

A Publication of the Story Medical Foundation

# Inspired

Winter  
2024



## Opening New Doors

StoryCounty  
Medical  
CENTER 

An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health



# Opening New Doors

Story Medical Senior Care has officially opened the doors to its new, state-of-the-art facility, welcoming residents to their new home. The transition to the 59,000-square-foot facility marks the beginning of a new era of senior care in the Story County region. Residents began moving into the facility in mid-November following a ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house on November 4.

The ribbon cutting event, which featured remarks from Story Medical leadership, community members, and Senior Care Administrator Melissa Opperman, celebrated the culmination of years of planning and dedication. It also reflected on the rich history of Story Medical Senior Care's original site in central Nevada, which has served as a cornerstone of care for decades.

"With the ceremonial cutting of a blue ribbon, we closed the book on a memorable chapter in Story Medical's history," says Opperman. "At the same time, we are ushering in a new era of senior care, focused on delivering a level of care unmatched in the area. This incredible facility reflects the hard work, dedication, and vision of our staff, leadership, and community."

The new facility, located at 710 S. 19th Street in Nevada, was thoughtfully designed to enhance the lives of its residents while ensuring that staff can provide efficient, compassionate care. With spacious, private rooms, the new Senior Care incorporates memory care support, inviting porch entries, family

gathering spaces, and enclosed gardens to foster a true sense of home and community.

"This is a project that the community immediately recognized as important," says Liz Zuercher, Story Medical Foundation Coordinator. "The generosity of our donors played a significant role in bringing this vision to reality. We are proud of the way so many came together to make this happen."

Located adjacent to Story Medical's main campus, the new Senior Care facility also offers unparalleled access to medical services, ensuring that residents receive the highest quality of care without the challenges of travel.

"This project stemmed from community feedback and the hard work of our Board of Trustees, who envisioned a facility that could meet the growing needs of our most vulnerable population," says Nate Thompson, CEO of Story Medical. "It is a source of immense pride for all of us at Story Medical and a demonstration of our commitment to providing care that our community can rely on."

Story Medical Senior Care has been a trusted provider of long-term care since 1969, serving as a vital part of the community for more than five decades. The new facility builds on this proud legacy, providing residents with modern amenities, compassionate care, and an environment that feels like home.

**For more information about Story Medical Senior Care, please visit [StoryMedical.org/senior-care](https://StoryMedical.org/senior-care) or call (515) 382-7019.**



Story Medical was honored by the United Way of Story County with its 2024 Community Impact Award for Collaboration and Innovation. Accepting the honor are (left to right): Kevin Lo, Liz Zuercher, Anna Riley and Nate Thompson.

## Delivering for the Community

This summer, Story Medical made a profound impact in the Collins-Maxwell community through its Summer Grab-and-Go Meals Program, providing 5,557 nutritious meals to children and teens across three locations. With 72 children enrolled, the program distributed seven-day meal packs twice weekly, ensuring families had access to consistent and reliable nutrition.

The initiative, made possible through partnerships with the USDA, Iowa Department of Education, United Way of Story County, Food at First, and rural school districts, also relied on the dedication of volunteers. During the summer, 833 volunteer hours were logged, supporting the significant contributions of the coordinating team of Foundation Coordinator Liz Zuercher, along with Kevin Lo and Anna Riley from Story Medical Food & Nutrition Services.

The Story Medical Foundation contributed resources to support

the effort.

“Our team worked tirelessly to ensure children had access to nutritious meals throughout the summer months,” Zuercher says. “This program was about more than food—it was about supporting families and building stronger, healthier communities. Seeing the level of participation and the smiles on the kids’ faces made every effort worthwhile.”

Story Medical is the first and only hospital in Iowa to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program. The program’s success earned Story Medical the 2024 United Way Community Impact Award for Collaboration and Innovation, recognizing the medical center’s commitment to addressing food insecurity and promoting wellness.

“It’s incredible what we can achieve when we work together,” Zuercher adds. “This summer, we truly lived our mission to care for our neighbors, patients, and community members.”

## Story Medical Update



A photo of the new Story Medical Senior Care as it nears completion adjacent to the medical center.

## New Operating Room Opens to Patients

Story Medical has completed a comprehensive remodel of its operating room (OR) facilities, aimed at improving patient comfort, privacy, and efficiency for staff.

A major improvement includes replacing curtain-divided pre- and post-op bays with individual rooms, offering patients greater privacy during admission and discharge, as well as more space. The OR also now features a dedicated HVAC system, replacing a shared unit with the lab. This upgrade ensures a comfortable environment for staff and patients.

Another critical addition is a new steam sterilizer that can process nine pans of surgical tools simultaneously. This addition improves efficiency in total joint replacement surgeries, allowing all necessary instruments to be sterilized in a single load.

“These improvements reflect our commitment to delivering high-quality care locally,” says Cathy Haley, Director of Outpatient Clinic and Surgical Services. “We’re focused on ensuring our patients receive the best possible care in the best possible environment.”

**For more information about the Outpatient Clinic and Surgical Services at Story Medical, please visit [storymedical.org/surgery](http://storymedical.org/surgery).**

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

640 S. 19th Street  
Nevada, IA 50201

# Supporting Care in Your Community

At Story Medical, we count ourselves lucky to serve Nevada and the surrounding communities with advanced care, close to home. Our roots in the region are deep, and we are proud of the way our programs and services have evolved to better meet the needs of those who come to us for care.

But we haven't done it alone.

Many of the enhancements we have experienced in recent years—from the construction of the new Story Medical Senior Care to an array of service additions—are the direct result of generous donors. When a need has arisen, individuals and businesses have stepped forward to ensure it is met.

As we close in on the end of 2024, we hope you will give thoughtful consideration to a gift to the Story Medical Endowment Foundation that will help us to continue to grow and serve more.

Here are a few ways you can make a gift in support of the patients, programs and services of Story Medical:

## Cash

Cash is as simple as it gets and offers you a tax deduction for the full value of the gift.

## Trusts

A charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity provide you, or a beneficiary of your choice, with payments for life or a period of years. They then are transferred to the charity of your choice. If you use appreciated securities to fund the gift, you may be entitled to an income tax deduction based, in part, on the charitable portion of the securities' full value, in addition to eliminating up-front capital gains tax.

## Stock

You can claim a deduction when you give a gift of appreciated stocks—those stocks that are worth more now than when you purchased them. You can claim a deduction for the full fair market value and eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

## Real Estate

Similar to securities, selling property that has gained in value will subject you to capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you donate your property, you can realize a tax savings.

## Gifts of Grain

For farm operators, gifting grain directly, rather than selling the grain and making a gift from the proceeds, may provide a significant tax savings. Contributing grain allows you to avoid the sale of the commodity as income, while the production costs may still be deductible.

## Insurance

For an insurance policy to qualify as a deductible gift, ownership must be transferred to the charity you intend to support. Most types of insurance policies offer a tax deduction on the lesser of the cost basis or the fair market value of the policy. One additional benefit is that premium payments on the policy are tax-deductible after you make the gift.

## For Those 70 1/2 and Older

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can make a qualifying charitable distribution (QCD). A QCD allows you to donate up to \$100,000 per year directly to a qualified charity from your IRA and exclude it from income. QCDs require your contribution to go directly from your IRA to your chosen charitable organization.