

Staff Spotlight: Tory Sondeland

Unity Medical Center welcomed Tory Sondeland as the new director of facilities in June. Tory had heard wonderful things about Unity from friends who completed clinicals here, and when the position opened, she decided to apply. After her first interview, she knew it was the place she needed to be. “The conversation was comfortable, and it simply felt right,” she said. A few weeks after her second interview, Tory was offered the job.



Tory appreciates Unity’s friendly atmosphere and the support she has received from UMC leaders and staff. “Everyone is encouraging and has helped me get acquainted with the many aspects of my job,” she said.

Her passion for healthcare began at an early age while spending considerable time in hospitals with her father during his illness. Encouraged by doctors and nurses, she learned how to care for him at home, gaining hands-on skills such as wound care and glucose monitoring. Tory worked as a CNA in high school, pursued nursing school after graduating and eventually transitioned into healthcare administration. Tory earned a degree in business and healthcare administration in 2021, blending her clinical expertise with leadership skills. Before joining Unity, she was the administrator at the Osnabrock Community Living Center for five years.

Originally from Wadena, Minn., Tory moved to Edinburg in 2018. She is married to Cory Sondeland, and they have two children, along with horses, a dog, two cats and a crop farm near Milton. Tory enjoys spending time at the lake, fishing, rodeo, watching her kids’ sporting events and her newest hobby—sourdough baking.

Tory’s favorite part of her job is connecting with every department at Unity. She values the variety her role offers, and strives to ensure all departments are included and heard regarding daily operations and future plans. Currently, she is tackling storage organization and decluttering to improve efficiency. “I’m learning new things every day and I’m happy to be here,” she said.



Burns bench dedicated outside Grafton Family Clinic

A new bench outside the Grafton Family Clinic was dedicated recently in memory of Gene and Suzanne Burns, who raised their six children just south of the clinic on Kittson Avenue.

Gene, a Chief Warrant Officer-4 for the Army National Guard, and Suzanne, a legal assistant before becoming the Walsh County abstractor, are the parents of daughters Barb Dusek, Nancy Misialek and Shari Flanders, and sons Chris, Brian and Brad Burns. Barb, the eldest, recalled running around with other neighborhood kids, playing kickball and baseball in an empty lot at the corner of 15th St. and Griggs Ave. They went home for lunch and supper “when the church bells rang,” and they went home for the night when the streetlights came on.

Gene passed away in 2019, while Suzanne passed away in 2022. “My family and I thought a bench on Kittson, where we all grew up, would be the perfect way to honor our parents, who were both born and raised in Grafton and lived there all their lives,” Barb said. “We think this would make them happy!”

Suzanne delivered all six kids at Unity Medical Center, and both Gene and Suzanne received their medical care there. Some of their grandkids learned to ride their bikes in the UMC parking lot. “I’m very proud of UMC and how far they have come as an organization,” said Barb, who serves as a board member for the UMC Foundation. “They have so many excellent providers, and it feels like home there because it is home. Everybody knows you. There is a personal touch that is hard to duplicate.”

Andrew Wysocki joins UMCF board

The Unity Medical Center Foundation is pleased to welcome Andrew Wysocki to its board of directors. Andrew joined the board in July and brings with him a deep connection to the Grafton community, having grown up in Grafton. He works as an ag relationship manager at Old National Bank and is active with several community organizations and boards.

Andrew and his wife Samantha have three sons and recently welcomed a new baby girl. Andrew enjoys spending time with his family and being outdoors, especially at the lake and during hunting season. We are grateful for his willingness to serve and look forward to the perspective and dedication he will bring to UMCF.

