A grant along with matching funds from the Chase County Hospital Foundation enabled Chase County Community Hospital to recently improve infant care at the facility.

A new CosyCot infant warmer and BiliTx (biliblanket) were put into use this past week in the obstetrics department of the hospital.

The CosyCot Infant Warmer's advanced technology insures that babies are warmed faster, safely and more efficiently during the critical first moments following birth. The CosyCot ensures the baby's temperature is continuously maintained at the desired set temperature. The unit also has a Neopuff Infant Resuscitator to oxygenate babies and safely resuscitate when necessary.

According to Shannon Kuhlmann RN, Director of Labor, Delivery and Nursery at CCCH, the BiliTx is the newest technology for phototherapy treatment in jaundice babies. It uses blue LED lights through fiber optic panels. Its small size and weight, less than three pounds, make it easy to carry and store versus the older models that were big and bulky.

BiliTx stores in a small, lightweight carry case that is light enough for cesarean-section moms to carry along with their car seat and diaper bag.

Funds for the CozyCot and BiliTx were provided through a grant from the Bernard K. & Norma F. Heuermann Foundation, located in Aurora, Neb., and support from the Chase County Hospital Foundation. Total cost of the project was $21,000.

Gwen Werner submitted a grant on behalf of the hospital in April of 2008 to The Heuermann Foundation requesting support for the CozyCot and BiliTx. Werner was notified in July that the Heuremann Foundation would provide $10,000 toward support of this project.

Additional matching funds came as a result of the first annual Chase County Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament at the Enders Lake Golf Course in June, 2008.

Wendi Nordhausen, who helped to organize the golf tournament, said, "The tournament was a great success and exceeded our expectations. We were very pleased with the number of participants, generosity of the local community and vendors as well as help from hospital staff and volunteers in making this event a reality." Funds totaling $11,000 raised at this event provided the match needed to purchase the CosyCot and BiliTx.

Randy Vlasin, executive director for the hospital foundation, stated, "Support for the CosyCot and BiliTx represents the type of commitment the hospital staff and the foundation have towards strengthening and improving the Chase County Community Hospital healthcare system. This is only the beginning of what we hope will grow into a substantial system of support for healthcare in this area."

New priorities for the foundation include seeking funds that will provide digital mammography and expanding urology services for area residents.

The Chase County Hospital Foundation has also taken steps to create a permanent endowment program that will eventually provide support for health care in the surrounding area well into the future.

For more information on the hospital foundation or how residents can support these efforts, contact Randy at 308-882-7379, P.O. Box 819, Imperial, 69033 or email rvccch@gpcom.net.