

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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May is National Trauma Awareness Month

Madelia, Minn. –National Trauma Awareness month is celebrated in May each year. The 2016 campaign slogan is “Safe Steps for Seniors,” and focuses on fall prevention. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. It’s very likely that you know someone who has suffered a fall resulting in injury. One out of five older adult falls causes a serious injury such as broken bones or head injuries.

“Falls should not be looked at as a normal part of the aging process,” said Jennifer McLaughlin, OR/ER Supervisor, at the Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic (MCHC). “There’s clearly a relationship between a person’s risk for falling and a fall event occurring. If we can identify these risk factors, there’s the potential to provide interventions to reduce or eliminate a person’s risk for falling.”

The American Trauma Society reports that older adult falls result in more than 2.5 million injuries treated in emergency departments annually, which equates to 1 older adult every 13 seconds. The financial toll for older adult falls is expected to increase as the population ages and may reach \$67.7 billion by 2020.

Falls are also the leading cause of non-fatal injury in children younger than 14 years of age. Falls by children occur mainly in the warmer months. With outdoor temperatures increasing, this is the prime time to make the public aware of fall risks for young children. Risks vary depending on a child’s age and development level. Infants are at risk for falling in the home from furniture or stairs, toddlers are at risk for falling from windows, and older children are at risk for falling from playground equipment. Strategies vary for preventing falls at home and on the playground.

During National Trauma Awareness Month, we want to make sure people learn about steps that they can take to reduce falls for their loved ones or themselves. Free workshops are offered at MCHC twice a year to help people manage their concerns about falling. Call 507.642.3255 if you are interested in participating in one of our upcoming workshops.

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About Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic

Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic is an independent, nonprofit facility staffed by a team of physicians and medical professionals that is profoundly committed to providing health care of the highest standards to Madelia and surrounding communities. As a 25-bed acute care hospital, we offer all the primary health services, such as medical/surgical, pediatric, emergency care and more. In 2011, we expanded our services to include a family medical clinic that provides adolescent health, geriatric health, men’s health, newborn health, pediatric health,

preventative medicine and women's health. Over the years, we have proactively responded to the changing demands within the health care system, which has ensured our ability to deliver up-to-date medical services, purchase advanced medical equipment, and provide complete and compassionate care to all who enter our facility.