



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors who have supported the Long-Nissen Infusion Center. Your contributions enable us to provide essential cancer therapies and infusion services, ensuring our community receives the high-quality care it deserves. Thank you for making a difference!

- Curtis W. Long, MD
- BCMH Auxiliary
- Bates County Community Health Foundation
- Donations in Memory of Linda Law
- Significant Anonymous Donor
- Montrose School District
- BCMH Plant Operations
- William and Linda Gollhofer
- Reegan Koshko

Gifts Elevate Cancer Care

Introducing the Curtis W. Long, MD and Gay L. Nissen, RN Infusion Center

Curtis W. Long, MD, is a well-known figure in Bates County for several reasons. He has been a practicing physician since 1964 and was a pioneer in innovative medical practices, being one of the first, if not the very first, to perform laparoscopic surgery in Missouri in 1974. Above all, he is recognized for his dedication to giving back to the community.

Recently, he made a generous donation to support the newly expanded Infusion Center project at Bates County Memorial Hospital, which focuses on cancer care and other therapies. In appreciation of his remarkable generosity, the new space was named in his honor, and at his request, it also includes the name of his longtime nurse, Gay Nissen, RN, who has worked alongside him for over 40 years.

“The reason I donated to the center is that I wanted to give back to the community, which has been very good to me,” Dr. Long

explained. However, he felt it was important to clarify something.

“I made a mistake. I should have put her name first. She’s the most important part of this; her contributions are invaluable. You have no idea how much work she has done for the community and the hospital. She has truly done a fantastic job for us. The patients love her and have complete confidence in her.”

Gay, a registered nurse, had been working for BCMH for about 10 years when Dr. Long hired her in 1983 to assist with his primary care practice in Butler.

During the Open House for the Long-Nissen Center on July 21, community members had the opportunity to personally thank Dr. Long for his contributions. More recently, Dr. Long visited the Infusion Center to have his photo

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A Legacy of Love

How One Young Photographer is Honoring Her Mother's Memory

When Ann Donnohue, Outpatient Specialty Clinic Manager at Bates County Memorial Hospital (BCMh), came across a collection of rural Bates County scenes on Facebook, she felt an immediate connection.

The images, showcasing peaceful landscapes of delicate wildflowers and feathery grass, beautifully captured the essence of the area. However, it was the young photographer, Reagan Koshko, who Ann believed could bring the emotional touch needed for the new Infusion Center at BCMh.

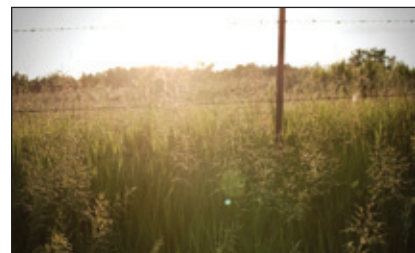
At just 17 years old and currently a senior at Appleton City High School, Reagan's childhood was touched by profound loss. When she was only five, her mother, Cheyanna Hellwig, passed away from breast cancer. Inspired by Ann Donnohue's request to contribute art to the new Infusion Center, Reagan, together with her aunt and uncle, Kaleb and Jody Hellwig, who serve as her guardians, chose to donate her wildflower photo set in loving memory of her mother.



Pictured with Reagan (center) are Ann Donnohue, RN, on the left, and her maternal grandmother, Carolyn Hellwig, on the right.

In recognition of this generous gesture, Ann approached the Bates County Community Health Foundation (BCCHF), which supports healthcare scholarships for local students. She proposed awarding Reagan with a scholarship in memory of Cheyanna Hellwig. The foundation members quickly approved the scholarship with the goal of awarding it in 2025.

Reagan's heartfelt gift is a testament to the enduring bonds of family and community. As the Long-Nissen Infusion Center decorates its walls with her tranquil photography, it will provide a lasting reminder of hope and resilience for patients and families navigating their health challenges.



A sample of Reagan's wildflower photographs.

Not so F.A.S.T. Uncommon Stroke Warning Signs

November 14 at 12:00 pm in the Education Center

You may be familiar with the F.A.S.T. acronym for spotting a stroke—Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulties, and Time to get help. In this class, Stroke Specialist Whitli Thomas, DPT will review additional symptoms that often catch patients by surprise.

Light Lunch Provided! RSVP Recommended – Call 660-200-7007.

To learn more or sign up, visit <https://bcmhospital.com/bates-county-distance-learning-classes/>



Gifts Elevate Cancer Care *continued from page 1*

taken for this publication. As he was leaving, a door to one of the infusion rooms opened, and a family member stepped out to shake his hand, saying, "Thank you for this. Thank you for your part in making this happen."

This moment highlights the deep appreciation our community has for Dr. Long's dedication and support.

"We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Long and Gay Nissen for their unwavering dedication and

support of our community. Your commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of those around you is truly inspiring," said Greg Weaver, Chief Executive Officer for BCMH. "A special thank you for your generous donation to the Infusion Center. Your contribution will have a lasting impact, helping us provide care and services to those in need. Your kindness and generosity make all the difference, and we are deeply grateful for your support. Thank you for all that you do."

"We are privileged to witness daily scenes of courage and love surrounding our patients. Every day, they or their family members express gratitude for this beautiful space, for the privacy and calm it offers, and the vital services available right in their community."

— Ann Donnohue, RN

NEW PROVIDERS



Hospitalist Alex Wilson, DO, joined BCMH's Medical Staff in August, caring for hospitalized patients. A native of Adrian, he chose BCMH for his medical school rotations and volunteered on the Med/Surg floor during the Covid-19 pandemic. We warmly welcome Dr. Wilson and thank him for returning to serve his rural community.



Jon Blake, DO, a board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon with over 20 years of experience, joined us in September. He sees patients of all ages and for all types of general orthopedic surgeries and procedures, but he especially enjoys treating athletes and patients with aging joints. We are privileged to welcome Dr. Blake as a visiting specialist, seeing patients on Mondays through Outpatient Specialty Clinics.

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ELEVATING CANCER CARE

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VitalSigns



Join us for Our Red Kingdom Health Fair!

**Mark your calendars for November 6,
from 2:00 to 6:00 pm in our Front Lobby!
Get ready to tackle your health with:**

- **Free Health Screenings** to keep you in the game
- **Exciting Tailgate Drawings** for a chance to score big
- **Discounts on Select Labs and Imaging**—your health deserves a win!

Embrace the spirit of Red Kingdom and give back! Join us earlier that day from 12:00 to 4:00 pm in the Education Center to donate blood with the Community Blood Center. Let's show our community teamwork!

Don't fumble—get all the details at:
www.bcmhospital.com/red-kingdom-health-fair/