



Northern Arizona Healthcare
Office of Philanthropy

Inside Northern Arizona Healthcare From the Office of Philanthropy

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY KUSHNER
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

Newsletter Issue No. 9 | Winter 2024

"UNSUNG HEROES"

Dear Friends,

As far back as I can remember, I grew up in an environment of sports. It didn't matter the time of year, there was always a sports team my four siblings and I were playing on. At the end of each sports season, we'd have the awards banquets and recognize a few individuals for their contributions. You know the type of awards: most valuable player, team leader, best defensive player, best offensive player, etc.

I was always struck, however, by one award in particular: the unsung hero.

What made this award so special was it was voted on, not by the coaching staff, but by the players themselves. It recognized that individual who "achieved great things or committed acts of bravery or self-sacrifice, yet is not celebrated or recognized ... someone who works for the good of the group and does so unselfishly."

In health care philanthropy, we are surrounded by unsung heroes. These heroes come in many forms. The humble caregivers who suit up every day, non-clinical colleagues who work behind the scenes to support those at the bedside, our many donors who do extraordinary things to help us elevate health care for all, volunteers who selflessly give many years of service (in one case at Flagstaff Medical Center, 47!). The list goes on.

This issue of our philanthropy newsletter celebrates a few of the many unsung heroes throughout Northern Arizona Healthcare. They step up, they fill a void, they make high impact, and through their actions, they make our community - and region - a better place to live and work.

And they do all this expecting nothing in return. That's about as good as it gets!

With Appreciation,

Larry Kushner
Chief Philanthropy Officer



Email: NAHPhilanthropy@NAHealth.com **Phone:** 928-773-2093
Address: 1200 N. Beaver St., Flagstaff, AZ NAHealth.com/Philanthropy



NAH OPEN

The second annual NAH Open held at Seven Canyons in Sedona was graced with sunshine, generous support and a great day of golf. Funds raised from the NAH Open directly support elevating the care provided at NAH. Thank you to our co-title sponsors, Metro Aviation and McCarthy Building Companies, who helped us raise over \$200,000 (net revenue after expenses). We are grateful for the outstanding support of this event.



HELPING GUIDE GUARDIAN AIR

Due to the generosity of Mike Schroeder from Sedona, Guardian Air was able to purchase two sets of night vision goggles. "The night vision goggles make our jobs much safer, make almost every aspect of flight safer. The crews appreciate having top-of-the-line gear and the safety that the gear brings them" – Adal Lopez, Guardian Air clinical manager.

Schroeder said, "Guardian Air is a critical component of a time-sensitive, life-saving emergency response system. Since I'm a pilot, I have an understanding of the talent and equipment necessary to accomplish their critical mission. I was presented with the opportunity to help fund the equipment purchase that allows pilots to function in a night environment, as emergencies don't pick the time of day to happen. If you need emergency transport, you're in great hands with the NAH Guardian Air team."



VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

Philanthropy consists of giving one's time, treasure and talent. The volunteers at NAH embody all three of these attributes. In November, volunteers at Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) and Flagstaff Medical Center (FMC) were honored for the time they have dedicated to NAH over the years at the first Legacy Volunteer Awards ceremony. VVMC volunteers were honored for a combined 503 years of service. FMC volunteers were honored for a combined 485 years of service. In total, that is **988 combined years of volunteer service**, or nearly 10 centuries, to Northern Arizona Healthcare. Thank you to all our volunteers who directly contribute to NAH's mission, "Improving health, healing people."



MASON AWARDS

The Mason Awards are a very special, annual recognition to honor and celebrate Northern Arizona Healthcare nurses and technicians who demonstrate resiliency, empathy, competence, integrity and a deep passion for nursing excellence. This prestigious recognition was renamed in 2018 to honor Jessica Diefenbach's son, Mason, who was lost in a tragic accident. Jessica and her family were profoundly grateful for the care they both received at FMC on that terrible day and wanted to recognize nurses and technicians who went above and beyond.

Thirteen awards were given this year to those who embodied one of the five values of NAH. OneAZ Credit Union, NAH Philanthropy community partner, committed to funding the Mason Awards over the next five years.

Honoree	Award
Paula "Rayne" Zimmerman	Nurse of the Year
Lia Harvey	Tech of the Year
Athena Dixon	Tech, Be Better Together
Sheri Hlatt	Nurse, Be Better Together
Dayna Albers-Watts	Nurse, Build Community
Camr Scott	Tech, Build Community
Sarah Metcalf	Nurse, Do Amazing Work

Honoree	Award
Yazhen BI	Tech, Do Amazing Work
Casey Rucker	Friend of Nursing
Danl Phelps	Tech, Respect Differences
Judith Wells	Nurse, Respect Differences
Desere Wagner	Nurse, Show Compassion
Josh Ramirez	Tech, Show Compassion



CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT NAH



A highly-anticipated NAH tradition is the holiday meal for colleagues. This meal would not be possible without our amazing Nutrition Services team at NAH. The Nutrition Services team provided this meal for over 3,000 colleagues, serving both day and night shifts, with three different meal times at both hospitals and our clinics. We are better together because of departments like Nutrition Services - our unsung heroes.

STOP THE BLEED

The Office of Philanthropy committed over \$25,000 to support the Stop the Bleed initiative at schools in the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). Stop the Bleed is a grassroots national awareness campaign and call to action that encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before a professional arrives. With this commitment, FUSD schools will be equipped with 43 specialized Stop the Bleed kits which include tourniquets and other medical materials to help in a bleeding emergency.

"The Flagstaff Unified School District is grateful for the generous support of the NAH Office of Philanthropy to provide Stop the Bleed kits and training for all of our schools and worksites. This partnership better equips our school staff to act quickly and effectively to make a difference in the event of a serious accident or emergency," said Michael Penca, FUSD superintendent.

The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. With three quick actions, you can be trained to save a life. To learn more about Stop the Bleed or participate in an upcoming training, contact Shawn Bowker at Shawn.Bowker@nahealth.com. To support Stop the Bleed, scan the QR code.



RECOGNITIONS FOR NAH

Flagstaff Medical Center (FMC) and Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) both exceeded the Health and Human Services (HHS) goals for preventing Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) for quarter two of 2023. This means that NAH is doing exceptionally well in preventing infections that are acquired during hospitalization!

FMC and VVMC also both earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog that sets standards for excellence in patient care.

Did you know that there is a Quality, Safety & Infection Prevention philanthropy fund that you can support? Giving to this fund will help our Quality, Safety & Infection Prevention teams to continue delivering high quality, safe and patient centered care to the communities and patients we serve. Scan the QR code to donate today.



LEAPFROG
**HOSPITAL
SAFETY GRADE**

HEART OF GRATITUDE

The Heart of Gratitude program provides the opportunity for our patients and/or family members to recognize NAH staff, no matter their role, who made a positive difference in their care. A couple of recent recognitions we've received are as follows:



"I broke my leg and it was a bad break. I would like to nominate Jordan Alvarez, my daytime nurse, for being the best nurse someone could have asked for. She was great, kind, caring, gentle, smart, non-abrasive, skilled, professional and on top of everything."

— *Ethan Hoerle, Grateful Patient*



"Jamie was such a tender, sweet person and helped to persuade the cardio department to do one more EKG at closing. We are grateful for her efforts so that the surgery could still go as scheduled. She had empathy for myself and my client and it showed in the calmness of her voice and the smile on her face that helped my client feel rested, reassured and comfortable."

— *Grateful Caregiver*

