

Inside Northern Arizona Healthcare From the Office of Philanthropy

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY KUSHNER
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

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“DO AMAZING WORK”

Dear Friends,

If you look up the definition of “amazing” in the dictionary (yes, I still use a dictionary) or on Google (for everyone else), you’ll see it defined as: “causing great surprise or wonder; astonishing.”

Why do I share this? Because Doing Amazing Work – not average work, but amazing work – is one of our core values here at NAH.

In other words, doing superior work.
Going above and beyond.
Doing the little things well.
And doing it with humility, regardless of fanfare or expectation of recognition.

In this issue of the newsletter, we have plenty to celebrate, including our 13 colleagues who received the 2024 Mason Awards, sponsored by OneAZ Credit Union. The recipients include techs and nurses who each reflect one of NAH’s five core values. We also spotlight our NAH Tech of the Year, Judah Landavaso, and our NAH Nurse of the Year, Kristie Riebe. You don’t have to look any further than this exceptional group of dedicated NAH colleagues to get a sense of what “amazing” is all about.

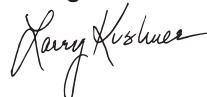
But the story doesn’t end there. In fact, it’s just the beginning.

In this issue, we also celebrate the amazing talents of Kim Carlton and RJ Reed, our 2024 Advanced Practice Providers (APP) of the Year in Verde Valley and Flagstaff, respectively. The community and our patients directly benefit from their extraordinary work. We deeply appreciate all our APPs and the work they do every single day. We also recognize a treasured community partner, Arizona Complete Health, and one of our own, Anthony Gobe from our Children’s Health Center (CHC), for their dedication to improving the lives of the children we serve.

As you read the newsletter, you’ll also learn about NAH’s thriving community partnerships. That includes The Human Bean coffee shop in Cottonwood (love the name!), which continues to support our oncology program.

And as we recognize Heart Month, we highlight NAH’s cardiovascular team and invite you to support its efforts with a fully tax-deductible gift. NAH’s colleagues and community partners are doing extraordinary, amazing work to make our communities healthier and more vibrant. Some might call it “ordinary.” I say, “astonishing.”

With gratitude,



Larry Kushner
Chief Philanthropy Officer



2024 MASON AWARDS

Thirteen NAH colleagues received a 2024 Mason Award. These awards are an annual recognition honoring NAH nurses and technicians who demonstrate resilience, empathy, competence, integrity and a deep passion for nursing. OneAZ Credit Union, an NAH Philanthropy community partner, is the presenting sponsor of the award program.

This prestigious recognition was renamed in 2018 to honor Jessica Diefenbach's son, Mason, who passed away in a tragic accident. Jessica and her family were, and still are, profoundly grateful for the care they received at Flagstaff Medical Center (FMC) on that heartbreaking day, and it inspired them to recognize nurses and technicians who go above and beyond when supporting patients.

In addition, the NAH Office of Philanthropy partnered with Findlay Toyota Flagstaff to provide Nurse of the Year Kristie Riebe, RN, and Tech of the Year Judah Landavaso with custom Mason Award vehicles, which they can use for an entire year.

2024 Nurse of the Year: Kristie Riebe, RN, nurse navigator, FMC Radiation Oncology

"Kristie has 25 years of dedication to our facility and patients. She is available to work with her patients in the evenings and weekends and cares for them at the worst times of their lives. She takes care of families and coworkers as if they were her own family – her dedication is second to none."

2024 Tech of the Year: Judah Landavaso, lead specialty technician, Verde Valley Medical Center Operating Room

"Judah lives all our NAH Values. He has served NAH for 12 years, consistently demonstrating outstanding service and impeccable character. He is dedicated to life-long learning to enhance the care provided at NAH."



Congratulations to this year's Mason Award honorees:

Honoree	Award	Campus	Department	Honoree	Award	Campus	Department
Kristie Riebe	Nurse of the Year	FMC	Radiation Oncology	James Corso	Tech, Do Amazing Work	FMC	Behavioral Health
Judah Landavaso	Tech of the Year	VVMC	Operating Room	Evangeline Yazze	Tech, Respect Differences	FMC	Surgical ICU
Caitlin Boren	Nurse, Be Better Together	FMC	Education	Kerstin Keller	Nurse, Respect Differences	FMC	Cardiovascular ICU
Lori Honyaoma	Tech, Be Better Together	FMC	Medical ICU	Chyna-Mae Sablan	Nurse, Show Compassion	FMC	Behavioral Health
Nely Esparza Gutierrez	Nurse, Build Community	FMC	Pediatrics	Autumn Hamud	Tech, Show Compassion	VVMC	Emergency Department
Alendra Logan	Tech, Build Community	FMC	Transfer Center	Suzi Olsen-Zwick	Friend of Nursing	FMC	Special Care Nursery
Holly Zeitler	Nurse, Do Amazing Work	FMC	Operating Room				

NEW HEALTH EQUITY EFFORTS AT NAH

NAH is committed to Improving Health, Healing People. A key part of this mission is advancing health equity in the communities we serve.

Health equity means ensuring all individuals have a fair and just opportunity to achieve their best health. Reaching this goal helps people across our region live healthier, more fulfilling lives. It requires addressing and reducing the barriers patients face when accessing health care and social services.

To strengthen this commitment, NAH launched its Health Equity Committee in 2023 to focus on providing equitable care to inpatients and outpatients. The NAH Office of Philanthropy actively supports these efforts by identifying opportunities to enhance and expand this work.

For more information, be sure to visit the health equity page on NAH's website: <https://www.nahealth.com/about-us/health-equity/>.

2024 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS OF THE YEAR

Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) are an essential part of any patient's care team. They work seamlessly with physicians and other care team members to ensure each patient receives the best care possible.

NAH recognized Kim Carlton, PA-C, as the Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) APP of the Year. NAH also recognized RJ Reed, CRNA, as the recipient of the Greg Cox APP of the Year Award, a recognition that was renamed in 2023 to commemorate the legacy of Greg Cox, PA-C. The awards recognize providers who excel in patient care and demonstrate exceptional commitment to safety and quality.

Colleagues who nominated Kim and RJ say they are shining examples of NAH's mission and values. One of Kim's colleagues said, "Her work ethic is unmatched. Kim always advocates for her patients and staff and is a huge asset to Team NAH." RJ's colleagues say he is a great leader and an excellent CRNA. They also say he is well respected by his team and always goes the extra mile for his patients, never shying away from tough operating room cases.



REMEMBERING GREG COX AND LINDSEY WATSON

Greg Cox, PA-C, and Lindsey Watson sadly passed away in the fall of 2023, and NAH held a ceremony with family and friends to honor their life, legacy and lasting impact on the organization. It was an opportunity to gather as a community, share stories and place remembrance leaves on NAH's memorial wall.



CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER AWARDED A \$50,000 GRANT

Arizona Complete Health awarded capital grants to 42 Arizona organizations in 2024. As part of this effort, it awarded NAH's Children's Health Center (CHC) with a \$50,000 grant to install a shade structure over its adaptive playground. While weather conditions sometimes limit access to the playground, the shade structure will extend the amount of time children can use the playground throughout the year. This is a meaningful improvement for patient care because the playground supports children with rehabilitation, offering engaging outdoor activities for those with physical and developmental disabilities.

Anthony Gobe, Practice Manager at CHC, played a key role in securing this grant. Since 2021, Anthony has helped bring in over \$680,000 in philanthropic dollars to CHC. His partnership with the NAH Office of Philanthropy is making a profound and lasting impact, improving the care provided to children of northern Arizona.



COFFEE FOR A CURE

The Human Bean's Coffee for a Cure giveback program is held every October during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Last year, the Cottonwood-area coffee shop donated all food and beverage proceeds made on Friday, Oct. 18, to the Cancer Centers of NAH's Breast Health Program. The following month, as part of this initiative, it presented the NAH Breast Care Clinic team in Sedona with a check valued at \$1,991.12. Thank you to our community partners for supporting NAH's mission of Improving Health, Healing People!



NAH IN THE COMMUNITY

Giving back to non-profits and organizations in northern Arizona allows NAH to highlight those making a difference in our community. As part of this initiative, NAH supported the Alzheimer's Association and its Walk to End Alzheimer's in Cottonwood. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to lead the way in ending Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

Verde Valley Ambulance Company purchased two Evac-U-Splints to provide better patient care. Evac-U Splints provide comfort to patients when spinal immobilization is required. The mattresses mold to the specific contours of a patient's body without applying pressure while also offering uniform support and reducing pressure point tenderness.



GIVING COMES FROM THE HEART

The month of February is designated as American Heart Month, but NAH Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) celebrates your heart every day! Its service line is comprised of heart experts who provide extraordinary, comprehensive care close to home.

In 2004, NAH became the first health care system to perform open-heart surgery at an elevation of 7,000 feet – a procedure once thought to be impossible at this altitude. Today, our open-heart surgery program combines the expertise of Arizona's best cardiothoracic surgeons with NAH's highly skilled clinical team and the latest in technique and equipment.

When you donate to NAH CVI, you make a diagnosis or an emergency easier to bear and overcome. You also help remove the added stress of finding transportation to appointments while providing our staff with the support needed to continue providing high-quality, patient-centered care.



To learn more about CVI visit bit.ly/CVIfromtheheart or scan the QR code to support NAH CVI.

ARIZONA SNOWBOWL PARTNERS WITH THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED)

NAH has joined Arizona Snowbowl to become its safety sponsor for the 2025 season. This includes lift and gondola tickets for ED personnel.

"The ED proudly serves our community and those that come to enjoy it. Thanks to the partnership between NAH Office of Philanthropy and Arizona Snowbowl to promote greater safety for skiers on the mountain, we were able to enjoy some time on the slopes ourselves."
– Brian Place, RN, FMC ED



NAVAJO NATION USA MOVIE SCREENING

In honor of 2025 World Cancer Day, Tuesday, Feb. 4, NAH and the Cancer Centers of NAH hosted a free screening of the film "Navajo Nation USA," which tells the story of increased cases of cancer among the Navajo people after uranium mining took place on the Navajo Nation between the 1940s and 1980s.

The screening included a discussion featuring NAH Radiation Oncologist Stephanie Rice, MD, NAH Medical Oncologist Deborah Lindquist, MD, and Tanya "TJ" Riggs, program director of oncology services at Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation.



SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

NAH is partnered with the Arizona Daily Sun to bring readers a monthly column that answers questions about health care. Readers can email any questions they may have, whether it is about personal health, insurance or a health issue they heard about in the community. When a question is selected, the answer will appear in the Arizona Daily Sun on the third Thursday of the following month. Those submitting questions have the option to do so anonymously. Questions can be emailed to CHM@nahealth.com.