



Northern Arizona Healthcare  
Office of Philanthropy

# Inside Northern Arizona Healthcare From the Office of Philanthropy

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY KUSHNER  
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

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## "WRITING A SPECIAL NARRATIVE, TOGETHER"

Dear Friends,  
We hope you and your family are enjoying the summer months!

In this edition of our NAH Philanthropy newsletter, we cover a great deal of material – exciting things are happening! We celebrate as a health care system the remarkable achievements for quality and patient safety with our recent Leapfrog designations as "A" rated hospitals, community involvement, an update on our NAH Office of Philanthropy events, gratitude emanating from our grateful patient program, important facts regarding the Health & Wellness Village and more!

Our NAH Healthcare Scholarship and Awards Banquet in May 2023 saw nearly double the amount of NAH employees awarded from last year due to the generosity of our donors; with staff from Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Sedona and surrounding areas being recognized. Our caregivers are the best – and they deserve to be recognized; our Heart of Gratitude grateful patient program has resulted in over 60 colleague nominations from patients and family members who so appreciate the care they were provided at NAH. We have funded equipment, training and staff education, and assisted dozens of families through our Emergency Response Fund.

This also gives us a chance to reflect back.

Our Office of Philanthropy at NAH began two short years ago, from the ground floor. Through the incredible dedication of our staff, and a commitment to transparency and building relationships throughout NAH and our community, we have been fortunate to have experienced great success. For example, our two-year combined goal was to raise \$4 million for a wide variety of health care needs within NAH. As of this writing, counting grants, we have surpassed \$10 million. It is a tribute to our enormously talented NAH colleagues, our philanthropy team and YOU. Because without you, we truly could not do the great work that is helping elevate our community.

We hope you take pleasure in reading this quarter's newsletter. Thank you for your continued investment in NAH – through gifts, your testimonials and/or your volunteer service. They all matter. TOGETHER – we are building a special narrative for the health care we all desire for our entire region.

With gratitude,

Larry Kushner  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



**Email:** [NAHPhilanthropy@NAHealth.com](mailto:NAHPhilanthropy@NAHealth.com) **Phone:** 928.773.2093  
**Address:** 1200 N. Beaver St., Flagstaff, AZ [NAHealth.com/Philanthropy](http://NAHealth.com/Philanthropy)



## LEAPFROG GROUP HOSPITAL SAFETY GUIDE

Flagstaff Medical Center and Verde Valley Medical Center each achieved an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group. The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit upholding the standard of patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

Earning an "A" grade would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work displayed by all NAH physicians, nurses and other colleagues. Leapfrog Safety Grades are assigned to hospitals across the nation twice a year. FMC and VVMC were two of five hospitals in Arizona to receive an "A" grade during the Spring 2023 assessment.



## A NIGHT OF INSPIRATION: ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS BANQUET



NAH celebrated 25 colleagues who received scholarships and awards from community sponsors. The event was sponsored by Desert Financial Credit Union and presented by Swire Coca-Cola. The number of awardees was nearly doubled from the inaugural 13 recipients in 2022.

Nearly \$35,000 was awarded to NAH colleagues, both clinical and non-clinical, with goals to pursue or complete their education. Thank you to all of our award sponsors.

## MEET THE NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT

### Dr. Justin DeLange

#### Where are you from?

I was born in Flagstaff, AZ but grew up in Yuma, AZ.

#### What brought you to Flagstaff?

I went to school at NAU. Go Jacks!

#### What is your care philosophy?

I feel strongly about empowering my patients by taking the time to listen to their health challenges and then educate them on their treatment options. I enjoy expressing my love of clinical science in a way that helps others.

#### What are your expertise and special interests?

I am trained in general neurology with subspecialty expertise in headache medicine. I am proficient in peripheral nerve blocks and Botox injections for headache treatment.





## GRATEFUL PATIENT STORY



"Gratitude fuels positivity. My journey began with my diagnosis at Northern Arizona Radiology (NAR). That was my day one. Even though this news was hard to hear, the staff members, from diagnosis at NAR to the treatment I received at Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH), all shared a calm, confident and competent demeanor. That shook out my nerves and allowed an overwhelming feeling of gratitude to pour in. And I was not alone. That "A" Team enveloped me with compassion and positive energy that remains since day one, for me and everyone the staff members encountered. I cannot thank them enough for their compassionate care. I am forever grateful." - Jan Ruff, Grateful Patient



## MEET THE CO CHAIRS OF OUR NAH OPEN TOURNAMENT

In case you do not know them, here are the faces and minds behind the NAH Open: Steve Eiss (pictured right) and John Niziolek (pictured left). Steve Eiss is the NAH vice president for construction and real estate development at NAH. John Niziolek is the lead architect for the Health & Wellness Village project.

### Why did you choose to take on the NAH Open?

**John:** I was on the committee for the Banner Health tournament for the past 8 years and chaired it for 2 years. We were able to grow it into a large fundraiser for the foundation. Seeing the opportunity at NAH to make a difference and bring in much-needed funds inspired me to help and be a major part of the golf tournament.

**Steve:** Being the NAH senior leader in charge of the new Health & Wellness Village, I thought it was important that my time and effort in helping raise funds for this important project was visible to the entire philanthropy community.



### Why is the new Health & Wellness Village important?

**John:** The Health & Wellness Village is vitally important to the northern Arizona community to provide health care in a modern facility for the next 50 years.

**Steve:** I feel the true importance lies in preparation for the future of health care. Building a new state-of-the-art Level 1 Trauma Center is a time-consuming and expensive endeavor. It's imperative for a region that is growing like northern Arizona to have a plan that responds over the next 50 years to growth and change; flexibility is key. In addition to the hospital, it's important that we continue to look at the health of a community holistically. The economic development, job creation, access to housing and tax revenue this project will complement the way the hospital will improve the health of the community.

### What was your favorite part of the inaugural NAH open in 2022?

**John:** A few things come to mind. 1) The involvement of the NAH c-suite to garner participants and donations was amazing. It helped us diversify our participants to more than just the construction industry. 2) The flexibility of the team and how we handled the adverse weather conditions. 3) The involvement and comradery of NAH leadership with participants during the event!

**Steve:** Without a doubt the best part of the 2022 Open was how well the philanthropy community handled the weather issues we had. Of course, everyone came out for the beautiful facilities, amazing food and networking opportunities but when we were thrown a curveball, had to pause and then ultimately shorten the day, it was handled with such optimism and grace. You could really feel that while the day didn't go as planned everyone was really there to support an amazing cause and that kept everyone's spirits up.

### What are you looking forward to for year 2 of this event?

**John:** Playing a full round of golf and staying dry!

**Steve:** This year I am looking forward to enjoying another amazing part of the region NAH serves. The fact that in two years we have been able to show off the unique layout and vibe of a course like Forest Highlands and then a year later showcase a completely different but equally incredible course like Seven Canyons in Sedona is amazing. It really speaks to the diversity and the geography of the region we serve.

### Anything else you want to say?

**John:** I appreciate the energy of the philanthropy team and the golf tournament team and how much fun it is to put on this event.

## PROUD TO CELEBRATE NAH EMPLOYEES

Hospital, Nurses and Tech Week 2023 took place during May 8-12. This week is dedicated to recognizing all NAH employees for going above and beyond daily in their jobs. Throughout the week, staff were able to participate in numerous activities, win prizes and celebrate/honor the accomplishments of their colleagues. The theme of this year's Hospital, Nurses and Tech Week was Growth. The week recognized all NAH employees for consistently going above and beyond through a variety of activities and celebrations. Growth represented how each individual at NAH had grown.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### July 28-29: Verde Valley Blood Drive

Give the gift of life by donating blood with NAH and Vitalant. The Verde Valley Blood Drive will be located at Living Water Foursquare Church, 1380 E. Mingus Ave., Cottonwood.

### Saturday, Aug. 5: Machine Solutions Run

Do not forget to register for the 45th Annual Machine Solutions Run & Walk for Kids. Proceeds from this event supports NAH's Children's Health Center. This event will take place at Fort Tuthill's Posse Ramada and features a 2k, 5k, 10k and Kid's Dash. Not able to attend Aug. 5? Good news ... there is a virtual race that takes place between July 23 and Aug. 5.



Click or scan the QR code to sign up today!

### Monday, Aug. 21 and Wednesday Sept. 6: Flagstaff Medical Center Blood Drive

Another chance to give the gift of life by donating blood. The FMC Blood Drive will be located at the NAH Education Building located in the Fort Valley Shopping Center at 1000 N. Humphreys St.

### Monday, Aug. 31: A JOINT Conversation – working together to keep your orthopedic care close to home.

As we continue to grow our service line, our community engagement remains a top priority. Through this event, we are hopeful to educate donors and community members alike on the great services provided by the Orthopedic & Spine Institute. We hope you will join us and hear from our amazing physicians and staff.

### Thursday, Oct. 5: 2nd annual Dawn Tebelak Memorial Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars for the 2nd annual Dawn Tebelak Memorial Golf Tournament, benefiting the Dawn Tebelak Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship directly supports staff from the Verde Valley Medical Center ICU and MedSurg teams.

The tournament will commence with a 9:00 a.m. tee time, weather permitting. The tournament structure will follow a scramble format and each foursome will include one PGA professional and four amateurs. We will also have a silent auction displayed in the clubhouse - bidding will be open from 7:00 a.m. until after lunch.

We invite you to become a sponsor of this special memorial event. NAH's Office of Philanthropy does not take an administrative fee, so 100% of the net proceeds will directly support Dawn's scholarship. Email [NAHPhilanthropy@nahealth.com](mailto:NAHPhilanthropy@nahealth.com) for more information about sponsorships.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

NAH participated in the inaugural Flagstaff Pride parade, Together We March, on Saturday, June 17. Throughout the month of June, NAH offered a number of activities to celebrate and learn more about Pride Month. Some activities included the Pride parade, Pride in the Pines, Pride trivia and a Pride panel for colleagues, as well as fun food and drink specials that FMC and VVMC campuses.

On Saturday, June 10, NAH Orthopedic & Spine Institute, Northern Arizona Healthcare Medical Group primary care, and EntireCare Rehab & Sports Medicine offered \$10 sports physicals for student-athletes in Flagstaff. This marks the third year that NAH has provided low-cost screenings to the community. The sports physicals were performed by internal medicine physicians, orthopedic physicians/surgeons, athletic trainers and physical therapists. All proceeds from this day were donated back to the students' schools to benefit their youth athletic departments.



## GET THE FACTS: HEALTH & WELLNESS VILLAGE

To learn more about how Northern Arizona Healthcare is planning a state-of-the-art hospital, ambulatory care center and wellness village to provide high-quality health care to the residents of northern Arizona, visit [NAHealth.com/expansion](https://nahealth.com/expansion), or scan the QR code:

