

New administrator begins at village

By Karen Krien
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The Good Samaritan Village has a new administrator.

Jeffrey Paulsen assumed duties on Thursday, Aug. 27. He replaces Rick Reeser, who had been the administrator since January 2006.

Mr. Paulsen comes to the Village with a great deal of experience in public health organization, management, leadership and also nursing. A strong believer in "being led to his destinations through prayer," Mr. Paulsen said that was exactly how he came to Cheyenne County.

Almost by accident, he learned about the Good Samaritan Society. He contacted the Society and, from January to July 2009, he trained as an intern in a 68-bed Good Samaritan Center in Fennimore, Wis., which was a three-hour drive from his home and family. Even with the three-hour drive, he was able to spend most weekends at home.

He participated in two workshops in quality and in financial management at the national campus in Sioux Falls, S.D. In June, he passed the National Association of Long-Term Care Administrator Boards exam.

In July, he and daughter, Lena, had been to visit his ailing father in southern California, and they drove through northeast Colorado on their way back home to Oshkosh, Wis. He had just completed the program as an administrative trainee at the Good Samaritan center in Fennimore, Wis., and was waiting to select his first work assignment as administrator for the Society.

In early August the Society offered him the position in St. Francis. In late August, he moved here with his wife, Conny, daughters, Lena, a high school senior; Pria, an on-line student; and Nick, who is 9 and in the fourth grade. Daughter, Helen, who is 23, remained in Oshkosh.

"We are happy to be here", Mr. Paulsen says. He said he is pleased with the Village current operations and plans to make no immediate changes. Mr. Paulsen grew up in southwest Michigan. In 1979, he received a registered nursing diploma from Bronson Methodist Hospital of Nursing in Kalamazoo, then went on to get a bachelor's in Health Studies from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

In 1986, he received a master's in Public Health degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

He was appointed director of operations for International Medical Corps, a United States agency for International Development-Funded Private Voluntary Organization, where he helped train mid-level Afghan health workers with supplies and support for 40 clinics and five hospitals in Afghanistan. Here, he was responsible for the maintenance of eight to 10 medical teaching staff, classes of 40 Afghan students, purchasing medical supplies, and managing housing, travel and mujahideen contacts. He also supervised screening of war-wounded Afghans as a contractor for the State Department McCollum program through International Medical Corps operations in Peshawar, Pakistan.

In 1988, he was a medical monitor in Afghanistan for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan. During a three-month period, he and three other men rode horseback on data-collection missions. They rode from south (Paktia province) to northwest (Badakhshan province) Afghanistan. During these rides, more than once they were forced to take cover when they were fired upon by nearby communist Afghan government forces.

He developed survey forms, collected clinic and health worker data, reported on findings with recommendations to Coordination of Medical Committees member non-governmental organizations and to the United States Agency for International Development.

Jeff and Conny met while they were in Peshawar, Pakistan, where he was the executive director of the Coordination of Medical Committees which coordinated health sector support to Afghanistan. Conny grew up in the small village of Loechgau, Germany, and was a teacher. They were married in 1990.

Among his duties during the years between 1988-91, he established a list of standardized medicines for health workers, published a Coordination of Medical Committee medical reference manual for Afghan health workers in Farsi, Pushto and English, organized medical monitoring trips to Afghanistan, oversaw production of a comprehensive Coordination of Medical Committee database

report on the prevalence of disease in all provinces of the country and produced "State of Health in Afghanistan" video.

As an interim administrator of the Afghan Eye Hospital in Peshawar, he reorganized medicines control system, accounting system and pay scale for local employees.

He and Conny spent 13 years in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where he was the Tajikistan Country Director of Ora International (Germany). He was responsible for setting up offices and programs during the civil war period. He designed programs, registration, government agreements, program implementations and many other responsibilities including donor contracts with the United States Agency for International Development, World Food Programme, the United Children's Fund - UNICEF, Asian Development Bank and private donors.

He was responsible for children's sponsorship for social orphans through Ora offices in Germany, Switzerland, the United States and Holland. Containers of donated food, clothes and medical supplies were received and the sponsorship money was used to rehabilitate facilities, provide vocational training and promote agricultural production at School-Internats (state orphanages) in a wide area of the Republic.

There were 40 Ora staff members from 11 countries and 70 local staff implementing development and capacity-building projects in the cooperation with the government. There were 26 orphanages with 5,000 kids. He talked about the home for girls where, after 16, they "graduated" and were turned out of their orphanage. While they were in the home, he said it was important to teach the girls life skills and a trade so they could go out and support themselves.

In 2005, he and Mrs. Paulsen saw that their girls had reached the end of English schooling and they felt it necessary to leave their work in Tajikistan.

Settling in Oshkosh, he was the



JEFFREY PAULSEN has taken over the operation of the Good Samaritan Village in Cheyenne County.

director of International Program Development for the Christian non-profit organization, Shelter For Life. He provided oversight of program operations in six countries including tsunami shelter response in Sri Lanka and Indonesia and earthquake shelter response in northern Pakistan.

Before coming to work with the Good Samaritan Society, he was a professional service contractor, where he prepared a health system support proposal in Ecuador for FusionBridge, Laguna Beach, Calif. He did field assessment projects and mentoring in Pakistan for Shelter for Life, as well as developing a logistics and warehousing proposal for a firm working in Iraq.

Through the years, he has acquired the ability to speak German and Tajik-Dari as well as English.

Mr. Paulsen says he finds St. Francis to be a friendly town. They will be moving into their house on East Jackson in the very near future and are anxious to settle down and establish their new "home." on the golden plains of Kansas.



ZION EVANGELICAL Lutheran Cemetery will be one of the stops along the tour route this Sunday.

Photo courtesy of Cheyenne County Historical Society

Tour of cemeteries teach past history

The Historical Society Cemetery Tour on Sunday features stops at Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Jaqua, Swedish at Battle Creek, Zion at Jaqua and Lawn Ridge cemeteries.

Join the tour, said Janet Carman, museum curator, and read inscriptions on each headstone. Imagine the lives of those buried there. Listen to stories told by family members. Learn about the history of this remote area of southwest Cheyenne County.

The tour will begin 2 p.m. at the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36, on Sunday. People are urged to wear walking shoes

and long pants.

The locations of the cemeteries are:

- Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Road 3 at L.
- Zion at Jaqua, Roads 4 at J and K.
- Jaqua, Road 2 at E and F.
- Swedish-Battle Creek, Road 7 at H.
- Lawn Ridge, Road 15 at E and F.

Around 15 minutes will be spent at each cemetery.

The last stop for refreshments will be at the Stan and Janet Carman farm, Road 16 at G.

Treasure hunt to draw many to area

By Karen Krien
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The U.S. 36 400-mile Treasure Hunt is just a little over a week away. That's enough time to still dig through the attic, basement and garage to find items to sell. However, for those not interested in selling, plan to travel down U.S. 36 on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday, Sept. 18-20, to see the bargains that will be for sale.

There will be yard sales, garage sales and groups of people selling anything from trinkets, antiques and food. In St. Francis and Wheeler, there are two houses for sale as well as a flatbed pickup

and a late 1970s Ford pickup.

Maps where dealers will be located can be found at the museum, Majestic Service, Hilltop General Store, the Northrup lot (315 S. Benton) and the Extension office in the basement of the courthouse.

Those not listed on the map but would like to participate in the Treasure Hunt can check with other participants to see if they can set up with them. More items for sale keeps people in St. Francis to shop the many bargains.

For more information, check next week's *Herald* or pick up a map at any of the above places.

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Brad and Pat, you two were just great
For that I do appreciate.
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Ruth Reynolds

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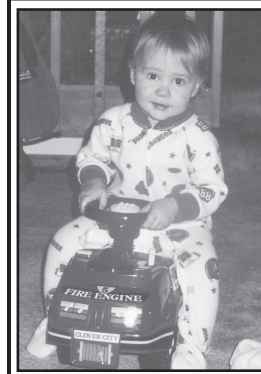
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