

# Healing with heart



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# Healing with heart

For the care teams at St. Thomas More Hospital, guiding Fremont County 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 life-long community member or an out-of-town visitor with emergency needs, 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 St. Thomas More 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 Fremont County 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. Thomas More Health Foundation

Thanks to partners like you, St. Thomas More Health Foundation is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our Fremont County neighbors.



**\$1,184,040**

total fundraising revenue



**349 active donors**



**3,399 gifts**

*Data reflects FY2026 to date (July 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026).*

## PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

St. Thomas More Hospital received a **\$15,000** grant to support its Forensic Nurse Examiner program, part of a broader \$68,956 award across three CommonSpirit hospitals in Colorado. Specially trained forensic nurses provide compassionate, comprehensive care to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking and abuse. These funds help ensure **our neighbors have access to vital, trauma-informed care close to home.**



## A legacy of generosity, still giving back



More than 82 years ago, the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, South Dakota, founded St. Thomas More Hospital — and their spirit of service has never left. When the Sisters were called home to Sacred Heart Monastery, they left behind a community outreach endowment with the St. Thomas More Health Foundation, **ensuring their mission to improve the health and wellness of Fremont County would endure.** Each year, local nonprofits are invited to apply for funding through the Yankton Benedictine Sisters Fund. This year alone, **\$96,174** was awarded to community organizations whose work carries that legacy forward.

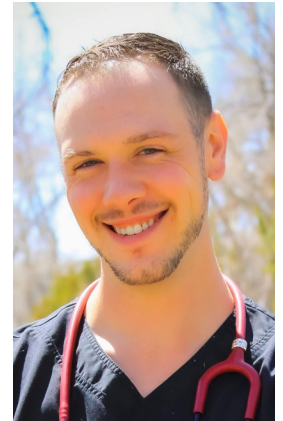
## Celebrating 25 years of education and excellence

In 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, we 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.”*

## Investing in the future of care

Johnathan Manzanares — recently awarded an employee scholarship — has always believed that everyone deserves access to quality care, no matter where they live. Johnathan is pursuing his nurse practitioner degree with a focus on rural and underserved patients. **His goal is to bring compassionate, patient-centered care to Fremont County neighbors and communities like the one he grew up in.**



*“It’s more than an academic achievement,”* he shared. *“It’s a vital step in a lifelong mission to be part of a more compassionate and equitable health care system.”* Since 2020, **St. Thomas More Health Foundation has awarded \$32,643 in scholarships** to hospital employees pursuing advanced health care degrees.



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



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



## Save the date!

COMMONSPIRIT FLIGHT FOR LIFE®  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026



Join us for a day on the fairway in support of our local Flight for Life crews! Register today by scanning the QR code or visiting [Give.CommonSpirit.org/StThomasMoreFoundation/Golf](https://Give.CommonSpirit.org/StThomasMoreFoundation/Golf).



## Recognized by the people we serve

St. Thomas More Hospital has been named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of top-recommended hospitals in Colorado, based on **real patient feedback recognizing our caregivers' commitment to exceptional care.**

BECKER'S

**HOSPITAL REVIEW**

“Heather and Jill in cardiac therapy have been wonderful to work with after my heart attack. Watchful, helpful and patient at all times, with an ability to appreciate my sense of humor. Many thanks.”

— EVELYN, GRATEFUL PATIENT

“Thank you for taking me on such short notice. Everyone was so nice, polite and helpful in explaining everything that was going on with me. I may not know all of your names, but every single one of you was great!”

— RICHARD, GRATEFUL PATIENT

Make a gift at [Give.CommonSpirit.org/StThomasMoreHealthFoundation/Donate](https://Give.CommonSpirit.org/StThomasMoreHealthFoundation/Donate) or scan the QR code. Thank you!



100% of your gift will stay local to St. Thomas More Hospital and support the program of your choice.

CommonSpirit 

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[Give.CommonSpirit.org/StThomasMoreHealthFoundation](https://Give.CommonSpirit.org/StThomasMoreHealthFoundation)

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