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WRHS Foundation funds recliners, bariatric bed and hi-lo beds for RHS/WHLC

By Ted Uecker, WRHS Foundation

The West River Health Services Foundation Board of Directors met for their quarterly meeting on Monday, August 28th at the WRHS Board Room and approved the following \$12,210 in purchases from their former Partners In Health Club Fund (now called the Grateful Givers Club Fund):

4 Recliners for Hospital Floor -- \$6,400 (\$1,600 each)

5 Recliners for Western Horizons Living Centers -- \$3,450 (\$690 each)

1 Bariatric Bed for Western Horizons Living Centers -- \$2,000

Part of one high-low bed at Western Horizons Living Centers -- \$360

In addition, the WRHS Foundation Board of Directors also agreed to fund four, high-low beds for Western Horizons Living Centers

at \$1,400 each or \$5,600 total, from the Foundation's remaining "One Room At a Time Together" fund (\$5,240).

THANK YOU to all of the families, individuals, organizations and businesses who give annually to our WRHS Foundation. Your gifts, whether large or small, are being spent efficiently on equipment, facilities, staffing, scholarships and loans -- all to improve our rural healthcare services. Let's keep WRHS/WHLC top-notch!

If you would like to join our TEAM, please contact Ted Uecker, WRHS Foundation Fund Development Officer, at 701-567-3666 and he will take you through all of your options. If you know what you'd like to give and where, checks can be written out to "WRHSF" and sent to WRHS Foundation, 1000 Highway 12, Hettinger, ND, 58639. Plus, you can always give online

with a credit card at our website, wrhs.com/giving. We still believe that it's your money -- you decide how much to give and where it goes.

Our newly named Grateful Givers Club is comprised of 452 area families, individuals, organizations and businesses who gift \$100 or more to any fund at the WRHS Foundation over one year's time. Funds given specifically to our Grateful Givers Club Fund are earmarked for needed equipment over and above the Capital Budget at WRHS/WHLC. The Administrative Team at WRHS/WHLC then determines placement of these Grateful Givers Club funds toward needed equipment projects, with final approval from the WRHS Foundation Board of Directors. Thank you loyal donors, Administrative Team and WRHS Board of Directors! Onward!

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications service more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education, and opportunities.

The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides an eligible customer with broadband internet a discount of up to \$9.25 per month. Eligible voice only subscribers will receive a discount of \$5.25 per month. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>.

How Do I Qualify?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

Medicaid
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or

SNAP)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)

Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Program

How Tribal Link Up Works?

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance

Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at www.wrctc.coop.

Submit applications to:

USAC
Lifeline Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

Eligible families may apply for free or reduced-price meals for school year 2023-24

Families who may qualify for free or reduced-price meals in school year 2023-24 need to submit a free and reduced-price meal application. Schools will take applications and use family income to qualify students for the program.

The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) wants families to know about options available through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care

Food Programs. These federally funded programs help to ensure that children from families whose income meets certain guidelines can be served at participating schools and agencies. A list of participating entities can be found on the DOE's website at <https://doe.sd.gov/cans/> under the "Documents" drop-down.

Families may apply for free milk or free and reduced-price meals for their children for school year 2023-

24, according to guidelines effective July 1, 2023. Depending upon a family's circumstances, there are varying ways to gain access to the programs.

To learn more about the programs, families should contact the administrative office of their local school or agency. The income scales below are used to determine an applicant's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals if the household is at or below the guidelines.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024)

Household Size	Annually Free	Annually Reduced	Monthly Free	Monthly Reduced	Weekly Free	Weekly Reduced
	1	\$18,954	\$26,973	\$1,580	\$2,248	\$365
2	\$25,636	\$36,482	\$2,137	\$3,041	\$493	\$702
3	\$32,318	\$45,991	\$2,694	\$3,833	\$622	\$885
4	\$39,000	\$55,500	\$3,250	\$4,625	\$750	\$1,068
5	\$45,682	\$65,009	\$3,807	\$5,418	\$879	\$1,251
6	\$52,364	\$74,518	\$4,364	\$6,210	\$1,007	\$1,434
7	\$59,046	\$84,027	\$4,921	\$7,003	\$1,136	\$1,616
8	\$65,728	\$95,536	\$5,478	\$7,795	\$1,264	\$1,799
For each additional family member, add	\$6,682	\$9,509	\$557	\$793	\$129	\$183

Highlights & Happenings

Dr. Shipley and all of the Elementary Staff invite Kindergarten through Sixth grade students (Home School K-6 included) and their grandparents or special grand friends to attend the Title I Programs Grandparents Day at Bison School. **Grandparents Day** will be held on September 11th (Monday) at 2:30pm in the Bison School Gymnasium. Be ready to play bingo and enjoy refreshments.

FREE Sr. Citizen Bingo (55+) with prizes and lunch. Friday, Sept 8. 2:00 p.m. at Homestead Heights. Come to play! Come to visit! Bring a friend! Sponsored by Town & Country CFEL.