

# Copley Orthopedics Groundbreaking 10/3/23

**\$1M Emergency Rural Healthcare Grant**  
**\$9.9M CF loan**

[Salutation]

Thank you Chairwoman (Nancy) Banks, and thank you Director Woodin and Dr. Macy, CFO Hebert and the board, Senator Welch, and all your teams for the selfless and tireless work you all do on behalf of the injured and sick in our rural communities.

Throughout our various stops at institutions receiving USDA emergency healthcare funding, we've heard stories of desperation and despair, we've seen the lines and dark circles of sleeplessness on exhausted faces, and the determination to keep churning and triaging and creating new ways to find a way through the next 24 hours, let alone 24 days, let alone 24 months.

On behalf of USDA Rural Development, we stand in perpetual admiration of you and your people, your resilience and innovation in the face of the unknown, and we are honored to be here today and be part of this project.

This new 9,900 sq. ft. orthopedics building will be a comprehensive, modern replacement of the previous facility. Based on population demographics and all of your experiences, the area's need for orthopedic, rehabilitation, and podiatry services has been evident and in high demand for some time. This investment will allow the medical professionals here to ease that tension and maintain a thriving patient and partner network, instead of being consumed by it due to constraints and limitations to services and availability.

But apart from the dollars and cents and demographics—the quantitative goods that make a solid headline and help our friends in Congress fund the next year's pool of Community Facilities money—today is an opportunity to talk about the things that don't show up on paper.

Things we don't track; that don't make their way into the planning and portfolios and postmortems that come with any big investment of time and resources.

And that is the *psychological benefit* for those involved with this wonderful project.

For the doctors, nurses and staff, and the patients and their families and friends, the bricks-and-mortar facility we celebrate today with shiny golden shovels will also lay an invisible foundation of renewed inspiration, more stable and solid than any reinforced concrete.

For Dr. Macy and his team at Copley Orthopedics, who've gone through the 2-year COVID nightmare:

- Performing the job in a cramped, antiquated space doesn't encourage much restoration to mental health from that awful experience. Now, with more physical room and modern equipment and amenities to enable their best work, their general outlook and well-being has more mental room to expand and improve. This, of course, positively benefits professional relationships, personal relationships and engagement with the community.

For the patients who are looking at a significant setback to their schedule and savings account, in severe pain from a bad back or hip, shoulder or knee, who want anything but to walk through that front door:

- How much better will it be for them to have a safe, private transition into this solemn period of healing and rehabilitation, offering time to process the anguish they're feeling, as opposed to entering an open room full of strangers in various states of waiting, working and going about their regular lives?

And the administration and staff, who've been playing a terrible game of whack-a-mole with the various crisis that have sprung up from the pandemic:

- They can now close one lid and seal it up for generations to come. A lot of lids remain to be closed, but this one right here will be tight as can be—and transformational for the members of this community and those around it.

Once the project is complete—*we'll see you all back here for the ribbon cutting*—these resilient and resourceful experts can set their focus and energy on what's next, knowing their people in Waterbury have the facility and tools to give their patients the highest-quality care possible.

[Handoff]