

Hospital employees donate \$30,000 for ICU

- Money comes from voluntary payroll deductions

From staff reports

SHERIDAN — Nearly 250 people attended the Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation breakfast Thursday and donated about \$30,000 to the hospital's planned Intensive Care Unit expansion.

Ada Kirven, executive director of the Foundation, said the total is an estimate. Employees give donations through a payroll deduction throughout the year. The first employee donation was given in 2004, and since that year, SMH employees have donated around \$190,000 to hospital programs.

"Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the partner celebration," Kirven said in an email to The Sheridan Press. "It was a great turnout — 247 — and our nutritional services staff outdid them-

selves again with wonderful pancakes, ham and fruit."

Volunteers Barbara Campbell and Taesub Kim provided piano music, she said.

The employees voted between donating to the ICU expansion, the Welch Cancer Center expansion and a planned cardiac catheter lab. The ICU expansion received 93 votes, the cancer center received 44 and the cath lab received 46.

"All three choices on the ballot received a good number of votes," Kirven said.

The donation will be set aside and restricted for the ICU. The ICU expansion will support improved patient and family care and is a strategic initiative of the hospital board of trustees and hospital leadership, she said.



Courtesy photo/Memorial Hospital

Sheridan Memorial Hospital Materials Management Department employees Ernest Gonzalez, Judy Smith, Chuck Onckelet and Marlene Helling, from left, take part in the employee breakfast Thursday morning in the hospital cafeteria.

Hospital

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The number of patients cared for in intensive care units is projected to grow rapidly during the next decade as the average acuity of hospitalized patients rises with growth in the elderly population, according to Kirven.

An ICU is a patient care area that uses advanced patient monitoring technology and sophisticated medical equipment to provide continuous, comprehensive care for patients with serious conditions, including those recovering from heart attacks, surgery, stroke and severe accidents or complex illnesses and other areas as needed.

The existing ICU at Sheridan Memorial Hospital is a six-bed unit that has not been remodeled since 1982. With the exception of minor painting and cosmetic work, the unit hasn't changed much in 29 years, she said.

An expansion and update of the ICU will provide:

- Enhanced patient care services
- A healing environment that promotes patient comfort
- Continued growth and support to physician partners, and assistance in the development of specialty services like as cardiology