

Caring for our community

Respiratory Care cleans up again

In October of 2008, Dean Boike, Respiratory Therapist at Rice Memorial Hospital, adopted one mile of Highway 71 on behalf of the Respiratory Care Department. The section is on the north side of Willmar—located between the 71/23 and business 71 split, and the troublesome intersection near the Health & Human Services Building.

The official Adopt-A-Highway signs naming the Respiratory Care Department as its sponsor are now in place, one at each end of the mile stretch on opposite sides of the highway. The Respiratory Care Highway Clean Up Team made a follow-up visit to their stretch of Highway 71 on May 27, 2009.

Wearing bright lime-green vests for safety, the crew picked up twenty bags of trash in three hours. They cleaned up both the northbound and southbound sections. Joining Dean were Kathy Hunt, Barb Piasecki, Bev Schafer, Mark LaBarre, and Andrew LaBarre.

“Evidently it pays to clean up the roadside,” Dean joked, “Mark found two dollar bills.” The crew didn’t have nearly as many fast-food containers to pick up as they did last fall, but they did find a lot of used scratch off tickets, a couple of empty liquor bottles, and several lone shoes and socks amidst the general rubbish that ends up along our roadways. *



One of two Adopt-A-Highway signs put up by the Minnesota Department of Transportation acknowledging the Respiratory Care Department at Rice Memorial Hospital for adopting a stretch of Highway 71.