



Northern Arizona Healthcare
Office of Philanthropy



2026 Gratitude Report

The NAH Board of Directors proudly participated in our Cancer Center groundbreaking ceremony in March.

To our community,

Northern Arizona Healthcare is a resilient organization because we are a team of resilient people. Fiscal year 2026 highlighted our ability to work through challenges and take the time to celebrate successes. Celebration matters, and it is an important tool in building our resilience. We also greatly benefit from seeing firsthand that our community supports us and the challenging work we do every day.

This report is another chance to celebrate the wins we've experienced, and to do so in the context of hard work, and sometimes tough decisions, that yield our successes.

A perfect example is the announcement in fiscal year 2026 to pause our plans for a new hospital in the Flagstaff area. This was a difficult decision for our Board of Directors. Still, it was one made with the intention of preparing our finances to weather forthcoming reductions in federal reimbursement. Yet, we were also able to break ground on a much-needed, centralized Cancer Center in Cottonwood that will reduce travel time and complexity for most patients.

And while we are taking tangible steps to prepare for financial challenges, we are thrilled that we've seen record-setting philanthropic support from our community. You showed up time and again to support our oncology work, our Children's Health Center, our frontline workers and so much more.

Mental health is an under-resourced and still stigmatized area of healthcare. That's why we were so pleased with the community's participation in a full month of mental health awareness and fundraising to support trauma-informed counseling for first responders.

Another recognition of simultaneous wins and challenges is evident in our scholarship program for colleagues. We received a record amount of donations and gave out a record number of awards.

Thank you for supporting our essential work, our morale and our facilities this year. We look forward to continuing the partnership as we always strive to meet our mission of *Improving health, healing people*.

Sincerely,



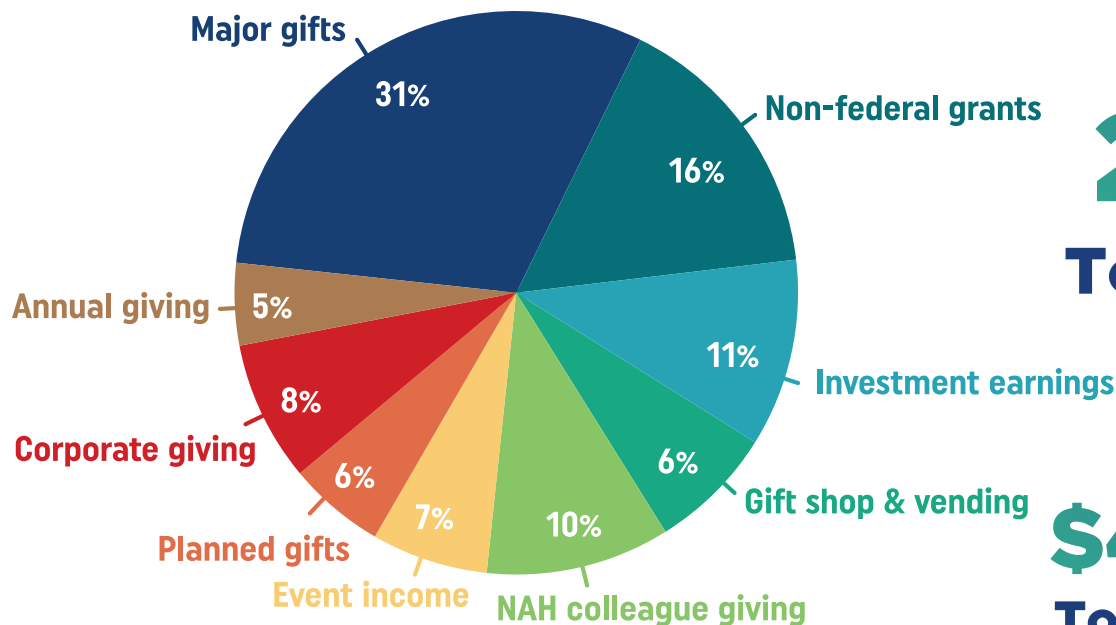
Dave Cheney
President & CEO



Larry Kushner
Chief Philanthropy Officer



FY26 by the numbers



2,296

Total donors

\$4,675,897

Total dollars raised

FY26 Goal: \$2.65 million

The Office of Philanthropy takes no operational fees, so 100% of donations directly support donor intent.

Mental Health Matters

Together, we made a difference. NAH hosted a full month of mental health awareness events and fundraising to support first responders.



\$65K+
raised for first responder
mental health



800+
shirts sold - all
proceeds donated



35+
community
events held



1,000+
community members
participated

Confidential crisis help is available. Call, text or chat with the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or call the Arizona Statewide Crisis Hotline at 844-534-HOPE.

Donor impact

The William and Deborah Johnson Emergency Department

The renaming of the Sedona Emergency Department (ED) honors William (Bill) and Deborah (Debbie) Johnson, who worked to ensure the ED would remain available to all Sedona residents and visitors now and for future generations. The Johnsons also created a scholarship to support our colleagues, with a preference for ED caregivers.



OneAZ Credit Union supports programs across NAH - \$100,000

Over the next five years, OneAZ Credit Union will support various programs across our organization, including the Machine Solutions Run & Walk for Kids, our annual community receptions in Cottonwood and Flagstaff, and our Proud to Work Here, Proud to Give Here employee giving campaign. This generous multi-year commitment will benefit patients and families at our Children's Health Center and the broader northern Arizona community, including our colleagues.

Anonymous donor supports ED colleagues - \$45,000

Thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, Flagstaff Medical Center's (FMC) ED boosted colleague morale through various programs and funded team training and education.

Kuhle Family Foundation supports NAH's Children's Health Center - \$44,000

The Kuhle Family Foundation's generous donation to our Children's Health Center will help fund the Eat Well and audiology programs. This support provides families with dietitian-directed resources to teach children healthy lifestyles and eating habits, while also expanding local access to vital audiology services and hearing aids.

Nackard Pepsi Hospitality Kitchen at The Taylor House - \$25,000

Nackard Pepsi's donation will directly benefit The Taylor House, funding lodging and toiletry kits for patients and their loved ones. It will also be used to help provide colleague wellness resources.



Elevating our care



VVMC welcomes two new general surgeons

In the late summer of 2025, we welcomed two new board-certified general surgeons. Sharita Nagaraj, MD, and Victoria Wang, MD, joined Alex Zilberman, MD, and Stephen Faulkner, MD, at Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) in Cottonwood. These doctors are skilled in a variety of procedures, including robotic and laparoscopic surgeries. Together, we are keeping expert surgical care close to home.



Elevating patient care with ED upgrades

The FMC ED remained open during a months-long renovation project aimed at improving efficiency, quality of care and patient experience. We updated and redesigned the space to help our patients receive the care they need in less time and with greater efficiency. The project features six new treatment bays, new flooring, paint and lighting upgrades, and other changes that are helping us meet even higher infection-prevention standards.

FMC and VVMC earn “A” Hospital Safety Grades

FMC and VVMC earned Spring 2026 "A" Hospital Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national organization focused on patient safety. As the only hospital ratings program focused on preventable medical errors, injuries and infections, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades are peer-reviewed, transparent, free to the public, and updated each fall and spring. FMC not only achieved an “A” for spring 2026 but has sustained the grade for more than two years, earning it the designation of a “Straight A” hospital.



Staff spotlight

Monika Freeman, RN

In May 2026, we recognized Mental Health Awareness Month with our inaugural Mental Health Matters initiative, bringing the Flagstaff community together to raise awareness, reduce stigma and fund mental health services for first responders. The initiative would not have been possible without dedicated colleagues like Monika Freeman, RN.

Monika is an NAH Behavioral Health Clinical Manager. She served as a passionate advocate and partner to raise awareness, identify gaps in community mental health, and bring neighbors and community partners together to create a better tomorrow.



Andrew Atiemo, MD, FACC

Dr. Atiemo, a board-certified Interventional Cardiologist, doesn't just provide outstanding patient care; he's also deeply committed to helping our colleagues grow, both personally and professionally.



As a volunteer on the 2026 Scholarships & Awards Committee, he dedicated many hours of his personal time to reviewing applications and offering a physician's perspective. Moved by the program's impact, Dr. Atiemo and his family created two new scholarships to benefit more colleagues. We are grateful for his support and dedication!

Building community

NAH broke ground March 25, 2026 on our new Cancer Center in Cottonwood, just outside of VVMC.

The event drew more than 250 guests from local governments and cancer support networks, as well as oncologists and survivors.





By centralizing Verde-area cancer care, NAH is bringing cohesiveness to care delivery and reducing travel for about 80% of patients in the Verde Valley, who currently have to travel between two facilities in Cottonwood and one in Sedona for complete cancer care. Construction will be completed in fall 2027.

Events



2025 Machine Solutions Run & Walk for Kids

We welcomed 488 participants who ran and walked for NAH's Children's Health Center, raising a record **\$45,177**.



2025 NAH Open

We raised **\$203,210** for Oncology Services at NAH.



2025 Dawn Tebelak Memorial Golf Tournament

The event raised **\$41,553** for the Dawn Tebelak Memorial Scholarship.



2026 Scholarships & Awards

Presented by Swire Coca-Cola of Flagstaff, our fifth annual Scholarships & Awards Banquet celebrated 53 colleagues on May 13, 2026. Generous individuals and corporate partners donated over **\$148,000** to support the recipients as they pursue education, professional development and student loan repayment.



Mason Awards

The Mason Awards are presented annually to nurses and technicians who exemplify NAH's organizational values. The Nurse of the Year and Tech of the Year are chosen, along with a nurse and a technician recognized for each of NAH's five values: Do Amazing Work, Respect Differences, Build Community, Be Better Together and Show Compassion. A Friend of Nursing award is also presented.

Your giving, maximized

Because the Office of Philanthropy does not accept operational fees, your impact goes further. 100% of net proceeds directly support Northern Arizona Healthcare.

Interested in sponsoring an event? Call Kendyl Druffel at 928-773-2092.

Volunteers

Whether through donating dollars or volunteering time and expertise, true philanthropy is about showing up for one another. The community members, donors and colleagues who served on the 2026 Scholarships & Awards Review Committee embodied that spirit and are directly shaping the future of healthcare in northern Arizona.

"When our granddaughter Rosie spent 99 days in the Special Care Nursery (SCN) at FMC, the care she received changed our lives forever. It inspired our family to give back. Serving on the Scholarships & Awards Review Committee was a way to honor the incredible NAH colleagues who make a difference every day and lead us to want to create our own scholarship in Rosie's name. Philanthropy is about investing your heart, time and story into something bigger than yourself."

- Terry Laudick, donor and 2026 Scholarships & Awards Review Committee member



Annual giving

Throughout the year, we connect with grateful patients, community members and corporate partners through appeals that support meaningful programs across NAH. Their generosity continues to fuel the growth of our annual giving program, creating lasting impact for our colleagues and neighbors. Our annual giving program realized incremental growth, expanding our reach of donors all across the region.

FY25 appeals
202 new donors

FY26 appeals
330 new donors

A 63% increase in new donors!

Major gifts

Dean Taylor, a dedicated community member and advocate, recently made a significant donation to support NAH's Simulation Program. The program prepares clinical teams to deliver exceptional care in some of our most complex and high-stakes environments, including the ED, Critical Care, SCN, Surgical Services, Labor and Delivery, Pediatrics, Medical-Surgical and Radiology.

Dean's gift will fund high-fidelity simulation manikins that provide realistic, scenario-based training for our colleagues. By practicing together in simulated clinical environments, care teams arrive at the real bedside even more prepared to deliver safe, high-quality patient care.

"Excellence in clinical care is not accidental. It's built through deliberate practice, preparation and intentional training programs. High-fidelity simulation gives our colleagues more than technical skills. It builds communication, collaboration and clinical confidence that translate directly to exceptional patient care."

- Stacy Payne, Healthcare Simulation Program Manager



Planned giving & stocks

Deborah Lindquist, MD, is a Medical Oncologist with over 35 years of experience at Northern Arizona Healthcare. Dr. Lindquist is a deeply compassionate clinician and tireless advocate for patients and their families. She recently made a generous stock donation to help fund Medical Oncology renovations at FMC.

“It is my pleasure to make this gift in support of our patients and their family members as we continue to build our Medical Oncology program at FMC. I invite others to consider a donation of stock. It not only avoids capital gains, but it’s a great feeling knowing one gift is helping so many!”

- *Deborah Lindquist, MD*



Chuck Marr is a retired healthcare executive who formerly served on Northern Arizona Healthcare’s Board of Directors. As someone who is deeply involved in the Sedona community, he understands the importance of keeping high-quality care close to home in the Verde Valley.

Recently, Chuck committed to permanently endow a second scholarship from the Marr Family specifically for NAH colleagues who work in oncology. He is utilizing a blended gift, combining cash and an irrevocable bequest intention, to fund this impactful legacy.

We are incredibly grateful for his enduring support and vision. Thank you, Chuck!

“Continuing education is crucial to elevate and keep a first-rate healthcare workforce. I am pleased to make this gift on behalf of our family, knowing both permanently endowed scholarships will have a meaningful impact. We all gain from such an investment.”

- *Chuck Marr, donor*

Corporate giving



Swire Coca-Cola USA, Flagstaff, AZ - \$100,000

Swire Coca-Cola Flagstaff, AZ has committed to fund several key initiatives. This generous gift established its namesake scholarship, supporting colleagues pursuing education, professional development and student loan repayment. It also positioned the company as the Official Beverage Sponsor of the Machine Solutions Run & Walk for Kids, benefiting children and their families at our Children's Health Center. Additionally, the company served as the Presenting Sponsor of both Hospital Week and Nurses Week.

Metro Aviation – \$35,000

Metro Aviation, Title Sponsor of the 2025 NAH Open, has supported the care we provide in our region for four consecutive years — a commitment that extends beyond event sponsorship to ensuring all Guardian Air Transport aircraft are properly maintained.



Grant & corporate giving highlights

Pfizer - \$248,502

Pfizer awarded a competitive grant to improve cancer care coordination for Native American patients across northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau. The Center for Community Health and Engaged Research at Northern Arizona University will serve as the evaluation and technical assistance partner for the project.

Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation - \$50,000

The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation provided a grant to support Navajo translation services at FMC, where four full-time Navajo interpreters provide in-person support from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

The logo for The Burton Family Foundation is enclosed in a dark blue rectangular border. It features the text "THE" in a small, blue, serif font at the top. Below it, "BURTON" is written in a large, blue, serif font. Underneath "BURTON", the word "FAMILY" is written in a large, blue, serif font. At the bottom, "FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font. Horizontal lines separate "THE" from "BURTON", "BURTON" from "FAMILY", and "FAMILY" from "FOUNDATION".

THE
BURTON
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

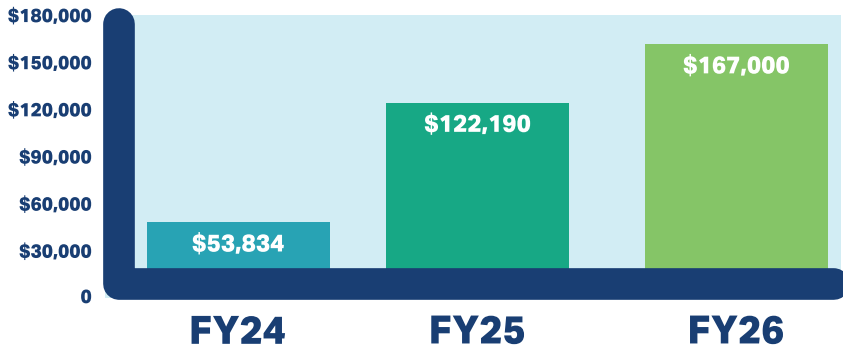
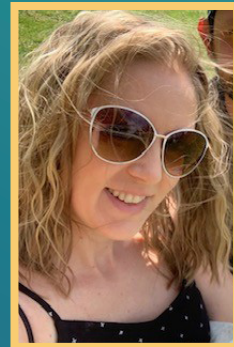
Burton Family Foundation - \$25,000

The Burton Family Foundation awarded a grant to support the Patient Assistance Fund. The fund helps patients cover essential health-related expenses after discharge, such as lodging, transportation, food, medical equipment, hygiene supplies and prescriptions.

Proud to Work Here, Proud to Give Here

Proud to Work Here, Proud to Give Here is our annual colleague giving campaign. It's an opportunity for colleagues to support one another, give back and build meaningful relationships across our organization. Our colleague donor base has grown tremendously, and we are incredibly proud of the community spirit that fuels both the care we provide our patients and the support we offer one another.

Thank you to this year's co-chairs, VVMC Pharmacy Supervisor Erica Evans (pictured left) and Perioperative Manager Leah Gowey (pictured right). Erica and Leah championed this effort and dedicated themselves to advancing our culture of philanthropy.



210%
increase over 3 years

The Heart of Gratitude Program

The Heart of Gratitude Program, presented by Loven Contracting, is a heartfelt way our patients and their families can thank clinical and non-clinical colleagues who provide exceptional care. Since the program began, more than 600 colleagues have received recognition.

In 2026, we expanded the program with the Heart of Gratitude Recipient of the Year Award. Jon Hansen, President of Loven Contracting, presented the inaugural award to Richard Holt, DO, a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician at our Orthopedic & Spine Institute. Hansen shared moving stories from patient nominations, each celebrating the compassion, patience and humanity Dr. Holt brings to his patients. Congratulations, Dr. Holt!



Thank You

**"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you
want to go far, go together."**

- African Proverb



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