



MRH&C has four ambulances available to take care of our patients, ensuring their healthcare needs are met efficiently and promptly.

## Serving Our Community 24/7: MRH&C Ambulance Service

**If you or someone you care about is severely injured or has a stroke, heart attack, seizure, or other health emergency, calling 911 is the fastest, safest way to get help.**

If you're near Mobridge, a Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics Ambulance Service crew will be on their way to you within minutes.

In 2024, MRH&C Ambulance Service responded to 947 calls for service—about three per day on average. Emergencies don't arise predictably, though, so some days are relatively slow while others may involve six or more calls—some up to 60 miles away.

Ambulance Director Stephanie Dame has been with MRH&C for 11 years and has served as director for five years. She oversees a staff of 19 EMTs, paramedics, and ambulance drivers, 10 of whom are full-time.

### Interested in Joining Our Ambulance Crew?

We need more Emergency Medical Services staff who live in or near Mobridge! Full-time and part-time positions are available. To learn about training to become an EMT, paramedic, or ambulance driver, email MRH&C Ambulance Director Stephanie Dame at [stephanie.dame@commonspirit.org](mailto:stephanie.dame@commonspirit.org). Training classes are held locally, and Mobridge Regional Health Care Foundation covers fees when needed. A Cadet Program is also available for students in grades 9 through 12. Getting involved in EMS is a great way to connect with your community, earn money, advance your career, and learn new skills that are useful whether or not you continue to work in healthcare.

*continued on page 3*



John Ayoub, CEO

## Letter from John

As CEO of this organization, I am deeply honored to recognize the extraordinary contributions of our rural ambulance service and the remarkable individuals who make it possible. In rural communities like ours, timely and skilled emergency care often makes the difference between life and death. Our ambulance team embodies dedication, courage, and compassion, often going above and beyond to ensure that our patients

receive the highest quality care, no matter the circumstances. Their expertise and commitment should inspire confidence in the patients they serve, and their work is a cornerstone of our mission.

I am also thrilled to welcome Dr. Merhej Hannun to our organization and the community. Bringing on such a skilled and compassionate professional strengthens our ability to meet the diverse healthcare needs of our community. He bolsters an already phenomenal team focused on building trust and relationships with patients to foster a continuum of care that enhances wellness and supports patients and families.

Together, our ambulance service and our new physician are splendid examples of the heart of our organization. They also reflect the service-driven nature of our entire team. It truly is the people behind the care who make all the difference. Their teamwork, resilience, and unwavering commitment to improving lives exemplify what it means to genuinely care for our friends, family, and neighbors. If you have an interest in joining the team, collaborating with exceptional people, and making a real difference, please reach out to inquire about the many ways we can help make that happen.

John J. Ayoub, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer  
Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics

## Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics

Mobridge Regional Hospital  
1401 10th Avenue West, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-3692

Mobridge Medical Clinic  
1309 10th Avenue West, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-3692

Prairie Sunset Village – Assisted Living  
and Senior Housing  
1320 West Grand Crossing  
Mobridge, SD  
605-845-8193

Walworth Co. Community Health &  
Visiting Nurse Service  
111 2nd St. East, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-8127

Selby Medical Clinic  
4401 Main St, Selby, SD  
605-649-9999

West Dakota Health Center  
906 Main Street, Timber Lake, SD  
605-865-3258 (MT)

West River Health Clinic  
103 1st Avenue East, McLaughlin, SD  
605-823-4253 (MT)

Meet Our Newest Physician

## Welcome, Dr. Hannun!



We are delighted to announce that Dr. Merhej Hannun has joined the MRH&C Mobridge Medical Clinic family medicine team. Dr. Hannun (pronounced hah-NOON) comes to us by way of a family medicine residency in Reading, Pennsylvania, and before that, clinical rotations in Bedford, England, Chicago, Illinois, and Cyprus as well as medical school at the University of London.

“I’ve lived and worked in large cities, but I was looking for a quieter, rural life with community ties,” Dr. Hannun said. “I come from a small village in Lebanon where people don’t lock their doors. I’ve already purchased a house in Mobridge because I’m certain I can thrive here and be a helpful part of this community.”

Dr. Hannun provides care to people of all ages, from infants to older adults as well as pregnant women. He will be delivering babies and has been C-section trained. He lived with his grandparents for many years and is at ease with seniors. He also has a passion for treating addictions.

Dr. Hannun’s mother and father (who is an OB-GYN) remain in Lebanon but visit the U.S. regularly. His two siblings live in New York City. In his free time, Dr. Hannun enjoys traveling, studying world history and cultures, and being outdoors. Here in Mobridge, he’s looking forward to learning to hunt, fish, and ride horses.

“Our call volumes have increased quite a bit in recent years, and our staffing has decreased, mostly because older EMS crew members are retiring,” Dame said. “We’ve been seeing a steady rise in need. It may be because people have become more active again since the COVID-19 public health emergency ended. It’s good to be more active, but it also naturally leads to more illness and injury.”

## **Emergencies, Transfers, Hospital Support, and Events**

In addition to responding to emergencies, MRH&C Ambulance Service handles patient transfers by ambulance from one facility to another, averaging 20 transfers a month. Because the team is hospital-based, they also help in the emergency room when they’re not responding to calls. In addition, the crew is proud to provide standby emergency care at public events, such as the rodeo, Indian Horse Relays, Demolition Derby, and football games.

“A lot of us enjoy our jobs because we like to be able to help people in our community,” Dame said. “Some of the experiences we have stay with us for a lifetime. We bond as a crew and with the community.”

## **An EMS Consortium**

MRH&C ambulance crews don’t work alone. Emergency Medical Services, or EMS, is a naturally collaborative field. Ambulance Service has good working relationships with other local first responders, such as law enforcement and fire departments. In addition, surrounding services, like Campbell County EMS, Selby Ambulance, Standing Rock EMS, and Timber Lake EMS often work with the Mobridge team to ensure each emergency is handled as effectively as possible.

Each area EMS service is different in its structure and the types of emergencies it’s equipped to handle. Among the four surrounding organizations listed above, one is county-owned, one is an independent nonprofit, one is tribally owned, and one is city-owned. Some ambulances are equipped to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) and others Advanced Life Support (ALS).



Paramedics Abbie McNeil and Justin Sadler review an EKG strip from a recent patient.

“MRH&C has ALS crews, four ambulances, and a larger team,” Dame said. “We provide back-up to EMS teams in the surrounding areas when they need us.”

Haden Merkel, MRH&Cs’ Philanthropy Engagement Coordinator, recently worked with regional EMS leaders to secure first a planning grant and then an implementation grant from the South Dakota Department of Health to help coordinate regional EMS collaboration. The funding will pay for additional Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and free public first aid trainings in five area communities, Handtevy tools (for pediatric patients), EMS and first responder training classes and supplies, the development of a K-12 curriculum for youth interested in exploring EMS-related careers, and a community health worker position to help short-staffed EMS services maximize the grants’ impact.

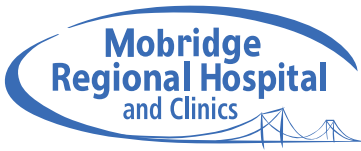
“We’re all dealing with the same things and have the same kinds of challenges,” Merkel said. “This grant funding will help us better coordinate training and care.”

## **“A Calling of the Heart”**

EMS work is “a calling of the heart,” said Darcy Dykhouse, MRH&C Executive Assistant. “MRH&C Ambulance Service does a remarkable job, but we need more EMTs and paramedics. We hope more community members will get involved.”

“We are blessed to have such skilled and dedicated EMS team members, who jump into action whenever needed,” said MRH&C CEO John J. Ayoub. “Thank you to our EMS crews. They save lives every day.”





PRSRT STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Mobridge, SD  
Permit No. 47

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*  
  
Residential Customer

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CLASSES



### Healthcare Provider CPR Class

March 3, April 7 • 1 - 3 p.m.  
Dr. Ben & Audrey Henderson Conference Room



### Heartsavers CPR & AED Class

February 17, March 10, April 14 • 1 - 4 p.m.  
Dr. Ben & Audrey Henderson Conference Room

Call 605-845-8163 to register.



### Spring Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 1  
12:30 - 6 p.m. • Family Worship Center



### Senior Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays  
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.



### Senior Strength & Balance for Life

Tuesdays and Fridays  
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Classes are held at Mobridge Senior Citizen Center. Class times and schedule are subject to change.



### MRH Auxiliary Bakeless Bake Sale

Mid-February through March

## Mission


The mission of Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics is to provide high quality healthcare services in a compassionate and professional manner for people throughout the region.

## Vision

Become one of America's finest rural healthcare providers.

## Values

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Collaboration
- Excellence

 **EVOC Class** – Curious about becoming an ambulance driver? An Emergency Vehicle Operation Course will be arranged if there is interest. Email Stephanie Dame at [stephanie.dame@commonspirit.org](mailto:stephanie.dame@commonspirit.org).

[www.mobridgehospital.org](http://www.mobridgehospital.org)  [www.facebook.com/MobridgeRegionalHospital](https://www.facebook.com/MobridgeRegionalHospital)

Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, military status, disability, genetic information, ability to pay, or on any other basis that would be in violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law. For a full non-discrimination statement, visit: [mobridgehospital.org/patients-and-visitors/pay-a-bill/non-discrimination-and-privacy-policy](http://mobridgehospital.org/patients-and-visitors/pay-a-bill/non-discrimination-and-privacy-policy).