

# Beaver Island Rural Health Center

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Dear Friend,

**Can you imagine how fast twice-weekly airfare from Beaver Island to the mainland would add up over a typical six-week course of physical therapy?** Have you ever thought about how hard it would be to climb into an airplane when your mobility is impaired by an accident or surgery? Until July of 2010, these challenges meant that most Beaver Islanders did without physical therapy and suffered the consequences.

**With your support a vital need has been fulfilled: Physical therapy is now available at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center year round, twice a week!** Thanks to the persistence of BIRHC's Donna Kubic, the graciousness of Charlevoix Area Hospital, and the pluck of CAH physical therapist Larry Hudson, the lives of both summer and full-time Island residents have been dramatically changed for the better. Now, seven patients enjoy the benefits of Larry's expert services twice a week by simply driving to the Health Center.

*"After having multiple surgeries on my arm, I was faced with a tough decision. Do I pay \$200 a week to fly to Charlevoix to receive the much-needed physical therapy on my arm, or risk losing most of the mobility in that arm? I no longer have to make that choice. I receive physical therapy services here on Beaver Island plus I get the care I so desperately need in a much more cost-effective manner."*

**Judy Boyle**, full-time Island resident

*"Larry took me from years of relying on a walker to walking with a properly adjusted cane. He not only gave me the confidence to do things, But the strength to do them. Thanks to him I have experienced a 95% turn around in my quality of life."*

**Joan Vyse**, full-time Island resident

*"I would recommend having physical therapy at the Health Center to anyone."* **Ann Broder**, summer resident

Physical therapy is only one of the many services the Beaver Island Rural Health Center has added in the past few years. We are constantly looking for new ways to partner with larger health organizations in our area to expand the local health care options for our community.

**We write to you at this time of year to ask that you consider an end of the year gift to the Health Center to ensure that we can continue to innovate and improve the lives of Beaver Islanders.**



Judy Boyle receives physical therapy from Larry Hudson at BIRHC twice a week.

*Photo by Erin Boyle*