

# Inside Northern Arizona Healthcare From the Office of Philanthropy

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY KUSHNER  
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

Newsletter Issue No. 10 | Spring 2024

## “BEING BETTER TOGETHER ”

Dear Friends,

“Silos” might be important in some lines of work, but in health care? Rarely is that ever the case.

No matter what department, our everyday work asks, even demands, that we stay connected with one another. Indeed, it is actually part of NAH’s vision: “Always better care. Every person, every time... together.”

Our strengths become amplified when we rely on one another’s talents. Our care and communication become better, we see things in a broader context, we become better problem solvers, utilizing the talents of many and not the few. In fact, being “Better Together” is so important, it represents one of our five cherished core values here at NAH.

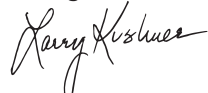
This issue of our newsletter is replete with stories and vignettes of those colleagues and community leaders who collaborate, inspire, lead by example and serve our community so very well. We recognize our outstanding physicians, an ATHENA Award winner from NAH, a community leader spearheading a relief mission, outstanding staff who are recognized for their commitment to further themselves educationally so they in turn can serve others more effectively, and so much more.

It is our honor in philanthropy to bear witness to these many, extraordinary individuals. They make our community and our world a better place to live and work.

We hope you take personal pleasure in what our NAH staff – and our community – are doing together to be better together! The narrative we are creating, and the philanthropy program we are building together (over \$13 million raised in three years since our inception) is absolutely born out of trust and collaboration.

Thank you for your faithful partnership. The best is yet to come.

With gratitude,



Larry Kushner  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



## A NIGHT OF INSPIRATION

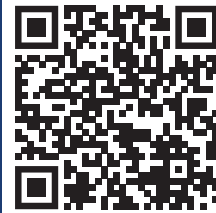
On May 9, the Office of Philanthropy celebrated 31 colleagues from clinical and non-clinical roles who received scholarships and awards during "A Night of Inspiration." Since its inception in 2022, this program has awarded 69 clinical and non-clinical colleagues, totaling over \$136,000 for continued education, professional development and student loan repayment. These scholarships and awards are made possible by donors in the community who wish to invest in NAH employees to help further educate, retain and recruit talent. Thank you to our title sponsor, Desert Financial Credit Union, our presenting sponsor, Swire Coca-Cola Flagstaff, and all our contributors who help make our colleagues' dreams become a reality.



## RECOGNIZING OUR DOCTORS

Each year, March 30 marks Doctors' Day, which reminds us to recognize those who dedicate their life's work to healing others. The patient-doctor relationship lies at the heart of medicine at NAH; our doctors' greatest honor comes from caring for those in our community. This year, we saw many grateful patients show gratitude for those who work tirelessly to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care. Even though Doctors' Day is celebrated but once a year, we believe our team at NAH deserves to be recognized for the amazing work they do each day. Scan the QR code to recognize an NAH provider who has made an impact on your care.

"During appointments, Dr. Overhiser makes a person feel as if they are his only patient. He listens carefully to concerns and takes the time to help with health issues. His care and support have made a world of difference to me and I am forever grateful for his dedication and hard work. He truly is a phenomenal doctor." – Grateful Patient of Dr. Andrew Overheiser, Gastroenterology



## NAH IN THE COMMUNITY

Giving back to non-profits in northern Arizona is an initiative that allows us to highlight others making a difference in our community. This spring, we were able to support High Country Adaptive Sports and Wheel Fun. High Country Adaptive Sports facilitates recreational activities for individuals with physical or cognitive challenges. The program includes adaptive ski lessons, guided kayaking, mountain biking and more.

Wheel Fun strives to get young people off electronic devices and to the outdoors on mountain bikes. The organization offers free programs and mountain bikes to kids with a diverse range of socioeconomic backgrounds, races and identities who would otherwise be unable to participate.



## HONORING BILL JOHNSON (SEDONA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT)

Bill Johnson was a friend, a pillar of the Sedona community and a passionate ambassador ensuring that emergency care remained close to home. Together with his wife Debbie, NAH is creating a scholarship in his name to support our Sedona Emergency Department staff.

"Bill spent much the last two years of his life working to ensure that the community would retain quality emergency care for now and the future. He worked closely with Emergency Department staff, Northern Arizona Healthcare, Sedona30 and many other groups and organizations to research, analyze, educate, communicate and work as a team leader to build a solution for everyone. I am so proud of Bill's dedication to this project and I am truly honored, as he certainly would be, for the recognition and appreciation for his tireless work." – Deborah Johnson



When you give to the Sedona ED philanthropy fund, you help advance the care provided and support at least one scholarship for a Sedona ED employee.

## 2024 YOUNG ATHENA AWARD

Kate Wyatt, a Flagstaff Emergency Department care coordinator, received the 2024 Young ATHENA Award from the Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce. At NAH, Kate serves on the Ethics Committee, is a part of the Child Abuse Resources Team, and has led multiple training sessions to educate colleagues on the dangers and signs of human trafficking.

In the community, Kate created the Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking (FIAT) and, in collaboration with Northern Arizona University, designed and implemented the Flagstaff Area Human Trafficking Database. Congratulations to Kate on this amazing award and for enhancing the services provided at NAH.



## UGANDAN RELIEF DONATION

Katy Sechrist, a nurse at NAH for 37 years, and mother to Jenni Kennedy, DNP, started fundraising to help build a medical clinic and birth center in Uganda in her daughter's memory. Kennedy died in 2022 from complications of a routine surgery.

Through her work in health care, Dr. Kennedy was continuing her family's legacy. Her great grandparents, Charles and Ethel Sechrist, were two of the founders of Flagstaff Hospital, now known as Flagstaff Medical Center. NAH was able to provide medical supplies for the Sechrist family to help with stocking the medical clinic in Uganda with materials upon its opening.



## WAFFLE PARTY

With philanthropy dollars, the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit (STICU), and Cardio Vascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) threw a morale-boosting waffle party. Colleagues from throughout the organization got to build their own waffle, enjoy each other's company, and leave with a smile on their face and a full belly to tackle the day. Thanks to donors who helped a variety of folks start the day on top, including: nurses, patient care technicians, doctors, respiratory therapists, wound care nurses, ultrasound technicians, vascular access nurses, educators and managers.



## MACHINE SOLUTIONS RUN & WALK FOR KIDS



Join us for the 46th Annual Machine Solutions Run & Walk for Kids, benefitting the Children's Health Center on Saturday, Aug. 3. Run or walk the trails of Flagstaff with your choice of a 2k, 5k, or 10k course. A virtual race will also be available for those who cannot attend. Back by popular demand, the 100-yard Kid's Dash will kick off the event this year.

Visit [bit.ly/MSRun2024](https://bit.ly/MSRun2024) or scan the code to register for the event.



## LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS

NAH supported six BASIS High School students with their senior projects on health care topics. These senior projects allow students to do a deep dive into the health care field and explore the available career paths. One project looked at sustainability and human connection in medicine and another evaluated the effectiveness of recycling a material used to make sure sterile processes are followed in spaces such as operating rooms.

