

Hospital to Celebrate National Rural Health Day

Mercy Health - Marcum and Wallace Hospital will join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and other state/national rural stakeholders in celebrating National Rural Health Day on November 21, 2019.

NOSORH founded National Rural Health Day to showcase rural America; increase awareness of rural health-related challenges; and promote the

efforts of NOSORH, State Offices of Rural Health and others in addressing those challenges.

An estimated 57 million people - nearly one in five Americans - live in rural and frontier communities throughout the United States. "These small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are wonderful places to live and work; they are places where neighbors know each other and work

together," says Teryl Eisinger, NOSORH CEO. "The hospitals and providers serving these rural communities not only provide quality patient care, but they also help keep good jobs in rural America."

These communities also face unique healthcare needs with an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions and higher poverty rates. Marcum and

Wallace Hospital has served rural Kentucky since 1959 and has grown to a team of over 200 employees.

"Today more than ever, rural communities must tackle accessibility issues and a lack of healthcare providers," said Trena Stocker, Marcum and Wallace Hospital President. "Our patients deserve access to quality healthcare. Rural hospitals are threatened with

declining reimbursement rates and disproportionate funding levels that makes it challenging to serve our patients. We must advocate for rural health care, we must advocate for our patients and we must continue to tell the story of the power of rural."

Additional information about National Rural Health Day can be found at PowerofRural.org.

Hargett VFD has new truck

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They parked cars and sold ice at the annual "Kicking It On The Creek" festival and Forehand thanks the Roberts family for their assistance. They also raised money from other local venues.

He said Brandon Elliott helped them as did former Estill County Judge/Executive Kevin Williams and former Hargett chief Jon Wise who work with Southeast Apparatus in Corbin, Kentucky.

They sought tool boxes for the trucks and intended to buy them but when the seller found out what they were going to be used for, he donated them. A local person volunteered the wiring.

Along with the 80-90% of the money raised by the volunteers, state aid was used and the county chipped in for the rest.

The crew has been working on the truck since February, adding a pump and tool boxes. The 200-gallon tank came from an old damaged forest truck. The high-volume pump can empty the tank in only a couple of minutes but Forehand said they will have three ways to replenish the water supply while in service including piping water from another source which could be a larger tanker truck. In some cases a hydrant might be available. The chief says they also plan to add a sump pump so water could be pumped from available sources including ponds.

The new truck can be used for fight forest fires in places where a regular truck might not be able to go.

Hargett VFD operates out of a 5-bay building next to the former Hargett Elementary School off Winchester Road. The building originally had only two bays but three bays were added later and has enough room to house all of Hargett's trucks and equipment.

The department does not have sleeping and shower facilities; however, as many as 5-6 volunteers have stayed there on call during bad weather.

The Hargett department is rural and primarily serves the north end of Estill County from Irvine to Clark and Powell counties and the department may assist departments in those counties.

The service area has become high volume in recent years and may exceed 160 runs this year primarily because of the large number of auto accidents on KY-82 and KY-89, especially KY-82 where about 50% of their runs are made.

The crew is all-volunteer with 15 active members but the chief said they are "looking for help."

Forehand said they were able to add the new truck because "people donated stuff."

He added, "That's when you feel good about being a volunteer."




Hargett Volunteer Fire Department fireman Tommy Lane shows off their new #7 Brush Truck and its high-powered pump and 200-gallon tank which will be used to fight isolated fires.

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