

NEW BOOK COMING SOON!

Hope Springs: A Small Town's Fight for Community-Driven Healthcare

Authors James Damos, MD, and Laurence Bauer, MSW, MEd,
with John Beasley, MD, as a consultant to the storyline

INTRODUCTION: In the heart of the small community of Hope Springs, Minnesota, the Hope Springs Medical Office and Hospital stand as vital hubs for the community. These two rural facilities provide essential primary medical care for their citizens but now face significant challenges in the shifting U.S. healthcare landscape, putting their future at risk.

STORYLINE: Located 60 miles north of Minneapolis, Hope Springs, Minnesota, is a vibrant rural town with a population of 20,000, set amidst picturesque farmland and tranquil lakes. Here, healthcare and agriculture are deeply intertwined, with local doctors and nurses regarded as community members, neighbors, and friends. Now, however, the town faces a crisis as its hospital nears closure—a common challenge among rural hospitals across the United States today. The prospect of a corporate buyout offers both hope and controversy, risking the town's compassionate, community-focused care amid the growth of for-profit healthcare, increased corporate control over staff, and burnout.

Enter Dr. Karl Portman, a beloved 71-year-old retired family physician with over four decades of service to the community. Despite personal losses, he leads a movement to establish a groundbreaking, community-centered healthcare system based on a Healthcare Constitution he and others crafted.

Amid emergencies, heartfelt moments, and the complexities of rural healthcare, this gripping drama explores resilience, loyalty, love, and hope. Will they find the strength to overcome darkness and save their hospital, families, and community?

AUTHORS:

James Damos, MD: Jim is a family physician with experience in rural, urban, private, and academic primary care. He co-developed and first edited the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) provider and instructor courses, now taught in over 60 countries, which trains practitioners to manage obstetric emergencies. Additionally, he helped establish Wisconsin's first physician rural training program in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The first residents arrived in 1996, and Baraboo continues to train residents for rural practice today. His work emphasizes supporting rural healthcare and enhancing access to maternity care in underserved areas.

Laurence C. Bauer, MSW, Med: Larry is Chief Executive Officer Emeritus of the Family Medicine Education Consortium, Inc.(FMEC) The FMEC is a not-for-profit corporation designed to promote collaboration among the academic Family medicine and primary care communities in the northeastern U.S. He has taught behavioral science to students and faculty in the Departments of Family Medicine at Wright State, Ohio State, and Pennsylvania State University Schools of Medicine.

John Beasley, MD: John, a family physician and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Wisconsin, has over 50 years of practice experience, including 2 years in Chuuk, the Caroline Islands. He was a co-developer, along with Jim Damos, of the ALSO didactic and instructor courses. John also founded the Wisconsin Research Network (WReN), which focuses on community-oriented primary care research.