

Healing with heart

Matthew Smith, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon, Mercy Hospital.

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 - > 1 gift: 200,000 patients
- And more!**

Healing with heart

For our care teams at Mercy Hospital, guiding our neighbors along their path to healing is as important as walking alongside them. Because, first and foremost, our patients are people with stories, hopes and dreams that reach far beyond their diagnosis.

Whether it's a long-time community member or an out-of-town visitor with emergency needs, our patients are treated like loved ones. **Our team provides the support they would want for their own families** — by taking the time to listen, to explain, to check in — while delivering the expert care patients rely on.

At Mercy Health Foundation, we are proud to advance the whole-person care our hospital provides every day. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we expand the resources and services available to meet the unique needs of our community. **The stories in this newsletter will give you a glimpse into a few ways donors like you are making incredible things happen.**

Whether you are new to the Four Corners region or have called it home for many years, we hope you know our doors are always open to serve you.

With gratitude,



Lexie Stetson-Lee
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Mercy Health Foundation



20 major gifts

of \$10,000 or more



\$33,514

disbursed from the employee
financial assistance program



334 donors

year-to-date

*fiscal year-to-date,
July 1, 2025 – April 1, 2026

ONE GIFT: 200,000 PATIENTS

When Linda and Tony Hollars wanted to make a meaningful impact, they looked for the place where their generosity could reach the most people. The answer was Mercy's inpatient lab, a department that serves every single patient who walks through the hospital's doors — more than 200,000 patients every year.

The Hollars made a seed gift for the next phase of the

inpatient lab, naming it the Hollars Inpatient Lab. This gift ensures our neighbors continue to receive the highest quality diagnostic care close to home.

“Being so lucky to be living in this wonderful place, we wanted to give back to the community and felt this was the best way to benefit EVERYONE!”

— LINDA AND TONY HOLLARS



Celebrating a year of big wins

This past winter, Mercy Hospital gathered its caregivers and staff to celebrate an extraordinary year. Mercy earned its **seventh consecutive 'A' Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group**, was named a **2025 Top Rural Hospital by Leapfrog and Chartis**, a **U.S. News & World Report High Performing Hospital** and one of **Becker's 100 Great Community Hospitals** — one of only two in Colorado.

In cardiac care, Mercy earned **dual American College of Cardiology accreditations** and the **NCDR Chest Pain-MI Registry 2025 Silver Performance Achievement Award**, shared by just 79 hospitals nationwide.

These honors reflect the dedication of our Mercy Hospital team to uplifting the health of our entire community. We truly have an incredible hospital team, right here in our own backyard!



A bold new vision for cancer treatment

For too many families in Southwest Colorado, a cancer diagnosis means long drives, missed work and time away from loved ones. Mercy is the busiest cancer center in the Mountain Region, **serving 60 patients across medical and radiation oncology with clinic and infusion appointments**. Still, more than 56% of cancer patients travel outside of the community for treatment.

Mercy Hospital is planning a new cancer center in Durango designed to meet the rapidly growing need for advanced cancer care.

By expanding local cancer services, families can stay together during treatment, reduce financial and emotional strain, and access the highest level of care without leaving Southwest Colorado. This center represents hope, stability and a commitment to keeping exceptional health care right here at home.

Your generosity at work, transforming heart care

Thanks to \$3.6 million in philanthropic support, Mercy Hospital's cardiac catheterization lab has been fully upgraded with state-of-the-art technology. Mercy was one of the first hospitals in the country to pilot CommonSpirit's national Cath Lab Quality Improvement Initiative, which is **replacing more than 80 aging labs across the ministry.**



The updated cath lab and dual accreditation means faster, more precise, lifesaving heart care, right here in the Four Corners region. We are thrilled to expand specialized care, providing innovative treatments for our neighbors, close to home.

“This significant accomplishment is a true testament to the hard work, dedication, passion and exceptional collaboration of our entire team. The success of this journey highlights the wonderful teamwork and the amazing, high-quality cardiac care being delivered every day.”

— DENISE HAWKINS, BSN, RN, CVRN-BC, NURSE
MANAGER, CATH-IR LAB, CARDIOPULMONARY
REHAB, CARDIAC DIAGNOSTICS, RT CATH LAB

Compassionate care space returns to our community

Mercy Hospice House has reopened — providing a compassionate space for inpatient hospice and palliative care.

Made possible by generous community philanthropy, **the Hospice House offers warmth and compassion in a comfortable clinical environment for patients and families during life's most sacred moments.** The reopening follows guidance from the state of Colorado permitting eight additional beds under Mercy's hospital license, **expanding the facility to 90 beds.**

Every individual deserves the right care, in the right setting, at the right time. Hospice House makes that promise a reality. We're looking forward to what comes next for Hospice House — starting with a charity care fund specifically for Veterans. Stay tuned!



Pink Night returns for a fourth year

Pink Night was another slam dunk! Alpine Bank, Fort Lewis College Athletics and Mercy Health Foundation united at Whalem Gymnasium on February 19 to support breast care and early detection. This year's Pink Night raised \$1,560 for the Mercy Breast Care Center.



Love notes for our caregivers

This Valentine's Day, **Mercy Health Foundation board members handcrafted valentines and delivered them personally to hospital staff.** It was a heartfelt way to say thank you to the caregivers who show up every day for this community.



Honor your caregiver

Has a caregiver made an impact in your life? We invite you to share your story and make a gift in their honor by visiting MercyHealthFoundation.HonorToday.org or scanning the QR code.



“Dr. Baker listened and helped more than any doctor I’ve ever had. A true professional.”

— GRATEFUL PATIENT

“The level of care, compassion, professionalism and understanding I received from everyone I have come into contact with throughout this process is to be commended.”

— GRATEFUL PATIENT

“Dr. Sheer is superbly knowledgeable in his field. He demonstrates kindness and compassion as well. The medical field is 100% blessed to have him.”

— GRATEFUL PATIENT



Introducing FreeWill — a planned giving resource

We’ve partnered with FreeWill to offer a secure, no-cost online tool to create or update your will in about 20 minutes.

A will ensures your wishes are honored and your loved ones are cared for. We’re honored to share this resource as part of our commitment to serving you — body, mind and spirit.

We invite you to learn more about FreeWill and planned giving by visiting:

MercyHealth.MyGiftLegacy.org

To give in support of our mission, visit Give.CommonSpirit.org/MercyHealthFoundation/Donate or scan the QR code.



100% of your gift will stay local to Mercy Hospital supporting the program of your choice.

CommonSpirit 

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To learn more about the impact of your gifts, please contact Lexie Stetson-Lee at Lexie.Stetson-Lee@CommonSpirit.org or (970) 764-2804. Thank you!

