the Auxiliary.

1975
A memorial fund is established to provide Auxiliary scholarships to Piatt County students who are furthering their education in health-related fields.

1975
Five years after the new nursing home was erected, the aging, original hospital building has to be replaced in order to meet new state and federal accreditation standards. The hospital sells the nursing home annex to Piatt County to help finance a new John and Mary E. Kirby Hospital, which is built on the same site as the old hospital.

1986
JANUARY 1, Due to changes in the insurance industry, Kirby closes its obstetrics department. Over the years, Kirby’s obstetrics staff delivered 4,635 babies, the first being John Kirby Chaney in 1941 and the last being Matthew Walters on December 31, 1985.

1989
Kirby Hospital celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of their not-for-profit corporation in 1939. Since 1939 there had been 39,389 admissions, a total of 307,184 days spent in the hospital and 302,204 outpatient visits.

2000
A renovation of the hospital is completed with the addition of two private rooms and a renovation of the Laboratory and Emergency Departments.

2006
Kirby Hospital receives the Press Ganey Summit Award – Emergency Department, which is awarded to hospitals achieving 95 percent or higher patient satisfaction each quarter for three or more consecutive years. The hospital goes on to receive the award again for the Emergency Department in 2007, 2008 and 2012. Find out more about our latest Press Ganey Award on page 9.

2011
SEPTEMBER 29, The new Kirby Medical Center begins providing care at its current location at 1000 Medical Center Drive in Monticello after acquiring 108 acres of property along Interstate 72. Learn more about the past five years at our new location on page 11.

2012
The Volunteer Corp is established, which is a subset of Kirby Medical Center’s strong Auxiliary membership.

2014
The Kirby Auxiliary donates $16,000 toward the hospital’s purchase of a new ambulance. See photos of our new ambulance on page 10.

2015
The first phase of the Wellness Trail, a one-mile stretch of pathways, opens to the public. More details about our Wellness Trail are on page 10.

Fun Facts from the Time

What was life like when the hospital first opened? Some of us remember life in 1941, while the rest of us may only have heard stories from our parents or grandparents. In this special anniversary report, we’re offering a little bit of history to help you imagine (or remember!) what life was like when the John and Mary E. Kirby Hospital opened 75 years ago.

Turn to any of the pages below to read more.

Average Prices: Page 7

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U.S. Culture: Page 9

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Fun Facts: Page 19
Dear Friend of Kirby Medical Center and The Kirby Foundation,

As we enter a milestone year for Kirby Medical Center, I am especially proud to present our 2015 Annual Report. It’s been 75 years since John and Mary Kirby brought their vision for healthcare to Piatt County, and our mission of providing quality and compassionate care to all remains the same.

As a healthcare organization, we continue to grow in new and innovative ways, including the opening of our Wellness Trail, expansion of our surgery department; as well as the development of a new CrossFit facility, and a new Kirby Medical Group clinic in Cerro Gordo with a planned Sav-Mor Pharmacy.

At the same time, healthcare is dynamic and changing rapidly. Technology and new ways to connect with our patients are being developed as fast as personal computers and handheld devices were developed over the last decade. We embrace those changes and will continue to evolve and offer services to not only get you healthy, but also keep you healthy.

I invite you to take a moment and read more about the past 75 years of care, our accomplishments in 2015 and our plans for the future. On behalf of Kirby Medical Center, thank you for trusting us with your care and helping us make Piatt County and the surrounding areas healthier places to live!

Steven D. Tenhouse, FACHE, FHFMA
Chief Executive Officer
Save the Date

We’re holding a special event for Kirby’s 75th Anniversary Celebration on September 18, 2016. The theme will be “Take a Step, Back in Time” and will feature an interactive historical timeline along the Wellness Trail.

Governing Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Kirby Medical Center is made up of a group of dedicated individuals committed to governing the hospital the Kirby family gave to Piatt County. The Governing Board’s responsibilities include setting and monitoring the strategic direction of Kirby Medical Center, adopting broad policy, overseeing the chief executive officer’s operation of the hospital and continually evaluating the hospital’s performance.

Fun Facts from 1941: Average Prices

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<td>A Postage Stamp</td>
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Caring for Our Community. Impacting Our Economy.

Kirby Financial Assistance Program
Kirby Medical Center is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that provides high-quality medical care to all individuals – regardless of their ability to pay. In an effort to help local families struggling to afford their medical expenses, we created the Kirby Financial Assistance Program. Developed in 1941, the program continues to positively impact community members today by giving them access to the care they need – without the burden of undue financial stress.

Community Benefits
Every year, Kirby Medical Center offers numerous community-based services to those in the local area. Examples of community-based services provided by Kirby Medical Center include:

- Sports physical clinics for student athletes
- School-based health education programs
- CPR training
- Senior citizen outreach
- Girls on the Run coaching
- 5th grade Health Jams

Patient Care
There is nothing more reassuring than a hug from a friend or loved one. The quick embrace shows you how much they care. As we embrace your needs, we dedicate ourselves to helping you be as healthy as you can be and going the extra mile. Kirby Medical Group, outpatient, & ancillary services offer the rare combination of quality and compassionate care unique to a hospital like ours. With our patient centered and family-like atmosphere, we strive to make your experience as pleasant as possible.

Economic Impact
Our goal at Kirby Medical Center is not only to provide healthcare services to our patients, but also foster a vibrant and thriving community by positively impacting the local economy. As Piatt County’s largest employer, we play a vital role in the prosperity of our communities by providing hundreds of local men and women with stable employment and fair wages, and excellent benefits.
Kirby Medical Center Receives 2015 Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for Outstanding Performance in Patient Experience in Surgery

Kirby Medical Center is pleased to announce the surgery department has been named a 2015 Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey Associates, Inc.

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally-recognized symbol of achievement in healthcare. Presented annually, the award honors clients who consistently sustained performance in the top 5% of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of one year.

Ann Collins, RN, Kirby Medical Center’s Director of Surgical Services says, “Kirby is able to achieve such high performance through highly experienced nurses and technicians in the surgery department, who have been the key for working with patients. Employees in the surgery department at Kirby possess a skill for making patients and their family members feel at ease about the experience from pre-operative to post-operative care. Kirby’s surgery department staff are very engaged in the commitment to provide excellent patient care and patient experience to patients. They live Kirby’s Core Values and Behavior Standards to the fullest degree.”

“We are thankful on a daily basis for our surgery staff and are very proud of their dedication to the service we provide to our patients,” says Kirby’s Chief Clinical Officer, Jennifer Moss.

According to Moss, the award represents an important recognition from the industry’s leader in measuring, understanding and improving the patient experience.

“We are proud to partner with Kirby Medical Center,” says Patrick T. Ryan, CEO of Press Ganey. “This award is a testament to the organization’s leadership in delivering of patient-centered care. By achieving and sustaining this level of excellence, Kirby demonstrates their commitment to reducing patient suffering and advancing the overall quality of healthcare.”

Fun Facts from 1941: U.S. Culture

World Series Champions:
New York Yankees

Popular Songs:
“Chattanooga Choo Choo”
by Glenn Miller and
“Green Eyes”
by Jimmy Dorsey

Popular Movies:
“Dumbo” and
“The Maltese Falcon”

Although television is not yet a household staple, drive-in movie theaters are all the rage, and fast food restaurants are increasing in popularity. The frugality of the Great Depression is renewed in the face of World War II, but modern conveniences such as refrigerators and indoor plumbing are changing the American lifestyle forever.
Highlights from the Past Year

New Ambulance for Kirby
Kirby Medical Center is thankful to the Auxiliary for their generous donation that made the purchase of a new ambulance possible in 2015.

At the annual Auxiliary luncheon in July, Auxiliary Treasurer Bev Erickson presented a check for $16,000, a combination of gift shop sales and other fundraising activity proceeds, to Kirby CEO Steve Tenhouse.

At the luncheon Mr. Tenhouse said, “These ambulance units allow us to continue to meet critical needs within our community. The Auxiliary’s financial support not only helps us make this important purchase but also strengthens the opportunity for future growth of educational and medical services that our ambulance staff provides to Piatt County.”

Director of Ambulance Services Crystal Alexander said, “We are thankful to have the opportunity to replace our aging fleet with newer ambulances so that we can provide the best care to our community, and we’re thankful for the support given by our Auxiliary and individuals in our community.”

The new ambulance will be used by Kirby’s EMTs (emergency medical technicians) and paramedics as part of Kirby Ambulance Services, which serve the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, whenever someone needs emergency medical transportation. Kirby Ambulance Services are also involved in many local teaching programs and events for healthcare providers and the general public, such as CPR classes and Relay for Life® standby support. We are thankful to all of our ambulance staff who work so hard throughout the year to keep our community safe and healthy.

Wellness Trail Opens
Kirby Medical Center’s Wellness Trail is a one-mile long, 10-foot wide concrete path open to everyone in the community. The trail expands on Kirby’s wellness programs and encourages healthy lifestyles by offering opportunities to walk, run or bike. Four "Reflection Points" are located along the trail with benches for resting or relaxing. A bridge at the corner of the Forest Preserve Park tree line connects the trail to the Healing Garden and Apple a Day Café.

The first phase of the Wellness Trail opened to the public in October 2015, with the long-term goal of creating a network of trails throughout Kirby Medical Center’s campus. The trail is an embodiment of the collaborative effort between Kirby and the community and serves Kirby’s vision to make Piatt County and surrounding areas healthier places to live.

Built upon the philanthropic leadership of the Kirby family, the Wellness Trail is funded by private, tax-deductible gifts. Contributions of all sizes support the maintenance of the trail and construction of new trails. Know that your generosity ensures that future generations of Piatt County residents will have the opportunity to utilize the Wellness Trail. Every gift makes a difference!

To find out more about the Wellness Trail, visit our website, call The Kirby Foundation at 217-762-1509, or email Director of Development Sarah Ross at sross@kirbyhealth.org.
Celebrating Five Years

Nearly five years have passed since we opened the doors to Kirby Medical Center’s new facilities at 1000 Medical Center Drive in Monticello. Times and technology have changed since 1941, but our new facilities still offer the best in care, close to home. Kirby Medical Center features:

- 64-Slice CT Scans, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Digital Mammography
- Convenient and highly visible location with easy access
- Easy-to-navigate floor plan and clear signage
- Enhanced patient privacy with private inpatient rooms and Women’s Imaging Suite
- Expanded healthcare services, including a full complement of rehabilitative specialty care
- In-house and public café
- Life-saving emergency medicine and quick care
- Room for future expansion
- Space for all departments and services at one central location

$5,000 Community Foundation Grant for the Development of Youth Health and Fitness Program

Kirby Medical Center received a $5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois in November to help in the development of youth health and fitness programs. Out of 53 applications requesting over $215,000, Kirby was selected to receive the grant money for the purchase of equipment for our programs.

Karin Sykes, director of Therapy Services states, “Our request was for funding assistance with our goal to address childhood inactivity and overall health choices to reduce the incidence of long-term chronic disease. It is our goal to implement a youth program that provides positive mentoring in nutritional education and fun, functional activity while promoting a healthy lifestyle for children of all socioeconomic groups. By pairing fitness with fun, we will model an active alternative to sedentary pursuits, which means less childhood obesity and all-around better health for our children.”

In the grant application, Kirby proposed to take an active role in improving the health of the community by managing the wellness program on-site for area youth ages 5-17. The program will be staffed with recognized professionals in therapy exercise physiology, dietetics and exercise training.

The overall aim of the youth program is to actively work to reduce Piatt County’s obesity and diabetes rates and decrease the incidence of chronic disease development in the community. The program is part of a larger initiative to involve the whole community in the pursuit of lifelong health.

Youth ages 5-12 will be able to enroll in the KIDS program, while youth ages 13-17 will be able to enroll in the TEENS program. Sessions will be six weeks in length with classes meeting a minimum of two times per week. The proposed program will be housed in the CrossFit building on the Kirby Medical Center campus that is to be completed in June 2016. Informational fliers will be sent home with elementary-and middle school-age children and an announcement will be included on the high schools’ student-parent webpages when the program opens enrollment. Informational fliers will also be posted at all county schools, and information for the public will be posted on Kirby’s website (KirbyHealth.org).
8th Annual Kirby Derby

Each spring, Kirby Medical Center sponsors the Kirby Derby – a 5K walk/run and 10K run for community members who want to get out and get active! Kirby Medical Center also hosts a training program and runner/walker forum to help runners prepare for the big day.

The 2015 event was the biggest yet with 1,242 participants, including hundreds of local children who joined in for a special Kids’ Derby. Friends and family members cheered on the athletes for two good causes; this year’s Kirby Derby raised money for the Wellness Trail.

Many volunteers and sponsors helped make the event possible, and we are grateful for their continued support. Every year the Kirby Derby grows and evolves, and we look forward to another successful event in the coming year.

For more Kirby Derby related information, visit www.kirbyderby.org.

Paint Piatt Pink

Every October, Kirby Medical Center organizes Paint Piatt Pink, an annual breast cancer awareness fundraising program that includes a variety of events and ways to get involved, including a fun run and walk, a parade, Zumba parties and jewelry and T-shirt sales. All funds raised go toward breast cancer awareness, treatment and technology.

Paint Piatt Pink 2015 was a great success with popular events like the Wear Pink Day, Canvas and Corks, the Flamingo Flocking fundraiser, the Pink Out Football Game and Pearls & More Jewelry fundraiser. Some highlights include:

• Net proceeds were nearly $5,500
• 80 Glow Run/Zumba Party participants
• Impressive paintings from the Pink Paint Parties
• Piatt County turned very pink on official Wear PINK Day

A big thank you to all of the Paint Piatt pink sponsors, volunteers and participants for their support! If you are interested in becoming a Paint Piatt Pink sponsor or partner in 2016, please contact Heidi Apperson at happerson@kirbyhealth.org or 217-762-1513.

Fun Facts from 1941:
U.S. Politics

President: Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hourly minimum wage: $0.30
Population: 133.4 million

World War II is escalating in Europe, and by the end of the year, the United States is involved after the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The passing of bills to support allied countries and veterans reflects the nation’s collective consciousness toward impending military action.
CrossFit is Coming Soon

The push for wellness continues at Kirby Medical Center. Fresh off the opening of its one-mile long Wellness Trail, Kirby has announced plans to open a CrossFit gym (known as a “box” within the CrossFit community).

CrossFit workouts incorporate elements from high-intensity interval training, Olympic weightlifting, powerlifting, gymnastics and other exercises, all supporting the basic, fundamental movements that people need to do activities of daily living.

The CrossFit movement has inspired Kirby CEO Steve Tenhouse, who describes his fitness journey by saying, “I was one of those millions of people in the U.S. that had fallen prey to a sedentary lifestyle. Sometime in late May 2013, our Therapy Director Karin Sykes talked to me about CrossFit, and she put me in contact with the CrossFit manager at CrossFit Enhance in Decatur.

“The instructor’s primary focus wasn’t what I couldn’t do; it was on what I could do, by finding a good substitution for the regular movements, and then doing the substituted movement correctly. The first two or three months were really tough. What kept me coming back was the support of my CrossFit classmates, and it’s something that is organic within any good CrossFit gym.”

“Fast forward two years to present day. The proof is tangible. First, my clothes fit better around the waist, I’ve built muscle tone, and my endurance, strength and agility have all made great strides. ‘Activity’, not ‘exercise’, is now a regular part of my day.”

Kirby has received approval from CrossFit, Inc. and plans to construct a 3,200-square-foot building that will house CrossFit. It will be located in a separate building next to the current ambulance garage.

CrossFit services will be open to the public as an extension of health and wellness services developed by Kirby Medical Center. CrossFit, Inc. has pledged $21,000 to outfit the gym with equipment traditionally used in CrossFit workouts, including weights, bars, rowers, pull-up rigs, medicine balls, dumbbells and kettlebells.

Information on classes and pricing is still being determined. Additional details on CrossFit, Inc. are available at www.crossfit.com, or by calling Kirby Medical Center at (217) 762-2115.

Expansion to Cerro Gordo

Kirby Medical Group, the physician and practitioner group of Kirby Medical Center in Monticello, is expanding to Cerro Gordo with a new building and attached retail pharmacy.

“We are very excited to expand our physician group to Cerro Gordo and increase access to people in the area, while also partnering with Sav-Mor Pharmacy,” says Steve Tenhouse, chief executive officer and Craig Webb, board chairman of Kirby Medical Center. “Our Board of Directors is very excited as the new location fits our mission and vision of providing services that makes Piatt County and surrounding areas healthier places to live.”

Kirby Medical Center is acquiring land to the south of Dollar General on Route 105 and will construct a new physician office building with separate attached space to house Sav-Mor Pharmacy. The clinic will be staffed by an advanced practice provider full-time and a physician part-time. Specialties such as general surgery, diet and nutrition counseling, and mental health counseling are also slated to be available.

The hospital is working with an architect to finalize design and construction plans. Construction of the building will commence as soon as possible with a possible summer of 2016 opening.
Thomas Dixon
Memorial Dixon Scholarship Recipients

Since 1974, the Kirby Auxiliary has been awarding the annual Thomas Dixon Memorial Scholarship to deserving students in Piatt County who are pursuing higher education in a medical field. We spoke to Mr. Dixon’s wife and Auxiliary member, Sue Dixon, about the history of the scholarship fund and what it means to the community.

Could you tell us a bit about who Thomas Dixon was and how the scholarship got started?
Thomas Dixon was the Kirby Hospital Administrator from October 1966 until May 2004, when he died unexpectedly. The scholarship was originally called Kirby Hospital Scholarship, and after Tom died, the Auxiliary named it after him.

In the late ’70s, Tom decided to have some of the ladies from the Monticello Woman’s Club start an Auxiliary for Kirby. Many of them were retired nurses or teachers. He knew there was a need for scholarships for students to go into the medical field. So, he and the Kirby Auxiliary decided to start a scholarship fund for any student going into the medical field, and it did not have to be just nursing.

The Auxiliary ladies worked in the hospital gift shop and sold lots of goodies: Ty® Beanie Babies, stuffed animals, jewelry, books, nuts and personal items such as combs, brushes, toothpaste, etc. for patients. The money they earned from the gift shop, plus money from all the bake sales, rummage sales, etc., went to the scholarship fund. Also, many people gave money to the scholarship fund in memory of their loved ones.

Have there been any big changes to the scholarship fund since it began?
When the Kirby scholarship started, only a few students were chosen. Now, there are 15 students for this 2015-16 school year. And, the amount of scholarship money raised has significantly increased compared to when it started many years ago. The Milligan Trust has helped with this, and it is very much appreciated by everyone. There is a scholarship committee made up of Auxiliary members that meets and goes over all the student applications and checks their grades, etc. to make sure everything is in order.

Why is this scholarship so important to the community? Are there any students’ stories that have stuck with you?
Many recipients throughout the years have told me that they could not have made it through school without the financial aid of the scholarships. Matt Brewer, a registered nurse at Kirby, is in medical school and received the scholarship for nursing and is now receiving it for medical school.

Any suggestions for students who want to apply?
If any Piatt County residents are interested in going into the medical field, be sure to apply for the scholarship early. Make sure you have completed the application correctly. You do not have to be just out of high school. This is open to anyone at any age.
The Kirby Auxiliary

In addition to facilitating the Thomas Dixon Memorial Scholarship, the Auxiliary also provided funding for our new ambulance (details on page 10) and clocks thousands of volunteer hours providing free blood pressure screenings and hosting blood drives. The Auxiliary operates the Auxiliary Gift Shop and serves as greeters at the Kirby Medical Center's Welcome Desk.

Thank you to all the volunteers and Auxiliary members – we are so grateful for all that you do!

If you are interested in learning more about the Auxiliary or want to become a member, please stop by the Kirby Medical Center Gift Shop to speak with an Auxiliary member for more information.

Spotlight on Kirby Employee

Diane Walsh

How long have you worked at Kirby and what is your role here?
I have worked at Kirby for 35 years. When I first started working here, I was a nurse assistant for 29 years. I have been in housekeeping for six years.

Why have you stayed with Kirby over the years?
I enjoy working with the people and the environment at Kirby.

What’s been the most rewarding aspect of your career?
Knowing I am making a difference in people’s lives.

What do you think the biggest change (or changes) to the medical industry has been during your career?
Technology has been a big change in the medical field during my career.

Have you seen any big changes to Kirby over the years?
Building the new hospital has been a big change for Kirby.

Why do you think it’s so important to have local care in the community?
It is nice to know, in case of emergency, that there is a hospital close to home.

Congratulations to the 2015 Thomas Dixon Memorial Scholarship recipients:

- ALLYSSA BREWER
  Nursing Student at Parkland College
- BLAKE DOANE
  Physical Therapy Student at Concordia University
- CAROLYN RIGSBY
  Doctorate of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia Student at Millikin University
- CARTER NESS
  Physical Therapy Student at Harding University
- CHLOE NAYONIS
  Nursing Student at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis
- EMILY SMITH
  Physical Therapy Graduate Student at the University of Indianapolis
- EMILY WELLS
  Community Health Student at the University of Illinois
- LISA STANEK
  Nursing Student at Parkland College
- MATT BREWER
  Doctorate of Medicine Student at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
- MOLLY LAWLER
  Nursing Student at Illinois State University
- SAYLOR BOWER
  Biomedical Engineering Student at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- ANNA HENDRIX
  Physiology/Pre-med Student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- ALYSSA HENDRIX
  Physiology/Pre-med Student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- ELIZABETH NISLY-NAGELE
  Nursing Student at Millikin University
Why We Give

The Grateful Patient Program

In addition to donation opportunities through The Kirby Foundation, we also offer the Grateful Patient Program as a way to give our dedicated staff an extra special thank you. If you or your loved one’s experience exceeded expectations, you can share your comments of appreciation and make an optional financial gift in honor of your caregiver or team of caregivers. These tax-deductible gifts pay special tribute to your caregiver and will help provide essential resources for a healthier tomorrow – for you, your family and our community.

Visit www.kirbyfoundation.org/grateful-patient for more information and to submit an online form.

Generosity in Our Community, for Our Community

Phillip and Felicity Benjamin have been generously giving to The Kirby Foundation since 2007. A visit to the Emergency Department – one that they both credit to helping save Phillip’s life – prompted their first donation. Their gifts, says the couple, reflect their appreciation for the comfort and convenience of having healthcare services close to home.

Phillip and Felicity Benjamin moved to Monticello in the fall of 2002 because of Phillip’s strong family ties to Piatt County and the close proximity to Champaign-Urbana. Nearing retirement, they knew they wanted to find a community that was close to a university, enabling them to take advantage of continuing education opportunities.

The couple recently chose to honor Philip’s grandparents, Zona and Virgil Thompson, former Monticello residents, with contributions to The Kirby Foundation’s Education and Equipment funds.

Phillip spent most of his professional career in the Hospital Products Division of Abbott Labs in St. Louis, and Felicity is an accountant and self-described lifelong learner. They value continuing education, and their support of the Education fund provides educational opportunities to those in the nursing field.

“We also believe that medical equipment is important to enhancing the healthcare experience for patients. Because of my professional experiences, we understand the need to stay current with the next generation of technology, and so we also chose to support the Equipment fund, which enables Kirby to do so,” says Phillip.

Felicity adds, “While our donations have given us an opportunity to honor our loved ones, it’s also important to us that the extraordinary healthcare services we have experienced first-hand continue to be offered to our community.

“Coming to Kirby for a procedure makes you feel like you’re a millionaire on vacation. Their caring and compassionate staff and amazing facility truly make a difference. We are grateful for the work they do for our community, and this is one way we can give back, say thank you and share our experiences with others.”

“I don’t know if our fellow community members realize how lucky they are to have a healthcare facility – especially a facility like Kirby and all that it offers – in our community. Felicity and I have lived in other locations and we are grateful for Kirby, its services and its compassionate staff.”

–Phillip Benjamin
Spotlight on: Philanthropist Nell England

John and Mary Kirby’s daughter, Nell, was a champion for Kirby Hospital throughout her life.

After the deaths of her father in 1919 and her mother in 1938, Nell ensured that their final wishes were realized when there was a dispute over her mother’s will and another local hospital found technicalities that led them to believe they were entitled to part of the will. Despite the fight over Mary Kirby’s will, Nell and her husband, William Herbert England, were able to fulfill her parents’ dream when the John and Mary E. Kirby Hospital opened in 1941.

Nell and William, or “Bert” to his friends, shared a lifelong dedication to philanthropy. Before Bert died in 1941, he served on the hospital’s Board of Directors alongside his wife. Nell continued to serve on the board until her death nearly a decade later. As the Piatt County Journal described her in 1941, “she is the only woman on the board and her efforts have been directed solely toward fulfilling the aims which her parents had in mind with respect to a Monticello and Piatt County hospital.” The newspaper described Bert in a similar manner, as he “demonstrated his interest in the venture by contributing generously of his time and efforts toward the success of the hospital” and he “rivaled every board member for interest in the project.”

Nell contributed to many civic organizations, but her focus remained on Kirby Hospital, to which she donated much of her time and money, as well as new equipment. She and Bert furnished a two-bed ward and solarium when the hospital opened. Nell initiated the founding of the Kirby Hospital Auxiliary, whose members provided countless volunteer hours patching bed sheets, rolling dressings and growing vegetables for hospital meals. Nell and the other ladies spent afternoons snapping, cooking and canning beans for Kirby Hospital patients.

One Kirby Auxiliary member, Edith Taflan, recalled in later years, “It was like a party for us – we had such a good time. But our standard joke was that we all said we hoped we wouldn’t get sick and have to go to the hospital and eat our beans.”

Bert was the former mayor of Monticello, and the couple was married there in 1904. The Kirbys moved into a grand Tudor-style house in 1908. The home spoke to the family’s wealth and success, with a ballroom in the basement and a tunnel leading to the carriage house. Nell and Bert never had children, and they left their entire estate to the hospital – a sum of around $150,000 (equal to roughly $1.5 million in 2016).

Nell died in 1950 at the age of 70 and was remembered in the local newspaper as the chief benefactor to Kirby Hospital. Although time has passed, she is still regarded as an essential contributor to the enduring legacy of quality healthcare in our local community. A painting of Nell is prominently displayed alongside paintings of her parents and husband on the Tradition of Caring Wall near the entrance of Kirby Medical Center.
Spotlight on: Kirby Governing Board Member
Steve Ayers

When did you first get involved with Kirby Medical Center? What inspired you to get involved?
My first involvement with Kirby was in my early years, when my grandmother’s cousin, T. George Baker, was a patient at the original Kirby Mansion/Hospital for 13 years. T. George was in the first floor room by the beautiful staircase, and Mom or Grandma would bring us along for regular visits. T. George was grateful for the care at Kirby and donated half his estate to the hospital. My youngest brother, Dr. Bob Ayers, interned at Kirby while in college and medical school. While in the service, I was impressed with the medevac efficiency during the patient’s golden hour. I was farming in the Bement area when Kirby Board member Dan Siders and Kirby CEO Tom Dixon met with me and asked me to join the Board. That was 36 short years ago!

How long have you lived in the area? Have you seen many changes to Kirby over the years?
With the exception of military service, I have lived in the area all my life, graduating from Bement High School and the University of Illinois. We have lived in Monticello since 1994. In healthcare, the only constant is CHANGE, especially the past few years. Over the years, our Kirby executive leadership and Board members have worked exceptionally well together as we plan for the future. Of course, the facility is just bricks and mortar. The Kirby caregivers and support employees who interact with the public make Kirby successful in the long run. I have friends from communities that have lost their hospital, like Paxton or Tuscola, and they regret the loss of the facility and convenience of a local hospital. Kirby has been blessed with a generous community that has supported us since 1941.

How important is Kirby to the local community? Have you seen a specific impact on the community?
Kirby is a jewel in Piatt County’s crown. It is a major employer in the county and it provides state-of-the-art medical care close to home. During the new facility open house in 2011, one of the surgeons commented that the operating room at Kirby was as advanced as anything in Champaign. I had a hip replacement in 2014. I was able to visit Dr. Sullivan at Kirby for pre- and post-op, and then have the surgery at St. Mary’s in Decatur. I was blessed with a “perfect” surgery and recovery, and was able to have all therapy at home and then at Kirby. A month before my surgery, our younger brother lost his battle with cancer while at Kirby. I am deeply grateful for the care and compassion of the Kirby staff during both those times of need.

Is there one accomplishment you’re most proud of from your time on the Kirby Governing Board?
The greatest accomplishment is the new state-of-the-art medical facility that opened September 29, 2011. As we were planning for our new facility, I remember a visit to Chicago in 2006. Our daughter, Mary Ann, was a perinatal nurse at Prentice Women’s Clinic at Northwestern Hospital. She was awarded the honor of Nurse of the Year in Women’s Health. The ceremony was in the Feinburg Pavilion at Northwestern Hospital. It had just opened in 2004 and as Marilyn and I walked through the facility, we commented this was more like a 5-star hotel than a hospital. Now I feel the same way as I walk through Kirby’s new medical center. I was chair of the Board during much of the planning and construction of the medical center and there were times it felt like we were on a roller coaster. The Board and Kirby team worked together through the ups and downs, and the new facility came to fruition.

Does the Board have any special plans in the works for 2016?
Kirby has numerous projects in various stages of planning. We are developing a new Kirby Clinic in Cerro Gordo along with a Save-Mor Pharmacy, building a CrossFit facility, installing a larger sterilizer unit, and conducting the Community Health Needs Assessment by meeting with segments of the Piatt County community.

As we look forward to the future, we must remember the past and the vision of John and Mary Kirby, the Irish immigrants who envisioned a hospital for Monticello. Over the years, with a dedicated management team, physicians, nurses, support staff and Board, plus a generous philanthropic community, Kirby has grown and expanded services for Piatt County residents. That same commitment continues today with the same dedication to the best possible healthcare for our patients. As the U.S. healthcare transformation continues, a cohesive, talented Board, exceptional management team, and compassionate, committed and caring staff, Kirby Medical Center will continue quality healthcare close to home for the next 75 years!
Spotlight on:
Kirby Governing and Foundation Board Member
Dyke Piatt

When did your family first become involved with Kirby? What changes to Kirby have you seen over the years?
I was actually born in the old Kirby Hospital mansion in 1948, and my Dad served on the Kirby Board of Directors for 44 years. I believe that has been the longest term of service on our Board. He always wanted me to take his place, and I was honored to do so when asked. I’ve now been on the Governing Board for almost 10 years and slightly longer on The Kirby Foundation Board.

Obviously the biggest change was our move to our current location. This involved borrowing a lot of money and convincing a skeptical public that it was necessary. Since our move and the doubling of our size, we’ve been able to add many new services, attract visiting specialists, upgrade to digital mammography – all while maintaining Kirby’s culture of caring. These services would not have been possible at our old State Street location. This has been a boon to our community.

Why do you think it’s important to continue this work? What does Kirby mean for the local community?
I think the best way to look at this is to sit down and think “What if Kirby wasn’t here”? It would have a huge impact; you would have to drive to Champaign or Decatur for services, and you wouldn’t have an emergency room available within minutes. Everybody, from babies to 100-year-olds need health services. Kirby is a tremendous community asset, one of the cornerstones of the community, and we wouldn’t be the same without it. It is the county’s biggest employer (250) and is one of the major factors in attracting people to settle in Monticello.

Any upcoming plans for Kirby Medical Center for 2016?
We just met with Mike Dixon from Lodge Park and the Piatt County Forest Preserve to discuss linking our new Wellness Trail with their system of roads and trails within the park. This would provide about 2½ miles of loops for walking and biking.

We are also in the process of hiring new doctors, affiliating with other healthcare givers and developing the acreage on our campus – all of which will benefit our community.

You’re on both the Governing and Foundation boards. What do those roles entail?
The Governing Board makes and oversees some very important decisions and acquisitions while also providing leadership and oversight for the Kirby Medical Center.

The Kirby Foundation is the not-for-profit charitable arm of Kirby. We seek donations to help support and enhance Kirby. These would include: continuing education, equipment purchases, funding our new Wellness Trail, purchasing a new ambulance, etc.

Being on the Board and being able to see all the inner workings of the hospital is daunting because there is so much going on behind the scenes, but it gives you a sense of pride and a good feeling to know you are providing services that impact people’s lives in a positive way.

Our mission statement focuses on being responsible for the wellness of our community, and we feel we are doing this. We have a very dedicated and experienced Board. Everyone gets along great and we feel good about what we are doing. Our CEO and heads of departments are just super. There is a friendly, caring atmosphere at Kirby that permeates through our whole organization. Everyone is on board, and we get lots of nice compliments from patients about the kindness and compassion of the Kirby staff.

Fun Facts from 1941: Fun Facts

• Thanksgiving is officially celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month to allow more time for holiday shopping.
• Paul Simon, Martha Stewart, Bob Dylan, Jesse Jackson and Otis Redding are all born in 1941.
• “Citizen Kane” is a flop at theatres but goes on to be regarded as one of the best films of all time.
• Franklin D. Roosevelt is Time’s Man of the Year for the third time.
• The first television commercial airs – a 10-second ad costing around $7.00 for Bulova watches.
The Kirby Foundation plays a vital role in sustaining Kirby Medical Center’s dedication to excellence through its generous charitable gifts and strong community ties. Thanks to the Foundation’s ongoing support, Kirby Medical Center continues to offer outstanding healthcare services, right here in Piatt County. Donations to The Kirby Foundation go toward purchasing new, high-tech medical equipment, offering expanded training opportunities for caregivers and much more. Big or small, every gift makes a difference.

Fun Facts from 1941:

**Medicine**

- Scientists develop a means of mass producing penicillin, which leads to a less than 1% death rate from bacterial pneumonia among soldiers (compared to 18% during WWI).
- Fear of serious health complications and death from polio, tuberculosis and syphilis are still very real and prevalent.
- Smoking is allowed (and sometimes even encouraged) in hospitals but frowned upon around new babies and oxygen tanks.
- Long hospital stays are the norm, with new mothers spending a week or more in the maternity ward, although around half of births still happen at home.
- Plastics are not yet used, and glass syringes and IV bottles must be sterilized for reuse.

---

**Thank you for your support!**
Cumulative Giving Recognition

The collective generosity of these individuals and businesses allows Kirby Medical Center to respond to the constant changes in healthcare. We celebrate cumulative giving to The Kirby Foundation and extend our gratitude to the following who embrace philanthropy. Thank you for being part of a long-standing tradition of giving that allows us to advance and improve healthcare in Piatt County.

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<tr>
<th>Community Health Visionary</th>
<th>Cumulative gifts of $500,000 or more</th>
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Thank you for supporting The Kirby Foundation and Kirby Medical Center throughout 2015. Your gifts to our hospital, clinics, programs and services are greatly appreciated. Philanthropic support from loyal supporters, grateful patients, new donors, our own physicians and many others improves and enhances lives. Your commitment and our passion for caring for our patients are taking Kirby Medical Center to new heights as we continuously strive to provide the highest quality patient care experience for you, your family and the communities we serve.

**Tradition of Caring**

**up to $99**

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Wm F. Tracy II and Elaine B. Tracy
Craig and Becky Webb
Michael and Deborah Westjohn

Continuing the Tradition of Caring
We give special recognition to those partners who continue to work with us by contributing to The Kirby Foundation for three or more years. Thank you for believing in our mission.

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Florence Baker
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