

CIRCLE CONVERSATIONS

The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration and unwavering dedication. From humble beginnings, this remarkable organization has grown into a beacon of hope, providing essential medical services to thousands of individuals and families across the region.

CHC's story begins in 1997 with the opening of Pittsburg's Family Resource Center, a collaborative project of the hospital, USD 250, and PSU to ensure children were "ready to learn." In 2003 CHC became its own nonprofit committed to providing medical, dental, and mental health care regardless of ability to pay. Back then, a small staff cared for about 8,000 patients, operating out of a doublewide trailer, a large closet at Wesley House with very used dental equipment, and a small office in Frontenac. Local physicians contracted for services, which attracted Dr. Linda Bean, a young family physician who joined staff during residency and now serves as Chief Medical Officer. Although she no longer practices full-time, she continues to provide obstetrical care and was named the 2022 Kansas Family Physician of the Year.

Over the years, CHC/SEK has grown into the largest community health center in Kansas . . . **[continues on back]**

Coming Up

- o **May:** Coffee and Conversations event
- o **July:** New *Circle Conversations*
- o **August:** Annual membership donation due
- o **September:** Women's Health Fund grant cycle open + Coffee and Conversations event
- o **October:** New *Circle Conversations* + grant review
- o **November:** CFSEK Grant Celebration + Match Day



Humble Beginnings

In 2003, CHC/SEK operated out of a doublewide trailer located at 1700 N. Locust in Pittsburg (*left*). Today, it operates 15 full-service facilities spread over 6,300 square miles in Kansas and Oklahoma.

CHC/SEK (cont.)

and the 15th largest rural CHC in the nation, providing care to more than 75,000 patients at 15 full-service sites spread over more than 6,300 sq. miles of Southeast Kansas and Northeast Oklahoma. It has staff in 31 school districts, four county correctional facilities, and multiple long-term-care facilities. Five clinics have an in-house pharmacy, two have CT scanners and 3D mammography and, combined, CHC/SEK clinics are open more than 2,020 hours per week. The organization employs almost 900 individuals, including over 170 health providers.

None of this would have been possible without the support of local communities, its 15-member all-volunteer Board of Directors, and an amazing staff dedicated to “doing all the good we can in all the ways we can.”

CEO Krista Postai describes the impact that Rita Bicknell and the **Women's Health Fund** have had on CHC/SEK: “Rita inspired us all to think bigger and find ways to impact the lives of women in Southeast Kansas. Toward that end, we brought mammography into our Pittsburg clinic at 1011 Mt. Carmel Place--named in honor of Rita--to make sure all women have access to cancer screening.”

CHC continues to grow. Recognizing that 90% of individuals' well-being is based on meeting basic needs, future projects include expanding public transportation, a “Food is Medicine” initiative, and even housing on former land bank properties.

As Postai puts it: “This is healthcare the way it should be.”

Gail Deatherage

Why I Joined

The passion, especially for women's health, that Rita exhibited is contagious; her legacy is strong! Supporting organizations that increase access to health care programs and services is critical for the well-being of our region.

Kathleen Flannery

What We Do

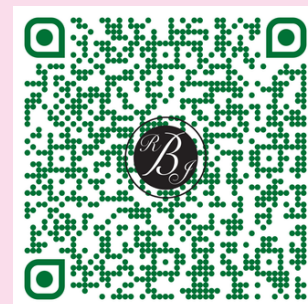
- Together we are pooling our money
- Together we are deciding where we give our money
- Together we are learning about our community and philanthropy and
- Together we are helping women and girls in Southeast Kansas!

Join the Women's Health Fund

Benefits of Joining

- Support and promote healthy lives for women in need
- Participate in grant review and selection
- Choose to be part of other Circle activities to deepen your philanthropic learning
- Meet new friends and socialize!

[Click Here to Join](#)



or scan with
your smartphone:



The Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund is a part of the
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas

100 S. Broadway St., Ste. 100 • P.O. Box 1448
Pittsburg, KS 66762 • (620) 231-8897

SoutheastKansas.org