

## Cost Need Not Be A Barrier To Lifesaving Screening Tests

LRGHealthcare press release

Most insurance plans, including Medicare, will provide coverage for routine colonoscopies or other screening tests. However, LRGHealthcare wants to be sure these tests are available to all of our patients, regardless of insurance coverage.

To ensure that every patient in our community has access to the screening tests that they need to keep them healthy, LRGHealthcare created the Screening Bridge Program, through which patients who qualify based on financial guidelines receive the screenings they need at a minimal cost. Screenings included in the program include colon cancer and breast cancer screening as well as screening for indicators of diabetes and high cholesterol.

In addition, LRGHealthcare is currently participating in the New Hampshire Colorectal Screening Program. Through this program, for a limited time, we can offer free screening colonoscopies to patients who qualify based on financial guidelines.

Many people whose polyps are discovered during routine screening colonoscopies have no indication that there's anything wrong. That's why screening colonoscopies are so

important.

Colorectal cancer killed more than 50,000 people in the United States last year alone. In fact, it is the third most common type of cancer.

However, the good news is that over the past two decades, the rate of colorectal cancer deaths has been steadily dropping. That decline is a result of the rise in screening colonoscopy. This procedure doesn't just enable early detection and treatment of colorectal cancer, which does lead to better outcomes, but often, by removing polyps during the procedure, it prevents colorectal cancer from developing at all.

The American Cancer Society recommends that both men and women of average risk begin colorectal cancer screening at age 50. It is ideal for men and women over the age of 50 to get a screening colonoscopy at least every 10 years, or more often as recommended by their doctor.

If you are over the age of 50 and have not had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years, call your primary care provider today. If you have financial barriers to accessing a colonoscopy or other screening tests, please call the Screening Bridge Program at 527-7000 or the New Hampshire Colorectal Screening Program at 653-3702.

## Franklin Regional Hospital Celebrates 100 Years

FRH press release

When Mandy Pickess began volunteering at Franklin Regional Hospital (FRH), it cost 5¢ to mail a letter, a gallon of gas was 30¢, and Lyndon B. Johnson was in the White House. That was 46 years ago.

"FRH was a lot smaller in 1964," she says. "My first volunteer job was posting the patient mail, but today, people aren't really in the hospital long enough to get any mail.

"But a lot of things haven't changed at all. The first thing we learned when we came through the door was that

patients always come first, and that is still true today. And back in 1964, the people here were my family – everyone cared for each other. Forty-six years later, that's still true, too."

This year, FRH is celebrating its centennial. After 100 years of caring for our community, this facility, which was once a little hospital on the hill, is bigger and better than ever.

But what is so remarkable about FRH is that as much as the hospital and medical services have grown and changed, the character, warmth, and family feel of FRH have persevered. Just as has been the case for the past 100 years, when you walk down the halls at FRH today, people smile, say hello, and call you by name.

One reason for that is the longevity of doctors, staff, and volunteers at FRH.

There are a number of staff members who have passed their 20 and 30 year marks, and a few who are even approaching 40 years of service. When asked why they stay so long, the answer you hear is consistent: "The people here, staff and patients, are my family."

"That is what sets FRH apart and what makes it a special place," explains Marcia Hansen, Vice President of Patient Care Services. "Not only does FRH offer our community top quality medical care, but it truly is a community hospital, and its doctors, staff, volunteers, patients, and visi-

tors not only feel like family; they often are family. The Three Rivers region has a rich history, and many families have been here for generations. Because of that, many of the people who are on staff here grew up in this community, and this hospital has been a part of the fabric of their lives since their childhood. That kind of connection, history, and ownership creates a warmth and a sense of belonging that patients can feel when they come through our doors."

That sense of connection certainly exists for Mandy Pickess. To Mandy, like so many others in Franklin and the neighboring communities, FRH is part of her history. "I came to Franklin in 1941," says Mandy. "Franklin Regional Hospital was my hospital then, and I'm still proud to call it my hospital today."

### Franklin Regional Hospital 100 Years of Caring

Please join us for a celebration of Franklin Regional Hospital's Centennial!

**Community Lawn Party**  
Sunday, July 18  
2 to 5 PM

Peruse historic displays and memorabilia; reminisce with staff, friends, and neighbors; and enjoy strawberry shortcake and live music under the tent.

We hope you can join us for this celebration of FRH's first 100 years!

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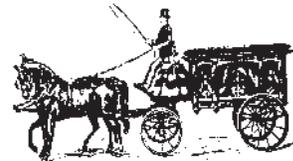
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