



# Critical Access Hospital Profile

## Spotlight on: Park River, North Dakota

# First Care Health Center

### Quick Facts

**Administrator:**

Marcus R. Lewis, MBA

**Chief of Medical Staff:**

Joel J. Johnson, MD

**Board Chair:** Michael Helt

**City Population:**

1,499 (2019 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Population:**

10,751 (2019 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Household Income:**

\$55,700 (2019 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Age:**

44.2 years (2019 estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**Service Area Population:**

20,000 (40 mile radius)

**Owned by:** Community based nonprofit corporation

**Hospital Beds:** 14

**Trauma Level:** IV

**Critical Access Hospital Designation:** 2002

**Economic Impact on the County<sup>2</sup>****Employment Impact:**

Direct – 86

Secondary – 32

Total – 122

**Financial Impact:**

Direct – \$6.1 million

Secondary – \$1.75 million

Total – \$7.9 million

**Mission:**

The Mission of First Care Health Center, founded by the Presentation Sisters, is to continue the healing Mission of Jesus in a rural setting. We are committed to a respect for each person; a caring Christian environment; professional excellence; promoting health communities; personal service; and an innovative spirit.

**County:** Walsh

**Address:** 115 Vivian Street  
Park River, ND 58270

**Phone:** (701) 284-7500

**Fax:** (701) 284-4576

**Web:** <http://www.firstcarehc.com/>

First Care Health Center (FCHC) is a nonprofit, community-based Critical Access Hospital and Rural Health Clinic in Park River, North Dakota. FCHC is governed by an 11-member board of directors. In 2007, the facility completed a \$7.5 million building and renovation project including a new clinic addition and a completely modernized inpatient area an emergency room, as well as general updates throughout the facility. Recently, in 2019, the Outpatient Expansion Project was completed which enhanced patient care and patient privacy. The 2019 project renovated existing space and created an addition that conveniently placed outpatient services, including same day procedures, on the first floor. This enhances staff efficiency and patient privacy and provides alternative options for treatment and emergency service areas. These changes help us continue to serve the current and future healthcare needs of the people of Park River and the surrounding area.

**Services:**

First Care Health Center provides the following services directly:

- 24-hour emergency services
- General and acute services
- Allergy, flu and pneumonia shots
- Blood pressure checks
- Blood types
- Bone density
- Cardiac rehab
- Cardiology (visiting physician)
- Chemistry
- Chronic care management
- Clinical care
- Clot times
- CT scan
- Diabetes Prevention Program
- Digital mammography (mobile unit)
- Echocardiograms
- EKG
- Gastroenterology
- General X-ray
- Health cooking classes
- Hematology
- Hospital (acute care)
- Laboratory services
- Mammograms
- Mole/wart/skin lesion removal
- MRI (mobile unit)
- Nuclear medicine (mobile unit)
- Nutrition counseling
- Ophthalmology (visiting physician)
- Pathology (visiting physician)
- Pediatric services
- Pharmacy
- Physical therapy
- Physicals: annuals, D.O.T., sports, and insurance
- Radiology services
- Respiratory care
- Screening/therapy services
- Sleep studies
- Social services
- Stepping On – fall prevention program
- Steroid injections
- Surgical services – inpatient and outpatient (general surgery, laparoscopic; colonoscopy and endoscopy procedures; ophthalmology procedures) (visiting physician)
- Swing bed services
- Telemedicine
- Transitional care management
- Ultrasound
- Urine testing

## Staffing

Physicians:	3
PAs:	1
RNs:	26
LPNs:	10
Total Employees:	116

## Local Sponsors and Grant Funding Sources

- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Bremer
- Center for Rural Health
  - SHIP Grant
  - Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program
- Dakota Medical Foundation
- Homeland Security
- Park River Community Foundation
- USDA Community Facility Grant

## Sources

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

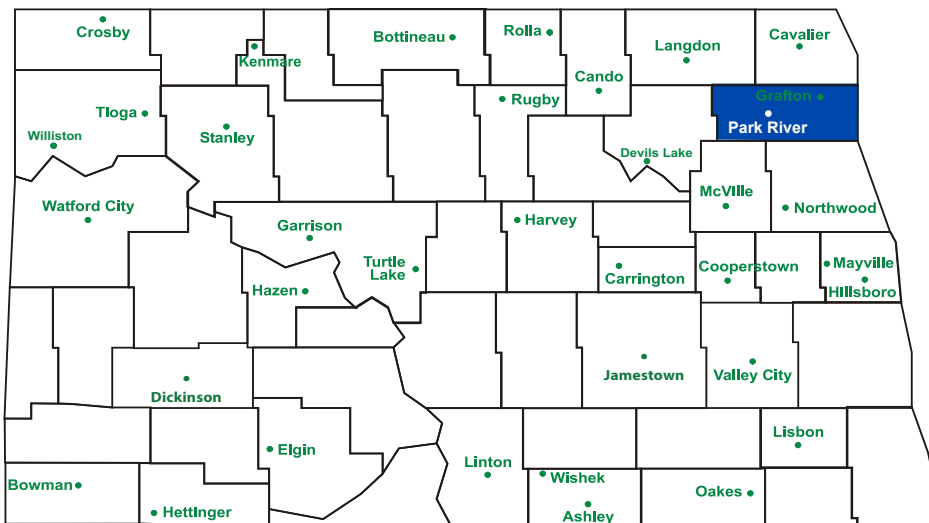
<sup>2</sup> Economic Impact 2020  
Center for Rural Health  
Oklahoma State University  
and Center for Rural Health  
University of North Dakota

## List of Services:

First Care Health Center provides the following services through contract or agreement:

- Ambulance
- Anesthesia services
- Hearing services
- Mental health services
- Optometric/vision services
- OT/speech therapy

## North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



## History:

First Care Health Center has a rich history that has historical “roots” in several countries. In Ireland in 1775, Nano Nagle founded a religious community, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who had the unique mission for its time of seeking and assisting people in need. Years later, some of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary arrived in Fargo where they also looked for ways to help those in need.

In 1944, the Park River Hospital Association was formed to raise funds to build a hospital. Construction began six years later, after being postponed by World War II. The facility was named St. Ansgar’s Hospital after a little-known Scandinavian saint. Dr. Frank Weed, a founder of the hospital, approached the Sisters about providing management services for the facility. On July 10, 1952, St. Ansgar’s Hospital opened its doors for patients.

During the 1980s and 1990s, St. Ansgar’s was affiliated with two different Catholic organizations to improve and strengthen the hospital. However on December 31, 2000, the Catholic affiliation ended with St. Ansgar’s Health Center. The facility became community-based First Care Health Center, and determined to continue the rich, faith-filled tradition of the Sisters of the Presentation and to provide “Professional care with a personal touch.”

Park River is in northeastern North Dakota. The city offers a progressive business climate, with both manufacturers and total employment force increasing. The town has a modernized downtown, modern and comprehensive school district, ambitious and innovative economic development agenda, and expanding industrial climate. Homme Dam Recreation Area is located two miles west of Park River, featuring picnic and camping facilities and almost 200 acres of sparkling water for water sports enthusiasts. Park River has a nine-hole golf course with grass greens, baseball diamonds, volleyball pit, an Olympic-sized city swimming pool, two tennis courts, an indoor ice arena, bowling alley, groomed cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails, as well as hunting and fishing opportunities.

## Recreation:

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<http://ruralhealth.und.edu>

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