

## Newman Memorial Is Expanding Community Outreach Program to All of Ellis County

In a joint effort between the Ellis County Health Coalition and Newman Memorial Hospital, NMH started a pilot program in May called "R U OK Calls". This program has the goal of identifying elderly and disabled members of our community who live alone and might not have daily contact with family, friends or neighbors. When a member of the community wishes to sign up for the R U OK Calls program, they will receive a phone call from a member of the Hospital Auxilliary (pink ladies) Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm to check and make sure that they are ok.

This pilot program started in Shattuck, OK in May. We have had some that use the program for daily check-ins and we have also had the occasional family contact us and ask if their elderly family member could be on the list for a week or so while they were on vacation to allow them the peace of mind to enjoy their trip. The program has been partnered with the Shattuck Police Department and has been running smoothly.

We feel it is now a good time to expand the program to encompass all of Ellis County. With the blessing of the Ellis County Sheriff's Department, we are thrilled to be able to offer this service to any Ellis County resident. If you would like more information about the R U OK Calls program, either for yourself or for a referral, please contact Joey Burgtorf at 580-938-5529. We look forward to serving and providing support for the elderly and disabled citizens of Ellis County!