

A Lifeline of Care

At Community Hospital, the Outpatient Injection Infusion department is a place of expert care, compassion, and support. Led by the Oncology Nurse Manager, Syndey Bauman, the team includes Bonnie Brown, Jasmyn Fries, Penny Hayward, Renee Lewis, Charlotte Marks, Jacqueline Schepler, Peg Smalley, and Julie Wilhelmson. They provide a range of services for 12 to 20 patients daily, including chemotherapy infusions, wound care, antibiotic and cancer-related injections, and support for migraines and infectious diseases.

The team's commitment to continuity of care fosters strong patient relationships. Many patients visit frequently, forming close bonds with the nurses who guide them through their treatment journeys. The staff accommodates individual preferences, ensuring patients feel comfortable with their caregivers. This familiarity helps ease anxiety, creating a reassuring environment.

Education plays a crucial role in their work. Patients and their families receive guidance on chemotherapy treatments, wound care, and medical devices such as PICC lines and midlines. The team takes time to explain procedures and answer questions, ensuring patients feel informed and empowered.

Collaboration is key to the department's success. They work closely with hospital teams and providers to ensure seamless patient care. By coordinating with specialists, they deliver essential care to those in need, ensuring comprehensive treatment and improved outcomes. Additionally, access to nutritious meals during long treatments is vital for patient comfort and well-being.

Beyond their technical expertise, the nurses provide unwavering emotional support. They understand the challenges patients face, from cancer diagnoses to chronic illnesses,

and strive to offer kindness and encouragement. "Our patients go through so much, and we want to be a steady, reassuring presence for them," says Bauman. "It's not just about the treatments we provide; it's about the trust and comfort we build with every visit."

Every interaction matters to the Outpatient Injection Infusion team. Whether administering life-saving infusions, comforting a nervous patient, or simply sharing a reassuring smile, they make a lasting impact. Their dedication ensures that every patient who walks through their doors receives the highest level of care, both medically and emotionally. At Community Hospital, this department is more than just a medical team—it is a source of hope and healing.

SERVICES OUTPATIENT INJECTION INFUSION OFFERS:

- » **Infusion Therapy and Supportive Care**
 - Chemotherapy
 - Biotherapy
 - Immunotherapy
 - Antibiotic infusions
- » **Injection Services**
 - Cancer-related injections
 - Allergy injections
- » **Wound Care**
 - Spinal wounds
 - Wound vac treatments
 - Care for diabetic and venous stasis ulcers
 - Lymphedema wound care
- » **PICC and Midline Insertions and Maintenance**
- » **Specialty Treatments**
 - Fluids and migraine protocols
 - Treatment for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis
 - Ostomy care and management



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Every person from reception to my discharge was AWESOME! I felt so special. The doctor was so comforting, and I just can't say enough to let you know how wonderful Community Hospital is – totally No. 1 on the planet!!

Increase Lung Cancer Screening

Service Objective:

Improve Community Health or Exceptional Access and Availability

TEAM MEMBERS: Community Hospital Radiology Department, Community Hospital Marketing, McCook Clinic, Trenton Medical Clinic, Curtis Medical Center, and Health Quality Improvement Platform.

BACKGROUND Hospital and Project

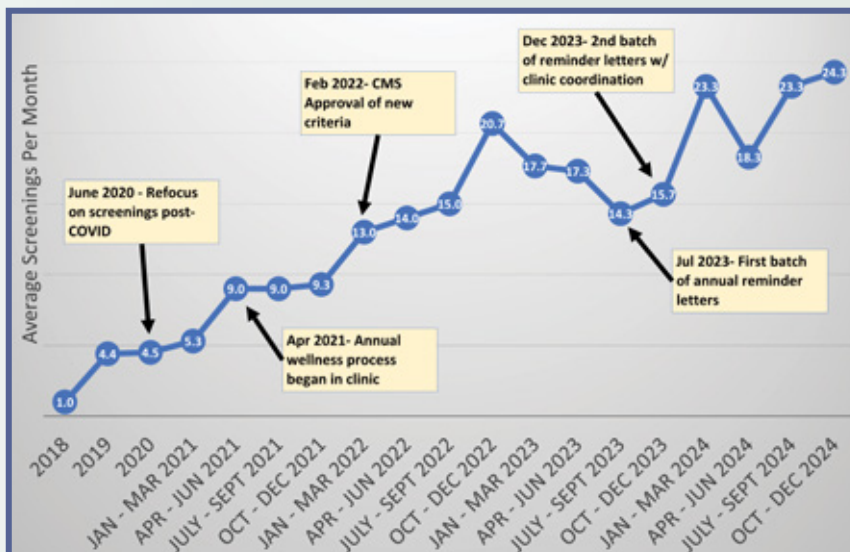
Community Hospital is dedicated to its mission of leading our region to a healthier future by using the Plan-Do-Check-Act framework. This approach ensures continuous process improvement to enhance care for all patients.

OBJECTIVES

Community Hospital's goal was to improve the number of lung cancer screenings each month, enhancing early detection and providing patients with timely, life-saving care.

RESULTS

LUNG CANCER SCREENINGS



In 2021, Community Hospital averaged five screenings per month. That number has since risen to 22, peaking at 29 in September 2024. Also, in 2024, Community Hospital received the Lung Cancer Award of Excellence from the American Cancer Society highlighting the dedication and collaborative efforts of the healthcare providers in the region to improve early detection and treatment of lung cancer.



Pictured from left to right: Radiology team members - Abbey McConville, Kellanie Pinkal, Jesse Juenemann, Kaylee Wiemers, and Nicola Hansen



METHODS

- Partnered with Health Quality Improvement Platform (HQUIP) in 2021, improving communication and collaboration with the clinics.
- Implemented monthly reminder letters in July 2023 for patients who had undergone screening the previous year, ensuring consistent follow-up.
- By March 2024, expanded outreach efforts by creating posters and cards displayed throughout the hospital to educate patients about discussing screening criteria with providers.
- Around the same time, marketing played a pivotal role in extending the reach across the service area through various innovative strategies, including news releases, social media posts, and flyers.

CONCLUSION

Community Hospital successfully increased the number of patients receiving lung cancer screenings in 2024.

The Radiology Department will continue to monitor trends to identify future interventions that may further increase participation in the screenings.

Join PFAC: Help Shape the Future of Patient Care at Community Hospital



Are you interested in helping Community Hospital identify and implement practices to improve the quality of care provided to patients, families, and our communities? The Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC) is seeking additional volunteers to serve on this critical council made up of patients and family members of

patients. The goal of this group is to provide a safe, constructive forum for developing solutions to challenges faced by patients, families, and Community Hospital and to learn from members' diverse perspectives and lived experiences toward our goal of achieving truly patient- and family-centered care at all levels.



To learn more or fill out an application scan the QR code, visit our website at chmccook.org/services/programs/patient-family-advisory-council, or call Diane Gumaer, Community Hospital Patient Experience Specialist at 308-344-8292.

Classes & Services

Call 308-344-2650 for information and to register for most classes.

Visit www.chmccook.org to find a list of classes and programs. The website includes a calendar with more detailed class information.

Find us on 



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As usual, I will continue to be a patient of Community Hospital, as I've never received anything less than superb treatment at this facility.

MEDICAL DIRECTORY

Advanced care begins with healing professionals who know you and your family, and truly care about your well-being.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Community Hospital 308-344-2650

Craig Erickson, M.D.

Bruce Mikesell, M.D.

FAMILY MEDICAL PHYSICIANS

McCook Clinic 308-344-4110

Jason Blomstedt, D.O.

Hope Ferguson, M.D.

Kristin Fulkerson, M.D.

Matthew Nielsen, M.D.

Lorinda Reece, M.D.

John West, M.D.

GENERAL SURGERY

Surgical Associates 308-345-7878

Walter Eskildsen, M.D.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Community Hospital 308-344-8285

Benjamin George, M.D.

Ellen Branham, NP-C

NURSE PRACTITIONER

Behavioral Health 308-344-8280

Cathy Jibben, DNP-C

Curtis Medical Center 308-367-4162

Mareesa Hasenauer, NP-C

McCook Clinic 308-344-4110

Alyssa Bauer, NP-C

Naomi Olson, DNP-C

Whitney Schoenemann, NP-C

Hannah Taylor, NP-C

Ashley Vontz, NP-C

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Community Hospital 308-344-8285

Richard Lawton, M.D., PhD

Michelle Braget, PA-C

Kaitlyn Huxoll, PA-C

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Anderson Center for Radiation Oncology 308-344-8374

Amber Reynolds-Lorentz, PA-C

McCook Clinic 308-367-4162

Alysia Sheets, PA-C

Trenton Medical Clinic 308-334-5155

Teresa Hodgson, PA-C

MEDICAL SPECIALISTS DIRECTORY

Leading our region to a

HEALTHIER

future starts with dedicated medical professionals.

Community Hospital believes you and your family deserve the very best in accessible care. In addition to our local team of dedicated family healthcare providers, we offer the area's largest array of specialists to help meet your exact medical needs.

AUDIOLOGY

E. Wilken, Au.D. 308-344-8285

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

C. Jibben, DNP-C 308-344-8280

T. Lutz, LMHC 308-344-8280

CARDIOLOGY

Bryan Heart

K. Miller, M.D. 308-344-8285

R. Pacini, M.D. 308-344-8285

K. Johnson, APRN 308-344-8285

Great Plains Health Heart Institute

G. Kaspar, M.D. 308-344-8285

S. Dassouki, M.D. 308-344-8285

Nebraska Heart Institute

R. Heirigs, M.D. 308-344-8285

Platte Valley Medical Group

S. Denney, M.D. 308-344-8285

DERMATOLOGY

J. Bunker, M.D. 308-344-8285

EAR, NOSE, THROAT

J. Blecha, M.D. 308-344-8285

P. Fitzpatrick, M.D. 308-344-8285

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

C. Erickson, M.D. 308-344-2650

B. Mikesell, M.D. 308-344-2650

ENDOCRINOLOGY - TELEHEALTH

S. Sanivarapu, M.D. 308-344-8285

GASTROENTEROLOGY

J. Cloud, M.D. 308-344-8285

A. Howard, APRN 308-344-8285

GENERAL SURGERY

W. Eskildsen, M.D. 308-345-7878

M. Simonson, M.D. 308-344-8285

NEPHROLOGY

I. Islam, M.D. 308-344-8285

P. Kanade, M.D. 308-344-8285

NEUROLOGY

A. Kumar, M.D. 308-344-8285

NEUROSURGERY

C. Obasi, M.D. 308-344-8285

OB/GYN

B. Klug, D.O. 308-344-8285

T. Pankratz, M.D. 800-742-3305

ONCOLOGY - MEDICAL

B. George, M.D. 308-344-8285

E. Branham, NP-C 308-344-8285

ONCOLOGY - RADIATION

T. Hlavaty, M.D. 308-344-8374

A. Reynolds-Lorentz, PA-C 308-344-8374

OPHTHALMOLOGY

T. Clinch, M.D. 800-657-2112

ORTHOPEDICS

E. Correll, M.D. 308-344-8285

R. Lawton, M.D. 308-344-8285

M. Braget, PA-C 308-344-8285

K. Huxoll, PA-C 308-344-8285

ORTHOPEDICS - SPINAL

D. Benavides, M.D. 308-344-8285

PODIATRY

R. Hinze, D.P.M. 308-345-3773
or 877-345-FOOT

PSYCHIATRY - TELEHEALTH

M. de Brito McGee, M.D.,
MS, MPH 531-355-1449

PULMONOLOGY

D. Cantral, M.D. 308-344-8285

K. Ganatra, M.D. 402-460-5787

UROLOGY

J. Brown, M.D. 308-344-8285

L. Williams, M.D. 308-344-8285

VASCULAR SURGERY

A. Um, M.D. 308-344-8285

Updated March 2025



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Provider and Employer.*





Leading our Region to a Healthier Future

**TROY BRUNTZ,
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL PRESIDENT & CEO**

The Internal Revenue Service added a schedule H to the tax filings for not-for-profit hospitals a few years back. This schedule was mandated by Congress to provide more transparency about the financial benefits provided by hospitals to their communities. Community Benefits is what Congress expects hospitals to provide in exchange for their tax-exempt status. Most years, the issue comes up at some point in discussions around the House or Senate. Thankfully these days we have been transparent enough that Congress can see how much is provided. Some hospitals provide more than others since there is no benchmark applied universally. It is considered an unwritten rule to ensure that you are providing what you can and in an amount that is reasonable for your financial condition and the size of your operations.

At Community Hospital, we take this seriously. After all, our mission is to *"Lead our Region to a Healthier Future."* There are many things that qualify as community benefits. Losses on government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid are universal to all hospitals. These programs by statute pay us less than the cost to care for the patients covered by the

programs. Our other operations cover more than \$2 million in losses on these programs each year. Our financial assistance program provides around \$1.3 million of services each year at free or reduced amounts. Then there are donations and contributions to community functions and projects. We budget to spend hundreds of thousands each year for these requests and pledges. Community Hospital donates to local organizations of all kinds each year. Lately, this amount has included donations for large projects such as the YMCA and our inclusive playground. In future years, it will include contributions to our new sports complex.

In total, the cost of our community benefits is close to \$4 million per year. This is about 7 percent of our total expenses each year. Though this is a requirement of our not-for-profit status, we don't look at this as a box to check due to regulations. This is our mission. We are the largest employer in southwest Nebraska and have both an obligation and a necessity to ensure our community is strong and healthy.

We have used our Communities of Excellence journey, branded McCook on the Move to collaborate with the community routinely on Health,

Education, Economic Vitality, and Families. Collaboration is what guides us in the decisions made on what to fund for community benefits. It also provides the organizations in town with support and leadership on issues important to them. The hospital does not do it all but are very proud and appreciative of being a part of it.

Over the past few years, our community has learned about many large projects requiring large amounts of funding. The pool, sports complex, YMCA, pickleball courts, and inclusive playground required almost \$38 million dollars to accomplish. In about two years most of this has been funded and all projects are on track to be completed. This is something many believed could not be done in this short period of time or maybe ever. We did not listen to those people. Through McCook on the Move, numerous residents stepped forward to volunteer on committees and teams, and many others donated funds. All of us believed our community could be better. It can be a community our children choose to come back to. It can be a community we don't ever want to leave. It can be a new community to those never living here before.

HOSPITAL HEARTBEAT

Community Hospital Expands Emergency Department Team with Full-Time Night Providers



BRUCE MIKESELL, MD



CRAIG ERICKSON, MD

Community Hospital is enhancing emergency care with the addition of two full-time night providers, Dr. Bruce Mikesell and Dr. Craig Erickson. These experienced physicians will alternate night shifts, working seven days on and seven days off, ensuring consistent, high-quality emergency medical care for the community.

This new structure strengthens the Emergency Department's ability to provide expert care around the clock. "Having a dedicated night team allows for continuity of care and enhances our ability to respond swiftly to patients' needs," explains Karen Kliment Thompson, Vice President of Ancillary Services. "With this new schedule, our patients can feel confident that skilled providers are available at all hours, ready to deliver expert care when they need it most."

Dr. Mikesell and Dr. Erickson bring years of emergency medicine experience and a deep commitment to patient care. Their presence ensures stability and expertise for overnight emergencies, furthering Community Hospital's mission to *lead the region to a healthier future*.

Community Hospital's Medical Oncology Team: Dr. Benjamin George and Ellen Branham, APRN

Community Hospital is proud to provide exceptional cancer care through its dedicated medical oncology team, led by Dr. Benjamin George and Nurse Practitioner Ellen Branham. With a compassionate and patient-centered approach, they work together to ensure that individuals facing cancer receive top-quality treatment close to home.

Dr. George, a highly experienced oncologist, specializes in diagnosing and treating various forms of cancer, offering patients the latest advancements in oncology care. His expertise, combined with a commitment to personalized medicine, allows him to develop treatment plans tailored to each patient's unique needs.

Working alongside Dr. George, Ellen Branham brings a wealth of knowledge and compassionate care to Community Hospital's oncology services. As a nurse practitioner, she plays a crucial role in patient education, symptom management, and treatment

coordination, helping patients and their families navigate their cancer journey with confidence and support.

The Medical Specialists Center, Outpatient Injection Infusion, Radiation Oncology, Pharmacy, and many others provide essential support, ensuring seamless coordination of care for oncology patients. From assisting with treatments and infusions to preparing and safely administering chemotherapy and other medications, these dedicated professionals enhance the patient experience and contribute to the high standard of cancer care at Community Hospital.

Together, Dr. George, Ellen Branham, and the entire oncology support team are committed to providing comprehensive, innovative, and compassionate cancer care. Their expertise ensures that patients in southwest Nebraska have access to cutting-edge treatments without the need to travel long distances.



BENJAMIN GEORGE, MD



ELLEN BRANHAM, NP-C

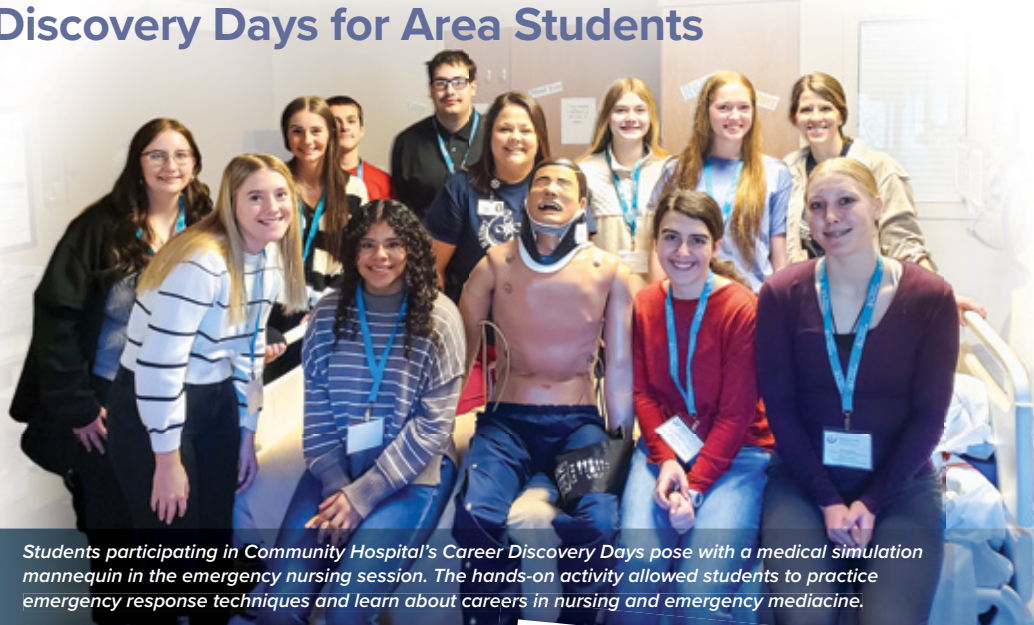


Community Hospital Hosts Two-Day Career Discovery Days for Area Students

Community Hospital welcomed students from 12 area schools, including a homeschool group, for an immersive two-day Career Discovery Days event on Tuesday, February 25, and Wednesday, February 26. Approximately 200 students participated, gaining hands-on experiences in various healthcare fields.

Students explored a wide range of medical professions through interactive sessions led by hospital professionals. Hands-on classes included dietetics, radiology, speech therapy, physical therapy, emergency nursing, respiratory therapy, EMS, occupational therapy, pharmacy, orthopedics, suturing with McCook Clinic physician assistants, labor and delivery, the Stop the Bleed course, surgery, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), laboratory, and behavioral health.

“This event is a valuable opportunity for students to gain real-world exposure to healthcare careers,” explains Molly Herzberg, Vice President Clinical Service and Chief Nursing Officer at Community Hospital. “By engaging in hands-on learning, they can better understand the skills, teamwork, and compassion required in these roles.”



Students participating in Community Hospital's Career Discovery Days pose with a medical simulation mannequin in the emergency nursing session. The hands-on activity allowed students to practice emergency response techniques and learn about careers in nursing and emergency medicine.

From practicing suturing techniques to experiencing the fast-paced nature of emergency medicine, students gained insights into potential career paths while working alongside professionals. The hospital's Stop the Bleed course also provided critical lifesaving skills, reinforcing the importance of emergency preparedness.

Community Hospital is committed to fostering the next generation of healthcare professionals through education and outreach. By hosting Career Discovery Days, the hospital aims to inspire students and provide them with the resources and knowledge to explore fulfilling careers in healthcare.



For more information on Community Hospital's education and outreach programs, visit chmccook.org/programs or contact the Population Health and Outreach Coordinator at 308.344.8550.

Community Hospital Board of Directors

Matt Nielsen – Chair

Kurt Vosburg – Vice Chair

Michael Lord – Secretary

Matt Davidson – Treasurer

Karen Craw

Darren Esch

Grant Norgaard

Ashley Vontz, NP-C

Rebecca Wiemers, LCSW, LMHP, MPA, Ph.D.

Community Hospital Administration

Troy Bruntz – President & CEO

Lori Beeby – Vice President Support Services

Molly Herzberg – Vice President Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer

Karen Klimment Thompson – Vice President Ancillary Services

Sean Wolfe – Chief Financial Officer

FOUNDATION NEWS

A Message from the Foundation Director: Celebrating 40 Years of Impact



JESSICA BORTNER,
HEALTH FOUNDATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, Community Hospital Health Foundation proudly celebrates 40 years of service, dedication, and generosity. Since its founding in 1985, the Health Foundation has played a vital role in advancing healthcare in our region through fundraising efforts, special events, and community-driven campaigns.

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Over the past four decades, the Health Foundation has received more than \$11.3 million in contributions, with \$10 million granted to Community Hospital and other healthcare initiatives. These funds have directly supported essential services, ensuring that quality healthcare remains accessible to our community.

Not included in this total are the millions of dollars in grant funding that the Health Foundation has helped secure directly for Community Hospital. By facilitating these critical grants, the Health Foundation has played a key role in expanding services, upgrading equipment, and improving patient care beyond what traditional fundraising alone could accomplish.

TRANSFORMATIVE CAMPAIGNS

The Community Hospital Health Foundation has led numerous fundraising campaigns, each making a lasting impact on patient care and hospital services. While not an exhaustive list, some of the major initiatives include:

- **1986-1989 – Building for the Future** – Outpatient Facilities, Emergency and Surgical Expansion
- **2005-2006 – Campaign for Better Care** – Rehabilitation Center
- **2011-2012 – Campaign for Health, Hope, and Healing** – Healing Garden
- **2013-2014 – Campaign for Cancer Care** – Radiation Oncology Center
- **2018-2020 – Heart to Heart Campaign** – Cardiopulmonary Rehab & Medical Specialist Clinic

These and other initiatives have strengthened hospital services and improved patient experiences, thanks to the generosity of donors and the dedication of foundation leadership.

GUIDED BY LEADERSHIP

The Foundation has been shaped by the leadership of seven executive directors over 40 years: Linda Hein, Bob McElligot, Jeff Shaddock, Denise Garey, Sharleen Riemenschneider, Terri Shipshock, and Jessica Bortner. Additionally, 94 board members have contributed their time and expertise to furthering the Health Foundation's mission.

BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE

Recognizing the importance of investing in the next generation of healthcare professionals, Community Hospital Health Foundation established a Scholarship Fund in 1991 with an initial investment of \$5,000. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this fund has continued to grow, allowing the

foundation to provide thousands of dollars in scholarships and financial assistance to train and attract dedicated medical professionals to our community.

Just in the past 20 years alone, the Health Foundation provided nearly \$400,000 in support, helping students pursue careers in nursing, radiology, pharmacology, therapies, and other essential healthcare fields. By easing financial barriers to education, we are strengthening the future of healthcare in our community and ensuring high-quality care for generations to come.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Community Hospital Health Foundation's success is built on community support, including memorable fundraising events such as Doc's Dunks, An Evening for Hospice, Concert for Healthcare, and the John Mullen Pro-Am. Now known as the Community Hospital Pro-Am, this long running event will celebrate 36 years this year. These events not only raise crucial funds and awareness but also bring people together in support of compassionate, high-quality healthcare.

As we reflect on the past 40 years, we remain dedicated to raising funds to *lead our region to a healthier future*. The Health Foundation has invested millions of dollars in state-of-the-art healthcare equipment, essential support services like home health, hospice, and cancer care, scholarships and training for healthcare professionals, and patient assistance programs—all ensuring that every patient receives the best possible care, close to home. This legacy of giving is only possible because of the generosity and vision of our community. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future for generations to come.

Cheers to the next 40 years!

Jessica Bortner, Executive Director
Community Hospital Health Foundation

Seeking Community Partners

Community Hospital seeks business partners to join our mission for health and wellness. By supporting our major events (the Community Hospital Pro-Am and Concert for Healthcare), businesses contribute to improving healthcare in southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas. Financial support of these events provide entertainment opportunities in our area while raising awareness and funds to improve healthcare.

As a community partner, businesses gain exclusive event perks and access to wellness benefits, including health fairs, discounted lab draws, wellness presentations (nutrition, exercise, stress management, ergonomics, etc.), and specialized trainings like CPR and fire extinguisher training for their staff.

Please contact the Health Foundation 308-344-7222 if your business is interested in learning more about the Community Partner Program.

2024 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CATALYST:

MNB Bank
MNB Insurance
Sampson Construction
Strategic Design

INNOVATOR:

AKRS Equipment
First Central Bank
Golight
McCook Clinic
Pinnacle Bank
Wagner Auto Group

TRAILBLAZER:

Eide Bailly
Emergent Architecture
High Plains Radio
Hometown Family Radio
Kinship Pointe
Lifetime Eyecare
McCook Gazette
Valmont Irrigation

PIONEER:

Acme Printing Company
Cobblestone Hotel & Suites
Frenchman Valley Co-Op
Holiday Inn Express
Idea Bank Marketing
Dan & Deb Lindstrom
MatrixCare
The Olson Group
Viaero Wireless

“

Always have a great experience at your hospital. It's easy to smile and laugh with everyone you see!”

Community Hospital Pro-Am at Heritage Hills Returns for 36th Annual Event

The 36th Annual Community Hospital Pro-Am at Heritage Hills is set for Friday, June 6, 2025. After last year's successful transition to a one-day event, the tournament saw a notable increase in community participation, and organizers are excited to build on that momentum.

The event will once again feature a shamble format, providing a fun and competitive experience for all participants. The day will conclude with the Ron Coleman Memorial HorseRace, adding an extra layer of excitement for both players and spectators.

This streamlined approach allows for greater community involvement while maintaining the event's tradition of excellence and charitable impact. Mark your calendars and join us for another unforgettable day of golf, camaraderie, and support for the Health Foundation's mission.

Stay tuned for further details by visiting the Health Foundation's website or reaching out to our team.



Health Foundation Distributions

This fiscal year to date (July 2024-February 2025), the Health Foundation granted **\$111,500** in support of Community Hospital's mission. We appreciate the financial support of our employees and community donors.

Below is a general summary of the larger grants awarded:

Equipment

\$84,000

New equipment and technology advancements

Community Care Funds

\$6,000

Imperative services for our patients and healthcare team

Laparoscopic Training Equipment for Surgery

\$1,100

Secondary Education Scholarships and Education Assistance

\$19,500

Scholarships to train current and future healthcare providers



Community Hospital Healthcare Team Give Time, Talent, and Treasure

59%

of Community Hospital employees are actively participating, making annual gifts, and signing up for payroll contributions.

192 employees participated in the Health Foundation's "Giving is Contagious" Employee Campaign.

The level of participation and impact demonstrates employee engagement at Community Hospital and in the Community Hospital Health Foundation's mission, as well as shows trust in the usage of these charitable funds. The financial success could surpass over **\$60,000** during the 2025 calendar year.

The Health Foundation actively works to provide grants to improve patient care, patient and healthcare team experience, and a variety of resources to assist healthcare team members in their jobs.

Board of Directors Leadership Update

Community Hospital Health Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

The Health Foundation welcomed a new face to our Board of Directors. Michal Swanson is sharing his leadership expertise with the Health Foundation. Swanson, who owns Herrmann-Jones Funeral Chapel with his wife Angie, is a longstanding supporter of the Health Foundation. He brings a passion for advancing healthcare in the region.

Neil Gohl's leadership will be missed, as he completed his second three-year term for the Health Foundation board in December. During his tenure, he provided exceptional leadership on the Executive Committee, including multiple years as Chair and Vice Chair.

The Health Foundation extends its heartfelt appreciation to Neil Gohl, and at the same time, welcomes Michal Swanson to the board, confident in the positive impact his leadership will bring.



Michal Swanson



Neil Gohl

Honoring Our Health Foundation Board of Directors: *40 Years of Leadership*

The success and impact of Community Hospital Health Foundation over the past 40 years would not have been possible without the dedication and guidance of our Board of Directors. These individuals, each committed to improving healthcare in our community, have volunteered their time, expertise, and resources to support the Foundation's mission.

Through their leadership, the Health Foundation has been able to lead transformative campaigns, secure vital funding, and support a range of healthcare initiatives that have directly benefited our patients and the region at large. We are deeply grateful for the vision, hard work, and commitment of the Board of Directors who have served the Health Foundation over the past four decades.

Allen Strunk	Don Klein	Kelcy Ruggles	Nate Schneider
Arvene Myers	Don Moore	Ken Foster	Neil Gohl
Ashley Vontz	Donald Olson	Ken Hraban	P. Mark Graff
Barb Wiemers	Doris Friehe	Kenneth Bracht	Pat (Marvin) Sitzman
Beth Siegfried	Doug Davidson	Kent Craw	Patsy Houghton
Bill Bauer	Doug Kochenderfer	Kevin Ord	Peggy Pearson
Bill Burton	Gary Hawthorne	Kim Schilling	Pete Graff
Bob Bolles	Harry Eiler	Kristi Clapp	Phil Harr
Bob Bonge	Helen Allen	Kristi Daum	Ralph Stevens
Bob Irby	J.T. Harris, Jr.	Kristin Stagemeyer	Rick Haney
Brian Esch	Jan Korell	Kurt Vosburg	Rob Stamm
Bruce McDowell	Jane Stull	LaMoine Keene	Ron Mousel
Candy Fellers	Jeannette Reed	Larry Carpenter	Ron Smith
Cathy Kenny	Jeff Crick	Lena Koebel	Ruth Leopold
Cathy Miller	Jeff Stagemeyer	Lyle Bergin	Ruth Sughrue
Charles Bunstock	Jessica Bortner	Marc Harpham	Sara Rippen
Connie Olsen	Jim Hall	Marion Larmon	Shari Lewis
Corey Brockway	Jim O'Dea	Mark Friehe	Sharon Timmerman
Curt Swanhorst	Joan Blackwelder	Marty Conroy	Terry Malcom
Dan Funk	John Burgess	Matt Nielsen	Todd Thieszen
Dave Smith	John Clapp	Matt Tiller	Warren Jones
Dawna Bates	John Hanson	Maurice Green	Wayne Watkins
Deb Wilcox	Julie Gillespie	Michal Swanson	
Dick Gozia	Karen Craw	Mike Carr	

Community Hospital Health Foundation Board Members & Staff:

Bruce McDowell – *Chair*

Shari Lewis – *Vice Chair*

Jim Hall – *Secretary*

Matt Tiller – *Treasurer*

Troy Bruntz

Karen Craw

Cathy Kenny

Matt Nielsen

Michal Swanson

Ashley Vontz, NP-C



Jessica Bortner
Executive Director



Dannette Kloepping
Foundation Specialist

Rocking For a Cause:

Concert for Healthcare Raises \$60,000

On October 12th, Kiplinger Arena came alive with the electrifying sounds of HAIRBALL, as nearly 1,800 attendees gathered for the Concert for Healthcare—a night of music, energy, and community spirit. Hosted by Community Hospital Health Foundation, the event raised nearly \$60,000 to support vital healthcare initiatives.

HAIRBALL delivered an unforgettable arena rock experience, complete with explosive performances, dazzling lights, and spot-on tributes to legendary bands

like KISS, Bon Jovi, and AC/DC. The energy in the arena was undeniable, creating a night of both nostalgia and excitement.

“This was our largest event to date,” said Jessica Bortner, Director of the Health Foundation. “The support from the community was incredible. Seeing everyone come together for a great cause highlights the impact we can make when we unite to support local healthcare.”

Funds raised from the event help bridge



financial gaps and provide essential resources for Community Hospital's healthcare team and the region it serves. Every dollar contributes to ensuring high-quality care remains accessible in McCook.

Investing In Future Caregivers:

Collaborative Support for Nurse Aide Tuition

Community Hospital Health Foundation, Community Hospital, McCook Community Foundation Fund, and McCook College Foundation have come together to support the next generation of healthcare professionals by granting funds to cover nurse aide tuition at McCook Community College. This initiative is designed to reduce financial barriers and encourage individuals to pursue careers in healthcare, strengthening the local workforce and improving patient care. Contact McCook College or the Health Foundation to learn more.

In addition to this new collaborative effort, Community Hospital Health Foundation continues its long-standing commitment

to healthcare education. To date this fiscal year, the Health Foundation has awarded \$19,500 in scholarships and assistance to students pursuing careers in nursing, radiology, physical therapy, and other healthcare fields. These funds, distributed through work forgiveness programs and scholarships such as the Jackie Boehm Memorial Scholarship, Joe and Alice Edwards Scholarship, Jan Fidler Memorial Scholarship, and Jerry Harris Memorial Scholarship, help ease the financial burden of education and empower aspiring caregivers to achieve their goals.

The Health Foundation's education assistance program specifically supports students enrolled in accredited healthcare



programs who plan to return to the area after graduation. Many program graduates go on to work at Community Hospital, directly enhancing healthcare services for the region.

Interested applicants should note scholarship deadlines of March 15th and September 15th. For more information, visit www.chmccook.org/about/foundation or contact the Health Foundation directly.

Support the Future of Healthcare

It's simple to make a donation:



Mobile Access: Scan the QR code

Online: chmccook.org/about/foundation/ways-give

Email: jbortner@chmccook.org

Call: 308-344-7222

Designate your gift to the following areas:

- Greatest Need (Undesignated)
- Scholarships
- Equipment
- Home Health / Hospice / Palliative Care Services
- Endowment
- Cancer Services
- Other

We also accept gifts of commodities. Contact the Health Foundation for more information.

HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS 2025

VISIONARY – \$500,000 and up

Lemoine 'Andy' and Geraldine Anderson
James Maurice Lee Estate
Frank Murray Estate
Myatt & Genevieve Volentine Foundation

LEADER – \$250,000 to \$499,999

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Community Hospital
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Genevieve Armstrong Campbell Memorial
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Kinman-Oldfield Family Foundation
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Larry McNutt Estate
MNB Insurance
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Pinnacle Bank
Leslie Schmidt and Family,
In Memory of Nancy Schmidt
Seim Johnson, LLP
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The Olson Group
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Wells Fargo Bank, McCook

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Chase and Lori Beeby and Family
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Bison Dental
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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
Mary C. Brady
Daniel and Gladys Brockway Family
Bryant and Peg Brooks
Troy and Tammie Bruntz
BryanLGH Heart Institute
Burns Podiatric Laboratory
Cappel Sales, Inc
Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska
Rose and Ken Chancellor
Jim and Kristi Clapp
Jack and Virginia Clark
Cornbelt Chemical
Culbertson Bank
Dale and Mary Dueland
Edward Jones Investments
Harry and Beverly Eiler
Elks Club No. 1434
Terry and Mary Ellinger
Larry and Midge Forbes,
In Memory of Mark Forbes
Kenneth and Marlene Foster
Fraternal Order of Eagles #2769
Ron and Doris Friehe
Geiger & Dietze Ophthalmology
Great Plains Communications
Great Plains Health
John and Nancy Gumb
Eleanor Harris

Lester and Betty Harsh
Roy and Margaret Hayes
HDR Architecture, Inc.
W.R. Hearst Foundation
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Patsy Houghton
*Idea Bank Marketing
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Ilene Kisker Estate
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Ralph and Jeannette Krumme Estate
Greg and Cindy Larson
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Lots to Love Stores
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*Lane and Nancy Hubert Miller
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State Farm Insurance-Linda Maiden, Agent
Paul M. St. Aubin Estate
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Allen Strunk
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Trevor and Megan Taylor
Aaron Thompson and Karen Kliment Thompson
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Valmont Industries
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Volz, Inc. – Sid and Cathy Stewart
Wal-Mart Super Center
Dr. Wayne and Lori Watkins
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Pathfinder – \$1000 and up

Acme Printing Company
 LifeNet North Platte
 AKRS Equipment
 Dennis and Fran Allacher
 American Cancer Society
 Clark and Dawna Bates
 Berndt Family Trust
 Kurt Bernhardt
 Beth and Chris Anderson
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 Cappel Sales, Inc.
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 Tim and Phyllis Wallen
 Dr. Wayne and Lori Watkins
 Dr. John and Cindy West
 Tim and Gretchen Wiebe
 Sean and Becky Wolfe

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 Jerry and Cheri Beckenhauer
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 Luke and Karen Bortner
 Tom and Janie Bredvick
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 Dave and Chris Carfield
 Culbertson Bank
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 Galen and Jackie Lafferty
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 Samway Floor Covering & Furniture
 Les and Deanna Schmidt
 Bill and Pat Sitzman
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Stagemeyer CPA Group, PC
 State Farm Insurance-Linda Maiden, Agent
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 Volz Inc. - Jon and Sheri Stewart
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Michael and Mirla Coleman
Roberta Felker
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Fern and Loyd Moore
Gail and Janet Rippe
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Matthew Thompson

Warner Lee Teel
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Royce and Betina Tallant

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“

The whole team was so nice and wanted to make sure that I had everything I needed. I'm just so thankful that this small community has such a fantastic and caring team of doctors and nurses that are just as good as any big city has.”



In Honor of:

Cancer Services – Radiation Oncology, Outpatient Infusion Department, Dr. George and Ellen Branham
Heidi Neuhaus and Jason Petersen

Tyler Theissen
Prairie Hills Funeral Home
Carpenter-Breland Funeral Home



1301 East H Street | P.O. Box 1328
McCook, Nebraska 69001-1328



SAVE THE DATE
October 11, 2025

Calendar of Events 2025

**April 8, June 10, July 8,
Aug 12, Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11**
FREE Car Seat Checks
McCook Fire Station

**April 11, May 9, June 13,
July 11, Aug 8, Sept 12, Oct 10,
Nov 14, Dec 12**
Caring Coffee
Community Hospital

June 6
Community Hospital Pro-Am at
at Heritage Hills
Call 308.344.7222 to register

August 21
Third Thursday Celebration
Norris Alley | McCook

October 11
Concert for Healthcare
Kiplinger Arena, McCook

November 6
Southwest Nebraska Big Give
swnebiggive.org

