

A Publication of the Story Medical Foundation

Inspired

Summer
2025



Adding Leading-Edge Technology



An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health



Mental Health Provider Joins Nevada Clinic

With a passion rooted in personal experience and professional dedication, Dr. Kennedy LaVille Thoren, DNP, ARNP, PMHNP-BC, has joined Story Medical Clinic – Nevada to offer comprehensive mental health care to patients across the age spectrum.

Dr. LaVille Thoren, a board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, brings a compassionate, evidence-based, and integrative approach to care. She began seeing patients on July 7 and her services are available to children, adolescents, adults, and older adults in the community. Her arrival fills a critical need for accessible, local mental health support.

Her clinical background is diverse, including work in inpatient psychiatry, emergency rooms, intensive care, community mental health, and home-based behavioral health. At Story Medical, Dr. LaVille Thoren provides psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and supportive psychotherapy, as well as referrals for additional therapy, lifestyle interventions, and holistic care. Her goal is to treat the whole person—emotionally, physically, and socially.

“Good mental health care is never just about prescribing medication,” she says. “It’s about building trust, listening, and working together to find what’s best for the patient.”

Dr. LaVille Thoren’s arrival is a significant step forward for local mental health access—and for the individuals and families who will benefit from her expertise and we welcome her to Story Medical.

Schedule with Dr. LaVille Thoren, please call the Nevada Clinic at (515) 382-5413.

Learn more at storymedical.org/mentalhealth



Construction began in the Spring on an addition to the west side of Story County Medical Center. The space will house a new permanent MRI designed to offer increased access to advanced care.

Bringing Leading-Edge MRI Home to Nevada

Work is underway on a new MRI suite on the west side of Story Medical’s campus. When the scanner goes live in 2026 it will replace the mobile MRI that now parks here one day a week—giving patients year-round, same-day access to the most advanced imaging technology without leaving Nevada.

“Installing a fixed MRI is a strategic investment in our community’s health,” says CEO Nate Thompson. “It removes travel and scheduling barriers so families can get critical answers quickly.”

MRI uses a powerful magnet rather than X-ray, making it the gold standard for brain, spine, joint and vascular studies. The new suite features a wide-bore magnet, shorter tunnel, relaxing lighting and music, plus indoor

prep and changing rooms.

MRI will join digital X-ray, CT, ultrasound, bone-density and nuclear-medicine services already on campus, giving local clinicians a full diagnostic toolkit close to home.

“This project embodies our mission: high-quality, compassionate care delivered right here in Story County,” Thompson says.

Construction will continue through 2025, with equipment installation in 2026. Progress updates will be shared on Story Medical’s website and social channels.

Your support of the Story Medical Endowment Foundation makes transformative projects like this possible—thank you for helping us keep world-class care within easy reach of every neighbor we serve.

For more information about supporting advanced care at Story Medical, call Liz Zuercher at (515) 382-7728.



From left to right Tricia Crain of the Story Medical Foundation Board presents scholarships to high school seniors Caitlin Johnson, Mya Spykerman and Gracie Dodson.

Supporting Students

Each year, the Story Medical Center Endowment Foundation awards three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools. These scholarships are offered to students who plan to enter health-related fields, and they reflect our continued investment in the future of healthcare.

This year, we are excited to honor Caitlin Johnson, Mya Spykerman and Gracie Dodson.

The Foundation's scholarship program is one facet of Story Medical Center's broader mission to invest in the future of

healthcare. By offering financial support to promising students, the organization helps remove barriers to education while cultivating the next generation of doctors, nurses, medical assistants, and technicians who will serve Story County and beyond.

"We're proud to give these exceptional students a hand up as they embark on their journeys," says Liz Zuercher, Story Medical Foundation Coordinator. "Their dedication assures us that the future of patient care is bright."

Foundation Update



Grant Promotes Patient Safety

Story County Medical Center has been awarded the Safe Patient Handling Grant from SFM Insurance. The funds are being used to support the purchase of patient lifting equipment designed to assist with safe movement and repositioning of patients in clinical settings.

This important upgrade reflects an ongoing commitment to providing a safe, comfortable experience for patients while protecting the well-being of employees delivering hands-on care. The equipment is expected to reduce the risk of injury during transfers and repositioning, improving outcomes for everyone involved.

As part of the grant, Story Medical was required to offer matching funds, which were generously provided by the Story Medical Foundation.

Investing in the Future of Healthcare

The Story Medical Center Endowment Foundation is honored to support local high school seniors with big dreams of entering health-related careers. Each year, we award three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Ballard, Collins-Maxwell, Colo-Nesco, Gilbert, Nevada, or Roland-Story High Schools.

But we don't want to stop there—we want to do even more.

With your help, we can expand these opportunities and support even more future nurses, therapists, doctors, and healthcare heroes from our own communities. Every donation to the Story County Medical Center Foundation Endowment (Scholarship) Fund helps grow this impact.

And there's a bonus: your generosity goes even further thanks to the Endow Iowa Tax Credit.

Eligible donors receive a 25% Iowa state tax credit on top of any federal tax deductions for charitable gifts. That means your gift not only supports local students—it also comes with real financial benefits for you. The Story Medical Foundation's endowment fund is proudly managed by the Story County Community Foundation.

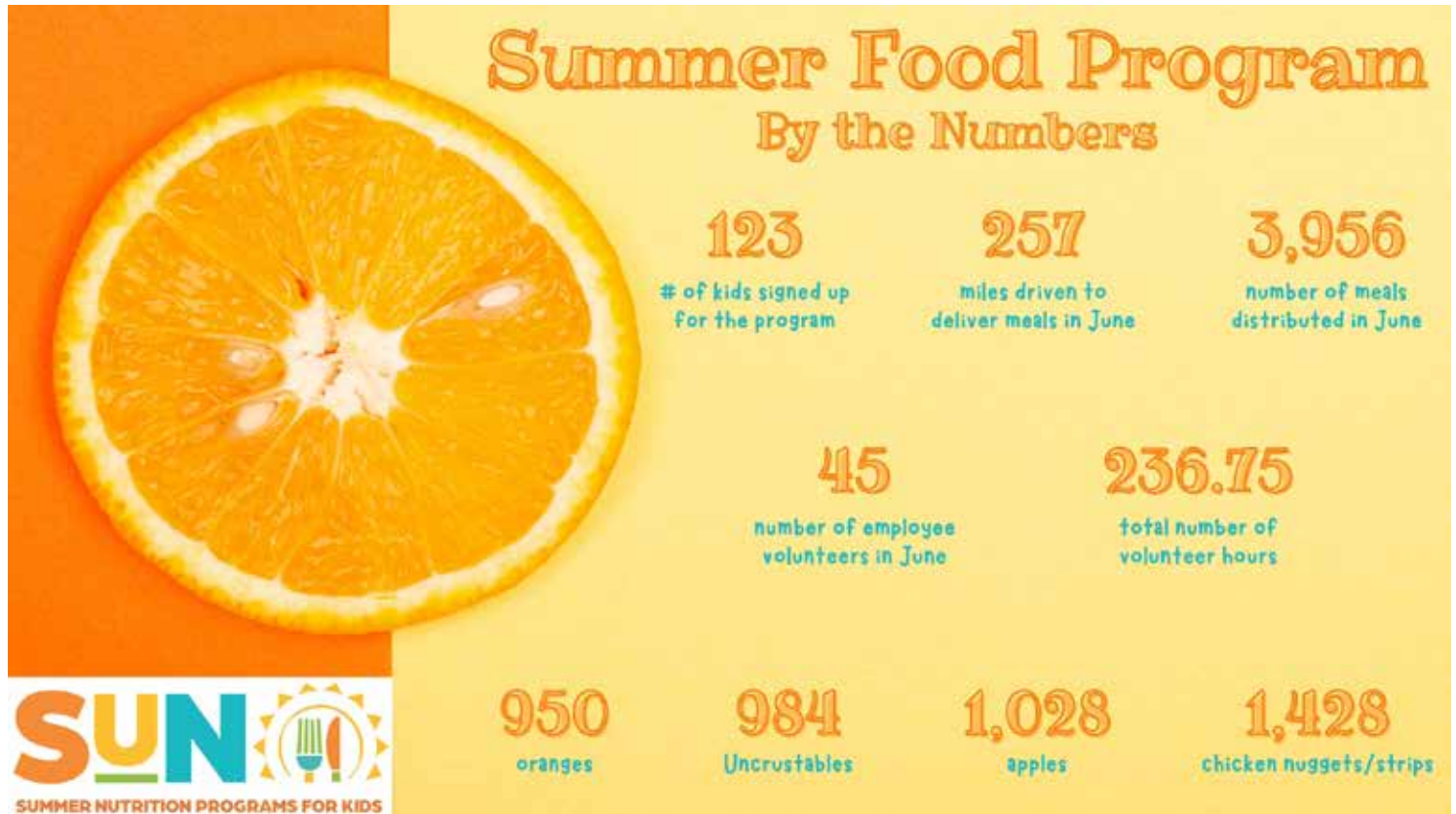
We invite you to be part of something lasting.

By giving today, you'll help local students take their first steps into healthcare—and make a difference in the lives of countless patients tomorrow.

Thank you for believing in them—and in a healthier future for all.

To learn more about supporting health education through the Story Medical Foundation, call Liz Zuercher at (515) 382-7728.

640 S. 19th Street
Nevada, IA 50201



Another Successful Summer

For a second straight summer, Story Medical partnered with the USDA, Iowa Department of Education, United Way of Story County, Food at First, and the Collins-Maxwell school district to make sure no child in the district went hungry while school was out. Launched June 3 and supported by the Story Medical Foundation, the SUN (Summer Nutrition) grab-and-go program again delivered free, ready-to-eat breakfasts and lunches every Tuesday and Friday to anyone 18 or younger.

The need is real. Many families are stretched to cover the extra grocery costs that come with summer break.

"Nutritious meals are as critical to a child's health as

a well-child check," says Dr. Audra Poterucha, family physician at Story Medical Clinic—Nevada. "Good food supports growth, learning, mood, and long-term wellness. It's part of caring for the whole child."

What does that commitment look like in numbers? The numbers above represent the effort in June alone.

"This is healthcare in action," says CEO Nate Thompson. "Whether we're providing immunizations, mental-health resources, or a sack lunch, our mission is the same: keep our neighbors—especially our youngest ones—healthy and thriving."