

# FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Meet Our Board Chair - Linda Fennelly

Linda is a life-long resident of Bettendorf, IA. She is a registered nurse who practiced for 42 years at Genesis Medical Center and its predecessor hospital, St. Luke's, until retiring in 2012. Linda managed Nursing departments and Medical Social Services. She earned bachelor and master degrees in Healthcare Administration and was a Certified Nurse Executive by the ANCC. She was selected as one of "100 Great Iowa Nurses" in 2010. Linda was a charter member of the Rick's House of Hope Board of Directors, heading the Quality Oversight Committee, and joined the Vera French Foundation Board after the merger.



Linda has been married to John Fennelly since 1974. They have 2 children, Ryann and Cullen, who both reside in Bettendorf. Her free time is occupied with all the joys of grand-parenthood with her grandchildren, Alexis and Tyree.



Stay up to date with everything happening at Vera French.

**Like us on Facebook!**

[facebook.com/VeraFrenchFoundation](https://facebook.com/VeraFrenchFoundation)

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[www.verafrenchmhc.org](http://www.verafrenchmhc.org)



# FOUNDATION FORWARD SPRING 2017



*Quality, Accessible, and Comprehensive  
Mental Health Care*

## May is Mental Health Month Festivities at Vera French

As we celebrate Mental Health Month, we invite the community to join us as we recognize the work that has been done in the mental health field. We have a variety of events that we will be hosting during the month of May to promote this special occasion.

**Join us in any or all of the activities to the right and help promote increasing advocacy, awareness, and continued education of mental illness in our community. For additional information, please contact the Foundation Office at (563) 888-6257.**

*"Vera French celebrates Mental Health Month with Hope and Determination."  
-Dr. Richard Whitaker, CEO*

**"Going Green"** - Green is the color associated with mental illness. During this week, we will include a "green themed" kickoff event outside the Vera French Center and decorate our facilities with anything and everything green.

**Knowing the Numbers** - This week will focus on educating the community about the statistics surrounding mental illness through sidewalk chalk and social media.

**Reducing the Stigma** - During this week, we will focus on ways we can all work together to reduce the stigma that is associated with mental health. Join us as we tackle one area, suicide, at our Through My Eyes event hosted at the Figge Art Museum on Tuesday, May 16th.

**Advocating through Hope and Determination** - Our last week will focus on ways to advocate for change in our government regarding mental health. We will partner with Genesis Health System as we Stand Together for Mental Health at Modern Woodmen Ballpark on Saturday, May 20th at 10:30 a.m.

MAY 1-5

MAY 8-12

MAY 15-19

MAY 20-26

# SHERIDAN SPRINGS

On Thursday, March 9, members of the community and Vera French staff gathered to celebrate the opening of our new 15-bed residential facility, Sheridan Springs.

The open house was led by special guest speaker, Carol Earnhardt, Chair of the Scott County Board of Supervisors. Vera French CEO, Dr. Rich Whitaker and COO, Denise Beenk also commented on the new facility, and the ways in which it fosters reducing the stigma in our community surrounding mental health by providing a beautiful and appealing space for those with mental illness to live.

Those that contributed to the building were honored and recognized, namely Scott County Regional Authority and Jim Russell, CEO of Russell.



## Employee Spotlight Jenna Capesius, LMSW

March was Social Worker Month, and we highlighted various professional Vera French therapist staff members throughout the month as we promoted the national 'Stand UP' for Social Worker Month. One of our more recent staff members is Jenna Capesius, and she has dived right into her work here at Vera French and has also taken initiative in creating ways for other staff personnel to get involved in focus areas. Here's a little bit about Jenna.

### Q: How long have you been involved in social work?

A: I have been in the social work field for three years professionally but began my education in 2009!

### Q: What do you think is the most rewarding part of your job?

A: The most rewarding part of my job is watching a client progress through their healing journey, whatever that may be for them. My biggest passion is working with victims and survivors of trauma, and it is really powerful witnessing the resilience and survival skills that victims and survivors develop due to their experiences of trauma.



GENESIS HEALTH SYSTEM  
presents



## A VERA FRENCH FOUNDATION EVENT

Please join us for our third annual Through My Eyes: A New Way to Look at Mental Illness. Our theme this year is suicide awareness and prevention, and the Foundation is happy to host George Smith, founder of AdamFest, as our guest speaker. We will also be showing a brief portion of Mike Mickle's documentary, "If You Only Knew: The Journey Through Teen Depression and Suicide."

A CE portion will be available from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. for area healthcare providers, and will be presented by Jess Fiedorowicz M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Fiedorowicz is an Associate Professor at the University of Iowa and will speak about Suicide Risk with Mixed States in Bipolar Disorder.

We recognize our area sponsors for this event, including our title sponsor Genesis Health System. Our Making An Impact Sponsors include: Ryan & Associates, Smart Toyota, Dr. Richard & Judy Kreiter, Barry Anderson, Janssen Inc., Connie & John Stecker, Dr. J. Randolph & Linda Lewis, Modern Woodmen, Molyneaux Insurance, and Russell.

**When:**  
Tuesday, May 16th

5:00-6:00 PM  
Continuing Education

6:30-8:30 PM  
Program/Dinner

**Where:**  
Figge Art Museum  
225 W. 2nd St.  
Davenport, IA 52801

**Cost:**  
CEU Portion - Free  
Program/Dinner - \$75

To register or find more information about the event, please visit [TME17eventbrite.com](http://TME17eventbrite.com) or call (563) 888-6257.