

A shared vision for a healthy future

MERCY HEALTH FOUNDATION
SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

CommonSpirit[®]
Mercy Health
Foundation



INSIDE:

- > Celebrating Joan McCaw's dedication and service
 - > We got our pink on — again!
 - > Flight for Life[®] reaches new heights
- And more!

Thanks to partners like you, Mercy Health Foundation is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients and families!

\$819,210

total fundraising revenue

314

active donors, 69 of whom benefited from the EZ Tax Credit Program

\$100,000

disbursed to Hospice of Mercy, supporting charity patient care, bereavement services, specialty patient needs, volunteer coordination, chaplain services and ongoing operational needs

\$46,617

provided to patients and families through our Patient Financial Assistance fund, helping cover the costs of advanced treatments, prescriptions and more

61

staff and providers attended the Mercy Trauma Conference, sponsored by Mercy Health Foundation at Fort Lewis College

*Data reflects outcomes from FY2025 to-date (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

Welcoming new board members

Please join us in welcoming Wade Whidden and Debra (Deb) Smith to the Mercy Health Foundation board! Their talents and commitment to the Durango community will help drive our mission forward.

Wade serves as the Principal Attorney at Whidden Law, with more than two decades of legal experience and **a deep commitment to justice and client advocacy**. He is actively involved in various legal and service organizations and is a proud member of Durango's High Noon Rotary Club and the Elks Lodge.



Deb joins us with more than 35 years' experience as an executive leader in the health care industry, in both the provider and health insurance spaces. She has **a lifelong commitment to innovating in health care and volunteering within local communities** – especially within her beloved mountain town of Durango.



Thank you to all our board members for their service!

Melissa Banik, Chair

Tamara Joslin, Vice-Chair

Mike Field, Member

Bonnie Hermesman, Member

Virginia Miller-Cavanagh, Member

Jamie Opalenik, Member

Steve Redding, Member

Debra Smith, Member

Wade Whidden, Member

Dear friends of Mercy Health Foundation,

I can't thank you enough for the generosity and kindness you show to our hospital and the people we serve.

Because of your support, we have made significant strides in advancing our care over the past year. We opened a second Cardiac Cath Lab, experienced some of our busiest months in the Emergency Room, secured many pieces of equipment across the hospital and, in doing so, have been able to keep more patients home for their care.

I am proud to share that we are on track to deliver **more than \$30 million in uncompensated care** to some of our most vulnerable and fragile populations in the Four Corners region – a direct result of our loyal and compassionate philanthropic community.

Our Mercy Hospital team also continues to flourish! We earned numerous distinctions, including a CMS 5-Star Rating and LeapFrog “A” for patient safety. And we welcomed many new caregivers and staff to our growing family.

Simply put, we couldn't do this without you. Your kindness is felt in every hallway, every patient room and every grateful heart – including my own.

With deep appreciation for your partnership,



Josh Neff
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mercy Hospital



To support this work, scan the QR code or give online at Give.CommonSpirit.org/MercyHealthFoundation/Donate

When you give, 100% goes to Mercy Health Foundation and stays local, fulfilling the needs of the patients and communities we serve.

To learn more, please contact Lexie Stetson-Lee at Alexandra.Stetson-Lee@CommonSpirit.org or (970) 764-2804. Thank you!





Honoring Joan McCaw's dedication and service

"What are you going to be when you grow up?" When Joan Alice Pedwell McCaw was asked this question in grade school, she always replied, "I'll be a nurse." And in 1943, Joan traveled from Durango to Denver for training. She had saved all her money from haying to buy books, bandage scissors, a special nurses' watch and her uniform.

Joan cared for patients for more than 40 years, beginning in the obstetrics, women's and children's wards. She helped establish the Progressive Care unit and taught many young nurses along the way. And when it came time for her to

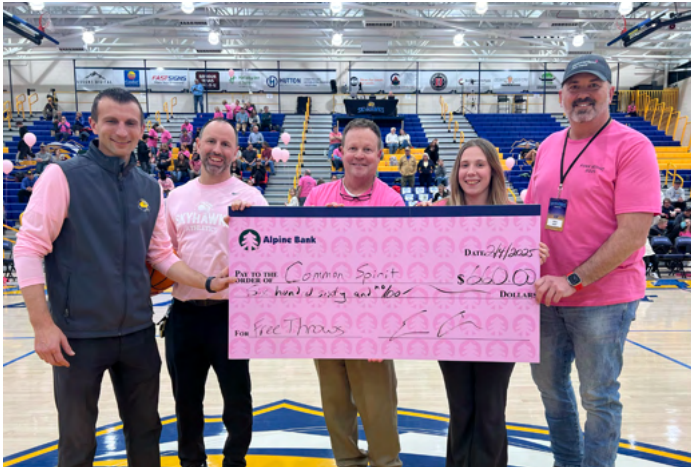
retire, she said, "the people I encountered, worked with and learned from... they made those years the golden years."

Joan recently turned 100 years young, and sat down with us to discuss her book, *A Nurse, I Am*, which highlights her nursing career at Mercy Hospital. The book's proceeds have raised \$675 for Mercy Hospice – where **Joan is the longest serving donor, having given to Hospice for 22 years.**

Joan, thank you for your service to our community and your dedication to the Hospice program!



Photo credit: Madi Yabeny



We got our pink on – again!

Our third annual Pink Night, hosted in partnership with Fort Lewis College and Alpine Bank, **was a resounding success and an absolute blast!**

This inspiring event not only supports local breast cancer patients and their families, but it also unites our community in a heartfelt celebration of those facing cancer.

Cancer care remains a top priority at Mercy Hospital.

Last year, our Breast Care Center performed 9,065 mammograms, up from 7,000 in 2021. And as the population in our area continues to grow, so does the need for high-quality care that is close to home.

Events like Pink Night help us serve our neighbors in Durango with excellence. **Our special half-time shootout, sponsored by Alpine Bank, raised \$1,105 and ticket sales raised \$1,500!**

A huge thank you to everyone who “got their pink on” and joined us in the gym!



Celebrating our newest physicians

Meet Loretta Nastoupil, MD, our newest oncologist! Dr. Nastoupil is board-certified in internal medicine, hematology, and medical oncology, and comes to Mercy from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas.



Dr. Nastoupil is a native to the Four Corners region and is thrilled to be back in the area. When she's not providing exceptional patient care, you might find her hiking, skiing, or enjoying all the beauty our area has to offer.

Donor support elevates every aspect of our work at Mercy Hospital, including our dedication to training, recruiting and retaining the very best physicians. These are our collective accomplishments to celebrate!

Welcome home, Dr. Nastoupil!



Showing compassion, building community

Special thanks to everyone who supported Mercy Hospice at our two recent fundraising and community-building events!

In December, we adorned our special Tree of Lights in the Mercy Hospital lobby with beautiful ornaments, honoring the memories of lost loved ones. Thanks to our community's generosity and ornament sales, **we raised \$11,150 in support of Mercy Hospice patients and families** on the end-of-life journey.

We were also excited to bring back our **Soup for the Soul fundraiser** for the first time since 2020, thanks to sponsors Alpine Bank and the Colorado Restaurant Association. Together, we raised \$5,600 from 16 local restaurants, and \$10,300 from individuals, **giving a total of \$15,900 to Mercy Hospice** and helping our patients to live their final days with dignity and respect. This incredible turnout proves that even the simplest gestures — like meeting a friend for soup — can make all the difference.



Congratulations to Dillon and Beau Lindborg, who own and operate Backcountry Gourmet and Avalanche Bowl, for clinching the prestigious Golden Ladle award at this year's Soup for the Soul event!

These two exceptional locally owned businesses not only served heartwarming soups, but they also played a vital role in raising essential funds. Thank you for your unwavering support!



Flight for Life® reaches new heights

Flight for Life® is entering an exciting period of growth, as it reaches new patients in new locations.

In the months to come, our fleet of aircraft and ambulances will be re-branded with the CommonSpirit logo and colors — **furthering the confidence that our neighbors are being served by a leading non-profit health system**, with the same skilled and compassionate crew members they know and trust. The updates ensure the highest level of safety for patients and caregivers, incorporating design elements that are easily recognizable in even the most challenging conditions.

We look forward to a new chapter for Flight for Life, with the deepest gratitude for the steadfast support of our philanthropic community.



A planned giving myth, debunked

There's a popular misconception that planned gifts require a large, outright contribution (in other words, a lot of cash).

The reality is that planned gifts come in many shapes and sizes and are more accessible to you than you might think. Through your estate – including common assets like retirement accounts, property, insurance policies and more – you can make a gift that achieves your long-term charitable and financial goals, while supporting the health of your family, friends and neighbors for generations to come.

We invite you to connect with us to explore these options, and more:

- Bequest
- Beneficiary of Retirement Plan or Insurance Policy
- Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)
- Property (Home, Farm or Real Estate)
- Named Endowment

Schedule a meeting today with Lexie Stetson-Lee, Chief Philanthropy Officer, to discuss how you can leave a legacy that makes a meaningful difference to the future of our Four Corners community. You can contact Lexie at Alexandra.Stetson-Lee@CommonSpirit.org or (970) 764-2804.

Tax advantages to know about

Mercy Hospital is designated as an Enterprise Tax Zone by the Colorado Economic Development Commission, to help support advancements in technology and equipment, as well as the growth of our hospital's physical spaces.

What does this mean to you? Donors who contribute \$250 or more to Mercy Health Foundation can claim a **25% state tax credit on outright gifts** and a **12.5% state tax credit on in-kind donations**. This credit is in addition to the federal tax deduction for contributing to any 501 (c)(3) organization.

If you have any questions about your giving history or how this designation impacts you, please reach out!

We make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.



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



Mercy Health Foundation
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To learn more about the impact of your gifts, please contact
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or (970) 764-2804. Thank you!

