

March 2010

**KIOWA COUNTY MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL, OPERATED UNDER LEASE BY
GREAT PLAINS OF KIOWA COUNTY, INC.**



“Vision Realized”

Grand Opening

March 12, 2010

1:30 p.m.

721 W. Kansas

Greensburg, Kansas

Pursuing LEED Platinum

Greensburg

“VISION REALIZED”

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Current Medical Providers:

Bassam Maalouf, M.D.

Jonell Sirois, ARNP

Nancy Kisner, PA

Tracey Stark, ARNP*

Nizar Kibar, M.D.*

Chris Gardiner, PA*

* Part-time



This booklet is dedicated to the staff that have continued to offer quality health care in the face of conditions that have often been difficult. They are the reason for the rebirth of our hospital.

KIOWA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, OPERATED UNDER LEASE BY GREAT PLAINS OF KIOWA COUNTY, INC.

[OUR HISTORY]

Opened in March 1950, KCMH was the first hospital in the County's history. The Hospital opened with 20 beds and was managed by Mennonite Health Services until 1994. In 1996, Great Plains Health Alliance was signed to manage the Hospital.

The first medical staff of the hospital included Ewin P Deal, M.D.; Florence Friesen M.D.; J R. Bradley, M.D. and M.H. Waldorf, M.D.

In 1965, a new wing was added with 10 semi-private rooms and a full basement.

In 1973, the hospital began operating the ambulance, and the ambulance garage and mechanical building were added.

In 1976, a new wing was constructed with 12 private patient rooms and a new kitchen. The original building was also remodeled.

In 1991 Dr. Waldorf retired and Dr. Bradley retired in 1992. The County purchased the clinic.

In January 1992, a new addition was added across the front of the hospital. It housed the lobby and administration offices.

In October 1994, a satellite clinic was opened in Bucklin, but closed in December 1995.

In January 1998, the North wing of the hospital was remodeled to house a

geri-psychiatric wing. The former birthing room was renovated and became a patient room. The nursery was renovated and became the patient activity room.

KCMH had updated its air conditioning and heating system in 2005. Just prior to the tornado, we had moved our Hospital Pharmacy to room 6. The Nurse's station was being remodeled with the Prior Pharmacy space to be used for a dictation room. Full hospital fire sprinkling was in the process also. Remodeling of interior corridor walls and carpeting was also in progress at the time of the tornado.



May 4, 2007

At 9:45 p.m., an EF5 tornado struck Greensburg, KS. With tornado sirens blaring for 20 minutes, the community took action. The Hospital transferred patients, staff and public to a safe area in the basement. Staff were also able to take patient records, crash carts and med carts to the basement area..

The tornado that was approximately 1.7 miles wide and traveled 22 miles. Winds were estimated at 205 miles/hr. Greensburg's entire infrastructure was destroyed. Ninety people were treated with storm related injuries. Hospital patients were transferred to other facilities by 3:00 a.m. the next morning.

Approximately 20 ambulances responded immediately. Town residents were transferred by buses to shelters set up in the schools at Mullinville and Haviland.

68 staff loose their homes
90–95% of Greensburg destroyed
12 people killed
Hospital destroyed



Front Entrance



Employee entrance



Northeast corner



Northwest corner



Ambulance Garage



Emergency Room Entrance



Employee entrance sidewalk—Southwest campus





Ambulance Garage



Storage Building



West Parking Lot - "Not our boat!"

Administrator's Office



Front Lobby





Radiology Department



Laboratory



EMERGENCY ROOM



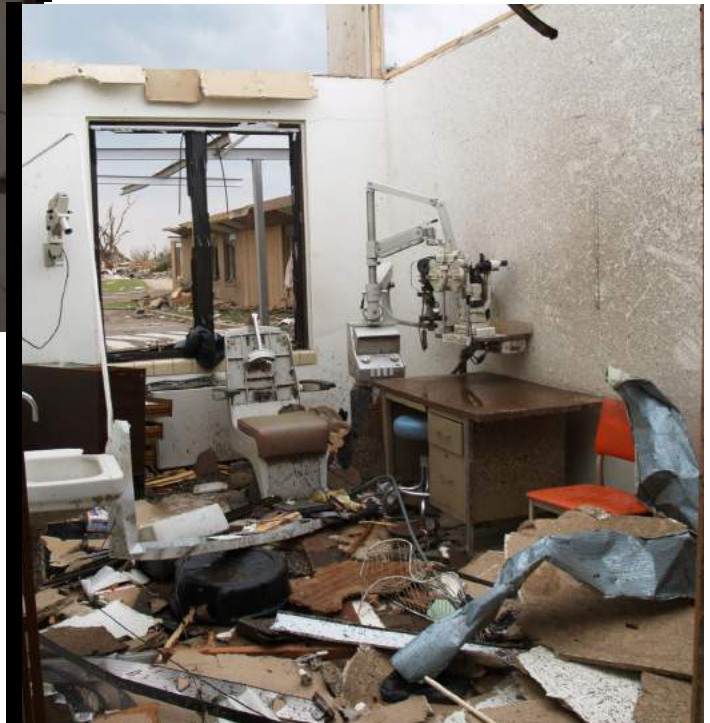
Nurse's Station



Business Office



Hallway to Dining Room



Optometry Office

Dining Room



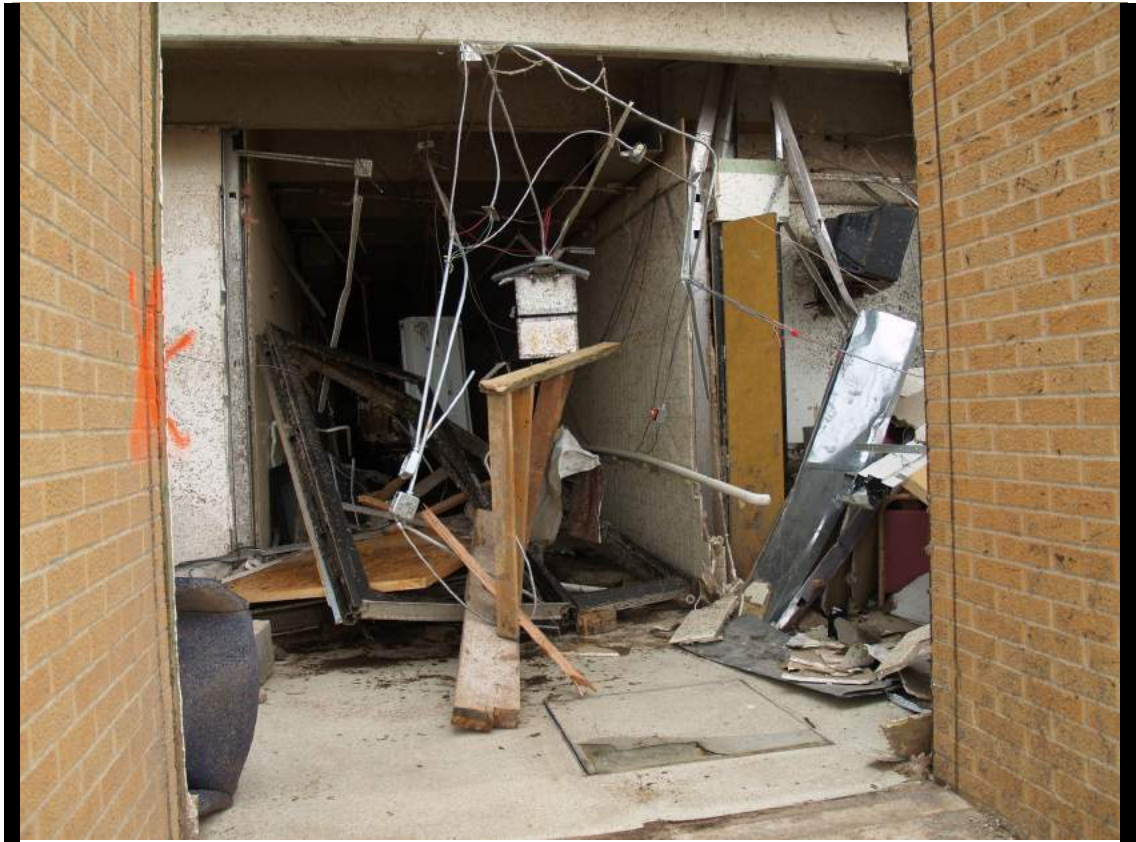
Front Entrance



Patient Rooms



Patient
South
Wing



Demolition of the
hospital



GREENSBURG FAMILY PRACTICE



Clinic Front Entrance



Clinic records were covered with blue tarps the day after the tornado. Volunteers and staff helped salvage the records.

Clinic Front Lobby

Clinic
Nurses'
Station



Moving Forward

EMEDS (Expeditionary Medical Support System Hospital Unit) was brought into Greensburg by the Kansas Air National Guard 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka Kansas.

- KCMH reopened in the EMEDs on May 21, 2007.
- Treated 220 patients in the May and June 2007.
- Only the 2nd time an EMEDs was deployed in the United States. The first time was during Katrina.
- The EMEDs is dispatched with all equipment and medications necessary to operate,
- The cost is approximately \$2.5 million to deploy the unit and was covered by FEMA and KDEM.
- The EMEDs in Greensburg was a series of 9 tents connected by a central hallway. Greensburg did not have the surgical tent deployed.
- Had its own emergency generator.



Administration area



Radiology



Emergency Room



Patient Admission Area



The Basics



Daycare



Medical Records



Materials & Payroll

Dining Room





Laboratory



Connecting hallway



Pharmacy

Patient and staff services moved out of the EMEDs tents by December 2007. Five tents were taken down and four tents continued to be used for dietary services, meeting room, and materials management services, EMS sleeping quarters and a fitness center.

Because of the generator capabilities, the tents were twice designated as an emergency shelter because of weather conditions.

Temporary
Modulars

Making Progress

6 Modulars:

- Rural Health Clinic
- Day Care/IT Office/Maintenance & Ambulance Office
- Lab
- Emergency Room/Admissions
- Business Office/Medical Records & Scanning/Materials and Payroll
- Administration/Director of Nursing/ Radiology/Lab draw station



Emergency Room

Patient Room—We had 4 beds.





Rural Health Clinic

Daycare



IT/Maintenance/Ambulance Departments



Lab



Medical Records



Materials Management



Business Office



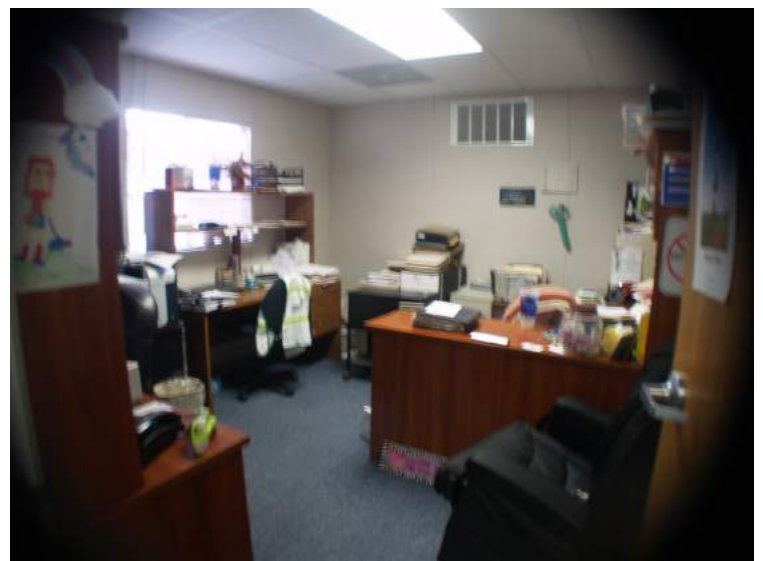


Lab draw area

X-ray



Admin Office



NEW FACILITY

- Licensed for 15 beds
- Approximately 50,000 square feet
- Is built to LEED Platinum specifications
- Built on site of former John Deere dealership
- Will employ approximately 90 employees
- Manages local ambulance service
- Manages two rural health clinics





Health Facilities Group^{LLC}

Medical Planning & Architecture

When the people of Greensburg needed a hand, Health Facilities Group was privileged to be there to help. We were the medical planners and architects for the hospital before the tornado, and we were honored to have the chance to walk through the process of rebuilding the facility with the hospital staff and the community. We believe the new hospital will effectively meet the healthcare needs of the people for many years to come, and that its environmentally sustainable features will benefit those who live in the area and utilize the facility. Thank you for letting Health Facilities Group be a part of the renewal of Greensburg.



Murray Company is honored to have partnered with the community of Greensburg Kansas and the residents of Kiowa County, as they rebuild their lives and community. Murray Company's role as construction manager will soon result in the only LEED Platinum Critical Access Hospital in the county. This state-of-the-art facility is something the entire community will be proud of for many years to come. Murray Company specializes in assisting rural health care providers with services ranging from strategic and market analysis to design and construction. We are privileged to have been part of your process.





GOAL:
Platinum



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

*LEED-certified buildings are designed to:

- Lower operating costs and increase asset value.
 - Reduce waste sent to landfills.
 - Conserve energy and water.
 - Be healthier and safer for occupants.
- Reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- Demonstrate an owner's commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility

There are both environmental and financial benefits to earning LEED certification.

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

* Information obtained from <http://www.usgbc.org>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FEATURES

- **Daylighting** maximizes the use of natural light to offset electrical lighting loads
- **High-performance windows** allow natural light to offset electrical lighting for a significant portion of the facility while also providing insulation
- A **well insulated building envelope** significantly reduces energy costs and allows more efficient heating and cooling technologies to be used throughout the facility (R-value of wall insulation is R-25)
- **Light colors** used on the roof and parking lots reflect heat away from the building
- A **heat recovery system** recycles exhaust air while providing fresh air to reduce energy consumption
- **Energy-efficient lights and lighting controls** reduce energy used for artificial lighting
- An **energy-efficient air conditioner** used a magnetic bearing chiller that is more cost effective and less money
- **Energy-efficient office equipment** reduces energy consumption used for administrative tasks.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FEATURES

- A **wind turbine** (50 kilowatts) will generate a portion of the power needed to operate the hospital

WATER EFFICIENCY

- **Low-flow toilets** conserve water in the restrooms
- A **bioswale filtration system** will reduce waste water by 50%
- **Rainwater** will be collected and used to flush toilets

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

- **Recycled materials** will be used for the interior finishes, including tile made from recycled content that is manufactured regionally.
- Some of the flooring will have **recycled rubber content**

AIR QUALITY AND INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

- **Demand-control ventilation** ensures continuous fresh air and proper CO2 levels
- A **rain screen system** on the exterior cladding provides moisture control and is low maintenance
- A **filmless x-ray system** eliminates the need for dangerous chemical usage
- **Seamless countertops and floors** reduces infection processes*

*Information from National Renewable Energy Laboratory Poster

Sharing Our Stories

Heading to Kansas with my in-laws and my 2 year old Halle, I mentioned how I thought we would have some storms tonight. My father-in-law said he thought they were to be toward the North. I was at ease because I had left Clint working in the field North of Pratt. Sure enough, we were about to Overland Park and he called and said he just got home to Greensburg and the sirens were going off. He then left and drove towards Pratt. He then called me one last time telling me he had parked the truck outside of Greensburg and was walking into town. The cell phone services were then down. Within the hour, Pratt Regional Medical Center had called me in for a code black, an external disaster. I then knew it was bad. I sat waiting to hear from him and the hours went by. I kept calling my friend at the hospital in Pratt and she finally broke down and told me that my neighbor had been in and she said that her house was gone. Finally about 4:00 a.m., Clint called in a humbling voice saying that our two story house had not one wall standing. In a panic, he told me that I left the dog and the cat and he was sorry. Being 7 month pregnant, I was overcome with emotion and I wanted to be there for him. All we had was the clothes on Clint's back and the overnight bag that I had packed for Halle and me.

Adina Young, Lab Tech

The date May 4, 2007 will never be forgotten in my memories. Even though my residence was and remains on the East side of town, the darkness kept me from seeing the devastation of my community. I was at my mother's house that evening. We knew that when the tornado siren continued its wail, this was the real thing. When everything stopped and the roaring began, there was trouble. The sound that stays with me is a moaning sound. We all know when the wind blows, there is a hum or whistle but this was a moan. No other sound has yet to match it. After checking my home, and getting my aunt to the safety of my mother's home, I went to the hospital to see what I could do to help. In the 30 minutes, it took me to get across town, the patients were already evacuated and cared for. I made it back home only to hear from people driving down streets that anyone with healthcare training was to report to the evacuation centers. The nearest I could get was the bar. There I worked from 10:30 p.m. until about 2:30 a.m. when the last of the victims was transferred out and then it would be cleared to use as the morgue. Mitzi Hesser was the Registered Nurse and I was honored to work at her side. Drs. Kibar and Maalouf made at least two visits to triage. As others have noted, we all were affected by this event and it made us realize how fragile we are and that this community and county must work together no matter the circumstances.

*Carolyn Irwin, Social Service Designee,
KCMH Auxillary President*

“Ten Minutes Early”

I left my house ten minutes early on May 4, 2007 because it had started to rain. When I got to the highway, I looked to the Southwest and saw a very large, black cloud, and since I was heading North on Hwy. 183, I kept looking over my shoulder and continued onto the hospital. When I pulled into the back parking lot, I heard the sirens going off, and really didn't think much about it, since in the past, it usually meant we would be returning patients to their rooms after the all clear was sounded. With all the patients and staff safe in the basement, Bertha Tuttle and myself remained at the nurse's station to answer the phones and direct people to the basement. It wasn't long before we knew we needed to head to the basement ourselves. Bertha said to get going and as I got to the bottom of the stairs, she was blown to the first landing and managed to get the rest of the way down, a little shaken but safe. As soon as it was safe, she and I joined some of the others outside to clear the driveway for the ambulances to back into and as we looked to our vehicles, we saw what was left of them with a small fishing boat stuck between them. Got sent a lot of Guardian Angels that night to watch over the people of Greensburg. Mine started ten minutes earlier and kept me from driving straight into the path of an E5 tornado.

Madeleine Sue Peaster, Aide, Nursing Service

I was out of town to Oklahoma to my granddaughter, Ashley's, wedding, the night of the tornado. We heard from my son-in-law's brother that a tornado was about to strike Greensburg. The wedding was over and we were attending the reception, and we received word that the tornado did actually strike Greensburg. My daughter, grandson and I left immediately for home. All the way home, we attempted numerous times to reach my son by cell phone, but were unsuccessful. At approximately 3:30 a.m., we arrived via a county road that was terribly muddy. Seeing the outskirts of Greensburg, I was totally in shock at what I saw but this is not what I had been stating to my daughter while traveling home. What I did see looked like a bomb had dropped and hardly anything was left. Not able to drive on the streets, we had to walk but could not find my home because of no noticeable landmarks to help with direction. While walking, I met my daughter and son-in-law who live in Colorado, but had been following the news and left immediately for home. All of my family came to help at what could be salvaged. All the while, we were together saving what we could, I know that the Lord is good and He continues to bless and help with our recovery and growth. Phyllis Osborne, Dietary Department

Email from Joleen Seacat

Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2007 6:25 PM

Subject: Max & I Are SAFE

Our House is mostly destroyed but we are safe. I feel that we are a bit "shell shocked". During the tornado, we were in the basement under the pool table. It was mighty loud to hear the house blow away and seemed to last a LONG time. I took my Bible, a book and some water plus my new wig ([New wig due to recent hair loss](#)) with me to the basement. Max took a flashlight and a newspaper. We forgot our billfolds with our credit cards and identification, [medications or shoes](#).

There was so much debris blown in front of the basement door, that we were unable to get out until our next door neighbor came in calling for us and moved the stuff.

Last night it looked like we would be able to salvage much of our furniture and clothes, but am unsure about that now since it rained today. Grandmother's buffet was still in the same place, the [antique](#) secretary was upright and looked o.k.. Could not tell about the dining table. The bedroom furniture was all still in the bedroom and clothes in the closets, just no roof and large tree branches were in the house.

We appreciated [Son Dwann](#) and Nephew Galen Fields driving to Greensburg [from their homes in Bucklin](#) last evening to help us. The contents in the garage are o.k. - car, pickup and bicycles. etc. Last night we started clearing the driveway so we could drive the vehicles and finally decided to not do that in the dark. [There were too many tree branches in the driveway to move](#). Our house does have some walls, but no roof and much of the "stuff" is still in the house. We decided to get some clothes out of the bedroom and go to Dwann's house for the night and return today to salvage most things. Well, that did not work because they are not allowing people back into Greensburg because they are in a "search and rescue" mode looking for anyone who has not been accounted for. We drove to Mullinville this morning and saw people at the school so we stopped there and learned that they would not allow us to enter what was once Greensburg. Mullinville and Bucklin people were there with food and drinks.

Finally Dwann and Max decided to drive on to Greensburg to see if they could get to the house going in the back way, while I stayed in Mullinville. It is a good thing that I stayed because the STATE FARM insurance agents were there and we already have a check from State Farm. We needed to return to Mullinville to get our prescriptions that were delivered there from Dodge City. ([Max and Dwann were not allowed into Greensburg](#))

I walked to the hospital after the tornado. The 20 patients were all safe in the basement. I went around to all of them offering water. Many other people were waiting in the hallway basement. All patients have been evacuated. I can see my office windows on some of the pictures on TV showing the front of the hospital. It does not look like I have an office anymore. TV coverage says that the hospital is 80% destroyed and ALL Main Street businesses are completely destroyed.

Maybe I RETIRED as of yesterday. Karen Conner, transcriptionist, lives in Haviland and many Greensburg people went to Haviland School for shelter last night. She worked until 4:00 a.m. signing in the people. She was worried about us because we did not show up at Haviland and called Dwann's house to find us. The young pregnant girl who I recently hired does not have anything left of her house. She was at the Haviland shelter. She lived 2 blocks North of us and we walked by her house as we walked to Dwann's pickup last night which he had parked at the highway.

We appreciate your phone calls of concern, your prayers, offers of help, etc as we move forward with our lives.

Marian has scalloped potatoes and ham in the oven. What a great family and we appreciate all they do for us.
Joleen Seacat, Medical Records

The TVs were on, and the patients were all watching as the weather got worse. The staff were catching glimpses of the weather reports and trying to remain calm. I stepped outside and knew we were going to have a new experience—the heat was like nothing I had ever felt before.

After getting everyone evacuated to the basement, I started to go, also. Just as I touched my foot on the first step, I heard the tin building explode and knew I had to hurry. Before I could take the second step down, the wind hit the back door, blowing the glass in and “carried” me down the stairs.

We could hear the hospital being blown apart. The dust and debris in the air was almost overpowering and the smell just awful.

After the storm passed, I went outside. It was so calm and peaceful, despite the destruction that had just happened. I knew we had survived a very bad ordeal.

Bertha Tuttle, RN, Nursing Department


I had gone to a meeting in Topeka and had gotten in late on Thursday, so I decided to spend the night Friday night. My youngest son, John David Colclazier, “JD” was with his dad and my youngest daughter, Maci Colclazier was in Salina at a forensics tournament. Just after 9:45 p.m., I started getting frantic cell phone calls from my oldest daughter, Marci Lehl, who lives in Hutchinson – wanting to know where everyone was, and if we were safe. I thought the reports that the town was destroyed had to be exaggerated. Then I started getting calls from Maci, who had heard the news. She was almost hysterical. I immediately checked out of the motel and started driving. I made so many phone calls that night—trying to find out about our patients, trying to find John David and my oldest son, Jeremy Hoover. I finally was able to reach Jeremy, when he went to Bucklin to get equipment to help clear streets. I heard his house was destroyed, but he and my 3 granddaughters were safe. At 11:02 p.m., I received a 2 minute call from David Jantz, lab director, that all the patients and staff were safe, but “trapped” in the basement. I stopped in Wichita, at an all night Wal-mart and bought over \$1,000 of materials to bring home. I still couldn't find JD. I was told he was alive, because people had told Jeremy they had seen him, but I didn't know where he was. After going thru 5 road blocks by using my Hospital ID card, I arrived at 3:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Dillon's parking lot triage and was met by my boss, Mike Frost. He reported that the patients had been transferred but that the hospital was destroyed. I had also spoken with Gina Friesen, who had told me my house was still there, but she could see my dining room table and it wasn't thru a window! I spent the night at Dillons in my car and at daylight, got my first true view of Greensburg. The National Guard allowed us to go to the Hospital to collect drugs. After cleaning out the pharmacy, I went to find JD. I drove up to my destroyed house, and out he walked. I was so thankful that all my family was safe!

Mary Sweet, Administrator

On May 4th, 2007, I had left town about one hour prior to the torando hitting Greensburg. My children and I were at my mother's home in Larned, Kansas. I had spoken to my husband, Jason, a few times before the EF-5 hit Greensburg. He was keeping me updated about the storm. We did not have local channels at my mother's house. I will never forget getting the phone call telling me that our home was gone. "It's gone Susan—everything is gone" is what Jason told me. I fell to my knees and started to cry and at that same time, I heard on The Weather Channel "Greensburg Kansas has taken a direct hit". I wrapped my arms around my children and just cried. The tornado that hit Greensburg dissipated North of town, but a new one started and was headed North towards Larned. We took shelter at my mother's house. Many family members were trying to call and would get through just enough to know we were ok. I knew Tierra, Bo and Brett were ok because they were with me. I was able to talk to Jason a little bit and found that he, his parents and Grandma West were alright. Now the nurse in me wanted to get back to Greensburg and help. I knew the Hospital needed help. Jason informed me that this was the one time I had to listen to him and I was to stay put. It is a good thing that I listened because I would have driven directly into the path of the other tornado. When it was all said and done, we lost our home as did most people in Greensburg, but we still have each other. We have rebuilt and are glad we stayed.


*I started back to work a few weeks after the tornado. I am so thankful that the hospital decided to stay and rebuild. I will never forget the experience of having a hospital in M*A*S*H like tents and trailers. I am ever so thankful for our beautiful new hospital. I am very grateful for the wonderful ladies in the daycare they took excellent care of my children at such a difficult time in their lives.*

Susan West, RN, Nursing Department



My story is different in that I was not directly involved in the tornado, but was indirectly involved. I live in Haviland and this is where they brought the first busloads of the Greensburg residents. I went to the Haviland School Gymnasium immediately to offer help. When I arrived, the Red Cross was already there setting up cots and getting ready to register the people as they arrived. They were needing much help, so I volunteered to help. At this time, no one knew who was alive and who was not. As the people started coming in, I was so excited and relieved when I saw those that I knew and many that I did not know; that they were safe and alive. The busloads kept coming and coming. Before I knew it, it was morning and I had been there all night. I will never forget this experience of helping in a small way to comfort the Greensburg residents affected by the tornado.

Karen Conner, Haviland Clinic receptionist



✓

I was working weekend call for Kiowa County Emergency Service. I was told by nurses that the county was in a tornado watch. I help put patients at Kiowa County Memorial Hospital into wheelchairs and transported them to the elevator, to be taken to the basement.

I left when it was changed to a tornado warning. My daughter, Kristi Odle and I took the ambulance out of town to Haviland. We picked up two EMT-Is to help us.

When we got the call that it was all clear to come back to Greensburg, we came in on the East side of town. We saw some buildings still standing. After the car wash, the rest of the town was devastated. The EMS team started taking care of patients. We worked all night, until morning. I was so glad to see all the workers—EMS, law enforcement, firemen and rescue workers. I went back to the Hospital. I saw how much damage there was. The second ambulance was damaged with a big tree branch through the windshield. My car was covered with debris.

I saw the nurses and was told that all the patients had been transferred to area places. The nurses were ok.

I was told that my grandkids were safe and taken to a friend's house.

Ann Fedde, EMS, Aide Nursing Service

Charlotte was at Salina for state forensics. Danny and I were going to Wichita for a Shriner's ceremonial. We left that Friday afternoon. I had told many people at work that I was leaving town, but they had forgotten by the end of the night. Danny said he thought it looked like it could hail, so he put his pickup in the shed. We were going to stay with my folks in Augusta. We had gone out to dinner and had just gotten home when my phone rang and it was Charlotte in a panic, screaming at me "to get Daddy, and go to Savely's to their basement because a tornado was coming." I finally got her calmed down so she could understand that we were safe. Danny had already gone to bed, so I decided not to wake him. I told my parents we had to turn on the TV and watch what was going on. Obviously, you know what happened. I don't think I have ever had to watch and listen to something so devastating. The weathermen were all very frantic. Then we finally did get to see pictures of people that had gathered at Dillons parking lot. What a relief that was. We returned to Greensburg on Monday to see what was left of our house. Gail Coggins, Business Office

I worked the evening of the tornado. I walked up and down the basement hallway about 500 times I think. People were coming and going all night looking for loved ones. A lot of towns people came and went, looking for loved ones. Some people brought their dogs for shelter, some brought their children, and some brought their spouses. My family came and brought my 87 year old mother. One young lady came and was worried about her mother and almost hysterical– I kind of had to "get in her face" and tell her to calm down because we had all of our patients (including the BHU patients) and several other people from the community there and I didn't want to get them upset and scared. I hope I wasn't too stern with her and I think it was for her own good and ours that I was firm with her. She calmed down anyway. A man came and brought his big wet dog and he didn't have a leash for him and the man was crying saying he hurt and that got the young lady going again and I was really worried they were going to get everybody upset but eventually they both calmed down. Someone made a leash out of an oxygen tube for the dog. The man wanted to stay in the bathroom and keep the dog with him there but I told him other people would need the bathroom and I helped him move the dog to another room where the physical therapy department had their whirlpool. Later I found out that other people had their dogs in that room and they weren't happy about having the big black dog brought there! Someone's dog pooped in the hallway– the hot, crowded, trafficked hallway! Then a couple of the BHU patients decided they were getting out of there! Their nurses did well with them but somehow amidst all the congestion a man and a lady both tried to leave– so I elicited the help of one of the men who had come for shelter and he assisted getting them back to the BHU nurse. She went upstairs and got mattresses off the beds for them to lie on which was a really great idea because people were getting tired of sitting in hard chairs and it was way past their bedtime! I assisted my mother to the physical therapy room and she laid down on one of their "tables" to rest. My sister was in a room next door taking care of a lady that had a head injury. My husband had carried a young man downstairs who had an injured back. Several people who had come for shelter lined the halls and all they could do was wait to be rescued. The rescuers came and took them all first in ambulances, I believe, to surrounding hospitals. I told the rescuers we were all OK and they said they would come back later for us. Dr. Kibar came to the hospital when he got to town that night (it's my understanding he was out of town) and he went to each of our hospital patients and asked them if they were OK and if there was anything they needed. Dr. Maalouf worked at the triage areas at Dillon's parking lot. Chris Gardiner was our "on call" Provider for the night and he had come to hospital and went to work immediately even though his house had just been blown away by the tornado and he and his family had climbed out of the debris. And, it is my understanding that Nancy Kisner and Jonell Sirois worked all night at the triage area also. All of our hospital patients were transferred by ambulances to other hospitals. Chris wanted a nurse to go with all the patients and we (Chris and I) thought they were all going to one place but it turned out they took everyone to different places and my patient, my mother and I ended up in Coldwater. At 4am I realized I was stuck in Coldwater with no phone, no money, no pills for my elderly mother and no bed for my mother (since she wasn't a patient they didn't have a bed for her because they needed to save the beds for the sick and injured). I called my son's mother-in-law and awakened her to get his phone number and fortunately he was in Pratt (headed back to Wichita after assisting around town where he could) and answered his phone and then I lost it and cried, "Joe, I'm in Coldwater with Mom and I don't know what to do!" to which he replied "I'll be right there!" and he rescued us! Joe was my Hero that night! Tish Smith, RN

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