



Contributor

Pay it forward and make life better for generations to come with your contribution to the Benefis Women's and Children's Center. Just return the enclosed giving envelope or donate online.

New Center Will Benefit Montana's Women and Children

Because donors believe in paying it forward, Benefis Health System broke ground this spring on a new outpatient treatment center.

Generations to come will benefit from the Benefis Women's and Children's Center, which is projected to open by the end of 2021.

Shannon Hoiland said at the groundbreaking ceremony that she wishes Great Falls had this center when her children, now 10 and 13, were babies.

"It was challenging running from building to building for multiple appointments with my children," she said. "It's still challenging, but at least I'm not carrying them."

Secretary of the Benefis Health System Board of Directors, Shannon anticipates being a patient at the new center.

"I'm glad we get to pay it forward for the next generation of moms," she said. "This center will make their lives easier, and their families' healthcare more convenient."

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“With this new center and your partnership, we will work to keep northcentral Montana children and teenagers thriving for generations to come.”

Dr. LaToya Floyd, Benefis child and adolescent psychiatrist



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Shannon also appreciates that pediatric behavioral health is central to the center. She saw parents' frustration at long waiting lists and full practices before Benefis added providers.

Dr. LaToya Floyd, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, said she looks forward to the new medical home the center represents. She anticipates that having myriad pediatric providers together in one building will help with collaboration, "the key to helping children with complex conditions."

"With this new center and your partnership, we will work to keep northcentral Montana children and teenagers thriving for generations to come," she said.

Donors' support of the project is a symbol of their belief in the future of our community. "We stand here because we believe," Benefis Foundation Board Chairman Dean Nelson said.

"We believe in making a powerful difference in young families' lives in our community. We believe in supporting women's health. We believe in our providers," Dean said. "We believe in the future of Benefis Health System."

The Benefis Women's and Children's Center will have 42 exam rooms on three floors. The first floor will have basic lab services, screening mammography, and pediatric therapies. Pediatrics will occupy the second floor, and the third floor will be home to women's health.

Architect Dani Grebe from LPW Architecture said the center symbolizes belief in the future of Great Falls. The center will be on the 2700 block of 10th Avenue South, formerly a car dealership and now part of Benefis' East Campus.

The center is designed "for the intimate moments that will unfold inside," Dani said.

"Patients have been at the heart of every design decision," she said. "We have been thoughtful about the myriad emotional journeys people take in healthcare."

“ I’m glad we get to pay it forward for the next generation of moms. ”

Shannon Hoiland, Benefis Health System Board of Directors secretary



10 Things You May Not Know About the Benefis Women's and Children's Center

10. The spectacular falls of the Missouri River, right in Benefis Health System's backyard, inspired the interior design of the center. Central to the design is the idea of "cascading." Curved lines in the floor and layered curves in the ceiling will echo the flowing Missouri River.
9. The square footage for pediatric physical, occupational, and speech therapy will double in the new center, with the new space including an outdoor therapy area and a tricycle track so kids can work their legs while "playing."
8. Healthcare providers have been central to planning the details of exam rooms and used life-sized foam rooms to test out features and designs.
7. The women designing, planning, and raising money for the new building and their children will be among the patients when the center opens.
6. Dick Anderson Construction, which also built the new Benefis Emergency Department, was awarded the Women's and Children's Center contract.
5. Livingston glass artist Ona Magaro-Nezbeda is designing a large sculpture that will be suspended in the two-story atrium at the center.
4. Two Great Falls High School students designed wallpaper celebrating Montana wildlife for the pediatric exam rooms.
3. The building will have dedicated workspace for medical students rotating through our women's health area.
2. Nurses' stations will have feeds from fetal monitors so nurses can keep track of patients without going back and forth to the monitoring room.
1. Young donors are taking a lead in supporting the project, which will directly affect them. A match program doubles contributions from people born from 1978-2000, up to \$100,000. There is no minimum to participate, but those who contribute \$500 by October 31, 2021, will be honored on a special Young Professionals Donor Wall in the new center to inspire future generations of philanthropists.



Meet Dannette!

After 10 years of working in marketing and nonprofit management in Las Vegas, Dannette Pulliam is happy to call Great Falls home again.

As the annual giving director, Dannette will oversee Mayfaire, Benefis Foundation's annual fundraiser, as well as other events and development efforts.

"I'm excited to work for an organization that has provided so much for the community," she said.



To join other young professionals in the Women's and Children's Center Donor Match Program, visit Benefis.org/DonorMatch. Start contributing \$10 a week today, and you will be recognized on the donor wall by the building's opening.

Community Rallies for Benefis During COVID-19 Outbreak

Every time Jordan Hronek, a physician assistant, walked into a room in the Benefis Health System Emergency Department this spring, she knew the patient in front of her could be COVID-19 positive.



She's just one of the many Benefis employees who risked their lives for patients during the coronavirus outbreak. **Most of us will never know the courage required to fight for the life of a COVID-19-positive patient struggling for every breath.**

Benefis had to quickly adapt to changes amid great uncertainty with the highest stakes. The coronavirus tested the grit, commitment, and finances of every hospital.

The outbreak also reminded our medical staff why they got into this challenging field, despite the risks to themselves and their families, said Dr. Tauqeer Rahat, Benefis hospitalists medical director.

"We're here to help our communities and to help our patients," Dr. Rahat said. **"It's times like these that bring out the best in all of us. We help each other in moments of crisis."**

Benefis not only benefited from Montana's low population density and low infection rate, but also from watching other parts of the country, listening to regulatory agencies, and talking to other hospitals in the state to develop a strategic plan that made sense for Benefis and our community. Benefis treated a handful of COVID-19-positive patients, some of whom required intubation.

In this trying time, **Benefis staff felt so loved as the community found creative ways to express support.** Jordan said the community pulling together to "flatten the curve" and prevent the spread of the disease made all the difference. The contributions helped lift the spirits of people like her on the frontlines of battling the disease and across the health system. She's grateful. We're all grateful.

In desperate times like these, we learn what our community is made of. **Thanks for having our backs.**

Support came in the form of masks and meals, chalk messages of encouragement, free coffees, discounts, services, and kind words that warmed our hearts.

Together we are #GreatFallsStrong.



Resave the Date for Mayfaire 2020

For the safety of our guests and our community amid spring's coronavirus outbreak, Benefis Foundation moved Mayfaire from May to August 28 and 29.

One of the premier fundraising events in Great Falls, Mayfaire will look a little different this year. We'll kick things off with a golf tournament, a wine tasting, and barbecue with live music on Friday. On Saturday, we'll have an elegant reception with a virtual gala and an online auction. **We look forward to gathering, to celebrating in gratitude, and to raising money for the new Benefis Women's and Children's Center.**

Want to get involved? We'd love to have your support. Here are five ways to take part:

- Volunteer at the reception or golf tournament.
- Purchase wine tasting tickets.
- Sell or purchase raffle tickets.
- Donate auction items.
- Sponsor a golf team.

If you can lend a hand, please contact Dannette Pulliam at DannettePulliam@benefis.org or (406) 455-5842.

COVID-19 Leads to Camp Francis in a Box

Every year, Benefis Peace Hospice's beloved Camp Francis provides a sanctuary for children who have lost a loved one and a place for them to share their feelings about loss and learn to cope.

However, the camp is canceled for 2020 to protect campers, their families, and volunteers from coronavirus spread and because the U.S. Forest Service closed Camp Rotary, which hosts Camp Francis, through June.

Instead, volunteers put together "Camp Francis in a Box" to send to would-be campers. The boxes will include birds stitched by Mary Pat Smith, the annual camp bandana, a piece of a collective art project, stories, activities, and information about other bereavement services. Volunteers also are recording messages of hope so campers can see their faces and hear their voices.

Organizers want children to know they aren't alone.

"Camp is such a magical time for kids to learn about grief and to support families," Camp Director Kathy Van Tighem said. "All of us, the volunteers and staff, are very disappointed we had to cancel, but we still want to give children this healing opportunity as a bridge of hope as we look to 2021."



Can you help?

Your support for the Children's Bereavement Program at Benefis Peace Hospice helps the magic happen all year long. Contributions to Benefis Foundation allow grieving children and their families to take part in the program for free.

If you know a family with a child who could benefit from Benefis bereavement services after the loss of a loved one, please contact Kevin Sukut at kevinsukut@benefis.org or (406) 455-3065.

Davidsons' Donation Latest in Legacy of Giving

As Dr. Bill Bloemendaal built Great Falls Orthopedic Associates into a practice renowned across the Pacific Northwest, he was committed to his patients and to his employees. He wanted to help ensure his employees' futures and developed a solid retirement program.

With his work on that program and his strong interest in the stock market, Dr. Bloemendaal was on the phone every day with Ian Davidson, now chairman emeritus of D.A. Davidson. Their business relationship turned into a five-decades-long friendship between both men's families.

Ian and Nancy Davidson and Andrew and Wendy Davidson are honoring Dr. Bill and Lynn Bloemendaal with a \$275,000 donation to the Benefis Women's and Children's Center and the naming of the center's first-floor education center.

The Dr. J.W. "Bill" and Lynn Bloemendaal Education Center recognizes the Bloemendaals' commitment to education. Dr. Bloemendaal was a father-figure and mentor to many, and he, like Nancy Davidson, served on the board of the Great Falls Public Schools.

"We had such a high regard for Bill and his medical career, and for Lynn as a former nurse and someone who made it possible," said Andrew Davidson, who leads the family's foundation.

In 2010, Dr. Bloemendaal and Great Falls Orthopedic Associates opened the state-of-the-art Orthopedic Center of Montana in partnership with Benefis Health System. Until his passing at age 89 in January, Dr. Bloemendaal continued to see patients daily at Benefis Orthopedics. His expertise and wisdom were assets to Benefis.

The Davidsons said the donation also reflects the three pillars they support in Great Falls and beyond: healthcare, education, and effective city governance. A community's future depends on those pillars, and that is how you attract new residents, Andrew said.

When employee candidates for D.A. Davidson, or for Benefis, come to Great Falls, they most want to know whether the community has good schools and good hospitals, and whether it is a well-run city, he said.

The Davidsons' legacy is woven into every significant project in Benefis Health System's history, and they've long been supporters of Mayfaire, Benefis Foundation's annual fundraiser. Nancy served on the Foundation Board from 2004-2011.



Ian said he looks around the hospital and sees so many ways people have contributed. The writing is literally on the wall in donor-recognition plaques.

People who are blessed with the ability to give back in support of their community and the greater good have a responsibility to do what they can, Nancy said.

Nancy said her family had awaited such an opportunity to honor their dear friends and show their support for Benefis. "We're so pleased to have the chance to do this," Nancy said. "We believe in a strong medical center, and this will add to it."

R.V. Park Offers Home Away From Home

Having a place to stay for free can be the difference between a cancer patient continuing treatment or giving up in the face of mounting hotel bills or a long commute from a rural community.

Since 1992, donors to Gift of Life Housing have made easier the healthcare journeys of people who must travel to Great Falls for treatment at Benefis Health System.

For some patients, their own R.V. is a home away from home, and that's why Benefis offers something unique in healthcare: the Ann Thornton Memorial R.V. Park.

Donors recently sponsored much-needed upgrades to the R.V. park at Benefis West Campus. The updates made R.V. spots larger for easier parking, and improved electrical, water, and sewer services, as well as landscaping.

Gift of Life Housing has provided more than 7,000 nights of free lodging for more than 3,000 people in the past 28 years at its R.V. park and centers at Benefis East and West campuses.



“Our R.V. is our second home, so being able to stay in it during my treatment made me feel more at peace with everything. Thank you!”

Sletten Cancer Institute patient from Valier, Mont.

The generosity of Benefis Foundation donors keeps Gift of Life Housing free for patients from across northcentral Montana as they go through cancer treatment. If you can support these patients in their time of need with free lodging, please contribute online at Benefis.org/Foundation or use the enclosed giving envelope.



Mercy Flight Licence Plates

When a grizzly bear mauling along the Sun River left a man in urgent need of medical care, his family praised the pilot who “landed on a patch of river rock about the size of a small pickup truck,” as well as the medical crew who leapt into action.

Every day, families across the region benefit from these heroes in the sky and their life-saving work. You can show your support by choosing a Benefis Mercy Flight license plate for your vehicle.

The funds from these specialty plates go toward the busiest medical air transport in the state. Each driver with a Mercy Flight license plate pays an extra \$20 a year as a contribution to Benefis Foundation's Mercy Flight Fund, and the program has raised more than \$74,000 since the plates debuted.

Angel Fund Donors Help Tiny ‘Superhero’ in Fight of His Life

After a tough delivery, Dean Anzalone of Scobey, Mont., was just a few hours old when Benefis Mercy Flight picked him up at a rural hospital for treatment at Benefis Health System. Mom Sasha Juel and dad Wyatt Anzalone raced after him by car.

Dean’s parents were still on the way to Great Falls when doctors called with the news their tiny baby had a heart with holes and transposed arteries. He needed surgery at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

“It was the most terrifying day of our lives and the longest eight hours imaginable,” Sasha said.

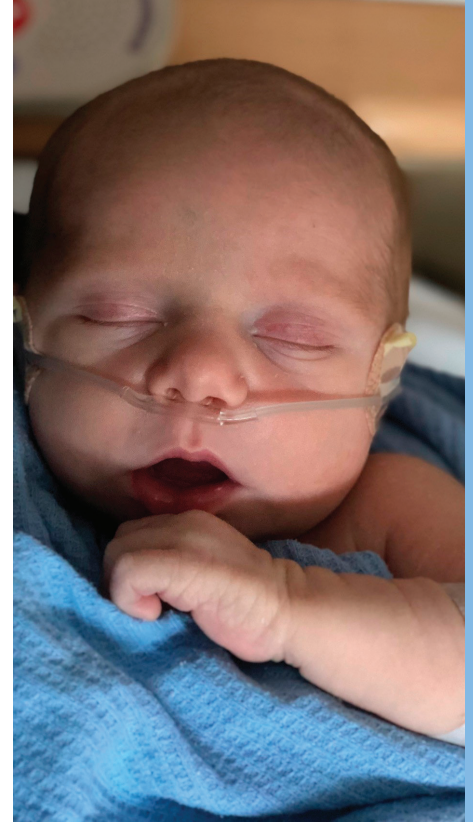
Donors to Benefis Foundation’s Angel Fund help cover expenses for families when children must travel for treatment.

“When Dean was flown from Benefis to Seattle Children’s, we were already so far from home and unprepared for an open-ended stay in Seattle,” Sasha said.

“Thanks to the Angel Fund, we were able to immediately begin our journey and focus on getting to our little boy instead of worrying about fuel, lodging, and food,” she added. “Charity like the Angel Fund made it possible for both of us to be there for his surgery and recovery, which meant the world to us as brand-new parents.”

Today Dean’s heart looks great. He will need regular visits to the cardiologist but can expect a normal, active life, Sasha said. The sweet boy is meeting milestones with ease.

Wyatt said he hoped to be a hero to his son, but instead found in his newborn “our little superhero.”



Dean is one of more than 1,200 children who have been helped by Angel Fund donors. Every year, the number of sick children in need increases.

Your gifts will make a family’s medical journey easier to bear.

YES, I’ll help sick children from my community receive specialized care!

Please accept my Angel Fund gift:

- in the enclosed giving envelope.
- as an online donation given today at Benefis.org/Foundation.