



# Critical Access Hospital Profile

## Spotlight on: Wishek, North Dakota

# Wishek Community Hospital

### Quick Facts

**Administrator:**  
Beverly Vilhauer

**Chief of Medical Staff:**  
Dr. Joseph Thirumalareddy

**Board President:**  
Nathan Pinke

**City Population:**  
992 (2014 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Population:**  
2,801 (2014 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Household Income:**  
\$36,066 (2013 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Age:**  
52.3 years (2013 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**Service Area Population:**  
9,217 (3 county area)

**Owned by:** Community

**Hospital Beds:** 24

**Trauma Level:** V

**Critical Access Hospital Designation:** 2001

**Economic Impact on the County\***

**Employment:**  
Primary – 92  
Secondary – 46  
Total – 138

**Financial Impact:**  
Primary – \$2.7 million  
Secondary – \$1.3 million  
Total – \$4.0 million

### Mission

Wishek Community Hospital and Clinics (WCHC) provides quality healthcare service with concern and compassion in a cost-effective manner. WCHC will distinguish itself as a leader in the provision of quality healthcare services in South Central North Dakota.

**County:** McIntosh  
**Address:** 1007 4th Avenue South, PO Box 647  
 Wishek, ND 58495  
**Phone:** 701.452.2326  
**Fax:** 701.452.2392  
**Web:** www.wishekhospital.com

Since 1954, Wishek Community Hospital and Clinics has proven itself to be a healthcare leader in South Central North Dakota. Founded from a recognized need to provide medical services for residents of the area, WCHC has grown to be a 24-bed critical access hospital with three full-time clinic locations in Wishek, Napoleon, and Kulm, and a satellite clinic in Gackle. We are community-owned, and our employees have a greater dedication to your well-being because they live, work and play right here.

Our patients are our families, friends and neighbors, and our slogan, “*Quality Care with Concern and Compassion*” has always been driven by the notion that they will be treated with the utmost respect and privacy.

### Services

Wishek Community Hospital provides the following services directly:

- Anesthesia
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation Services
  - Physical therapy services
- CT Scan
- Dietary Service
- EKG
- Emergency Room
- Fitness Center
- Immunizations
- Laboratory
- MRI Services
- Teleradiology
- Social Services
- Operating Room
- Outpatient Treatment and Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Radiology
  - Mammography
  - Mobile nuclear medicine
  - Mobile Ultrasound
- Critical Care Unit
  - 24-Hour heart monitor system
  - Advanced Cardiac Life Support / Advanced Trauma Life Support Certified Professionals
- Stress Testing
- Swing Bed Services
- Telemedicine
- Acute Care
- Observation Care
- Wellness Program

*\* The impact of jobs and expenditures generated by the hospital within the community was estimated using payroll information and an economic multiplier of 1.5.*

## Staffing

Physicians:	2
Nurse Practitioners:	2
PAs:	1
RNs:	12
LPNs:	5
Total Employees:	92

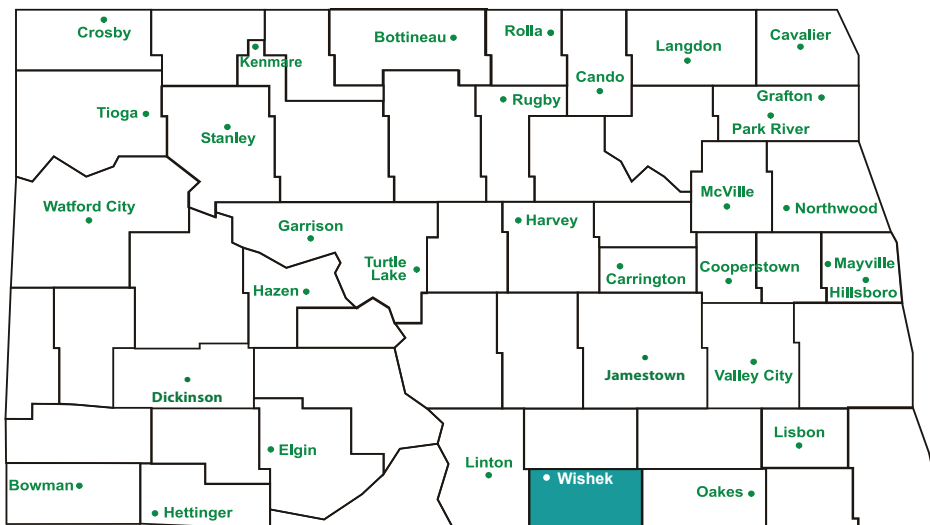
## Local Sponsors and Grant Funding Sources

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Center for Rural Health
  - SHIP Grant (*Small Hospital Improvement Program*)
  - Flex Grant (*Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program*)

## Sources

- <sup>1</sup> - US Census Bureau; American Factfinder, Community Facts

## North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



## History

Wishek Community Hospital was dedicated in 1954. The original facility accommodated 16 patients in eight double rooms and employed twelve people. The Wishek Hospital and Clinic Association (WHCA) formed an association with Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society (LHS), giving the Fargo-based healthcare organization operational control of the Wishek hospital for over 40 years.

In 1964, a new hospital wing was dedicated to meet the expanding healthcare needs, adding 11 beds and more services. Yet another dedication was held in 1977 when the clinic opened its doors. A major renovation project designed to improve the hospital facility and to install a new x-ray machine was celebrated on May 8, 1988.

Between 1993 and 1995, the WHCA reached formal agreements to manage the clinics in Wishek, Napoleon, Fredonia, Lehr, Zeeland, Streeter, Kulm, and Gackle. Population declines over the years forced the closure of the satellite clinics in Fredonia, Lehr, Zeeland, and Streeter in 2006. New equipment for mammography, cardiac testing, computerized tomography (CT), anesthesia and blood analyzing were installed in 1994 and 1995. The Home Health Agency and social work were added to expand the variety of services offered.

The facility terminated its contract with LHS in 1998, electing instead to put control of the institution in the hands of its board and administration.

To provide more space for local and visiting specialists, it became necessary to expand the Wishek Clinic. The Clinic addition was dedicated April 19, 2002.

Today, Wishek Community Hospital and Clinics has 92 employees and manages four clinic locations. It maintains sound relationships with a number of visiting specialists. WCHC is proud of the quality and range of medical treatment and procedures it offers to meet the area's healthcare needs.

## Recreation

Wishek is in south central North Dakota. The economic base of this area is primarily dependent upon agriculture. Wishek's school system provides educational opportunities to students K-12. Recreational facilities include an auto racetrack, bowling alley, movie theatre, baseball diamonds, swimming pool, tennis courts, a golf course, a city park and two state parks within ten miles. There is an abundance of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities.



Center for  
Rural Health  
University of North Dakota  
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

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