

Healing with heart

INSIDE:

- > Introducing our newest team member
 - > Advancing respiratory care
 - > 25 years of education and connection in trauma care
- And more!

Healing with heart

For our care teams at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital, guiding our Pueblo 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 a loved one. **Our hospital team provides the support they would want for their own families** — by taking the time to listen, to explain and to check in — while delivering the expert care patients rely on.

At St. Mary-Corwin 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 just a glimpse into a few ways donors like you are making incredible things happen.**

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

With gratitude,



Linda Russell
Chief Philanthropy Officer
St. Mary-Corwin Health Foundation



\$96,705

scholarship funds distributed
in the last 5 years
(FY21 – FY26 to date)



\$1.1M

total fundraising
revenue in 2025



**349 active
donors***

*3,399 gift counts in
FY July 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

MEET OUR NEWEST FOUNDATION TEAM MEMBER

Joining the foundation in February, Ashlee Sandoval is the newest member of the St. Mary-Corwin Health Foundation team. She describes the foundation as a hub that brings together donors, caregivers and community members to support and strengthen health care for our Pueblo neighbors.

“It’s especially meaningful to support health care in the same community that has supported me,” Ashlee shared.

Working alongside a dedicated team, **she is inspired daily by patient stories and the tangible impact of philanthropy in the community.**

**Join us in welcoming
Ashlee to the foundation
family!**



Philanthropy brings advanced care, close to home



An impressive milestone and 100's of lives touched. Commemorating Dr. Simonich's 600 Mako robotic surgery.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors throughout Pueblo County and Southern Colorado, St. Mary-Corwin Health Foundation has directed **more than \$780,000 toward advanced surgical and respiratory equipment** — and the impact on our neighbors is profound.

Foundation donors contributed \$36,717 to bring the ION robotic system to our community, and it's already changing lives.

With two fully trained pulmonary physicians performing procedures, the ION robot reaches farther into the airways to target smaller nodules, enabling earlier staging and diagnosis of lung cancer. Using rapid on-site pathology, pulmonologists can receive results within the first 10 minutes of a procedure.


When the hospital's pulmonary function test machine needed updating, foundation donors stepped in with \$77,261 to replace it. This enables our physicians to diagnose patients more accurately — and quickly.

“This machine has helped tremendously for respiratory, cancer and surgical patients,” explained Chris Kushner, DO, Respiratory Services. **“New equipment allows for the continuation of treatment for patients who otherwise could not have been serviced.”**

ST. MARY CORWIN CHRONICLES MONDAY JANUARY 12, 2026

BREAKING NEWS


MEDICAL NEWS * ROBOTICS NEWS * TECH NEWS



DR. SIMONICH HITS 600 MAKO SURGERIES, A ROBOTIC MILESTONE

Dr. Matthew Simonich, our surgical rock star, has achieved a remarkable milestone with his **600th Mako robotic-assisted knee and hip surgery**. This achievement highlights Dr. Simonich's precision, dedication, and leadership in orthopedic robotics, giving hundreds of patients the chance to walk, hike, and dance their way through life with renewed joints.

From robots to expert hands, Dr. Simonich is transforming lives one joint at a time.



AN OUTDOORSMAN AT HEART, DR. MATTHEW SIMONICH ENJOYS ROCK CLIMBING AND HIKING WHEN HE'S NOT IN THE OR.

Dr. Matthew Simonich brings full energy to everything he does, whether he's **climbing a mountain or mastering a new knee or hip**. His straight-to-the-point style, colorful OR humor, and steady focus make him a favorite among the OR. They admit he may let a few spicy words slip out, but it only adds to his charm. A true grinder with a bold streak, he pours the same passion into outdoor adventures as he does into his innovative surgeries.

DR SIMONICH AND HIS MAKO ROBOT "BETHANY" HAVE COMPLETED 600 MAKO ROBOTIC ASSISTED SURGERIES

#MAKOMASTER #600STRONG #ORLEGEND

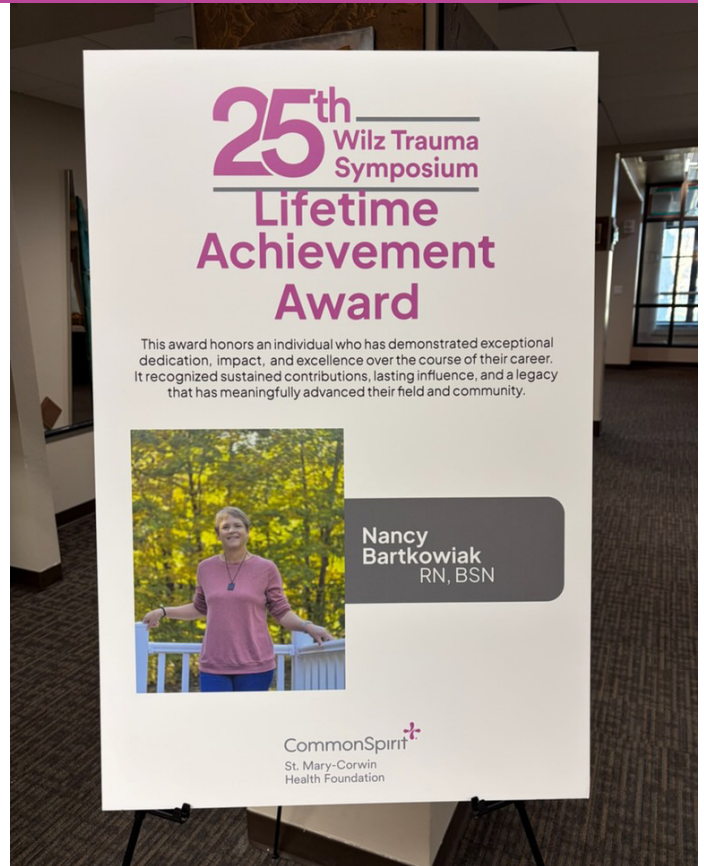
St. Mary-Corwin's orthopedic program recently reached a landmark achievement when **Matthew Simonich, MD, completed his 600th Mako robotic surgery**. Funded through philanthropic support, this state-of-the-art robotic system has restored hundreds of patients with the ability to walk, hike and dance.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Pueblo neighbors are receiving advanced testing and treatment close to home — enabling them to return more quickly to the lives they love.

Celebrating 25 years of education and excellence in trauma care

This March, the **Wilz Trauma Symposium** celebrated its 25th anniversary by bringing together health care professionals and EMS providers for a day of learning, connection and continuing education right here in Southern Colorado. This year also **recognized Nancy Bartkowiak with a lifetime achievement award** for her dedicated service as trauma program manager across Pueblo County, Fremont County and Southern Colorado.

The symposium is named in honor of Dr. William “Bill” Wilz, who served as Trauma Director at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital until his passing in 1999. Lynette (Wilz) Belkin, Dr. Wilz's widow, shared her family's gratitude: **“We remain so honored — not only for the tribute to Dr. Wilz, but for the exceptional quality of each symposium and the opportunity it provides for continuing education locally.”**



From left to right: G. Wagoner, Mike Cafasso, Lynette Wilz Belkin, Linda Russell and Charly Romero



Scan the QR code to watch a special video commemorating 25 years of the Wilz Trauma Symposium and enduring legacy of Dr. Wilz.

Investing in those who care for Pueblo County

We are proud to celebrate our newest St. Mary-Corwin Health Foundation scholarship recipients, who are hospital team members pursuing advanced health care degrees. Their dedication speaks to an ever-growing desire in caregivers to improve their skills and uplift the health of our neighbors.

Here's what they had to say about their passion for community health care:



“I want to challenge myself and become more versatile in how I can be a resource to the medical professionals and patients I work with.”

— MICHAEL DENUDT



“I think that health care chose me. I am a fully bilingual registered nurse who can assist a wider range of populations in education and care.”

— ELIZABETH MORALES BANUELOS



“I know my passion is nursing because I love helping others. It gives me hope that I can help people and make a difference when they are in the most vulnerable times of their lives.”

— STEFFANIE TERRY

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 scanning the QR code or visiting StMaryCorwinHealthFoundation.HonorToday.org.



“Their heart and love and God's guidance set me up for cancer treatment to cure me. Every visit to the cancer center has been a blessing and Mike and Danica took loving care of me as if I were family!”

MARY, GRATEFUL PATIENT

Mark your calendars!

COMMONSPIRIT FLIGHT FOR LIFE® GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 | PUEBLO COUNTRY CLUB

There's still time to register for our annual golf tournament! Learn more and sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting: Give.CommonSpirit.org/StMaryCorwinHealthFoundation/Golf.



COWBOYS KICKIN' CANCER – SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY, AUGUST 31 | COLORADO STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Our signature event returns with live and silent auctions and a rodeo. All proceeds benefit the Dorcy Cancer Center Patient Needs Fund, supporting patients with financial assistance during cancer treatment.



Introducing FreeWill — a planned giving resource

Did you know 71% of Americans don't have a will or trust? Without one, families can face long, costly probate. That's why 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:

StMaryCorwin.MyGiftLegacy.org

To support one of the programs featured in this newsletter, visit Give.CommonSpirit.org/StMaryCorwinHealthFoundation/Donate or scan the QR code.



100% of your gift will stay local to St. Mary-Corwin Hospital and supports the program of your choice.

CommonSpirit 

St. Mary-Corwin Health Foundation
1008 Minnequa Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004
Give.CommonSpirit.org/StMaryCorwinHealthFoundation
SupportStMaryCorwin@CommonSpirit.org

To learn more about the foundation, events or discuss giving options, please contact Linda Russell at Linda.Russell900@CommonSpirit.org or (719) 557-5247. Thank you!

