

# Community Engagement

MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin | June 2019

Dear Community Partner:

This email is being sent to community stakeholders in Albert Lea, Austin and surrounding areas and provides information and updates on community engagement activities of Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS) – Albert Lea and Austin. It includes links to more information. Please share with others who may be interested.

## Upcoming Activities

June 19 - Wind Down Wednesday (Albert Lea)  
June 21 – Freeborn County Relay for Life (Albert Lea)  
June 25 – Health Talk Series (Albert Lea)  
July 13 – Rock and Roll the Lakes (Albert Lea)  
July 16 – All Access Community Explorations Camp (Austin)  
July 17 - Wind Down Wednesday (Albert Lea)  
July 26 – Mower County Relay for Life (Austin)  
July 30 – More than Pink presentation, Austin Public Schools (Austin)  
July 30 – Aug.4 - Freeborn County Fair  
August 6 - 11 - Mower County Fair  
August 21 - Wind Down Wednesday (Albert Lea)

## #MNGFO2019

Congratulations to the Albert Lea community on hosting a fantastic weekend of events and activities. Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea and Austin was a proud Platinum Walleye sponsor of this year’s Governor’s Fishing Opener. MCHS staff enjoyed seeing many friends and community members who stopped by our booths at the “Hooked on Broadway” event on Friday and the Blue Zones Walk/Run on Saturday.

Stop by the MCHS tent at various activities throughout the summer to meet MCHS Leaders, get information about MCHS services and provide your input on upcoming transitions (see more information below).



For up-to-date information, visit <https://mayoclinichealthsystem.org/albert-lea-austin-facts>

## Update on MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin Transitions

This month, the Medical and Surgical Unit in Albert Lea will move to Austin. This follows the move of the Intensive Care Unit in 2017 to Austin and the Psychiatric Services Unit to Albert Lea in 2018. As medical care advances, the needs of patients, providers and facilities nationwide are changing. Most treatments and surgeries can now be done without overnight hospitalization (*or inpatient care*). That means there is less demand for facilities designed and equipped for overnight stays. The remodeled unit in Austin will offer state-of-the-art equipment and accommodations to provide the highest quality of care to patients in surrounding communities. A full range of clinic services, including many outpatient procedures, will continue to take place in Albert Lea.

We are on track to complete the new Family Birth Center on the Austin campus in 2020. Because safe, high-quality patient care depends on our ability to keep labor and delivery units adequately staffed 24/7, an acceleration of the transition of labor and delivery services to one unit in Austin is being considered. It could occur as soon as this year. We hope to have more information to share with patients, staff and the community in July. For up to date information, please visit our [Get the Facts website](#) where a comment section allows you to post general questions or comments as well as provide your input on the transition of labor and delivery: how we are reaching out to the community, questions you may have and ways we can work together to support patients, staff and the community over the next 12-18 months.

## Team Spirit Carries Over to Cancer Center



A huge thank you to the Albert Lea High School Girls Volleyball Team for delivering baskets to the MCHS – Albert Lea Cancer Center last month. The staff and patients were very grateful for the thoughtful effort and wonderful array of baskets.

## Mind Matters in Rochester

"Mental Health: Mind Matters," hosted by [Mayo Clinic](#), and presented by [Olmsted Medical Center](#) and [Rochester Area Foundation](#), is a new, interactive exhibit focused on raising awareness about mental health and creates a safe space for important conversations about mental illness. It opened May 25 at [Rochester Art Center](#) and will be open to the public Tuesdays through Saturday through Sept. 10. There will be a \$5 admission for adults. Children 15 and younger are free. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time on the [Rochester Art Center's website](#). A series of special events related to mental health will be held in conjunction with the exhibit. Check the [Mind Matters website](#) for updated information about upcoming events.

## Mower Refreshed newsletter highlights community efforts to address county health priorities

The Mower Refreshed [newsletter](#), published every-other-month, features activities, organizations and people in Mower County who are working together to address those health issues identified as priority areas through the [Community Health Needs Assessment](#). In addition to highlighting the priority areas, the newsletter also introduces readers to the Mower Refreshed Steering Committee members – those individuals who help guide the direction of Mower Refreshed activity. Each issue includes a community calendar that lists those events that contribute to making Mower County a healthy, vibrant place to live, work and play. Updated resource guides to local farmer's markets, chemical abuse resources/support groups and health care navigation are included on a rotating basis.

If you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list, or have an idea for an upcoming feature, please reach out to [Sara Lee](#), Community Engagement Manager for Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin.

## Mayo Clinic Ambulance in Austin

Mayo Clinic recently opened a new facility at 1815 Fifth St. NW in Austin that includes more than 7,500 square feet for ambulances, crew quarters, and office and education space. The new location allows ease of access to Interstate 90, Minnesota State Route 218 and the central business district area. The new ambulance station is projected to be much more energy efficient and allow for growth of the operation well into the future. The former Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service facility in Austin, Minnesota, that was purchased by Mayo Clinic in 2005 has been donated to the city of Austin.

## Did you know?

On both campuses of MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin, the **Emergency Department remains open 24/7**. In addition, there are many ways to get the care you need in a non-emergency situation. For example, in Albert Lea and Austin, the Same Day Clinic makes it easier for patients to see the right providers in a timely fashion. Mayo Express Care, located in Hy-Vee, and Express Care Online, also address select patient care needs in a timely and efficient manner at a reduced cost.

A full list of services offered on each campus of MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin and up to date information on the transition of inpatient services is available at <https://mayoclinichealthsystem.org/albert-lea-austin-facts>.

MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin has also produced easy-to-use guides to health care resources in your community. Click on the links for [Freeborn County](#) and [Mower County](#) to get your copy today!

## Meet the MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin Community Engagement Team

The MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin Community Engagement team includes (pictured left to right):



**Kathy Leidal**, Community Engagement Senior Specialist, Albert Lea, [leidal.kathryn@mayo.edu](mailto:leidal.kathryn@mayo.edu)

**Ilaya Hopkins**, Community Engagement Manager, Southeast Minnesota, [hopkins.ilaya@mayo.edu](mailto:hopkins.ilaya@mayo.edu)

**Sara Lee**, Community Engagement Manager, Austin, [lee.sara@mayo.edu](mailto:lee.sara@mayo.edu)

See [previous newsletters](#) for bios for each team member.

## Welcome Sue Loch – Executive Director, Naeve Health Care Foundation and Austin Foundation

Sue Loch began her new role as Executive Director on June 3. She will serve as the main point of contact between Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea and Austin and both the [Naeve Health Care Foundation](#) and the Austin Foundation. As Foundation Director, Sue will be responsible for working with the two separate Boards of Directors and leading the overall operational and strategic direction for each of the foundations. The position was previously held by Mary Anne Wolesky who retired in December. In her new role, Sue will work closely with the Community Engagement team.

## Community Giving

MCHS – Albert Lea and Austin is a trusted provider of health care and a committed community partner. As such, we aim to support a number of initiatives and activities in the communities in which we are located. Visit our website for more information on our criteria and process.

Recent donations include support of: City of Wells Park and Rec, LIFE Center of Freeborn County, City of LeRoy Bikes to Go, Freedom Fest and the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Cookout, Rock and Roll the Lakes Albert Lea, Doc's Recovery House and support of Fountain Center patients

Thank you for your involvement in our work. We look forward to continuing to enhance the health and well-being of residents in our communities. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the MCHS Southeast Minnesota Community Engagement team.

For up-to-date information, visit <https://mayoclinichealthsystem.org/albert-lea-austin-facts>

Sincerely,

Mark Ciota, M.D., CEO, Albert Lea and Austin

Sumit Bhagra, M.D., Medical Director, Albert Lea and Austin

Kristin Johnson, CPA, M.B.A., Vice Chair Administration, SEMN, Albert Lea and Austin

Lori Routh, R.N., Nurse Administrator, Albert Lea and Austin

Tricia Dahl, M.B.A., Operations Administrator, Albert Lea and Austin

Greg Davis, M.H.A., Operations Administrator, Albert Lea and Austin