



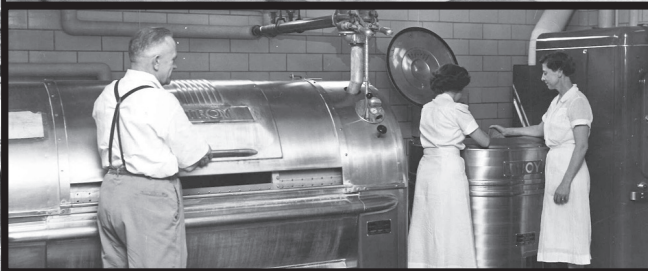
# MYRTUE Medical Center

committed to you.  
committed to our community.

# HEALTH MATTERS

## 70 YEARS OF CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

FALL 2024





**BARRY JACOBSEN, CEO**

Looking back on the past 70 years of healthcare gives me a real humble sense of how one person's legacy – and all those who have carried on his vision – have allowed us the opportunity to serve our community for nearly three quarters of a century.

From stories of our founding physicians and the first babies born, to advances in healthcare services and modernization of facilities, to lasting relationships between healthcare teams and their patients through multiple family generations, Myrtue Medical Center has been a pivotal part of our community in many ways.

This year, Myrtue was recognized as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital, putting us in the top one percent of critical access hospitals in the nation in the categories of quality, patient perspective, finance, and market share. We also received recognition this year from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a 5-star hospital. Myrtue is among only three hospitals in Iowa to receive a 5-star rating for both overall quality and patient experience.

The transformations of healthcare delivery 'then and now' demonstrates our commitment to progress and positioning Myrtue for future growth to continue to meet the diverse needs of our community.

In just the last few weeks, we welcomed a new family practice and OB physician, Dr. Nathalie Francis, and we announced the opening of the newly renovated and expanded Emergency Department. We are now embarking on a 28,000-square-foot expansion of the Rural Health Clinic to address current demands and accommodate for future growth, ensuring patients have access to quality medical services close to home for years to come.

We have made remarkable strides toward expanding our facilities and introducing services to better serve you, and on behalf of the entire Myrtue Medical Center team, we thank you for choosing Myrtue.

# AWARD-WINNING CARE



Out of 1,300 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) in the nation, Myrtue was **PROUDLY RECOGNIZED** by the National Rural Health Association **AS A 2024**

## TOP 20 CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL



Myrtue is 1 of 3 hospitals in Iowa to receive a **5-star rating** for **overall quality and patient experience** by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



Myrtue has earned **several prestigious achievement** awards from the American Heart Association for its dedication to delivering **prompt and evidence-based care** to patients experiencing severe heart attacks and strokes, ultimately saving lives.

Myrtue was also recognized this year by the Iowa Pediatric Emergency Assessment and Care Recognition Program for **Pediatric Readiness**. We are proud of these achievements and continue to strive for excellence in patient care, ensuring that our community receives the **highest quality medical attention** when it is needed most.



# THROUGH THE YEARS

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MYRTUE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



## Chris Myrtue's Dream

The seeds of Harlan's Myrtue Hospital were planted much like Shelby County's finest crops: with a farmer's vision, \$900,000 in funds, and a vast community effort.

When the hospital opened its doors on **August 2, 1954**, the **50-bed hospital** had the most impressive technologies. This included two state-of-the-art laundry machines, five typewriters, and a portable X-ray machine. **Fifty staff members** filled positions in 40 roles, serving over 16,000 residents in Shelby County. The new hospital bridged a critical gap in accessible medical care in Harlan and Shelby County.



## Simple Life

**Chris Myrtue**, a lifelong resident of Shelby County, lived a simple, hardworking life on his farm. He managed his land and resources diligently. Modest in his lifestyle, Chris was careful with his earnings, saving what he could from years of attentive labor. In his 70s, Chris faced health problems and relied on family members and a small medical facility for his care. This experience sparked a conversation with attorney Lee White and local builder Morris Frederickson about creating a fully equipped hospital to provide top medical care in his community.

When 75-year-old Chris **passed away** in 1945, his estate, totaling \$200,000, was designated for this purpose. His will stipulated that the community match his gift, and Shelby County voters responded by approving a \$200,000 bond issue and raising \$150,000 through taxes. An

additional \$350,000 came from federal aid, bringing the total to \$900,000 for the project. However, when bids opened in September 1951, trustees were shocked to find the total cost estimated at \$1,050,000—leaving them **\$150,000 short** of making Chris's dreams for the community a reality.



## Operation Hospital

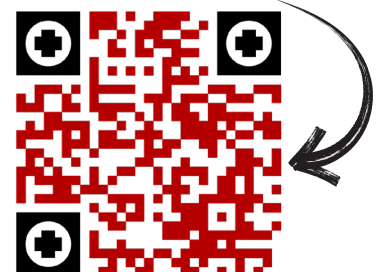
Determined to fund a modern hospital, Shelby County residents launched "Operation Hospital" on October 31, 1951. Donations flooded in, ranging from 50 cents to \$2,500. A July 30, 1954 article in the Harlan Tribune tells of 9-year-old Franklin Hopp donating prize money he had won showing his pony at the Shelby County Fair. High school sophomore Jon Haskins gave the six dollars he earned on a single Saturday. In just 12 days, the community raised the missing \$150,000, with over \$80,000 collected in the first two days alone.

Thanks to Chris Myrtue's **generous donation** and the extraordinary efforts of Shelby County, Myrtue Medical Center was born. For over seven decades, the hospital has carried on Chris's legacy, delivering exceptional medical care and evolving alongside the community it serves. What began as a 50-bed hospital is a shining example of Shelby County's **best quality**, achieving great things through the support and dedication of our smallest and biggest **community** members.



*This 1954 aerial view of the hospital's construction shows the room for tremendous growth. The photo was taken looking northeast with Elm Crest Retirement Community and Merrill Field shown in the upper right.*

READ MORE ABOUT OUR HISTORY ON OUR WEBSITE - SCAN



# 50 YEARS OF A FAMILY LEGACY

## SON CARRIES ON FATHER'S MEDICAL CAREER



Myrtue Medical Center has welcomed dozens of doctors and specialists over its 70 years, but **two physicians**, whose tenures span nearly the entirety of the hospital's existence, share a unique bond: that of **father and son**.

Drs. William (Bill) and Scott Markham never had the opportunity to work together—Bill tragically passed away in 1974 from a heart attack when Scott was only 12 years old. Yet, the parallels between the two men are **unmistakable** to those who knew them.

For both Dr. Bill and Dr. Scott, the most rewarding part of medicine was **delivering babies**. “Scott has often said each time a baby is delivered into his hands, it's one of God's miracles,” said Michelle Mores, daughter of Bill and sister of Scott.

When Myrtue Medical Center first opened its doors in 1954, Dr. Bill Markham was among the **first physicians** walking the halls with Dr. R. E. Donlin. Over the next 19 years, Bill became a cornerstone of the community, delivering countless babies, tending to the ill, and **advocating for public health**. His commitment extended beyond the hospital walls — he served as a school board member, a Shelby County Medical Examiner, and a board member of the Health Planning Council of the Midlands.

Dr. Bill's dedication to his patients was unwavering. He was known to take calls at any hour, **day or night**, and regularly made house calls, regardless of the weather.

“They'd make house calls,” Michelle said. “These frequent calls were just some ways Dad's patients connected with him. We would sit down to dinner, we'd start eating, and Dad would get a phone call,” she recalled. “He'd say... ‘if they're sick, they need me.’”

During fall harvest season, patients would express their gratitude by bringing fruits, eggs, and vegetables to the Markham home. The family did not know how to can fruits and vegetables before, but they quickly figured it out, Michelle remembered with laughter.

Michelle fondly remembers her father as a devoted **family man**, a trait she believes her brother inherited. “Dad loved Mom and his family. Scott has that same sense of the importance of family,” she said.

Medical technology and procedures have evolved drastically over the nearly **50 years** the Markhams have practiced medicine.

“It is a job I would not trade for anything,” said Scott. “I am really proud of this institution at Myrtue Medical Center. I feel like the retention rate of the practitioners and the quality of care exceeds other hospitals.”

When Scott joined Myrtue Medical in **1995**, he worked under the wing of Dr. Duane Harris. The two often made their rounds together, tag teaming their patient care and paperwork.

“Patients just loved that because we would sit and visit and talk about what's going on with them. When they had both of us together, they thought it was so nice,” **Scott recalled**. Beyond medical care, Scott and Dr. Harris fostered a sense of understanding, trust, and loyalty in their patients. “Dr. Harris was a mentor to me. I am so glad I could learn under his direction and guidance,” Scott said.



The late Dr. William Markham dedicated over 19 years of patient care in Harlan, and his son, Dr. Scott Markham, is now in his 29th year of service to our community.

*Dr. William (W.S.) Markham*  
*Dr. Scott Markham*

Like his father, Dr. Scott Markham has become a **highly respected** and **beloved** figure in the Harlan and Shelby County community. His dedication to his work, combined with his compassionate and patient-centered approach, has earned him the trust and admiration of those he serves. Whether through routine check-ups or handling complex medical issues, Scott ensures that each patient feels **valued and understood**, continuing the legacy of excellence in healthcare that his father established.



*Markham's Family (L to R): Daughter, Erin; Son, Alex; Granddaughter, Lucy; Wife, Joan; Granddaughter, Scottie; Dr. Scott Markham; Daughter-in-law, Ashlee; and Son-in-law, Tom*

Defiance resident Wes Walker, a **longtime patient** of Dr. Scott Markham, was also once cared for by Scott's father.

"I remember how Scott's dad, Dr. William Markham, was so thorough and personable," said Wes Walker. "I feel this same comfort with Dr. Scott Markham. He is pleasant and knowledgeable - I can talk to him as a person and doctor. We are so pleased to have Scott as our **primary care physician**."

In the community, the Markham name is synonymous with **generations of care**. One touching example of this legacy involves Julie Goetz and her family. Dr. Bill Markham delivered Julie's youngest daughter, and nearly **four decades** later, Dr. Scott Markham delivered her youngest grandson and several great-grandchildren.

This heartwarming connection is just one of the many ways the father-son duo has **touched the lives** of countless families in the area.

For Scott, being a physician at Myrtue Medical Center is far more than a profession — it's a continuation of his family's **legacy of care**.

"We just simply **love the man**," said Robert and Karen Kite, patients of Dr. Scott Markham. "We have confidence in him, and we are just tickled that we have Dr. Markham taking **care of us**."

"It's really a privilege to do what I do. It's the way I was raised. I just love taking care of people. It's what I enjoy."  
- Dr. Scott Markham

# MYRTUE'S BIRTHING CENTER THEN AND NOW

70 YEARS  
OF  
BABIES

The first day that Myrtue Memorial Hospital opened its doors marked the beginning of maternity care at the new hospital in Harlan.

On August 2nd, 1954, **Pollyanna D'Arcy** was the fourth patient admitted to Harlan's first fully funded hospital. She delivered **Daniel (Dan) Edward D'Arcy** at 7:44 pm. Four other babies were born shortly after D'Arcy. All were born within the first two days of Myrtue Memorial's opening. Dan's birth and the story of his father, **Ed D'Arcy**, being hired as the narrator for the Diamond Jubilee pageant at the Shelby County Fairgrounds that same day made headlines. This was a story Dan heard often growing up. Ed managed to be present for Dan's birth while also making it to his narrating job at the fairgrounds with one minute to spare.

Local businesses showered the family with prizes and gifts including baby supplies and certificates. Dan always knew he was the first baby born at Myrtue Memorial Hospital, and the local newspapers followed Dan's milestones throughout his childhood.

When Dan was born, six doctors were working in the hospital. A good family friend, **Carl V. Bisgard, MD**, delivered him. Dan graduated high school in Harlan and served four years in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. He was based in Honolulu and trained as an oil pollution investigator. After moving back to Iowa, Dan got into construction and opened his own business. He is married to **Mary (Fahn)** and is now retired and loves golfing as a hobby.

Before the hospital opened its doors 70 years ago, at-home births were normal for mothers in Harlan and the surrounding Shelby County area. Today, the birthing center at the hospital has spacious and beautiful birthing suites, central monitoring, a whirlpool tub, and individualized one-on-one care. In addition, Myrtue has an OB/GYN and other physicians who can view the patient information securely from their cell phones.

Since then, the hospital has had a name change, significant renovations, and the creation of the birthing center. The medical care team of the birthing center unit includes **Kelly Anderson, OB/GYN, DO, FACOOG**; **Jennifer Bruck, ARNP**; along with pediatrician, **Sarah Devine, MD**; and additional Family Medicine and maternity providers, **Dr. Brian Anderson** and **Dr. Scott Markham**.



## THEN

**Daniel (Dan) Edward D'Arcy, the first baby born at Myrtue in 1954**



## NOW

**Daniel (Dan) pictured today with his wife, Mary.**



**The OB Nursery shown above at its opening in 1954**

# WHERE LIFE'S STORY BEGINS



*Dr. Brian Anderson and Dr. Bret Heilesen welcome a new baby.*

Myrtue is excited to introduce another Family Medicine and maternity provider, **Dr. Nathalie Francis**, this fall. In addition, a staff of exceptional nurses, a certified lactation consultant, and maternal physical therapy provide support for every step of a mother's prenatal and postpartum journey.

Over the hospital's 70-year history, one thing has not changed; the focus has always been and will remain on the patient and family.

The care team at Myrtue Medical Birthing Center works together to provide support for every birthing experience. Whether patients choose pain management techniques like an epidural or prefer a more natural approach utilizing methods such as whirlpool therapy and relaxation breathing techniques, the team encourages and supports their choices every step of the way. The staff understands that each birthing journey is unique and strives to provide a compassionate and understanding environment where mothers can feel empowered by their birthing experience. Myrtue's goal is to assist women in achieving the birth experience that aligns with their goals, ensuring that they feel supported and cared for throughout the process.

Myrtue's nurses even specialize in spinning babies, a technique designed to facilitate the labor process through maternal positioning to help with the baby's descent. By prioritizing patients and giving mothers an abundance of education and resources, the birthing center can provide new parents with individualized care and a healthy start for when they leave the hospital.

With a staff dedicated to helping expectant mothers and a commitment to being at the forefront of birthing techniques and technologies, the birthing center aims to provide premium care to parents for years to come.



*Dr. Kelly Anderson, OB/GYN, DO with a precious new arrival.*

# GENERATIONS OF CARE

*Jill Ferry, PA-C, with Debbie Davis  
and her daughter, Tasha Davis,  
and father, Norman Schmitz*







The story of Jill Ferry, PA-C, at Myrtue Medical Center, is one of **dedication** and a deeply **personal impact** on generations of the Schmitz/Davis family.

For Debbie Davis, Jill's support has been **invaluable** during some of the family's most challenging moments, from facing a rare genetic disease in her daughter to helping navigate the aging process of her parents. Jill's **compassionate care** even extended to Debbie's grandmother before she passed away.



### Beyond Care

Debbie points to Jill's steady support and friendship as the cornerstone of her family's healthcare journey, emphasizing the top-notch care provided by Myrtue Medical Center.

"Jill has been right there for us — she has **become a friend**," Debbie said.

Between the high-quality facilities at Myrtue Medical Center and Jill's dedication, Debbie feels confident that her family is **well cared for** within the Shelby County community.

"Jill is very kind and caring," said Debbie. "She gave Mom exactly what she needed during all of the **stages of life** she was in."

Jill's approach to care reflects the collaborative and comprehensive nature of Myrtue as a whole. The hospital's coordination **across departments** and providers has made the treatment and care of Debbie's family as easy and supportive as possible. Debbie also praised the Hospice team, who went above and beyond with their dedication and personalized approach.



### The Power of Music

One moment that stands out to Debbie is when the Myrtue Hospice team arranged for a music therapist to play guitar for her mother in her final days. Given her mother's extensive background in music — having played piano and served as an organist in her church for 38 years — this gesture deeply resonated with the family.

"This thoughtful gesture of incorporating music into her final days not only honored her **lifelong passion** but also provided emotional support to the whole family," Debbie shared.

The **comprehensive resources** available at Myrtue, from advanced medical equipment to compassionate healthcare professionals, have positively impacted Debbie's daughter, mother, and father. With surgeries, hospice care, primary care, and emergency services all available in Harlan, Debbie's family was able to **avoid long trips** to the city. The expansion of the Surgery + Specialty Clinic meant they could access specialized care locally.

"We get great care with that hometown feel," Debbie said.

For Debbie, the quality of care was **unmatched** in every situation. The continuity of care between facilities, including detailed record-keeping of her family's medical history and quick accessibility of information, has been particularly reassuring. For her daughter Tasha, who has a rare genetic condition, the medical center's attentiveness offers peace of mind. Debbie's gratitude extends beyond medical treatment.

"The **personal connections** truly make a difference. The staff's recognition and remembrance of patients, even outside the hospital setting, is the personalized care that defines Myrtue Medical Center. They run into you at the grocery store and remember your name," Debbie said. "You just get to know them, and it means so much. These small, yet significant, gestures create a **positive impact**."

These kind and courteous actions are just one of the many reasons Debbie is thankful to have Myrtue Medical Center as part of her **community**.

# EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RENOVATIONS

## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

The Emergency Department (ED) at Myrtue Medical Center is celebrating a **significant milestone** with its recent expansion and major renovation. This comprehensive project aimed to **modernize the facility** and expand its capabilities to meet the **growing needs** of the community. Upgrades included improving infrastructure, enhancing patient flow, and incorporating the latest medical technologies. These advancements will **enable the hospital** to deliver even better emergency care, ensuring that patients receive prompt, efficient treatment in a more **comfortable environment**.

**Key improvements** include expanding patient rooms and staff work areas to improve workflow. The renovations also modernized patient rooms, upgraded family waiting areas, and created a more welcoming and supportive atmosphere for loved ones during stressful times. These enhancements significantly boost efficiency while maintaining Myrtue's **patient-centered approach** to emergency healthcare.

**Growing Emergency Needs**  
Since 2021, Myrtue Medical Center's Emergency Department has seen a **22 percent** increase in patient visits. Last year alone, **over 5,600** patients received care in the ED, prompting discussions on how to improve the overall flow of this busy unit.

"Emergency department services are **essential** to our rural community," said Barry Jacobsen, CEO of Myrtue Medical Center. "This expansion and renovation allows us to provide more **efficient and effective patient care**. We are committed to providing quality healthcare services and this expansion will enable us to **serve our community** better and more comprehensively."

Since the hospital's beginning in 1954, the goal of providing Shelby County and its neighboring communities with the **best medical services** has been the driving force behind every project.

### THEN 1954



Fall 1953 - the original Myrtue Memorial Hospital begins to take shape for the planned August 1954 opening.

### NOW 2024



### The New Space

The new Emergency Department plan provides approximately **8,700 square feet** of space, an increase of about 3,400 square feet, and features a **new layout** to accommodate the recent influx of ED visits.

It includes a larger waiting room, four exam rooms, two large trauma rooms, two procedure rooms, and a triage room where nurses assess a patient's condition upon arrival. The design improves visibility for medical staff while offering a more private check-in experience for patients.

"The new design and space will **enhance** the staff's ability to provide excellent care by improving monitoring and workflow features," said Emergency Department Manager Jenny Lefeber, RN, BSN, TCRN. "The centralized work area for staff with views to each room and **improved technology** for cardiac monitoring are just a few of the enhanced features. We are lucky to have had the support of administration, the board, and the USDA in the designing, planning, and building this exciting new space. The Myrtue ED staff are ready to begin their work in the **new department.**"

The Emergency Department renovations will give residents access to **comprehensive emergency care**. The overall flow and experience for both patients and hospital staff will be greatly improved, providing a safe and comfortable place for those seeking help.

## NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OPENING FALL 2024



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## SIGNIFICANT GROWTH DRIVEN BY COMMUNITY NEED



As the 1990s began, community leaders increasingly recognized the need for **mental health support** in Shelby County. The farm crisis of the 1980s exposed and amplified high mental health risks among farmers facing unpredictable and disruptive forces. In response to this crisis and broader community mental health needs, Prairie Rose Mental Health Center **opened in 1990** as part of the Shelby County Medical Corporation. The original staff consisted of just **three people**, psychologist Dr. Michael Rosmann, who served as the first director, nurse practitioner Dr. Connie Vogel ARNP, who also had a Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy, and an administrative assistant, Gloria Kenkel. While Myrtue and Prairie Rose Mental Health Center were **sharing resources** since 1991, the clinic officially became a department of Myrtue Medical Center **in 2005**. With a name change the next year, **Myrtue Behavioral Health** was born.

Since those early days, understanding of mental health has grown exponentially, and Myrtue Behavioral Health has grown in response. Joan Kloewer, LBSW, is the longest-serving member of the current staff. Kloewer has witnessed significant changes during her tenure.

“Since I’ve started at Behavioral Health, I have seen **growth in many ways** from the number of clinicians to the wide variety of services,” said Kloewer. “The **dedication** from staff has always been top-notch. Now, there are just more of us to continue the mission! I love the opportunities I have had with Myrtue over the years. It’s been an **honor!**”

Today, the Behavioral Health team works diligently to meet the **diverse** mental health needs of the community by expanding staff, training in evidence-based interventions, and creating innovative new services. The multi-disciplinary team of medication providers, therapists, community support staff, and office staff all work together to provide patients the best quality care.

## THEN 1990



“Behavioral Health is made up of a group of incredibly knowledgeable and innovative providers and staff. Our team is **passionate** about mental health care and dedicated to providing excellent services,” said Behavioral Health Director Lindsey Kinney, LMHC. “We are excited to continue expanding our knowledge and services to provide effective mental health treatment for years to come.”

The Behavioral Health team also **collaborates** across Myrtue departments, including the Senior Life Solutions program, which launched at Myrtue in 2020 and is now located in the building that formerly housed Behavioral Health. **Senior Life Solutions** is an intensive outpatient group therapy program designed to meet the unique needs of individuals, typically 65 and older, experiencing mental health challenges related to life changes often associated with aging. This program is also expanding as it adds a second track to accommodate the needs of the community.

## LOOKING TOWARD OUR FUTURE

### GROWING OUR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



As mental health needs become increasingly pressing nationwide, Myrtue Medical Center is **committed** to providing high-quality and comprehensive mental health care. The Harlan Rural Health Clinic expansion (see pages 18-19) will **improve integration** between the Harlan Health Clinic and Behavioral Health through an approximately 7,000-square-foot space on the second floor of the expansion dedicated to Behavioral Health. This area will include 16 therapist offices, crisis waiting rooms, and support spaces. The new design aims to **better meet the needs** of the community, offering timely and tailored mental health services.



A **key area of growth** for Behavioral Health is expanded staffing of advanced practice providers (nurse practitioners and physician's assistants) offering medication evaluation and management. More than **half of Americans** live in a mental health shortage area, including Shelby County residents and nearly **90 percent** of Iowa counties. Psychiatrists are in particularly short supply, especially in rural areas. With advanced practice providers specifically trained in psychiatric needs, Behavioral Health has greatly improved **local access** to medication management.

**Group therapy** options have also grown in recent years. With a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals, Myrtue Behavioral Health leaders knew they would need to be creative to offer the community robust mental healthcare. Therapy groups **provide accessible and timely care** driven by the latest science in mental health treatment.

Increasingly, research points to body-based interventions as essential for effective mental healthcare across challenges such as depression, anxiety, trauma, and addiction. Behavioral Health staff developed and launched **Movement Therapy** in December of 2021. Since then, Movement Therapy has expanded to include adults, teens, and children, as well as groups focused on addiction recovery, body image, and disordered eating.

Behavioral Health has also developed the **Starting Point Therapy Group**, a twice-weekly walk-in option for adults covering core concepts and tools for mental health. In early 2024, the team also relaunched **substance abuse treatment** with a curriculum developed in-house uniquely integrating mental health, trauma, and addiction elements.

While the department celebrates the innovative **expansion of services**, the team strives for more. Even with all these developments, they know that the need is still great. Integration in the expansion of the Harlan Rural Health Clinic will allow for **significant growth**, allowing patients to access specialized care in a timely manner. The Behavioral Health staff continues to work diligently to recruit and retain excellent staff, invest in training, and expand services to **support the diverse** mental health needs of the area.

## GROWTH SNAPSHOT: RISING TO THE NEED

### INTEGRATION WITH THE RURAL HEALTH CLINIC



**7,000**  
total square feet

### GROWTH IN THE LAST 15 YEARS

**8 more**  
Therapists



**2 more**  
Medication Providers



**3 more**  
Community Supports



**4 more**  
Office Staff



**17 NEW POSITIONS**

### MEETING MORE NEEDS



Annual services have increased from **18,791** to **30,223** in the last 6 years.

### EXPANDING OUR TOOLS

Our team has trained in 12 additional evidence-based treatments over the last 10 years.



### INNOVATION CONTINUES

MMC Behavioral Health continues to learn and expand to meet your needs!

**COMING SOON...**

East Elevation



# MEDICAL TEAM: THEN + NOW

When Myrtue Memorial Hospital opened its doors in 1954, there were six active medical staff professionals providing care. Now, we have grown our team to include 20 healthcare providers, three certified nurse anesthetists, and three mental health advanced practice providers.



Brian Anderson,  
DO



Kelly Anderson,  
DO, FACOOG  
OB/GYN



R. Adam  
Bendorf, DO



Carl V. Bisgard,  
MD  
*(1954 Original)*



Timothy Brelje,  
MD



Jennifer Bruck,  
ARNP



Clare Croghan,  
PA-C



Sarah Devine, MD  
Pediatrician &  
Internal Medicine



Robert E.  
Donlin, MD  
*(1954 Original)*



David Erlbacher,  
MD



Jill Ferry, PA-C



Tina Flores, MD



Nathalie Francis,  
MD, MPH



Bret Heilesen,  
MD



Hannah Johnk,  
DPM  
Podiatry



L.V. Larsen, MD  
*(1954 Original)*



G.E. Larsen, MD  
*(1954 Original)*



Scott Markham,  
DO



W.S. Markham,  
MD  
*(1954 Original)*



Russell  
Marquardt, PA-C



Sarah Mgonja,  
DNP



Patrick Pucelik,  
ARNP



Jean Stamp,  
ARNP



Denise  
Suedkamp,  
PA-C



Jos. H. Spearing,  
MD  
*(1954 Original)*



Nicole Topliff,  
ARNP, FNP-C,  
PMHNP-C



Lena Johnson,  
CRNA



Ronald Kay,  
CRNA



Jill Paulsen,  
CRNA



Patty Hildreth,  
ARNP-BC, FNP,  
PMHNP



Shelby Johnson,  
PA-C




Amanda Sumner,  
DNP, ARNP, FNP,  
PMHNP-BC

# LOOKING TOWARD OUR FUTURE

## CONTINUING TO GROW OUR MEDICAL TEAM

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 Over the last several years, Myrtue has introduced several **new providers** to our healthcare team. The clinic welcomed **four** new Family Practice providers and an OB/GYN, a testament to Myrtue's commitment to providing our community with comprehensive medical care. Clare Croghan, PA-C, is providing care in the Harlan Rural Health Clinic and the **Quick Care Clinic** on weekends and evenings. Nicole Topliff, ARNP, FNP-C, PMHNP-C, works in the Earling Rural Health Clinic and also sees patients on the weekends at the Quick Care Clinic. Tina Flores, MD, practices primarily in the Harlan Rural Health Clinic, but she also sees patients at Avoca and Shelby's Rural Health Clinic. Dr. Flores is dedicated to comprehensive healthcare for **people of all ages** and has a particular interest in geriatrics and chronic disease management.

Myrtue welcomed Nathalie Francis, MD, MPH, in September as a Family Practice provider. She will be providing **maternity care** and deliveries as part of her practice.

Myrtue's psychiatric team includes three full-time providers: two Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) Amanda Sumner and Patty Hildreth, and one psychiatry-focused Physician's Assistant (PA-C) Shelby Johnson. The psychiatric team at Myrtue Behavioral Health brings a **wealth of training** and experience to the community.

Myrtue's **patient population** seeking women's health services has continued to rise over the past several years. In August 2024, Jennifer Bruck, ARNP, began **partnering** with Myrtue's OB/GYN, Dr. Kelly Anderson, to provide obstetric and gynecological services in our Surgery + Outpatient Specialty Clinic. Through this partnership, we can **continue to ensure** that every woman who walks through our doors receives the compassionate and personalized care she deserves.



# KICKING OUT HEART DISEASE





Jim Chipman, a local Taekwondo instructor, had no idea he had underlying **heart issues**. Why would he? At 70, he was in great shape—he walked over **a mile daily**, taught Taekwondo classes, and lived a healthy, balanced lifestyle. His blood work was nearly perfect, and he maintained a strong physique. However, Jim’s wife, Becky, decided they should both take the new calcium scoring test offered at Myrtue Medical Center.

The results were a **wake-up call**.

While Becky’s results were relatively normal, Jim’s numbers were much **higher** than expected. Initially, he thought it was a mistake. After consulting with Dr. Devine, his primary care doctor, he was referred to Carly Clare, MSN, ARNP, NP-C, at Methodist Physicians Clinic – Cardiology. Carly, who provides care at Myrtue’s Surgery + Specialty Clinic, worked alongside Dr. Ayoub, MD, also from Methodist Physicians Clinic – Cardiology. Further testing revealed that Jim needed a triple-bypass surgery — a procedure that likely saved his life.

“The **CT calcium** scoring test is a great tool to help determine your risk for cardiovascular disease,” said Carly. “For Jim, his CT calcium score helped diagnose severe coronary artery disease that could have led to a future heart attack. He did not have any symptoms at the time of the test, so he could have been one of the people who have a heart attack as their first symptom of coronary artery disease. Because of this screening tool, he wasn’t.”

A **coronary calcium score test** is a computed tomography (CT) scan of the heart that identifies calcium plaques in the coronary arteries. These plaques can narrow blood vessels, potentially leading to a cardiovascular event. The test is non-invasive, takes only 30 minutes, and involves holding your breath for 20 seconds at various intervals.

In Jim’s case, the test revealed he had a **96% chance** of having a heart attack. The alarming results prompted him to quickly opt for surgery. While this outcome was unexpected, early detection gave the Chipmans time to plan for surgery, choose a doctor, and make arrangements for Jim’s post-surgery cardiac rehabilitation.

The Chipmans have since encouraged others to take the test. Jim said, “**You can’t put a price on it!**”

The calcium score test is not covered by insurance and costs \$75 out of pocket.

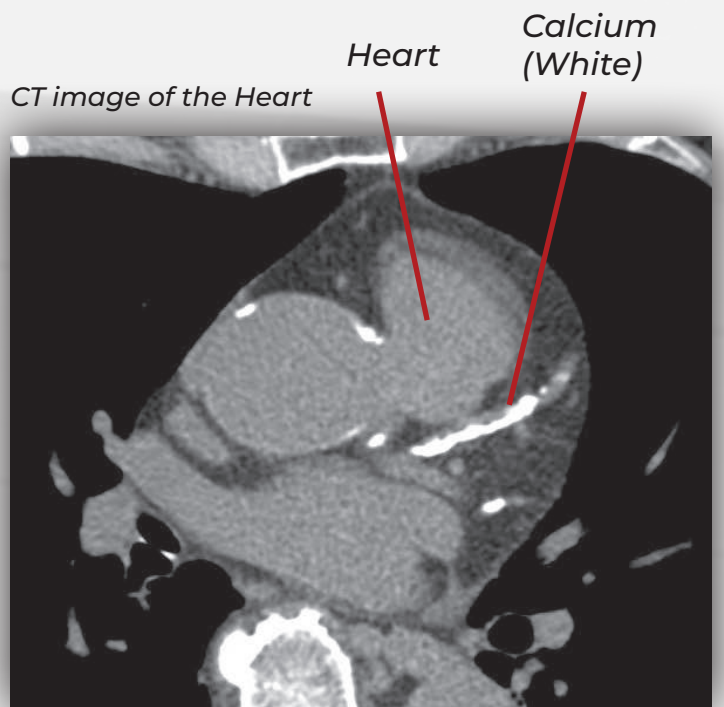
“**I am thankful** we have Cardiac Rehab right here at Myrtue,” said Jim. “They have provided support while I have been gaining back my strength and stamina.”

The test has made a significant impact on how Jim and Becky approach their lives. They now focus on a healthy diet and continued exercise. The Chipmans also want others to be aware of how early detection can inform future generations about their cardiac risk. Genetics play a big role in heart health: Jim’s mother had a quadruple bypass surgery at his age, his father had several stents, and his grandfather passed away from a heart attack at 52.

“If you’ve got a chance, **get your heart checked,**” Jim said. “And exercise. The Petersen Family Wellness Center is a great place to go. They have everything you need right there.”

To schedule your calcium score test, contact your primary care provider.

“We thank God that we had this done,” Becky said. “We’ve learned so much. This is authentic preventive care. Knowledge is power.”





# LOOKING TOWARD OUR FUTURE

## RENOVATION FOR THE RURAL HEALTH CLINIC WILL BEGIN THIS FALL



In its **seven decades** of service, Myrtue Medical Center has grown alongside the evolving needs of the community. From the first residential hospital opened by Dr. James Bisgard and his son, Dr. Dewey Bisgard, to the official opening of Myrtue Memorial Hospital on August 2, 1954, we have been **committed to meeting the needs** of Shelby County residents—and we **don't plan to stop now.**



### The First Home to Offer Medical Services

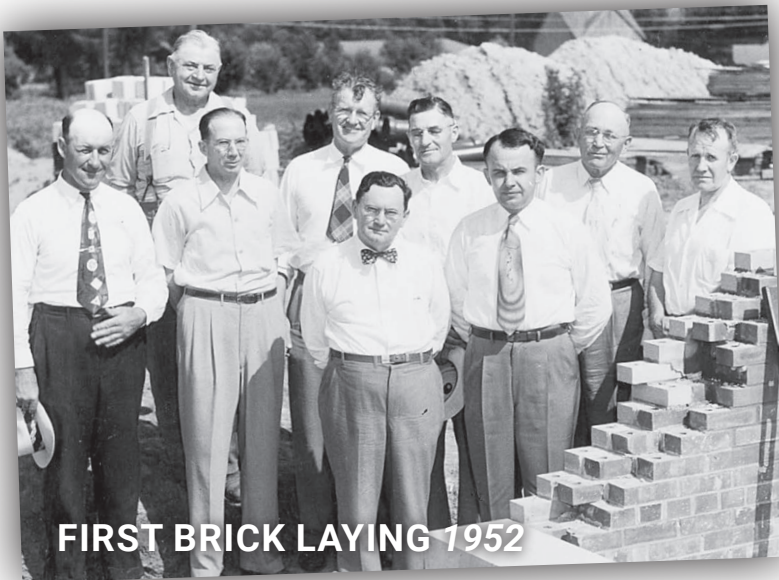
Originally, Harlan's first hospital was located in a home at 2103 7th Street. This modest 15-bed facility boasted the most modern amenities of its time including an x-ray machine and an operating room. It was known as the **Ida Murphy Hospital.**



2103 7TH STREET, HARLAN

*From the Harlan Republican July 22, 1926*

A new day of special significance in Harlan and Shelby County will dawn. Tomorrow Harlan's first hospital will be opened. Dr. Jas. C. Bisgard and his son, Dr. Dewey Bisgard, have financed and equipped the residence property belonging to Perry Gaer as a hospital. Mrs. Ida Murphy will be in charge of the hospital.



### First Brick Laying for Myrtue Memorial Hospital - 1952

*From the Harlan Tribune*

Myrtue Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees gathered for a **July 1952** photo of the cornerstone laying for the hospital.

They included (front row, from left): George Hurley, Harlan; and Stanley Volga, administrator; (second row, from left): Joseph Leinen, Portsmouth; Robert Sullivan, Panama; Lee White, Harlan, the hospital's attorney; James Wickersham, Irwin; Edgar Larson, Harlan; and Marion Boose, Elk Horn; back row: Morris Frederickson, Harlan.

# COMING SOON...



 **Looking Ahead**

Myrtue Medical Center has seen numerous developments over the years, the most recent being the exciting expansion of the Harlan Rural Health Clinic. After four years of planning, the board approved an architectural contract in January 2020 for the design and eastward expansion of the clinic. However, in May 2020, the project was indefinitely postponed due to the pandemic. By the summer of 2023, the medical center unveiled a new Master Facility Plan, with the expansion of the two-story Rural Health Clinic as its centerpiece. In the fall of 2024, Myrtue Medical Center broke ground on this highly anticipated **28,000-square-foot** expansion. This renovation and expansion will address the community's evolving healthcare needs by adding more exam rooms, provider offices, and improved patient privacy.



Myrtue Medical Center has partnered with the construction firm Murray Company and healthcare design specialists Altus Architectural Studios to complete the project. With 24 proposed exam rooms, the expansion will support the **growth** of Family Practice and provide the flexibility to move some of the Specialty Clinic physicians into the Rural Health Clinic.

Inspired by Chris A. Myrtue's forward-thinking vision, Myrtue Medical Center continues to lead the way in healthcare innovation. A key component of this expansion is the improved integration with the Behavioral Health Department, which will occupy approximately **7,000 square feet** on the second floor. This dedicated space underscores the medical center's commitment to meeting the mental health needs of our community.

Additionally, the strategic plans for the expansion include **approximately 6,000 square feet** reserved for future development.

“This plan will not only address current demands but also accommodate future growth, ensuring that Shelby County residents have access to high-quality medical services for years to come,” said Myrtue CEO Barry Jacobsen. “This expansion and renovation is positioned to make a **lasting impact** on the health and well-being of Shelby County.”



***VIEWS FROM  
CHATBURN AVENUE  
OF THE NEW CLINIC***

**South Elevation**



# MYRTUE Medical Center

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