



Northern Arizona Healthcare  
Office of Philanthropy

# 2024 Gratitude Report

Dear supporters,

I am confident you know Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH) is doing amazing work and I want you to know how grateful we are for your support, because we couldn't do our work without your involvement. I've spent my first year at NAH listening to our colleagues and the community to understand their needs so we can effectively respond to those needs and plan for our organization's success in serving the region. That listening journey is just beginning, it does not end now that I've reached a year of tenure at NAH.

One way you've spoken to us in volumes is by supporting the programs, departments and initiatives that matter to you. Our donors tell us what's important by giving us the funding to do important work, such as helping our colleagues to reach their career goals and paying down student debt with our scholarships and awards program. That program is funded by community donations from individuals and organizations, and it's a shining example of what we can all do when we come together. I'm so inspired by the support of our colleagues who are constantly striving to do more and be better servants to this region.

I ask you to help us keep listening. Please keep sharing what matters to you in your health care system, so we can be sure we're meeting our communities' needs. In the words of a beloved late colleague, we're here to help you live your best life ever as we fulfill our mission of improving health and healing people.

With that, please enjoy our review of all the amazing things the NAH Office of Philanthropy accomplished in Fiscal Year 2024, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, thanks to your amazing support.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a teal background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "D. Cheney".

Dave Cheney  
President & CEO



Dear friends,

Welcome to the NAH Office of Philanthropy's annual Gratitude Report! We are so excited to share this with all our generous NAH donors.

Together, we are achieving great things. Sure, you could look solely at the statistics, and they would tell part of this three-year success story. We have achieved 3,000 total donors, \$13.2 million total raised on a \$7.5 million goal and 67 dedicated departmental funds established to honor donor intent.

But the most important piece of all?

The story of gratitude. It is embedded in everything we do as a philanthropy team. Through our grateful patients and family members who want to say "thank you" by giving back, our Heart of Gratitude program which has recognized over 150 NAH clinical and non-clinical staff, or our work in the NAH community and partnership with our NAH colleagues. Gratitude truly knows no bounds.

As you read through this, I hope you take immense pride in knowing your financial investments are making a high impact on the care NAH provides for our entire region. It is an amazing story in three short years – and we are only getting started.

Thank you for your partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Kushner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" being more prominent than the last name "Kushner".

Larry Kushner  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



# FY24 By the numbers

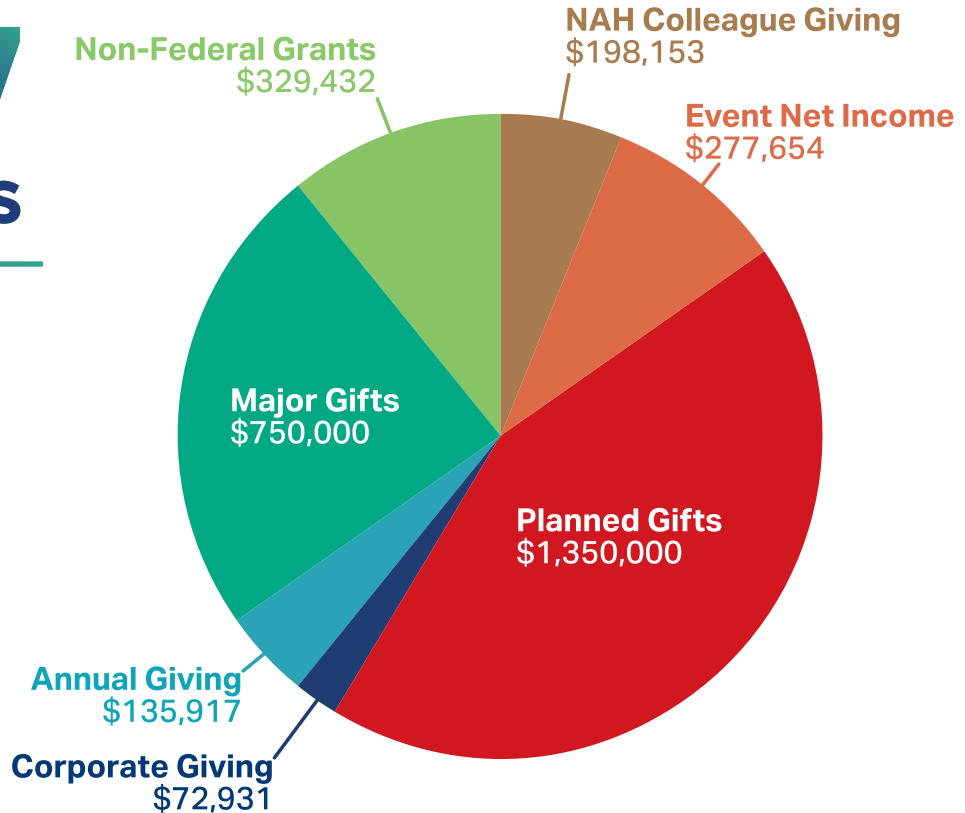
**\$3,114,087**  
Total Donations

**1591**  
Total Donors



The Office of Philanthropy  
takes no operational cost so

**100%**  
of donations directly  
support donor intent



# Donor impact

**\$108,540**

Trauma-informed mental health counseling for Guardian Air Transport and Guardian Medical Transport first responders with Redemption Counseling Center.

**\$108,000**

Equipment, staff training & certifications, patient support supplies, etc. for Children's Health Center.

**\$18,800**

Team building, morale-boosting & improved retention efforts of Emergency Department colleagues.

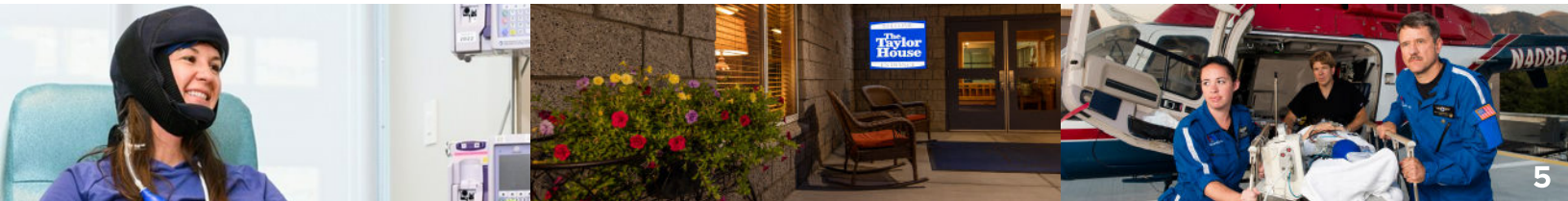
**\$30,000**

Cooler Heads scalp cooling equipment for oncology patients.

**\$20,000**

New mattress sets for the Taylor House.

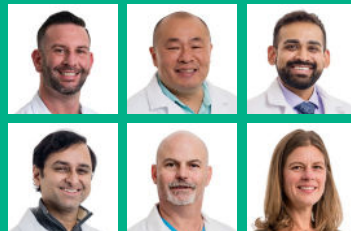
*In total, over \$1.5 million was contributed to NAH departments and colleagues.*



# Elevating our care

## New services, new providers

In July 2023, NAH opened a pulmonary clinic in Flagstaff, offering a full spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures designed to treat and care for respiratory disorders, including obstructive pulmonary diseases. Michael Reidy, MD, heads the department that has introduced six new providers to the Flagstaff community. They are Aaron Jaffe, MD, Yu Ya Huang, MD, Hamish Patel, DO, Yassir Rahman, MD, James Rasmussen, MD, and Jelisa Vick, ACNP. The NAH pulmonary clinic is located at 1215 N. Beaver St., Suite 203.



Late in Fiscal Year 2024, NAH's gastroenterology (GI) services moved to a new state-of-the-art clinic at 1895 N. Jasper Dr., Suite 1, in Flagstaff. With more room to serve our patients, we have increased the number of GI providers. Andrew Overhiser, MD, heads the department. New providers include Sandra Kellett, PA, Cameron Allen, NP, and Jennifer Quigley, NP.



## National recognition

In May 2024, Northern Arizona Healthcare Orthopedic Surgery Center (NAHOSC) received national recognition as one of the top 1% of outpatient surgical centers in Arizona by U.S. News & World Report's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers.



## Cardiovascular clinical trials

Our cardiovascular clinical research program was developed in 2006 and is based at Verde Valley Medical Center. Participants join our studies from sites throughout the world and help improve care in heart disease, heart attacks, peripheral arterial disease, high blood pressure, cholesterol management and diabetes.

# Staff spotlights

One team, one NAH. The Office of Philanthropy has great partners within the organization who assist in our efforts to inspire others to make philanthropic contributions whether through time, talent or treasure.

Nicole Nelson is the acute systems manager for EntireCare Rehab & Sports Medicine. In addition to her role at NAH, Nicole volunteers her time with the Office of Philanthropy and will serve as co-chair for our employee giving campaign for the third consecutive year.

***“Having the honor of serving as a co-chair for the Proud to Work Here, Proud to Give Here campaign has been nothing short of amazing. I have had the chance to build relationships with different colleagues and leaders in our organization. This program is an amazing way for us to come together to help support our teams and each other. We’re able to break down silos and build relationships with one another.”***

***-Nicole Nelson***



Merle McCabe is a staff accountant who helps gather the proper financial documents and information to apply for grants and assists with fund transfers and other financial needs.

***“The Office of Philanthropy works hard to find and establish resources needed to serve our community. I appreciate the opportunity to support them in any way I can to accomplish this.”***

***- Merle McCabe***

# Building community

## Stop the Bleed with Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD)

NAH donated \$25,000 to purchase 43 bleed control stations for FUSD. in February 2024, as part of the Stop the Bleed program. The kits have been installed in all schools in the district to help prevent blood loss from injuries before medical care can be administered. Having bleeding control kits available when there is an emergency can save lives. Shawn Bowker, BSN, RN, CEN, CFRN, is NAH's injury prevention outreach coordinator and provides Stop the Bleed training to FUSD at no cost.



Later in the year, Shawn was awarded the Arizona Department of Health Services 2024 Injury Prevention Achievement Award for initiating and delivering injury prevention and harm reduction programs across northern Arizona. Stop the Bleed is just one of many community programs that Shawn manages.



## Safe Child Center turns 30

The Safe Child Center is celebrating 30 years of serving children from birth through age 18 living in Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai, Navajo and Apache counties, including the American Indian Nations. It opened in 1994. As a division of the Children's Health Center, the Safe Child Center is dedicated to reducing the stress children experience as victims of suspected crime. The program collaborates with law enforcement and child protection agencies to ensure children are treated with dignity and respect throughout the investigative process.

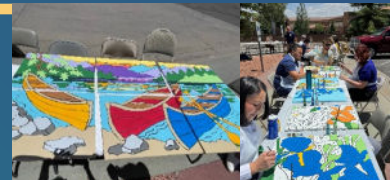
An anniversary celebration is planned for late August 2024, where community partners and colleagues will be invited to learn more about the Safe Child Center's positive impact on northern Arizona's most vulnerable population.





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 created a scholarship in his name to support our Sedona Emergency Department staff.

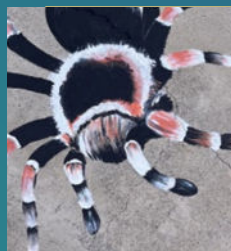
NAH colleagues joined our Office of Philanthropy and the Foundation for Hospital Art for a fun morning of volunteer painting. Called “PaintFests Across Interstate-40 in Celebration of 40 Years of Patient Impact,” the event produced art that is now hanging in our facilities.



Guardian Air Transport (GAT) hosted an open house in June 2024 and welcomed dozens of patients and agency partners. Attendees were able to tour the GAT hangar and meet flight nurses and crew thanks to the NAH Office of Philanthropy’s sponsorship of the food and fun!



The Office of Philanthropy sponsored Wheel Fun this fiscal year, assisting with their operating funds. Wheel Fun is a Verde Valley nonprofit that encourages young people to put away their electronic devices and instead get on mountain bikes to enjoy the outdoors.



A new sidewalk mural has been installed outside of the EntireCare clinic in Cottonwood to engage with and promote healthy healing among pediatric patients.

The numbers below reflect each event's net revenue after expenses. 100% of these funds go back to NAH, as our office does not take operational fees. If you would like to learn more about event sponsorship, please contact Kendyl Druffel at 928-773-2092.



## **A Night of Inspiration: NAH Scholarships and Awards Banquet**

31 colleagues received scholarships/awards from community supporters to pursue continuing education. Since its inception in 2022, this program has awarded over \$136,000 to NAH colleagues.



## **2023 Dawn Tebelak Memorial Golf Tournament**

\$30,246 raised for the Dawn Tebelak Memorial Scholarship.

## **2023 NAH Open**

\$211,687 raised for elevating the care provided at NAH.



## **2023 Machine Solutions Run & Walk for Kids**

\$35,720 raised for NAH's Children's Health Center.



# Volunteers

NAH is fortunate to have so many long-term volunteers who care for our patients and our organization. Verde Valley Medical Center has 503 years of combined volunteer service and Flagstaff Medical Center has 485 years of volunteer service, in total. Our volunteers have generously given 221,494 hours of service to help NAH serve patients!

The gift of time is one of the greatest contributions our community makes when joining us in living our mission of “Always better care. Every person, every time...together.” Northern Arizona Healthcare teams were thrilled to welcome volunteers back following the COVID-19 pandemic and the organization is now poised to elevate the program. Using our Mission, Vision and Values as the program’s foundation, Volunteer Services recently joined the NAH Consumer Experience Team. This transition will further allow us to create amazing experiences for our patients and families while also focusing on providing a meaningful volunteer experience.



One pair of volunteers, Evan Thompson and his canine companion Dusty, can be found in many areas around Flagstaff including Flagstaff Medical Center and NAH’s Children’s Health Center. The retired forensic examiner adopted Dusty 14 years ago from the Humane Society. After a year of training, Dusty has been a regular at various NAH locations, visiting patients and being a source of comfort and joy. They both love giving back to the community. “This is a great program that the hospital offers, and we are honored to be a part of it,” Evan said.



If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer, or how you can support this program, please reach out to Brandt Miller at [volunteer@NAHealth.com](mailto:volunteer@NAHealth.com) or 928-639-6540.

# Annual giving



## **National Doctors' Day**

To be a doctor is to dedicate your life's work to healing others.

The NAH Office of Philanthropy celebrated National Doctors' Day on March 30 by inviting patients and their families to recognize the doctors who made a difference in their lives.

Over 30 doctors and staff were honored, and NAH received eight philanthropic gifts in an expression of gratitude for care received. These gestures, big or small, inspire our caregivers and strengthen the health of our community.

# Major gifts



## Jim and Nina Meyer

Jim and Nina Meyer of Sedona were inspired by the staff at NAH and felt called to give back. Their daughter is a nurse who worked through the COVID-19 pandemic in Indianapolis, and they co-own an IndyCar race team that relies on first responders to be on-site and keep everyone safe. With these two ties, they decided to give a major gift to split between nursing education and Guardian Air Transport (GAT). These gifts enabled NAH to establish the Meyer Family Nursing Scholarship endowment for a nurse at NAH working in the Sedona or Verde Valley area. The second portion of their gift went to purchase two manikins to support training for nursing education and GAT. The team can transport the new manikin around northern Arizona to provide training for their staff and interagency partners. Thank you, Jim and Nina!

If you are interested in learning more about major gifts, please contact Maraka Oltrogge, VP of Philanthropy at [Maraka.Oltrogge@NAHealth.com](mailto:Maraka.Oltrogge@NAHealth.com) or **928-773-2275**.

# Planned giving



Bob and Cheryl Ann "CC" Porter shared a special love story. "I remember the first time I saw her, my whole world stopped...I knew this was 'the one'," Bob recalled. Theirs was a marriage and love affair that spanned three decades.

Sadly, in May 2013, CC passed at the age of 63. Her love of children and infants was well known... and Bob wanted to help perpetuate her legacy. "We all have a legacy, and it was important to formalize CC's," he said.

Working with the NAH Office of Philanthropy, Bob established a sizeable "hybrid" gift - a planned giving combination of cash plus an irrevocable bequest intention - to NAH's Special Care Nursery. This very significant commitment will provide much-needed resources to the nursing staff who care for our smallest patients. In return, a special space is being prepared at NAH to be named in CC's memory.

In addition, long-time friends of Special Care Nursery are leaving a bequest in their trust to fund future programmatic and operational initiatives to support our smallest patients.

**To learn more about planned giving and to talk about any size legacy gift that will have impact and stand in perpetuity, please contact Larry Kushner at [Larry.Kushner@NAHealth.com](mailto:Larry.Kushner@NAHealth.com).**



# Corporate giving

The Mason Awards are a very special, annual recognition event to honor and celebrate NAH nurses and technicians who demonstrate resiliency, empathy, competence, integrity and a deep passion for excellence.

Moved by the sentiment of this program and in partnership with the Office of Philanthropy, OneAZ Credit Union committed to fund the Mason Awards for five consecutive years.

This prestigious recognition was named in 2018 in memory of Jessica Diefenbach's son, Mason, who was lost in a tragic accident. Jessica and Mason were profoundly affected by the outstanding care they received at Flagstaff Medical Center on that terrible day.



“Northern Arizona Healthcare has been providing amazing service to many of our members and associates in Flagstaff and Verde Valley. We recently had an associate who was expecting his first child. The baby came a few month early and had to be in the Special Care Nursery at FMC. He raves about the amazing care his family received. Those are the types of stories that make it easy for OneAZ Credit Union to support NAH.”

To learn more about The Mason Awards, scan the QR code and watch a short video.



## Molly Blank Fund

Molly Blank was a philanthropist, sculptor, dancer, social justice advocate and a loving mother and role model to her sons, Michael Blank and Arthur M. Blank. In her honor, the Molly Blank Fund of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, awarded a grant to the Safe Child Center (SCC).

## American Rescue Plan Act

NAH was awarded a grant from the City of Flagstaff through United Way for the Mental Health Matters for First Responders pilot program. First responders, like paramedics and emergency dispatchers, play a crucial role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. Unfortunately, occupational stress in first responders is linked to an increased likelihood of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide. A recent study in Arizona showed EMS workers face an almost 40% greater risk of suicide compared to other Arizona residents. This program allots therapy sessions solely for our first responders to receive Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and one-on-one trauma-informed counseling.



*Scan to watch  
the short film.*





# Colleague donors

## Cassie Surplus, VVMC Patient Access Supervisor

Cassie is committed to her patients and finds it important to donate to NAH.

***“I have worked at Northern Arizona Healthcare for three years and I am honored to play a part in ensuring a positive patient experience. In addition to my role in patient access, I believe in giving back through philanthropy to help provide the necessary resources needed to continue high-quality, patient-centered care. This organization has given me so much and I am truly proud to work here and proud to GIVE here!”***



## Joel Yuen, FMC Chaplain

***“I am honored to share what I have with those in need and help make a difference.”***



**PROUD TO WORK HERE  
PROUD TO GIVE HERE**

# Heart of Gratitude

“Baby Mason, who was three weeks old at the time, was admitted to FMC one evening for a heart condition and the next day airlifted to Phoenix. During this scary and overwhelming time, I’m grateful for the flight crew that took great care of us (Brandon Johnson, Marty Curran and Nate Farr).

They were compassionate, caring and confident. I will always remember how they made me feel, which was safe, heard and cared for. They made every effort to make Mason and me feel comfortable, physically and emotionally. I’m grateful they helped us get to Phoenix safely and I want them to be recognized for being exceptional people.”

– Brianna Whitaker, Grateful Family Member





Northern Arizona Healthcare  
Improving health, better people.

Communities of Ariz



# Thank You



Gratitude



Northern Arizona Healthcare  
Office of Philanthropy

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