

## Centegra beaming with success of Huntley hospital event

Jeanie Mayer For Sun-Times Media

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**HUNTLEY** — The mood at the Centegra Beam Raising event was not dampened by the rain that drenched the hospital grounds Saturday morning. Scores of people turned out despite the cloudy skies and intermittent rain.

The day of fun began at 9 a.m. with the family health fest that offered free medical screenings, a teddy bear clinic and a rock climbing attraction. Teri Butko, who works for Centegra in the cardiology department, attended the event with 11-year-old Johnathan Chaput. She said Johnathan helped to give out free bike helmets to children at the event. “The event was a success. We are very excited to have a hospital here in Huntley,” Butko said.

Throughout the morning, residents and community members signed a steel beam at the site and watched it as it was lifted by crane to a platform where the skeleton of the new hospital is coming together. In all, three beams were raised; two bearing the signatures of community members, and a third beam, that was signed by stakeholders, elected officials and hospital personnel.



The community watches as a construction crew raises the steel beam bearing their signatures into place. (Jeanie Mayer for Sun-Times Media)

Under the VIP tent, Centegra Health System’s Chief Executive Officer Michael Eesley served as master of ceremonies for the event and spoke of the two year battle for approval of the hospital concept and the victory in court that brought them to this moment. He said the concrete for the hospital’s foundation has been poured and the steel framework is now in progress.

Village President Charles Sass spoke of the \$300 million investment in the community that Centegra’s hospital represents, bringing hundreds of jobs in construction personnel and permanent positions to the village.

State Senator Pamela Althoff and State Representative Mike Tryon were both in attendance at the event.

**Centegra Hospital Huntley**  
**Scheduled Opening: 2016**  
**Construction Jobs: 800**  
**Permanent Jobs: 1,000**

“There is no better place to be an active senior than Del Webb. Huntley has professionally planned development, honest

government and now a top health care system,” Tryon said.

Chuck and Helen Ruth were lauded at the event for leading the way in generosity by being the first to pledge \$1 million to help make the hospital a reality in Huntley. Ruth said he spent many years trying to bring a health care system to the town his family has been a part of for generations.

Susan Milford, senior vice president of Centegra, was pleased with the way the events turned out.

“I love how the event included the community members, the community leaders and representatives from both Kane and McHenry County. It just shows how much everyone is for the new hospital,” Milford said.

The hospital’s construction will take about two years with an additional 6 months to meet regulations and accreditations before opening to patients in the fall of 2016.



*Village President Charles Sass presents Hospital CEO Michael Eesley and Michael Curran of the Board of governors for Centegra with a Certificate of Recognition. (Jeanie Mayer for Sun Times Media)*