

# GREAT NEWS

## GREAT RIVER HEALTH SYSTEMS

April 5, 2017

## Great River Health Systems volunteer named to Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame

### People's Choice Award poll open through April 19

Great River Health Systems volunteer Fred Kelly will be honored as a new member of the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame Wednesday, April 26, at the Iowa State Capitol. He is the first individual inductee from Des Moines County in the Volunteer Iowa award's 28-year history.

The other 2017 members are Edward Hertko, M.D., West Des Moines, and William Laubengayer, Coralville.

The public can vote through Wednesday, April 19, for the People's Choice Award, which gives extra recognition for an individual's contributions as a volunteer. The winner will be announced during the April 26 ceremony. To learn about all three inductees and vote, click [HERE](#).

**In the last 10 years, Kelly has made the health system's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) team one of the most successful in the state. The volunteer service has grown to have nine counselors and seven office assistants. Together, they have helped 5,754 clients save a total of \$1.4 million.**

SHIIP is a free confidential service of the State of Iowa.

"Fred serves SHIIP with compassion, dedication, wisdom and humor," said Michelle McGraw, coordinator, Great River Health Systems Volunteer Services. "He has developed the local SHIIP into a program health system administration values."

Kelly helps train all new counselors in southeast Iowa. Although his main community is Des Moines County, he has served customers in 15 other Iowa counties and parts of Illinois. He has volunteered nearly 8,500 hours since 2007.

Volunteer Iowa (The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service) is part of a network of state service commissions throughout the U.S. that foster bipartisan commitment to advancing service initiatives and developing, communicating and promoting a statewide vision and ethic of service.

Volunteer Iowa, its commissioners, staff and partner agencies work with organizations and individuals to:

1. Help agencies develop quality programs that use service as a strategy to fulfill their missions and address Iowa's greatest areas of need
2. Help engage Iowans in their communities by promoting service and expanding the volunteer base
3. Connect people with appropriate service opportunities by building the volunteer infrastructure



Fred Kelly

## New providers



**Alicia Hines, ARNP**

Great River Physicians and Clinics

Medical education: Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia



**Erik Jones, D.N.P.**

Great River Anesthesia

Medical education: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston

## May 1 deadline for summer Junior Volunteer applications

Great River Health Systems' summer Junior Volunteer Program for youth 16 (by June 1) to 18 years old is scheduled from Monday, June 12 to Friday, Aug. 4. The eight-week program provides opportunities to explore health care careers, gain work experience and fulfill volunteer requirements for school and service projects.

Positions for Junior Volunteers are available at Great River Medical Center and Great River Klein Center. Teens will be scheduled to work a minimum of one four-hour shift per week, and they must be present seven of the eight weeks.

The deadline for applications is Monday, May 1. Apply [HERE](#). For more information, please call Volunteer Services at 319-768-3340.

## Free grief workshop April 22

Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing is the title of a free bereavement workshop offered by Great River Home Health and Hospice. It is scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at Great River Hospice House, 1306 S. Washington Road, West Burlington. The event will conclude with a soup lunch.

Based on the book Tear Soup, the workshop will provide an understanding of grief and suggestions for working through grief and helping others with their grief. Participants will learn how to perform the "art" of grieving and how to fill the void in life left by a loved one's death.

Great River Hospice social worker Melissa Claassen, LMSW, will present the program.

"This program is as much for people who want to understand grief and reach out to others to help with their grief, as it is for those who are grieving themselves," said Claassen.

Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call Great River Home Health and Hospice at 319-768-3350 or toll-free 877-404-4766.

## Healthy Lifestyles Conference

**8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 19**

Comfort Suites

1780 Stonegate Center Dr., Burlington

The annual conference is for nurses, dietitians, school nurses, food service personnel, wellness coordinators and others who work with people seeking healthier lifestyles. Continuing-education credit is offered. The cost is \$75.

For more information, click [HERE](#).



## Colorectal cancer topic of April 27 program

Colorectal cancer is the topic of the next Red Hot Mamas program at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27. The program will be in the Blackhawk Room on the lower level of Great River Wellness Plaza, 1401 W. Agency Road, West Burlington.

A light supper and door prizes will be available at this free program. Register [HERE](#). Red **Hot Mamas** is a program that educates women about physical and psychological changes as they age, and helps them make informed health care decisions.



## It's back! \$5 Jewelry\* Fair

**8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Thursday, April 6**

**7 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Friday, April 7**

Mercy Plaza

\*Plus scarves, clothing, totes, watches and many other great accessories!

 **Great River  
Friends**

A service of Great River Health Systems



## Service Recognition 2017

About 280 Great River Health Systems employees celebrated milestone service anniversaries in 2016. They were recognized for five to 40 years of service at a dinner March 30 at Pzazz Conference Center in Burlington.

More than 25 percent of the employees recognized have worked for the health system for 20 or more years. The average length of service was 14 years.

To learn more about jobs at Great River Health Systems, click [HERE](#).

### Employees shared memorable moments:



**Nanci Bessine**  
**Pediatrics Unit, 35 years**

While working nights, Nancy has seen Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and dreaded illnesses come and go. All those wonders are seen through the eyes of children alongside the most wonderful co-workers.



**Sue Humiston**  
**Obstetrics Unit, 35 years**

"After seeing hundreds of deliveries, I still feel every birth is a miracle. I am thankful to be part of the special time of

bringing a new life in to this world!

"I have had many mothers return to tell me that they could not have gotten through labor without my help. Others thank me for the hug and encouragement that I gave them as they left the hospital as a scared new parent."

"There also are memories of the unusual events that have happened. I have been in many emergency situations during a labor or delivery, and I am always amazed at how well the physicians, nurses and other staff work as a team to take care of the mother and baby. It is great to know you can count on your competent, caring co-workers."



**Christine Gregory**  
**Heart and Vascular Center,**  
**30 years**

"My dad owned Superior Ambulance before selling it to Great River Health Systems. Nine years ago, he arrived at the hospital in cardiac arrest.

The fire department, Emergency Department, Dr. Alwahdani and Dr. Woodard gave it their all to save him but, unfortunately, it was his time to leave us. It was a very sad time for my family and me.

"My two wonderful coworker friends (Cheryl Litch and Julie Brooks) along with my awesome boss, Betty Yore, were there in our time of need. They opened the Heart and Vascular Center waiting room for my family to gather – and I have a

big family. On the day of Dad's funeral, Superior Ambulance and the Burlington Fire Department escorted him to his final resting place. He would have been proud.

"In the days that followed, my co-workers were the best work family anyone could ask for. My friends Julie, Cheryl and John Pieper covered for me at work so I could be off. They will never know how loved I felt.

"Working at Great River Health Systems has been my pleasure. Thank you for 30 great years."



**Melissa Hopp**  
**Burlington Area Family Practice Center, 30 years**

"I was part of the hospital move team for the Transitional Care and Rehabilitation units. We worked for many months getting things planned and organized for

this day. I helped provide tours and unit training so staff would feel comfortable in the new environment.

"It was awesome to see the lineup of ambulances that morning waiting to transport patients to our new building. The TCU and Rehab units were bigger units and had a large population of patients to move. It was an amazing and satisfying feeling at the end of the day when all patients were tucked into their new rooms with their belongings without running into any problems."



**Mary Moore**  
**Quality Resources, 30 years**

"We had no idea how H1N1 influenza and Ebola would affect us, but we did our very best to prepare. I was supported by Administration, leadership, Corporate

Education and staff to make sure we got the work done. Our physicians attended the Ebola training. They were engaged, curious and involved in the process of keeping staff safe. I am thankful to work in an organization that is supportive of the work I do."



**Terry Lasswell**  
**Patient Access, 35 years**

Terry's favorite memory is from September 2002, when she was named Employee of the Month:

"I was truly humbled by the honor from my supervisor and co-workers. I have been extremely fortunate to learn and work with a fantastic team in Rehabilitation Services. Working at Great River Health Systems has given me a wonderful experience of meeting and helping a large group of patients and fellow employees who have made me a better person and employee."

## Casual days

Employees purchase \$2 stickers for the opportunity to wear jeans to work on designated Fridays. The next casual days and organizations they benefit are:

**April 7** Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa

**April 14** Iowa Donor Network

**April 21** Camp Courageous

## Donate Life Month

April is Donate Life Month. To register to become an organ donor, click the state in which you live:

**Iowa Illinois**

When employees buy stickers for the April 14 casual day, they will receive green Donate Life bracelets. If sticker locations don't have them, bracelets also will be available in Human Resources.

# STEP UP TO THE PLATE

## Blood Drive

7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 2

Mercy Plaza lobby

Get your choice of shirt in your choice of sizes!

Follow these steps to [register](#).

- Click Create My Account.
- After logging on, click Donate Blood.
- In Step 1 at the top of the screen, search for Great River Health Systems.
- Click May 2.
- Click Schedule next to the time you choose.

Scheduling online earns points for gear at Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center's Donor Loyalty Store.



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

## Darcy Adams

**Executive Assistant  
Great River Physicians and Clinics  
Administration**

**Start date:**

December 1994

**What a typical day looks like for me:**

My primary responsibilities are scheduling and planning meetings, hiring and scheduling staff for clinics, and payroll. There is not a typical day, which is what I love the most about my job. A “normal” day involves meeting whatever needs arise at the moment and prioritizing what needs to happen first. I have the privilege of regularly interacting with Senior Administration and our providers.

**What I wanted to be when I grew up:**

I always wanted to work in an office, and be a mom and wife.

**Hometown / Where I live now:**

Dallas City, Illinois / Colusa, Illinois

**Family:**

- Husband, Chris
- Five sons – Tyler, Kyle, Ryan, Dylan and Wyatt

**People would be surprised to know ...**

My husband and I met in high school and dated for seven years before getting married. This year, we celebrate our 25 anniversary. Several members of my family work at Great River Health Systems. Chris is a respiratory therapist. Tyler works in Environmental Services and Kyle is a summer intern in Plant Operations.

**Things I enjoy:**

- Attending my kids’ activities
- The beach
- Walking/exercising
- Reading when I get time



**If I could choose anyone, my mentor would be:**

My parents. They taught me to have faith, love, moral values, work ethic and discipline.

**My personal mantra:**

Each day is a gift. Choose happiness and a positive attitude in all that you do. It will make your day and the day of others around you brighter. There are always things to be grateful for.

**Given a chance, I would like to be this person:**

A missionary caring for orphaned children

**Who I root for:**

My kids’ sports teams – the West Hancock Titans and Illinois College Blueboys

**The most recent app I’ve downloaded:**

Ibotta

**My biggest achievement:**

A few years ago, I was nominated for an Excellence in Practice award by my peers.