

Wishek Hospital 65 Years of Service...our history

In December 1949, an organizational membership meeting was held, resulting in the formation of the Wishek Hospital Clinic Association (WHCA). A fund drive was begun in October 1950 with its goal to raise \$80,000 cash that would help pay for the estimated \$196,000.

WHCA celebrated its dedication in 1954, opening its doors in April of that year. The beautiful new institution, under the medical guidance of Dr. Franz Gutowski as its first Chief of Staff, could accommodate 16 patients in eight double rooms. The hospital staff included administrator Ralph Opperman and approximately 11 others who worked as nurses, x-ray and lab technicians, cooks, nurse's aides and clerical employees.

The healthcare needs of McIntosh and Logan counties continued to expand through the early 1960's, and hospital officials recognized a need to grow with this new demand. On March 21, 1963, a public meeting was held to discuss the wisdom of giving the Board of Directors the authority to mortgage the facility to raise money for a new addition. Forty-seven of the 63 residents who attended approved and plans began for a wing that would add 11 beds and more services.

Construction on the \$298,000 addition began in June 1963, and on May 24, 1964, a crowd estimated at 500 people turned out for the dedication of the new wing.

The hospital had purchased two lots adjacent to the institution in 1970, and by the middle of that decade, the idea of having a clinic gained local support. After more than two years of planning, construction began, and on Aug. 21, 1977 yet another dedication to Wishek's commitment to healthcare was held when the clinic opened its doors.

The Wishek Clinic opened at its current location in 1977 and in the 1980's the hospital association purchased the physician practice from Dr. Kosiak. The Napoleon Clinic was built by Dr. Goodman and purchased by WHCA in 1984 and the Kulm Clinic was opened in April of 1994 and this clinic was relocated to its current location in 2009.

1994 and 1995 were prosperous years for the hospital. New equipment for mammography, cardiac



testing, computerized tomography (CT), anesthesia and blood analyzing were installed, further expanding the variety of services residents could receive here.

As patient visits grew at the Wishek Clinic, it became necessary to consider expanding that facility to provide more space for local and visiting specialists. The hospital's fourth major capital campaign began in early 2000 with a goal of \$180,000 to add a 1,700 sq. ft. addition to the Wishek Clinic. Approximately \$125,000 in local contributions helped fund the project showing, once again, that residents of the area value having a locally owned and managed healthcare facility. Construction began in September 2000, and the addition was dedicated April 19, 2002.

Today, Wishek Hospital and Clinics has 100 employees, and manages clinic locations in Napoleon, Kulm, Gackle and Wishek. WHCA is proud of the quality and range of medical treatment and procedures it offers its patients. We have a sound relationship with a number of visiting specialists, giving area residents peace of mind that their immediate healthcare needs will be met.

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Meet Our Newest Providers

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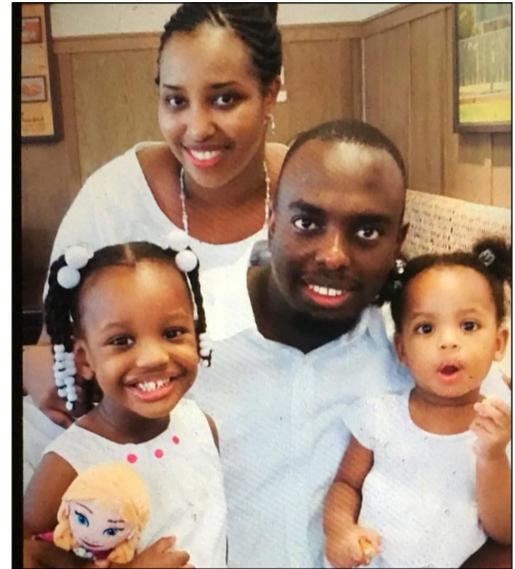
My name is **Joseph Giramata**, I am a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). I spent almost seven years as a registered nurse working in different specialties on different units at the Duke University Hospital before joining the Wishek Hospital and Clinics in 2018.

My passion has always been helping other people, especially those with medical conditions/needs (acute or chronic). After getting my Bachelors' degree in nursing, I started working as med-surg nurse taking care of hospitalized adult patients for almost three years before joining the float pool department where I was exposed to different specialties of the hospital.

When I went back to school for my graduate studies, I chose the FNP specialty because it would help me reach patients from newborns to the very old without any limitation to a certain population (pediatrics, geriatrics, adults, etc.) I was born in an area where healthcare is a forgotten matter/opportunity. In this area of the country, in order to reach the nearest clinic, one had to travel miles and miles. And it is still the same today. Hoping to relocate back home one day, as a family nurse practitioner, I will be able to play a role of a primary care provider the same way I am doing today at the Wishek Hospital and Clinics. As a Primary Care Provider at the Wishek Hospital and Clinics, I enjoy seeing someone smiling again after their acute or chronic condition has

been managed accordingly and that keeps me working even harder every day so we can help those who come to us with health needs. Managing diabetes is one of my passions as a provider in a primary care clinic. Currently, I am completing my Advanced Diabetes Management (ADM) studies hoping to establish good glycemic control with all our patients who were diagnosed with diabetes mellitus.

Joseph L. Giramata, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-C



My name is **Siaka Sanneh**. I'm married and have a step daughter. I was born and raised in small country called The Gambia. Yes the official name is "The Gambia". Check it out. It is also called the SMILING COAST OF AFRICA. You may want to know why it is called so. I have the answer, but a little research could also give you an answer. The Gambia is located on the west coast of Africa. It has a very interesting geographical location as it is bordered on the three sides by Senegal and the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It appears like a sandwich country or put indifferently, a country in another country. In case you want to find it on a map, please get your magnifying glass ready as it may be difficult to locate it on a map.

I attended Clarkson College in Omaha, Nebraska

where I graduate with MSN- Family Nurse Practitioner. My interest is in rural healthcare. It provides a different perspective about healthcare especially when resources are limited. I also enjoy primary and emergency care. It is a fascinating combination as both are two opposite specialties with different foci. What is even more interesting about emergency care is not knowing what to expect and the fast pace nature of the environment. The exciting thing about primary care is getting to know your patients more and the opportunity to engage with them about health prevention, promotion and management of chronic illnesses. Of course, I enjoy listening to stories from senior citizens about their lives especially growing up in farming communities.

I chose healthcare because I like working with and helping people. My interest in healthcare is further cemented by my experience growing up in The Gambia where access to better health care was limited. I believe healthcare is a universal right, thus everyone deserves access to appropriate and timely healthcare service. I strongly believe in the common saying "health is wealth", as one cannot fully attain his or her full potential without health.

In case you don't know, I'm a huge soccer fan. It definitely defines my weekend. If you're looking for a soccer team, please come join us at Arsenal F.C. We're the best in soccer. Thanks for reading about me.

From the CEO - Bev Vilhauer

Top 20 and top 100 Hospital



Earlier this year, Wishek Community Hospital was awarded as one of the top 100 critical access hospitals for 2019. And recently named as one of the top 20 among those top 100. On paper, there are 50 performance indicators across eight pillars of performance which calculates each hospital's percentile rankings compared to all critical access hospitals in a study group. It is the quality, financial stability and HCAPS scores that factor into some of the data used to select this award. It also includes patient's perspectives of the quality of care that they received from our caring and loving staff. So I want to extend my sincere thank you to all the employees for being a part of this great accomplishment. It is from the quality of care and compassion that you give to our patients on a daily basis that makes this type of award possible.

65 Years of Healthcare

As we look back at our history, we see how healthcare has changed throughout the years. Reimbursement has changed from a percentage of the total charges, to DRG's and currently paid on per diem or cost to charge ratios. Surgical and birthing procedures that used to be hospitalized for 5-10 days are now ambulatory or overnight stays. Our focus used to be on taking care of the sick and today we focus on keeping our communities healthy.

We are planning activities throughout the remainder of the year to celebrate our mission of continuing to provide "Quality Care with Concern and Compassion" and we invite you to join us in these celebrations. We did host an open house during "Hospital Week" in May, but if you would like a tour of the newly renovated hospital, I invite to you to stop in anytime and we will be happy to show you the changes that we have made.

Marketing

When Wishek Hospital was opened 65 years ago, perhaps the main source of obtaining information of the hospital was through newspapers and word of mouth. Soon to follow would be posters and radio advertisements. Although we still use newspaper advertising, most people today get their information though social media using E-mail, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you have a social media account, I encourage you to find us, like us and follow us for the most up-to-date information regarding the hospital and clinics. We are also working on building a database using E-mails and I encourage you to share your e-mail address so that we can keep in touch with you.

You can email us at bruced@wiskehospital.com or samanthal@wiskehospital.com to receive more information.



Kulm Clinic remodel is completed and we are open for business and all your medical and health care needs.

Call (701) 647-2345 to make your appointment.



DONATIONS

The following is a list of supporters who donated to Wishek Hospital Clinic Association in 2018.

Hospital Foundation

Bader Family
 In memory of Alvin Bader
 Beverly Vilhauer
 In memory of Arla Babitzke
 In memory of Roger Boschee
 In memory of Maggie Lautt
 In memory of June Kemmet
 Brenda Schauer
 Carol Koegler
 In memory of Peuna Kaseman
 Dennis & Diane Glas
 In memory of Rose Welk
 Dennis Hauck
 Donavin & Cari Wiest
 In memory of Rodney Eiseman
 Eye Center of the Dakotas
 Farrell & Stacey Fetzer
 In memory of Howard Kaseman
 Greg & Cynthia Salwei
 In memory of Rodney Eiseman
 Harold Feldt
 Jim Weber Ford
 Joan Overbo
 Larry & Ann Knecht
 In memory of Florence Grenz
 Larry & Brenda Thurn
 Lloyd & Lila Raile
 In memory of Howard Kaseman
 Lora's Boutique
 Michelle Fenton
 Napoleon Drug
 Russell & Mary Lehr
 In memory of Laverne Lehr
 Scott & Anell Cieslak
 In memory of Gladys Bauer
 Tommy & Julie Just
 Victor & Jo Vilhauer
 In memory of Howard Kaseman
 In memory of Rodney Eiseman
 Virginia Just
 Wannan Farms
 Weber Plumbing

Wishek Community Hospital

Archie & Sharon Hoffman
 Grenz Family
 In memory of Florence Grenz
 St Luke's Women of the ELCA

Hospital Renovation Project

Alisha Ankers, Attorney at Law
 American Legion
 Basin Electric Power Cooperative
 BEK Communications Cooperative
 Beverly Vilhauer
 Carla and Lee Aipperspach, Wishek Drug
 Central Iron
 CoBank
 Donald Babitzke
 In memory of Arla Babitzke
 Farmers Union Insurance - Al Weigel
 First Community Credit Union
 Greg, Kay, Elliott, and Olivia Weber, Weber
 Plumbing
 Howard and Violette Kaseman
 Jo and Victor Vilhauer
 John and Joan Wishek
 John C. Johs Construction
 Kaseman Family
 In memory of Howard Kaseman
 Kay & Delane Rau
 Kem Electric Cooperative
 Mary's Bookkeeping and Tax Service
 Maude Fiechtner
 MDU Resource Foundation
 Napoleon Livestock Auction
 Pfeifle Chevrolet-Buick Inc.
 Raile Insurance
 Stanley Moeckel
 Todd & Tanya Schnabel
 Western Shop & Livestock Supply

Wishek Ambulance Service

Archie & Sharon Hoffman
 Albert & Luella Ackerman
 Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative
 Donald Rohrbach
 Harold Feldt
 Land O' Lakes
 Sheila Brosy
 Wayne & Joyce Janke

Kulm Community Clinic

Kulm Service Inc.

Saving Lives In A Snowstorm

Tuesday, March 14, 2019 started out just like any regular day for Michele and baby Fin. They were enjoying a “snow day” as another blizzard was rumbling through North Dakota. Fin was on the floor doing tummy time when she went quiet and stopped moving. Michele grabbed her, started clapping and doing whatever she could to wake her up. At this point she started to panic and called the hospital; as the clinic was closed on this day due to the blizzard. She stated they were coming into the ER and explained what was happening. The nurses took Fin’s vitals and her temperature was 102°. Siaka Sanneh, FNP was on call and informed Michele of his concerns for Fin as she was not very active. Due to the snow storm plows were unable to get to the hospital for Michele and Fin to go to Bismarck by ambulance, so the next option was for a helicopter flight.

As a first time parent with a 2 ½ month old, Michele stated she was freaking out and concerned for her daughter’s health. Michele says the staff on duty were everything she could have hoped for. The nurses were very supportive and able to keep her calm and reassure her that everything was going to be okay. They literally gave her “the clothes off their backs.” When asking Michele what she meant by this, Michele informed us that when she brought Fin into the ER, she was wearing only her pajamas as she was in a rush to get her to the hospital. When the helicopter arrived to take them to Bismarck, they were not going to let her get in the helicopter as she was not dressed appropriately in winter boots, hat, gloves and a coat. Michele stated the staff did not even hesitate to provide her with these items so that she would not be separated from her baby during the flight.



Michele is appreciative for the great knowledge, care, and concern provided by Siaka Sanneh, FNP and the nursing staff for the care



Finlee and Michele Kowalski

they provided not only for Fin, but for herself as well. She never once felt like any of her questions went unanswered and that everything was explained to her by Siaka Sanneh in a compassionate way considering the amount of stress she was under at the time.

Born on January 1, 2019 at 12:13 a.m. weighing in at 6 lbs. 5 oz. and 22’ long, Finlee Elizabeth Kowalski was the first baby born in the New Year after her mother, Michele had a grueling 24 hour labor that ended in an emergency C-section.

Today Finlee is thriving and is changing every day, and Michele stated she won’t hesitate to bring her into the clinic and hospital if the need arises again.



Hospital Fundraising in the 50s

Pictured left is a photo of a painted portrait that was used for fund raising efforts to help build the hospital back in the 1950's. We are not 100% clear of the details associated with this painting, we do know that it was painted by Zerche, a resident of Czechoslovakia and had to be smuggled out of the country. It is believed to be a village in Czechoslovakia with one of their highest mountains in the background. The painting was acquired by Eva Schlenker, who was also from Czechoslovakia, married to Milbert Schlenker and was the daughter-in-law of Daniel Schlenker.

The painting made its way to Wishek, ND where it was framed and was auctioned off during the kickoff of the hospital's fundraiser. During the auction once the painting was purchased, the buyer then turned around and it was re-auctioned off to another buyer and this process was repeated until in the final round, it was purchased by Daniel Schlenker, father to Walter Schlenker who had been an employee of the Wishek Hospital for many years in the maintenance department. This painting was then donated to the Wishek Hospital by the Schlenker Family, and it is currently used to decorate an office.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual taco feed. A record 290 people were served. Thank you for your support.



Then and now....Wishek Hospital Providing 65 years of Health Care Service

American Cancer Society **New Breast Cancer Screening Guideline**
for women with average risk

AGE 40	AGE 45	AGE 55	AGE 55 +
Talk with your doctor about when to begin screening. Women should have the opportunity to begin screening if they choose.	Begin yearly mammograms by age 45.	Transition to mammograms every other year at age 55 or continue with annual mammography, depending on your preferences.	Continue to have regular mammograms for as long as you're in good health.

Early detection is the best prevention!

Did you know women whose breast cancer is detected at an early stage have a 93 percent or more survival rate in the first five years?

Get your mammograms done at the Wishek hospital between October 1st, 2018 and September 30th, 2019 and you will AUTOMATICALLY be entered to win a PINK Yeti cooler OR a PINK Coach purse!

Get your referrals at your local clinic today!

Wishek Hospital and Clinics are excited to announce that we will have **3D Mammography** by the end of the year!

In comparison to our current digital mammography, 3D mammography can present improved cancer detection. Studies suggest that radiologists are able to more precisely read results from 3D mammography in dense breast tissue, which can lead to fewer false-positive and false negative readings.

Our Specialist Providers



Dr. Aaron Chalmers
General Surgery
Consults, Colonoscopies, and EGD
Third Monday of Every Month



Dr. Brian Gale
Podiatry
Every other Month

Medical School:

University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences – Grand Forks, ND

Internship (General surgery):

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics – Madison, WI

Residency (General Surgery):

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics – Madison, WI

Medical School:

Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine – Philadelphia, PA

Residency (Internal Medicine):

St. Joseph's Hospital – Philadelphia, PA

Rotation Residency:

Foot and Ankle Surgery for UND Family Practice – Residency Program



Dr. Rhonda Schafer-Mclean
OB-GYN
Third Wednesday of Every Month



Dr. Stan Diede
Cardiology
Last Monday of every other month

Medical School:

University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences – Grand Forks, ND

Residency:

University of Colorado – Denver, CO

Medical School:

Loma Linda University – Loma Linda, CA

Residency (Internal Medicine):

Loma Linda University – Loma Linda, CA

Fellowship (Cardiology):

Loma Linda University – Loma Linda, CA



Rick Hofferber, FNP-C
Urology
Second Monday of Every Month



Dr. Brock Norrie
Orthopedics
Second Tuesday of Every Month

Bachelor of Science (Nursing):

University of Mary – Bismarck, ND

Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner):

University of Mary – Bismarck, ND

Medical School:

University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences – Grand Forks, ND

Residency (Orthopedic Surgery):

Grand Rapids Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program – Grand Rapids, MI

Fellowship (Hand, Elbow, and Shoulder Surgery):

University of Buffalo – Buffalo, NY



Wishek Community Hospital is excited to announce that in addition to being named one of the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States by *The Chartis Center For Rural Health*, we have been identified as being in the top 20 by *National Rural Health Association*!

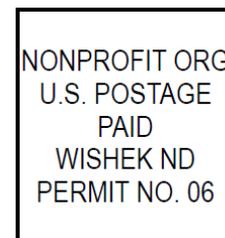


Contact Us

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Napoleon Clinic 754-2322
Kulm Clinic 647-2345
Gackle Clinic 485-3611



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