



Thanks to a grant received from the Ethel Abbott Foundation, Chase County Community Hospital was able to purchase a new chemical analyzer.

The new analyzer cost around \$78,000, and the Abbott Foundation provided \$75,000 towards its purchase.

Gwen Warner and Lori Mendenhall submitted the grant request to the Abbott Foundation on behalf of the hospital.

The Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation strives to give a helping hand to those 501(C)(3) organizations that are trying to make a difference in people's lives. Typically, the foundation's primary grant areas are western Nebraska and the Omaha and Lincoln vicinity. These areas represent where Ethel Abbott spent the majority of her life.

The new chemistry analyzer replaces the existing analyzer, which was in its 10th year of operation.

The new chemistry analyzer will increase speed and turn-around-time of reporting tests results. This is very important as the number of medical providers serving Chase County Community hospital has grown from two to eight over the past two years.

It will also increase the efficiency of the lab technologists' use of time so they will be available for more manual tasks within the laboratory.

The variety of tests performed by the new analyzer will increase the current menu by adding four additional tests. More tests will be added in the future. This capability not only allows a larger variety of testing but also will increase the turn-around-time for the results and decrease the need for tests to be sent to an off-site, reference laboratory.

At Chase County Community Hospital, the chemistry analyzer provides upwards of 60% of the daily testing volume generated from the laboratory. This instrument analyzes bodily functions of the kidneys, liver, heart, muscles, and electrolyte balance, but is not limited to just these functions.

According to Mendenhall, CCCH lab supervisor, "As we look to the future and the ever changing world of health care needs, this instrument will enable Chase County Community Hospital to keep up with the changes that our facility will experience."

The Chase County Community Hospital Board and Chase County Hospital Foundation are moving forward with plans to secure funding for other improvements at the hospital. Two major efforts include providing digital mammography equipment and expanding urology services for the area.

For more information about these efforts, contact Randy Vlasin, 882-7379, or email, rvccch@gpcom.net.

