



Bassett Healthcare Network
A.O. Fox Hospital

A.O. Fox Hospital Appoints Jeff Emhof as New Nursing Home Administrator

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Oneonta Oneonta, NY – A.O. Fox Hospital President Jeff Joyner announces the appointment of Jeff Emhof as the new administrator of Fox Nursing Home. Emhof's post went into effect June 24.

Emhof has been a licensed nursing home administrator in New York State for more than 11 years, having most recently worked at the Cooperstown Center (formerly known as Focus Otsego), where he oversaw significant improvements in the past two years and for which the facility received state recognition. His love for working with the elderly population stems from childhood; at just eight years old, Emhof began volunteering at Chase Memorial Nursing Home & Rehabilitation in New Berlin, an organization lauded nationally for its innovative approaches to care with resident-centered grassroots programs like pet therapy, gardening, and child care inside the facility. When he was young, Emhof's mother

was a hairdresser for the residents. "I learned as a child to love older people," he says. "I knew deep down I would always work with that population."

Though long-term care has always been Emhof's passion, his education and subsequent clinical experiences led him to a career as a registered dietician in a variety of disciplines over the years, including in hospital and community-based settings. Immersing himself in patient care has provided him with invaluable perspective about clinical operations. "But my heart was always going to lead me back to older adults and long-term care," he says.

As nursing home administrator at Fox, Emhof will oversee strategic planning initiatives and operations of the 130-bed skilled nursing facility connected to the hospital, including nursing, rehabilitation, nutrition, and environmental services. Gary Smith, who has been vice president of long-term care and operations at Fox Nursing Home for more than 33 years, has transitioned into a new role as vice president of hospital operations.

“I am very excited to welcome Jeff to the Fox Family,” says Smith. “His passion to improve the lives of our senior population – while engaging with staff to help us attain that goal – will continue to drive forward the quality of care for those residing at Fox Nursing Home.”

“I am so pleased to join Fox,” says Emhof. “Both the hospital and nursing home are at the center of this community. Fostering a resident-directed program in the nursing home is among my many goals; helping our staff and administrators consult our resident population for perspective and direction as we move forward will propel us toward meaningful transformation as both a skilled nursing facility and a community. I am thrilled to be part of Fox’s exciting journey and will work alongside Gary and other leadership to continue building an amazing place for our community members and their family to call home.”

Emhof earned a BA in Biochemistry from Colgate University and an MS in Nutrition/Nutrition Education from the State University of New York College at Buffalo.

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About A.O. Fox Hospital

A.O. Fox Hospital, part of the Bassett Healthcare Network, has been nationally recognized by The Leapfrog Group for excellence in patient safety. The mission of A.O. Fox Hospital, a 60-bed acute care hospital with a 130-bed nursing home, is to provide the residents of Oneonta and the surrounding four county areas with high-quality health care services.

About Bassett Healthcare Network

Bassett Healthcare Network is an integrated health system that provides care and services to people living in a 5,600 square mile region in upstate New York. The organization includes five corporately affiliated hospitals, over two dozen community-based health centers, 20 school-based health centers, two skilled nursing facilities, and other health partners in related fields. To learn more about services available throughout the Bassett Healthcare Network, visit www.bassett.org. Follow Bassett on Facebook at facebook.com/Bassett.Network.