

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Winter 2013/2014



Commonwealth Electric Company of the midwest

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Blank Children's Hospital Festival of Trees and Lights

Michael Duffy - Project Manager

Once again, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest volunteered to help with the setting up and tearing down of the 30th Annual Blank Children's Hospital's Festival of Trees and Lights fundraising event in November. Over 42 Commonwealth employees and their families donated over 500 hours during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend to help unload crates, setup the electric train and put up holiday decorations. Additionally, we helped with tearing down and repacking after the event was over.

Over \$450,000 dollars was raised to support the Child Life Program and the Center for Advocacy & Outreach at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. Commonwealth has a long history with UnityPoint Health and Blank Children's Hospital. We were thrilled to be part of the event this year and look forward to many more years of service to UnityPoint Health and Blank Children's Hospital.

A big thank you to all the Commonwealth employees and their families that volunteered for this very worthwhile event.



Commonwealth Electric Festival of Trees and Lights Volunteers.



Festival of Trees and Lights

CECM Columbus Installs Enhanced 911 Service in Nebraska

Ruth Chermok - Business Development



Platte County Emergency Director, Tim Hofbauer, turned to Commonwealth Electric, Columbus for the installations and coordination of a large and varied project to install systems for the enhanced 911 system that is growing throughout Central and NE Nebraska.

Hofbauer wanted a contractor with a proven track record of reliable installation, and the ability to support, maintain and service these locations going forward.

Hofbauer has coordinated the project with Service Manager, Jamey Beck, and this project has required a great deal of analysis, planning and coordination to determine existing power sources, and needs for every individual location. Installation of service and communication devices included existing towers, water towers, and grain elevators. Methods of installation and power source locations were very individual per each installation.

The project required Beck to do a "sample" audit of locations and conditions. The project has been completed on a time

and material basis, with a budgeted cost on a project basis. The initial scope of the project was to include 12 locations, but has since expanded. All locations and installations that have been completed have gone very well.

Emergency Director, Hofbauer, sought out Commonwealth for this project due to our reputation and the ability to manage the project, and to travel and/or support with other offices ongoing emergency repair and maintenance needs at these locations. With our Columbus, Kearney, and Norfolk offices he was assured of personnel that could respond quickly and in any emergency. For these reasons, he was able to obtain a sole-source contractor approval with the State of Nebraska for this project.

Enhanced 911 will ultimately be installed throughout the State, and other Emergency Directors will be responsible for regional installations. It is hoped that thru our work and with our expertise, we will be able to coordinate with other Branch Offices to offer our services in those Regional installations.

Breiholz Construction Invests in the Future

Nate Findlay - Project Manager

The Des Moines office of Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest was selected by Breiholz Construction Company to perform the electrical design build renovation of their new office, millwork shop and warehouse spaces in Des Moines, Iowa. Breiholz relocated their offices to a historic building previously utilized as their millwork shop and warehouse.

Breiholz Construction Company is a Commercial Construction Company, founded by William H Breiholz in 1947. Breiholz routinely self performs its own work and has a reputation for delivering superior quality and craftsmanship on its projects. Breiholz and Commonwealth Electric have enjoyed a great working relationship for decades. Breiholz constructs new commercial and remodel projects ranging from a few thousand dollars to several million dollars.

Our work on Breiholz's new space consisted of a new service entrance, electrical distribution equipment, feeders,

high efficiency LED and Fluorescent lighting, lighting, power and motor branch circuits, low voltage cable tray, fire alarm, and telephone and data cabling and site lighting.

"The offices, millwork shop and warehouse all really turned out great. Steve Ferguson and his group have designed and built a great space. Congratulations Breiholz!"

- Michael Price Vice President

Tracy Simmons was Commonwealth's foreman on site and Nate Findlay led our efforts in the office. Tracy and the crew worked and completed the project with no recordable accidents.



Breiholz Construction's New Location



Interior Office Space

Iowa Clinic Adds New Facility in Urbandale

Ashley Benda - Administrative Assistant

The working relationship between CECM and The Iowa Clinic continues to grow, dating back nearly a decade. It all began with the Westlake's addition; and with several successful projects in between, we recently reached the completion of yet another project - a new facility in Urbandale. However long the relationship, it remains to be a successful one and one that we strive to remain a part of for years to come.

The 9,000 square foot clinic got off to a later start than anticipated and the Iowa Clinic approached the project team about putting together an aggressive schedule to get the project completed at its original date. Despite the time-crunching challenge, the team was able to make it happen and complete the project right on time.

CECM installed all the power and low voltage cabling including fire alarm and sound masking systems. The new Urbandale location, which houses several patient exam rooms and an X-ray room, opened January 6th, 2014.

Commonwealth's project manager for the work was Mark Ramsey. He was assisted by Brad Ramsey, CECM's foreman on the job.

"Ryan Companies' Superintendent, Nate Frye did a great job with the challenging schedule, pushing the subcontractors to make sure the project was completed on time."

- Mark Ramsey- Project Manager

With the effort that every single person put forth, including the hardworking crew in the field, another Iowa Clinic project was a successful one.



Exterior view of new Urbandale facility

Salvation Army Angel Tree

Lyndsey Harms - Accounts Payable/Payroll



For the past fifteen years CECM Corporate & Lincoln locations have participated in the Angel Tree. The Angel Tree program is designed for helping the less fortunate in our community and to help make their Christmas a little brighter.

For the past thirteen years and the majority of the program's existence here at CECM, Nicole Roach-Lincoln Branch Office Manager has been organizing it. She meets with the Salvation Army in November, gets the willing participants in the office their tags for the children, delivers the toys, and makes sure we have this complete by the deadline. We also participate in the Adopt-A Family program, where we take an entire family in need and buy all of their gifts and necessities they might not otherwise get. This year we have a single mom with 3 kids. We are providing them with PJ's for all, blankets, games, toys and a gift card to Super Saver so they can buy groceries for Christmas dinner and/or breakfast.

We'd like to thank all the employees who contribute to this cause and program and for making it a success each and every year, and to Nicole for all her efforts behind the scenes.

Iowa Ortho Relocates to New Building in Ankeny, Iowa

Ashley Benda - Administrative Assistant

Nothing helps to ring in the New Year like a brand new building. The Ankeny branch of Iowa Ortho recently relocated from its existing location to a new and improved facility. This new facility boasts approximately 10,000 square feet of state of the art clinical space spanning two stories. The project began in June of 2013 and completed only six months later this past December. The scope of work behind this design-build project consisted of providing the new location with 480 volt power distribution, high efficiency lighting, low voltage lighting control system, energy management system, nurse call and X-ray call systems, sound-masking system, voice and data cabling, as well as a complete fire alarm system.

The facility itself, is equipped with X-ray rooms, patient exam rooms, and other patient care service areas on the first floor. The second floor houses physical therapy, hand therapy, athletic training, as well as individual treatment rooms.



Exterior view at new Ankeny location



"We really enjoyed working with Iowa Ortho and Ryan Companies and all of the team members on this project. Iowa Ortho has built a wonderful facility for their patients and staff."

- Mark Ramsey – Project Manager

Mike Van Der Hart was our Foreman and Mark Ramsey was our Project Manager. Together, they worked alongside The Design Group Architects, Ryan Companies US Inc. and the rest of the project team on this successful design-build project.

Reception and waiting area lighting

Lincoln Branch's Ugly Sweater Day

Mike King - Vice President

As the holidays seem to sometimes drag us down with parties, meetings, year-end business details and holiday get-together's, we sometimes forget the true meaning of the season which is to enjoy good times with family, friends and coworkers. The following is pretty much how Lyndsey Harms put out the invite to participate in a little stress relief. (Holiday Fun! Who would like to participate in an Ugly Sweater Day on Thursday the 19th? I think it would be fun(ny)! Let me know, I don't want to be the only one that shows up looking all "awesome".) And with that she gathered up a total of eight participants for the fun. To make the competitors a little more competitive the winner would receive a \$50.00 Visa gift card. As you can see in the picture there were a wide variety of designs entered, what great fun it was.

Our Corporate office guest judges, Jan Lightcap, Dave and Matt Firestone, had a tough time deciding on the winner and we appreciate their willingness to tackle the tough assignment. After great deliberation Doug Amen received the vote for the best. Watch out for next time it could get real interesting.

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and have a super 2014.



Pictured left to right: Nicole Roach, Doug Amen, Lyndsey Harms, Micah Edson, Bob Philipps, Ashley Wikoff, Ali Beach, and Mike King.