

Hope lives here.



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- > Celebrating excellence in safety and care
- > Uniting to support cancer care

And more!

What does hope look like to you?

At Mercy Hospital, we see hope every day. A cancer patient showing up once a week for chemotherapy with a loved one by their side. A chaplain sitting with a family struggling with a difficult diagnosis. A surgeon quietly checking in with a patient after hours. A care team meeting early to coordinate plans for a complex procedure.

And because of our donors, hope goes even further. The Patient Financial Assistance program, funded by donations, helps cover the cost of advanced treatments, prescriptions and more for our neighbors experiencing hardship. Philanthropy allows the foundation to purchase state-of-the-art surgery equipment that will allow countless patients to get back to the life and activities they love — pain-free.

Hope is action. And throughout our fall newsletter, you'll see that hope lives here in our Four Corners community. As a foundation and hospital, and with the support of our donors, we're building a healthier, hopeful community for all our neighbors.

With hope for you and yours,



Lexie Stetson-Lee
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Mercy Health Foundation

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY AND CARE

We're proud to share that CommonSpirit Health National has received the prestigious John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award. Presented by The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum, this is one of the highest national honors in health care.

Through expanding access to treatment, implementing new technologies and continued training for team members, more

than 400,000 additional patients have been served across the country, including many patients right here in our community. And it's only through donor support that we are able to stay at the forefront of health care innovations.

Our generous community helps ensure patients receive the highest quality care — when and where they need it most.

IN THE LAST YEAR

\$325,768

in donations allowed us to purchase life-changing equipment at Mercy, including:



15 vital sign machines for cancer center



Advanced tools for specialized surgery and care



New imaging equipment to support breast and vascular care



La Plata County police unite to support cancer care

The La Plata County Sheriff's Department and the Fraternal Order of Police came together in a **meaningful partnership to support cancer patients in our community**. With special leadership from Sergeant Farrell Dodge and Deputy Tyler Wiseman, they made a generous donation to Southwest Oncology through Mercy Health Foundation in honor of Shelly Dodge.

Their support will help expand access to life-saving treatments for cancer care and provide transportation assistance for patients in the cancer center.

Thank you, La Plata Sheriff's Department, for your commitment to cancer care and for showing us the strength of collective compassion and the power of community. The Mercy Health Foundation is deeply grateful for your support.



The generosity of our community supports cancer patients and families so they can focus their energy on recovery and healing.

Philanthropy brings specialized care to rural hospitals

The Rural Health and Virtual Care teams have acquired seven new telemedicine machines thanks to the power of philanthropy. Telemedicine machines virtually connect specialists with patients for treatment — including remote surgical interventions and follow-up care for stroke and heart attacks — increasing the chance of a full recovery. When rural hospitals do not have a specialist on-site, telemedicine machines allow them to **provide community members with care close to home that has lasting impact and saves lives**.

This generous donation was made possible through the leadership and philanthropic vision of Mercy Hospital President Josh Neff and Regional Vice President of Philanthropy Paul R. Ross.

Every gift makes a difference for our neighbors right here in Durango — thank you!



Preventing traumatic brain injury in our community

One physician's vision has saved lives and inspired a safer community. In 2009, after treating countless preventable traumatic brain injuries (TBI), Mark Stern, MD, partnered with Mercy Health Foundation to launch the Gray Matters program. This initiative provides education on TBIs and distributes free helmets across the region. Since its first event, **more than 11,000 helmets have been given away**, and thousands of students learn each year how to protect themselves.

This fall, we mourned the passing of Dr. Stern, who dedicated 25 years to Mercy Hospital before his retirement. The City of Durango honored his profound impact by proclaiming June 16th as "Gray Matters Day." Dr. Stern's work serves as a powerful reminder that a single individual can inspire truly meaningful change. Our foundation proudly carries his legacy forward, continuing to equip our community with helmets and vital TBI education.



Our foundation supporters help us continue Dr. Stern's legacy of keeping the community safe.



Teams unite across hospitals to deliver uninterrupted care

When Mercy Hospital's LINAC (radiation machine used to treat cancer patients) unexpectedly went offline, **caregivers and donors came together to make sure no patient missed critical treatment**. With the Mercy Health Foundation's support, **52 cancer patients were swiftly transferred to St. Mary-Corwin and Penrose Hospitals for radiation therapy**. Donor-funded resources provided gas cards, hotel stays and other essentials, **easing the burden for families**. Dr. Albert, Mountain Region Executive Director of Oncology, called it "one of the most seamless partnerships I've witnessed."



When the unexpected happens, we can continue to care for patients — generous donors make this possible. Thank you for your support.

Community champions for breast cancer care

Our community's compassion is **transforming breast cancer care at Mercy Hospital**. Thanks to generous partners like The Glacier Club and the Dalton Ranch Women's Golf Association, events like Stride for the Cure and Rally for the Cure raised vital support for the Mercy Breast Care Center. Their efforts, and those of countless volunteers, help patients receive expert, whole-person care close to home. Last year alone, the center performed **more than 9,000 mammograms, detecting 138 cases of breast cancer**. We're building a stronger, healthier future for women in the Four Corners region.

Our donors bring early detection and expert breast care within reach for every patient.



Honoring the impact of Virginia Miller-Cavanagh

Virginia "Ginny" Miller-Cavanagh's leadership has left a lasting mark on Mercy Hospital. During her nine years on the Mercy Health Foundation Board, she helped guide transformational projects including the Hospice of Mercy Campaign, the Cardiac Cath Lab Campaign, and enhancements to the NICU and Hospice program.

Through Ginny's service, **more than \$15.3 million was transferred from the Foundation to Mercy Hospital programs**, services, and equipment, advancing care across our community. Ginny, we are immensely grateful for your 9 years of service on the board. Your work will continue to uplift the health of our entire Four Corners community for years to come. Thank you!

Mercy Hospital has recently been recognized with these awards:



For the fifth consecutive year, Mercy Hospital has received an **A+ LeapFrog Hospital Safety Grade Rating**, the gold standard measurement of patient safety.



The **U.S. News and World Report** recognized Mercy Hospital as one of the top hospitals in the country, with a designation as High Performing in spinal fusion.



Becker's Hospital Review listed Mercy as one of the 100 great community hospitals for 2025 — and one of only two hospitals in Colorado on the list.

Thank you to our incredible hospital and our supporters who equip them with the resources they need!



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 Alexandra.Stetson-Lee@CommonSpirit.org or (970) 764-2804. Thank you!

