

# Telehealth on Beaver Island

You may have seen news stories about telemedicine featuring robots controlled by off-site doctors visiting hospital patients, asking questions and instructing the nursing staff. While we may never have a robot at BIRHC, the use of telehealth programs is becoming more important, even here.

Before the digital x-ray system was installed in 2009, our health care providers could take x-rays, but then could only describe the injury to emergency room personnel at Charlevoix Area Hospital. Films would have to be sent to the mainland, weather permitting, for a radiologist's assessment. Now, digital x-rays can be sent to Charlevoix immediately for reading. The mainland doctor also can see the patient through the telemedicine video-conferencing equipment set up in one of our exam rooms.

As a member of the REMEC Telehealth Network, the BIRHC is linked to other northern Michigan health care facilities, including Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. The network offers a wide range of video offerings every week. Our health care providers can keep up with current research without having to leave the Island.

The community also benefits from the REMEC network. The Circle of Strength Breast Cancer Support Group meets here monthly for a video conference held at Charlevoix Area Hospital. Both the Beaver Island EMS and Fire Department have used our telehealth connections for training.

## A Wonderful Place

A happy butterfly enjoys a meal in our butterfly garden located behind BIRHC. Stop by this autumn to see what's in bloom.



# Hostas, Quilts, and Mulligans

The BIRHC owes so much to its energetic and imaginative fundraising volunteers and generous donors. Thanks to all who pitched in to help this summer.

**Newsletter Donations:** Thank you to those who responded to our inaugural newsletter with generous donations to support our operations. Please help us continue to provide quality health care on the Island by using the enclosed donation envelope.

**Gail's Walk:** Held in memory of Islander Gail Weede, this informal walk in late May raised over \$3,000 for a fund to help Islanders with unexpected medical expenses. Gail was an avid runner and organized the popular Beaver Island Boodle 5K Run/Walk, held annually in October to benefit the Island school's sports program. Thank you to the organizers: Joan Banville, Lynn Cary, Beth Croswhite, Lisa Gillespie, Dawn Marsh, and Kerry Smith.

**Garden Tour and Silent Auctions:** What better way to raise funds for gardens than by touring gardens? Thanks to Leonor Jacobson for organizing the first tour of harbor-area gardens in July. Nearly 50 garden lovers helped raise over \$800 to benefit our expanding Health Center gardens. Leonor then organized several silent auctions of items donated by Island artisans. From quilts to photographs, from a plant stand to a basket of Island

edibles, these auctions will support our garden project.

**Golf Outing:** A big thanks to John Works, his family, and his golf course crew for hosting the third annual golf outing. This year 44 golfers drove, chipped, and putted their way around the course while raising over \$4,000 in the process. Many generous sponsors donated prizes, both on the course during play as well as in door-prize drawings afterwards. Eric and Dana Hodgson and crew from the Shamrock Restaurant and Pub donated another delicious picnic for the hungry golfers, workers, and fans.

**Car Raffle:** Our board members and friends spent many hours in the summer sun to sell 404 tickets for the Chevy Cruze raffle, raising \$23,500 for the Health Center.

**Memorial Gifts:** The BIRHC received many memorial donations this summer. We thank the families who thought of the Health Center during their time of sorrow.

The BIRHC medical staff spent Saturday, Sept. 3 on stand-by for the 3rd annual B.I. Marathon, treating two patients transported by the BIEMS. We would like to thank former board member Dr. Brad Grassmick for helping with our preparations and for running a half-marathon carrying an on-call radio in case we needed him!