

CURRENT

Holidays
at
Gresham

.....
Expansions
across
Indiana

Bright future

.....
At Meridian, 2024 looks bright.

More inside.



AEP Foundation +
Indiana Michigan Power

\$2.85M+
in charitable giving
and economic
development

POWERING THE NEXT COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

We are proudly committed to supporting initiatives and organizations that elevate quality of life and improve local economies in the communities we serve.

In 2022, Indiana Michigan Power provided more than \$750,000 in support of charitable nonprofits and economic development initiatives. And, the AEP Foundation awarded more than \$2.1 million in grants to support nonprofit agencies in our communities.

Learn more at [IndianaMichiganPower.com/community](https://www.IndianaMichiganPower.com/community).





New CEO
Seth Warren

Meridian Health Services is a regional, progressive healthcare organization specializing in “whole-person” health, integrating physical, mental and social well-being.

MERIDIAN HEALTH SERVICES
Main Office
240 N. Tillotson Avenue
Muncie, IN 47304
765.288.1928 | 866.306.2647
MeridianHS.org

Hank Milius,
President and CEO

Contact: Beth Clark,
Vice President of
Marketing & Development
Beth.Clark@MeridianHS.org
765.254.5138

Dear Friends of Meridian,

To say we’ve had a memorable year would be an understatement. Together, we achieved a great deal in creating healthier communities. **And today, we are one step closer to ensuring we maintain our momentum in pursuing our mission. I’m pleased to introduce my successor, Seth Warren.**

I’ve had the pleasure of working with Seth these last few months, as we’re transitioning from my 20-plus year tenure to the start of his. He is our future, and I could not be more delighted to hand the baton to such an experienced and gifted healthcare professional. You will read more about his experiences and the excitement he has for Meridian’s future in this issue of CURRENT.

You will also have a chance to peruse what we’ve been up to and how our integrated healthcare strategy is taking shape across more than 50 facilities and over 30 clinics throughout the state. You will hear about the importance of developing partnerships with major healthcare systems. In addition, our School-Based Health Clinics are giving access to behavioral health services where there were none before. It is innovative and impactful!

Read about our events and our fundraising efforts, and how we’re connecting underserved communities to resources across the healthcare spectrum.

I’m looking forward to what you and Seth will do in the future. I’m sure I will say “Wow! I didn’t think of that! Pretty cool!”

All my best, and thanks for being part of the Meridian family!



Hank A. Milius
RETIRING PRESIDENT / CEO

Hank Milius will retire at the beginning of 2024 as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Meridian Health Services, a statewide, integrated healthcare organization serving more than 40 counties in Indiana.

Meridian is ...



MERIDIAN HEALTH SERVICES | WINTER 2023-24

CURRENT

Editor: Beth Clark, Meridian Health Services
Assistant Editor: Hannah Dunckel, Meridian Health Services

To advertise, contact:
Christy Skeens: 765.254.5369 | Christy.Skeens@MeridianHS.org

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:
The JMetzger Group
Juli Metzger | John Metzger
thejmetzgergroup.com
765.729.1391 | 765.744.4303



**Meridian Speaker Series
addresses mental health
wellness and stigmas.**

SPEAKER SERIES p.6

CURRENT

WINTER 2023-24

FEATURES

MERIDIAN EXPANSIONS



Meridian broadens patient access to health services across the state through expansions. **p.10**

16 PHYSICAL FIT FAIR

Meridian partners with schools for community event focused on wellness.



18 SCHOOL CLINICS

Meridian takes its services to students and families inside schools.

20 FLU-LAPALOOZA

One-day free flu vaccination events hosted by Meridian across Indiana.

NEW LEADERSHIP



Sagamore of the Wabash recipient, Hank Milius, transitions Meridian leadership to Seth Warren, the new CEO of Meridian. **p.22-25**

26 RIALZO XII

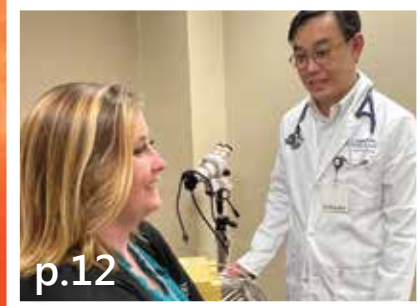
More than 600 Rialzo attendees gather to support Meridian programs.

ON THE COVER:

Meridian's Holidays at Gresham, a free drive-thru light exhibit. See p.19 and the back cover.



p.8



p.12



p.18



p.26

MERIDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

YOUR
"WHOLE-PERSON"
HEALTH
HOME

Meridian Health Services believes in integrating treatment for the body and mind. With a holistic approach to wellness, Meridian gives patients the peace and harmony of medical, behavioral and social well-being through "whole-person" health.



OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES INCLUDE:

PHYSICAL

- Primary Medical Care
- Women's Health
-OB/GYN
- Pediatric Health/Urgent Care
- Dental Health
-Family Dentistry
- School Health Clinics
- Internal Medicine

BEHAVIORAL

- Psychiatry Services
- Therapy & Counseling
- Addiction & Recovery Services
 - Residential Treatment Centers
 - Maternal Treatment Program
 - Women's Recovery Home
- Children & Family Programs
- Home, Community and School-Based Services
- Skill Building
- Connxxions Program

SOCIAL

- Child Advocacy Center
- Care Coordination
- Supported Employment
- FosterHope
- HIV Non-Medical Case Management
- Community Support Program



NOW OFFERING VIRTUAL VISITS!

Let us come straight to your computer or mobile device for Medical or Behavioral health care. Call 866-306-2647 or request online at MeridianHS.org/VirtualVisits

Located in over 50 facilities in Indiana!

Learn more and find a location near you at MeridianHS.org.

MERIDIAN
HEALTH Services
Physical. Mental. Social Well-Being.



Kevin Hines jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge in an attempt to take his own life and survived. He was the featured speaker at the Meridian Speaker Series in Richmond and Lafayette in 2023. To learn more: www.MeridianHS.org/events/speaker-series/



Meridian Speaker Series focuses on prevention

Suicide is so stigmatized that talking about it happens only in the shadows. Suicide deaths are at a crisis level. This won't change without talking about the reasons, addressing the causes, and raising awareness.

SEE PAGE 8

SPEAKER SERIES PROFILE: RANDI SILVERMAN

Randi Silverman, an award-winning filmmaker and mother advocating for youth mental health presented in Muncie in November. A believer in the power of storytelling, Randi used her real life experiences to write and produce "No Letting Go," a film about her fight to get help for her son, who as a child was diagnosed with anxiety, depression, and early onset bipolar disorder. Additionally, she is the founder and former executive director of the Youth Mental Health Project, a nonprofit organization which educates, empowers, and supports families and communities to better understand and care for the mental health of youth. The Youth Mental Health Project strives to increase mental health literacy, support families, promote early intervention and prevention, and improve the mental health of children, teenagers, and young adults.



Meridian experts join forces with speakers who have lived through personal mental health stories

LIKE SO MANY ILLNESSES – DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, heart disease - mental health illness isn't always obvious. When someone is struggling, it's often hard to tell. Just talk to someone whose loved one sacrificed their life by their own hand. Even the closest family and friends often don't see it coming.

In Indiana, one person dies by suicide every eight hours. Over the last year, Meridian's Speaker Series has featured Kevin Hines, who survived a jump from the Golden Gate Bridge. He has spoken to audiences in Muncie, Lafayette, and Richmond.



Chris Herren

The Speaker Series, in its sixth year, is part of a public awareness campaign, pairing high-profile individual speakers with a panel of Meridian experts, and local and statewide professionals who discuss what's being done to stem the tide. Panelists have included professionals from a variety of fields and organizations with influence to help make changes necessary in the community, including mayors, chiefs of law enforcement, legislators, school superintendents, prosecutors, judges, healthcare experts, psychiatrists, physicians, victim advocates, and more.

Previous speakers have focused on personal battles with addiction and the nation's opioid crisis. Former NFL player Ryan Leaf and former NBA player Chris Herren, both recovering from substance use, and journalist and author Sam Quinones, who wrote "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic," also have inspired and educated Meridian communities across the state.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention stresses on its website that mental health and suicidal risks are not



synonymous. People who feel they are at immediate risk can call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. Other support is available for people seeking help for their mental health.

Meridian's integrated care system and its associated offices and health clinics across Indiana combine efforts to raise community awareness and shine a light on suicide prevention and to simply talk about it more.

Suicide is the No. 2 killer among people 15 to 24. Nearly 20 percent of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9 percent tried to take their lives, according to the National Alliance on Mental Health.

As of 2017, only 10 states mandated any kind of suicide prevention training for healthcare professionals. Indiana is one of them and requires mental and behavioral healthcare professionals to complete training in how to spot someone at risk for suicide and take preventive action.

Meridian is at the forefront of this initiative, and helps to train many professionals across the state in mental health and suicide prevention, education, and support.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 or 1-800-273 TALK (8255) or contact the Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741.

Leaders collaborate to champion public awareness campaign



From left: Christopher Drapeau, Dr. William Betts, Kevin Hines, Michelle Kinsey, Dr. Shehzad Siddique, Benjamin Smith, Jenny Smithson, Lisa Suttle, in Muncie.



Back row, from left: Dr. Curtis Wright, Rick Duncan, Chris Herren, Brad Barrett, Beth Clark, Christy Skeens, Lisa Suttle. Front row, from left: Sheriff Randy Retter, Charmin Gabbard, Mischa Staton, in Richmond.

“Whole-Person” Health for All Stages of Life.





MERIDIAN DENTAL:
Dr. Vattan Sharma
treats a dental patient.

Meridian EXPANDS health services across the state

ACCESS TO CARE FOR PATIENTS IS central to Meridian’s focus on “whole-person” health. That’s why expansion is important to help connect services to people where they need it.

Meridian’s recent growth across Indiana has been a priority in the rural communities of Richmond, Marion, Portland, Connersville, Rushville, Fort Wayne, and Bluffton. There’s been expansions in primary care, behavioral health, and dental services to reach communities that are traditionally underserved.

“Meridian’s focus across the state means greater access to a full spectrum

of medical and behavioral services that support affordable rates for everyone,” said Lisa Suttle, Regional Vice President of Clinical Services.

Meridian’s overall objective is to keep the continuum of care intact – which includes integrating all services – primary medical care, dental, behavioral and social health. Where it makes sense and geographically feasible, Meridian brings all these services together under one roof to help make it more convenient for the patient.

Because Meridian is a federally qualified healthcare center (FQHC), it

TO PAGE 12



MERIDIAN CARE: At right, Meridian’s Kimberly Richard, NP.

Meridian’s broad reach



Meridian’s objective is to integrate all services, including primary medical care, dental, behavioral, and social health.

can offset the expenses associated with these kinds of services to save patients money.

Meridian developed new practices in Portland and Marion and there are plans for future pharmacy locations. Meridian added space for a dental clinic, and drop-in spaces for telehealth and behavioral health services at the Portland location and a pharmacy also has been added at the Richmond location with all the services under one roof like in Anderson.

In the primary medical care arena, Meridian operates MeridianMD Convenience Care at IU Health Jay County Hospital in Portland where Meridian is embedded in the hospital adjacent to the emergency department. This collaboration allows Meridian to take on patients with acute symptoms like sore throats, fevers, rashes, ear pain, etc., and permits the emergency department to address the more emergent needs of patients. Urgent care clinic referrals are made to behavioral health services, thereby decreasing the number of patients in the emergency department and making the entire operation more effective for the patient. Meridian staff work closely with emergency room staff to transition emergent cases, which include, for example, patients with chest pain or pressure, head injuries, shortness of breath, and uncontrolled bleeding. Meridian also works with various local factories as a preferred healthcare partner for their employees, offering pre-employment physicals, drug testing, and help with work injuries.

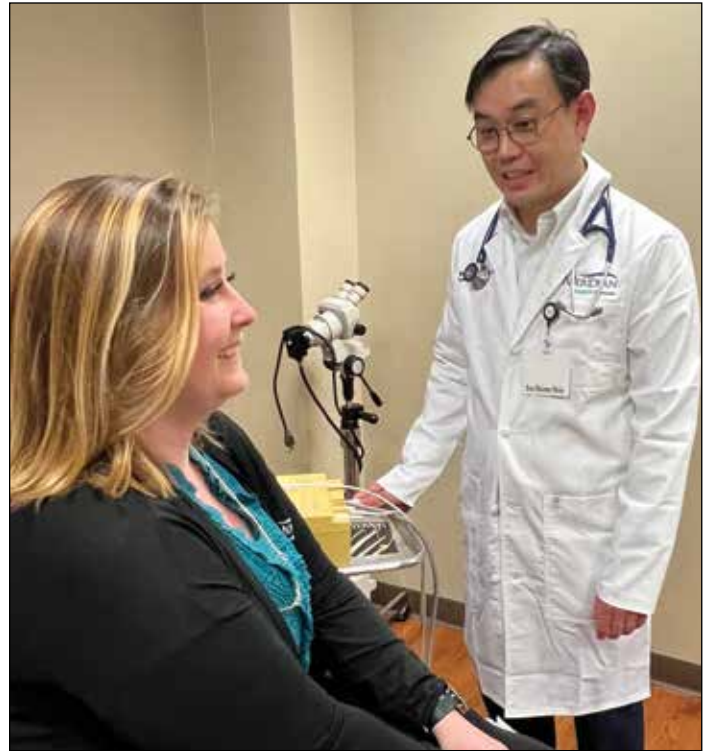
Muncie Pediatrics & Prime-Time remodeled

Meridian Health Pediatrics and Prime-Time Pediatrics at 205 N. Tillotson Ave. in Muncie are getting a facelift. “The three-phase remodel consists of not only cosmetic updates, but improves patient experience and care,” said Jennifer Henderson, Vice President of Primary Care for Meridian. “After the remodel is complete, there will be larger exam rooms and an overall improved layout of the office.”

“Changes include work on 16 exam rooms, improvement to private vitals space, updated vaccine and storage space, and upgrades to the public restrooms. The remodel is expected to take several months to complete but should be done by early 2024,” Henderson said.



MERIDIAN DENTAL: From left, Lorelee Smith, Lysie Caldwell, Brenda Vest, Dr. Vattan Sharma



HEALTH SERVICES: Dr. Wen-Chou Tang visits with a patient in Ft. Wayne.

New & expanded Lutheran Health Network collaborations

Growth also means collaboration, and in 2022, Meridian found paths in an expanded partnership with Lutheran Health Network in Fort Wayne. Among Meridian’s newest primary care clinics is a location on Lake Avenue, across from the VA hospital in Fort Wayne. The new locations include outpatient primary care with family practice physicians and pediatrics, as well as access to Meridian’s hallmark of behavioral care providers, physicians, nurse practitioners and therapists, and providing the addition of addiction services including Medication Assisted Treatment. In the future, Meridian expects to expand services at this location to also provide dental and pharmacy services, and the Maternal Treatment Program.

In March, Meridian and Lutheran Health Network of Bluffton expanded their partnership. Meridian provides oversight and manages the Lutheran Women’s Health practice, which includes one OB/GYN physician and one Physician Assistant providing care to patients. In 2020, the collaboration started when Meridian agreed to oversee and manage two primary care offices, Meridian Health Pediatrics of Bluffton, and MeridianMD Internal Medicine, which include three pediatric providers and three internal medicine providers.

“Our new partnership with Lutheran Health Network in Bluffton means we oversee the Women’s Health Practice,” said Henderson. “Deliveries and surgeries are done at Bluffton Hospital.”



Meridian expansions and new locations provide greater access to primary, behavioral, and dental care.

OVER 1000 GUITARS IN STOCK



PLUS:

Amps

Drums

Keyboards

Audio

Recording

Lessons

Rentals

Repairs

Installation



765-289-8526

4341 W. Williamsburg Blvd. | Muncie, IN

WE ALSO OFFER PRODUCTION SERVICES:

PRO AUDIO • LIGHTING • STAGING • LED VIDEO WALLS • CONCERTS • CORPORATE • SPECIAL EVENTS

MERIDIAN MD

Family Medical Care



Treating body and mind for
"whole-person" health

MERIDIAN
HEALTH Services
Physical, Mental, Social Well-Being

www.MeridianHS.org
866-306-2647

FORT WAYNE MERIDIAN TEAM:
From left, Dr. Wen-Chou Tang,
Dr. Houda Trabulsi-Younis, and
Kimberly Richard, NP.

Meridian's expanded services also include those that are available to support mothers and babies who are addicted.

FROM PAGE 12

Services include: comprehensive pregnancy care, normal obstetrics, diagnosis and treatment of infertility, gynecological disease and surgery, laparoscopy, adolescent gynecology, menopause counseling, urinary incontinence therapy, treatment of abnormal and normal pap smears, family planning counseling, in-office surgery, and maternal mental health care — postpartum, perinatal, pregnancy, loss, etc.

New Franciscan Health collaboration

Franciscan Health is a new partnership with Meridian and provides integrated care for patients currently using Franciscan Behavioral and Psychiatric Health offices in Indianapolis and Mooresville.

The high-quality behavioral and psychiatric health care that patients have come to count on now includes an even wider spectrum of integrated care specialties for which Meridian is known.

Meridian is working to provide primary care and point of care testing, as well as vaccinations for the behavioral clinics. Additional expanded services also are available to help treat and support mothers and babies who are addicted or dependent on substances. "Meridian's Maternal Treatment Program started in Delaware County, but now have expanded to Madison, Wayne, Henry, and Marion Counties," Suttle said. "This is a unique wraparound service for moms and their infants suffering from substance use disorder."



HEADQUARTERS. Meridian Health Services headquarters complex in Muncie: Meridian Health Services, Meridian Dental, MeridianMD, Meridian Women's Health, and Meridian Health Pediatrics.

MERIDIANonline

For Meridian Health Services near you, visit: MeridianHS.org/Locations



Building From a Solid Foundation

A proud partner in Meridian's mission to build healthier communities

Pridemark Construction is a full-service construction company backed by decades of industry experience in large and small construction projects, design, and architecture.

Our core values focus not only on excellence in our trade, but also in building the quality of life in our community.

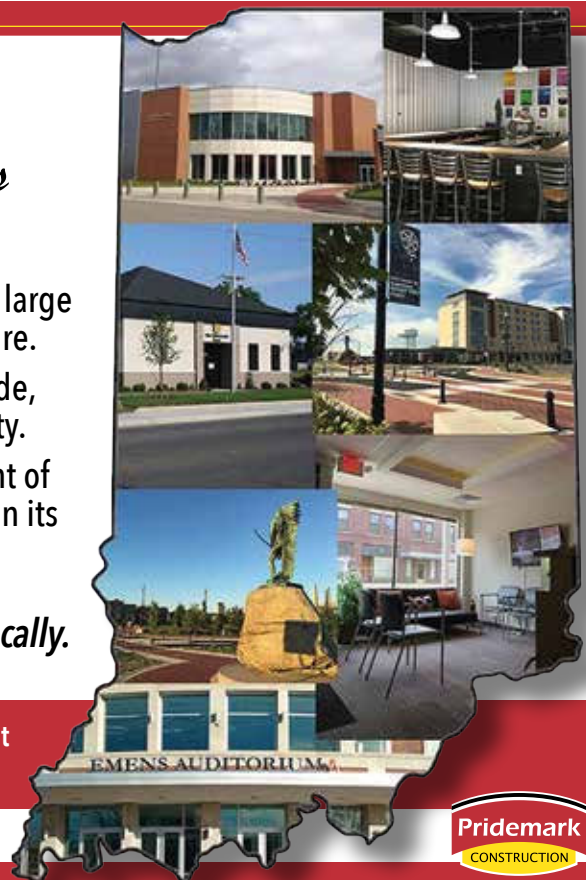
Pridemark is a contributing partner to the development of the construction industry through active involvement in its associations.

We build locally, because we work, live, and serve locally.

General Contractor • Site Development • Construction Management
Design Build • Architectural & Interior Design

421 S. Walnut St. | Muncie, IN 47305 | 765-284-3833

www.pridemarkconstruction.com





Meridian & Muncie schools partner for Physical Fit Fair

MERIDIAN HEALTH SERVICES' FIRST EVER "PHYSICAL FIT FAIR" – an opportunity for free health screenings, sports physicals, school registration, food, fun, and music – was just the right draw for students, families, and the community to get prepared for the new school year.

Meridian provided nearly 400 health screenings and sports physicals to the Muncie community through its School-Based Health Clinic. Students were also able to do in-person registration for classes at the event. Meridian partnered with Muncie Southside Middle School on their open enrollment registration day to help encourage students and families to register for school, while now adding the opportunity to get their school physicals and health screenings all in one convenient stop to prepare for school.

NEXT PAGE





The event was a success as it drew hundreds of more students to the school than had attended past years by now offering physicals, wellness, food, and family fun. Meridian’s School-Based Health Clinic at Muncie’s Southside Middle School provides school nursing, primary medical care, and behavioral health on-site to help teachers, families, and students get the care they need when they need it the most. Its convenience and easy access platform is a one-of-a-kind initiative that Meridian and Muncie Community Schools started a few years ago and keeps growing with new partnerships like this event to bring convenience and health services to the forefront for happier, healthier students.

Participants were screened for blood pressure, vision, height and weight, pulse oxygenation, dental, and mental health. Sports clinics in basketball, football, and strength training were available as well.

“We were one of the first to pilot this full scale health clinic in our school,” said Principal Michael Raters. “This event is also very helpful to get our kids up to speed with immunizations and physicals. It’s been a great partnership.”

The clinics easy access to essential integrated medical services for students, their families, as well as teachers and community members, makes it a unique experience.

“Being embedded in the school is huge for parents and children,” said Lisa Suttle, Regional Vice President for Clinical Services. “With a partnership with schools, people aren’t afraid

to get this or that checked out. We’re accessible in schools and that’s often a place where families feel safe. It’s a big part of what we do.”

Meridian has partnered with school corporations and opened similar clinics in Anderson, Frankfort, Richmond, and Modoc.

“What is great about these collaborations is that we meet the students where they are. This event is no different,” shared Beth Clark, VP of Marketing and Development at Meridian Health Services. “By expanding access to these vital physical and mental health services, we are improving lives in our community and making it easier for people to receive the help they need.”

As Meridian continues to expand its School-Based Health Clinics, the need for more resources at schools is constantly growing. The concept of helping schools with the most critical mental and physical health concerns blossomed the concept of the Physical Fit Fair to provide physicals and health screenings during the school’s open enrollment.

Meridian transitioned its long time event, Fam Fest, at the Suzanne Gresham Center into the Physical Fit Fair by bringing the most vital components of Fam Fest for better health and wellness while increasing school registration participation.

The new model for this family- and school-friendly event allows Meridian to expand and bring a Physical Fit Fair Day to more School-Based Health Clinics across the state of Indiana – impacting many more communities and students, while providing a greater amount of health services for those in need.



CONVENIENT CARE FOR STUDENTS. School clinics focus on physical, mental and social well-being.

Meridian school clinics remove barriers for students & families



SCHOOL-BASED. Health clinics expand to additional schools.

MERIDIAN'S SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINICS (SBHC) continue to expand into new markets.

Originally launched in partnership with Muncie Community Schools in 2020, clinics expanded to Anderson Community Schools in 2021 and Richmond Community Schools and Union School Corporation in 2022.

Most recently, new clinics opened in the fall of 2023 at the Anderson Preparatory Academy, Jay County Schools, and Frankfort Community Schools.

The School-Based Health Clinics offer a convenient way for students and their families to access healthcare services that focus on physical, mental, and social well-being.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

Meridian's School-Based Health Clinics offer convenience for students and families.

“The SBHCs allow us to provide access to kids and others, helping to support preventive care and keep kids well and in school, in turn decreasing absenteeism,” said Lisa Suttle, Regional Vice President of Clinical Services.

“Meridian provides nursing services in some of the schools. The program helps to provide a comfort level for the kids and decreases barriers for services as requested by parents and/or guardians.”



Learn more:
MeridianHS.org/physical/schoolclinics

The preventative health model supports health care for those in the school systems, including student and faculty, in a timely and accessible manner.

Taking care of communities is at the core of the Meridian Health Services mission, and the School-Based Health Clinics, a collaborative partnership with Meridian and community schools, expands Meridian’s mission of “whole-person” health integrating physical, mental, and social well-being all housed in a health center within the school.

Walk-ins are welcome at the clinic. All insurances are accepted including Medicare and Medicaid. Meridian’s sliding fee scale also is available to those who qualify, allowing care to anyone in need.

CLINIC SERVICES AT SCHOOLS

provide a host of services including:

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE:

- Health and prevention screenings
- Illness visits for such issues as allergies, asthma, strep throat, and ear infections
- Immunizations
- Sports physicals
- First aid
- Dental screenings
- Nutrition and weight management
- Management of chronic health conditions

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE:

- Crisis interventions
- Individual and group therapy
- Teen counseling
- Parent/child conflict
- Suicide prevention
- ADHD and autism diagnosis and treatment
- Psychiatric consultation
- Addiction prevention and services
- Psycho-social assessments, including ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) management

SOCIAL HEALTH CARE:

- Unintentional injury prevention
- Drug and alcohol prevention
- Sexual health
- Violence and dating violence prevention
- Nutrition and fitness
- Suicide prevention
- Young mother support
- Decision making and other personal skills promoting positive social-emotional development

Holidays

at GRESHAM

DRIVE-THRU

LIGHT EXHIBIT

Meridian's gift to the community!



More than
1,000,000
lights!



Weekends in December!

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

SUZANNE
GRESHAM
Center

Supportive Care for Children & Families

3620 W. White River Boulevard, Muncie

Statewide flu events benefit families

THE 2023 FLU-LAPALOOZA WAS A HUGE SUCCESS once again drawing nearly 1,000 people for free flu vaccinations administered across more than a dozen Indiana communities, all on a single day.

Meridian Health Services started the event in 2020. Now, it has grown and involved more communities and more people.

There were free flu shots available to those six months and older. No appointments were required. Halloween costumes, activities, candy, and in some offices a resource health fair along with live radio remote DJs talking with people on the air, made for a great, festive day all while protecting people's health.

Meridian clinics in Anderson, Bluffton, Connersville, Dunkirk, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Muncie, Marion, New Castle, Portland, Richmond, Rushville, and Modoc administered the free flu shots during the Halloween-themed event.



FLU-
Lapalooza


“The Halloween theme helped make it fun and more inviting,” said Beth

Clark, Vice President of Marketing and Development. “Having more people getting flu shots means healthier communities, and that’s Meridian’s overarching mission.”

The fall – specifically, the month of October – is the official start of flu season, medical experts say. It takes about two weeks to build up an immune response to the vaccine so early vaccinations offers the most protection.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends the flu vaccine for everyone six months and older. Certain populations are more vulnerable – for example, people over age 65, young children, those with respiratory illnesses such as asthma, or illnesses that lower your immunity. People who have certain chronic diseases, such as severe asthma or an immune disorder, should talk with their doctor first.

Meridian added incentives to encourage participation in the free vaccination clinics across the state, including drawings for \$50 grocery gift cards at each location.

“The more we can get people thinking about their health and early prevention, the better our community is in staying healthy during the flu season,” said Seth Warren, Meridian’s President/CEO. 

 **MERIDIAN**online

To learn more about Flu-Lapalooza and view photo galleries, please visit:

MeridianHS.org/events/flu-lapalooza



FLU SHOTS PROVIDED TO THOSE SIX MONTHS AND OLDER



FLU-LAPALOOZA VACCINATES COMMUNITY WITH FREE SHOTS



MERIDIAN HOSTS EVENTS ACROSS INDIANA ON A SINGLE DAY





MERIDIAN
HEALTH

Hank Milius & his lasting Meridian legacy

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— A quote by Margaret Mead that Meridian CEO Hank Milius uses as inspiration with his team

Hank Milius receives prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award

HANK MILIUS, WHO TRANSFORMED A SMALL COMMUNITY mental health agency into one of Indiana's fastest growing and most impactful integrated healthcare organizations, received the state's most distinguished honorary award last fall: The Sagamore of the Wabash.

The Sagamore is the highest honor given by an Indiana governor, and a personal tribute presented to persons for their distinguished service to the state. The award was presented to Milius at Meridian's annual Board Conference in September. Sagamores have been awarded to astronauts, presidents, ambassadors, artists, musicians, politicians, and ordinary citizens for their lasting impact on the state. Milius was recognized for his healthcare initiatives in creating healthier communities.


"Hank is an innovator," said Meridian Board President Brent Webster. "This is great recognition from the state about Hank's impact not just on the healthcare community but on the lives of all Hoosiers."

Milius joined Meridian in May 2002. Under his leadership, Meridian rebranded and expanded. He took over when it was Comprehensive Mental Health Services, with roughly 200 employees serving patients in Delaware, Henry, and Jay counties. Today, Meridian employs more than 1,100, serves over 40,000 patients across more than 50 facilities and more than 30 clinics throughout Indiana. It provides a broad spectrum of integrated care including primary medical care, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy, addictions and recovery services, and community services. Under Milius' guidance, Meridian adopted a "whole-person" health philosophy, emphasizing that good health meant the integration of good physical, mental, and social well-being.

Milius led Meridian during the global pandemic, quickly ramping up telehealth services and guiding physicians, clinicians, and staff to engage with patients remotely. Meridian set up access points across the state and provided thousands of free COVID-19 tests and vaccinations. Under his watch, Meridian has become a community convener, leveraging its statewide influence on policy and the public health agenda. Milius oversaw Meridian's significant growth in addiction services and has advocated for a number of health issues with community and legislative leaders.

Through Milius' direction, Meridian has hosted many healthcare events that give back to the community including the Back-to-School Physical Fit Fair, Fam Fest, City Fit, Give Kids a Smile, Holidays at Gresham, Community Speaker Series, Mental Health First Aid, Project SAFE, and Rialzo. Meridian uses community engagement as a tool for education, engagement and advocacy.

Before joining Meridian, Milius was President and Chief Executive Officer of Northwest Alabama Mental Health, and before that Executive Director of Arthur Center, a division of Audrain Medical Center in Missouri. He holds a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree from the University of Chicago School Of Social Service Administration.

Milius often quotes anthropologist, Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." The phrase has come to encapsulate the value Milius found in his team and the work they achieved in creating healthier communities together at Meridian. 

 **MERIDIAN**online
To learn more about
Meridian Health Services
near you, go to:
www.meridianhs.org/locations

Meridian welcomes new leader & CEO

A 33-YEAR VETERAN IN HEALTH CARE WITH experience in Indiana over the last 25 years is the next President and CEO at Meridian Health Services.

Seth Warren started this past August. He succeeds Hank Milius, who joined Meridian in 2002. Milius will remain with Meridian through the end of 2023 to support the transition.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to be a part of Meridian Health Services and the growth we’ve accomplished over the past 20 years,” shared Hank Milius, President and CEO of Meridian Health Services. “I could not be more confident in handing over the reins to Seth Warren.”

Warren joins Meridian after having worked for health systems in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Indiana, as well as national consulting firms. Most recently, Warren was President and CEO of Riverview Health, a health system based in Noblesville with two hospitals and more than 25 locations in Hamilton County including imaging, fitness, primary medical care, and immediate and specialty-care facilities. Under his leadership, Riverview opened its second hospital in Westfield, as well as three freestanding hybrid ER/urgent care facilities.

“I could not be more pleased about joining one of the state’s premier healthcare organizations,” said Warren in between visits to Meridian clinics across the state. “I’m discovering parts of Indiana I didn’t know existed, and glad to see how Meridian is serving these areas to help provide better access to care.”

“We had 4,000 applicants,” explained Brent Webster, chair of Meridian’s Board of Directors. “We conducted a nationwide search. In that experience, I realized more and more just how unique Meridian is.

We’re thrilled to bring someone to Meridian with as many connections in the healthcare world as Seth has. He’s wired in and knows what our priorities are.”

Warren was drawn to Meridian not just because he saw an opportunity to take a professional direction in health care that was new to him but because it is an organization that he could relate to personally.

“I have a family member who battles mental health illness and substance use disorder,” he said. “I know the toll it takes on families and just how difficult it can be to access the healthcare system. I welcome the opportunity to connect with the people we serve and to work toward improving access for all populations.”

“If someone knowledgeable about health care like me finds navigating the system difficult, and at times, confusing, even exasperating in moments of despair, imagine what it’s like for everyone else. Meridian’s focus on whole-person care made sense to me,” Warren said. “This is the kind of access that changes lives.”

Warren says he has two priorities in the coming year. “First, I want to learn. I’m not too old or too proud to say I know I have more to learn about health care and about our business. Second, we’ll continue to focus on growth. We’ll expand existing partnerships and make new ones as we collaborate more statewide.”

Warren, originally from Moorestown, N.J. has been an Indiana resident for the last 25 years. He and his wife Maureen have two adult sons and another son, who is a senior in high school. Warren has been active in the communities in which he lives and works, and has served on several boards and committees. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond in Virginia and received his MBA from Syracuse University in New York.



MERIDIAN TRANSITION. Retiring CEO Hank Milius, left, and new CEO Seth Warren.



NEW MERIDIAN CEO:
Seth Warren



MERIDIANonline
 For more on Rialzo XII, including photo galleries, videos and more, please visit:
Rialzo.MeridianHS.org



Wonderland!

"NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE!"





R

Meridian's Rialzo XII supports school-based health clinics

Rialzo XII, Meridian's grand charity gala, brought the high energy and focused philanthropy it's known for in a theme of "Wonderland: Nothing's Impossible!" The evening featured fundraising games: the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Nothing's Impossible fundraiser, and the Mystical Key Tree. Guests also enjoyed Courtyard Croquet, Queen of Hearts Silent Auction, the bourbon and cigar bar, and raffle drawings. Meridian Health Services' annual celebration of commitment to a cause is one of Muncie's premiere fundraising events. It is all about community and collaboration and a celebration of creativity made possible by Meridian collaborators like Fred Reese, Jay-Crew Landscaping, Scherrer Construction, Muncie Civic Theatre, and the Rialzo committee made up of dedicated Meridian employees and community members.





R Spirit of Meridian Award presented to Meridian President Rialzo XII's presenting sponsor, Pridemark Construction, and over 600 friends supported Meridian and its partners, bidding in the charity auction, welcoming national party band, Universal Crush, and enjoying a fun evening for a worthy cause. Meridian's President and CEO Hank Milius received the Spirit of Meridian Award, a tribute for demonstrating proactive actions in promoting healthier communities. Milius, who started Rialzo and dozens of other community events focused on health education at Meridian clinics and locations statewide, announced his retirement in 2023. He joined Meridian in 2002. In 2023, funds raised on this night benefited youth mental and physical health through local school partnerships to provide services for youth through Meridian's School-Based Health Clinics. As the nation faces a youth mental health crisis, Meridian remains focused on this cause, supporting youth through community events like the Physical Fit Fair, Speaker Series, and additional efforts that will continue into 2024.





Wonderland!

"NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE!"





TURNING YOUR DREAM HOME INTO REALITY

Willowbrook Interiors
NV Design

For custom ir**REESE**sistible spaces, call Fred E. Reese at 765.749.2540.

Builder - Scherrer Construction | Landscape - Wasson's Nursery



QUALITY MATERIAL, CONSTRUCTION, WORKMANSHIP



THE BARN LOT

Visit us in Muncie
at the corner of
Meeker
and the
67 Bypass!



Barns • Sheds • Cabins • Garages • Gazebos
... and much more!



Call Scott today! 765-744-7396



For locations, product lines, pricing, and more, visit us online:

thebarnlotsheds.com



YOUR YEAR-ROUND LANDSCAPING PARTNERS



Jay-Crew provides professional Landscaping, Lawn Care, Irrigation, and Maintenance Services to keep your business looking its best. Contact us for a free analysis and proposal for your property at jaycrew.com.

**Jay-Crew is proud to support
Meridian Health Services.**

FOUR MAGICAL WEEKENDS

DECEMBER
1-3, 8-10, 15-17, AND 22-26

6PM-9PM

OVER ONE MILLION LIGHTS

Holidays

at GRESHAM

DRIVE-THRU

LIGHT EXHIBIT

We hope the dazzling light displays and jolly holiday music brightened your night... so much that you are encouraged to brighten the days and nights of our patients who need it most.

The Suzanne Gresham Center is the epicenter of living out our mission with children. Last year alone, Meridian served over 15,000 kids. Donate today to spread a little holiday cheer to families in need.

\$10

A \$10 gift could purchase supplies for children to participate in art therapy, therapeutic gardening, or therapeutic play on our playground

\$25

A \$25 gift could purchase a Hope & Healing Kit for a child at the Child Advocacy Center.

\$50

A \$50 gift could pay for family preservation and counseling services

\$100

A \$100 gift could purchase a week's worth of groceries for kids in behavioral services

These are examples of how your monetary donation helps Meridian's diverse programs at our children's treatment center.



SCAN TO DONATE AND
LEARN MORE!

SUZANNE
GRESHAM
Center

Supportive Care for Children & Families