



# 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 Foster Play in Youngest Patients on the Road to Wellness

The pink power car is more than a toy for Henzley Walker. It's freedom and independence for a girl who doesn't have much of either.

Henzley's Benefis pediatric occupational therapist Michelle Fox-Hustwaite uses a modified wheelchair harness to hold Henzley steady in the toy car. Across Henzley's lap, Michelle puts a board with a large button that allows the 3-year-old to operate the car by placing it within reach of her stronger right hand. Behind Henzley, a PVC brace, modified by her dad, keeps her head upright and holds her feeding system. Pool noodles keep her steady in her seat.

“ Kids just want to do more every day. It's my job to help them be more successful. ”

Michelle Fox-Hustwaite, pediatric occupational therapist

The car's headlights flip on, and Michelle asks her, "Are you ready to rock and roll?" Henzley makes a loop in the driveway and raises her arms in victory.

"This is amazing!" Michelle says. "She's playing. This is something she can do while her sister is playing outside. She's playing with a toy like any other child, and neighbor kids come by and visit."

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The new Benefis Women's and Children's Center will impact kids like Henzley in a profound way. We look forward to the day we see children's legs grow stronger as they pedal tricycles around the new outdoor racetrack. They'll gain confidence and competence in the model kitchen or bathroom as they safely develop strategies for greater independence at home. They'll try new speech skills as they play together. We'll be there as the magic happens.

The first time Henzley operated the car, "Her face just lit up. She knows she's making herself move, and when does she ever get to be in control of her body moving through space?" Michelle said.

"Research shows children who have these experiences have more growth in motor skills, cognitive skills, and verbal skills," Michelle said. "Kids just want to do more every day. It's my job to help them be more successful."

Michelle calls Henzley "one of our miracles."

Henzley was born with a chromosomal abnormality that left her immunocompromised and dependent on a feeding tube, an ostomy bag, a tracheostomy vent, and a wheelchair. She can only see bright, solid colors. She has a partial corpus callosum, which affects her balance, coordination, and movement.

Her mom, Ashley, is wowed by how far Henzley has come.

"She was never able to touch a toy or grab one. Now she can grab toys," she said. "She likes to cruise in her car, and she and her sister go up and down the sidewalk. We're so thankful."

Play is the avenue to wellness for our pediatric therapy patients, and that's why the outdoor therapy space at the Women's and Children's Center is designed like a playground.

Central to the program is the message that your child's development may not be how you envisioned it, but "this is how you can help them build confidence in their capacity," said Peggy Ray, manager of outpatient therapies at Benefis Therapy Center.

Plans call for pediatric therapies on the first floor of the Women's and Children's Center, an outpatient center that also will include a basic lab, screening mammography, pediatrics, and women's health. The center will have a calming room for children who need to withdraw to re-center themselves and a feeding room.

There will be space for education, as well. A large part of what therapists do is help patients and their families understand how to cope. They're a support structure after a scary, even overwhelming, diagnosis, often helping a child from the incubator to elementary school - formative years where they make a tremendous difference.

Peggy is excited to see the impact of greater collaboration in the new Women's and Children's Center. Currently, the 10 pediatric therapists in occupational, speech, and physical therapies are spread across four cramped locations at Benefis.

"There are so many important details the designer was able to accommodate and make beautiful," she said. "The therapists all had a part in developing the space."



“The therapists all had a part in developing the space.”

Peggy Ray, manager of outpatient therapies





# You Can Come Through for Pediatric Therapies Patients

We believe we can all make an impact in improving young people's health. **Your gifts toward building the new Women's and Children's Center with its multidisciplinary health and wellness programs will help build brighter futures for Montana's youth.**

The Women's and Children's Center has a limited number of **naming opportunities** remaining, including sponsorship of sculptural pieces that will inspire patients, spaces of comfort and education, and more. There is no better way to honor the legacy of someone you love than to pay it forward in their honor.

We also have a **wish list** for pediatric therapies spaces and would appreciate monetary gifts toward these items:

- Bathroom lift - \$2,954
- Pneumatic table - \$5,578
- Parallel bars - \$6,795
- Fold-out table - \$876
- Therapy ball - \$113 each
- Swings - \$400 each
- Folding floor mat - \$170 each
- Circle bolster furniture - \$425 each
- Tricycle - \$115 each
- Bicycle - \$199 each



## Young Professionals Match Aims to Inspire Lifetime of Philanthropy



Your donation to the Women's and Children's Center can work twice as hard. **A match program doubles contributions from people born from 1978-2000**, up to \$100,000. There is no minimum to participate, but those who donate \$500 by Oct. 31, 2021, will be honored on a special Young Professionals Donor Wall in the new center to inspire future generations of philanthropists.

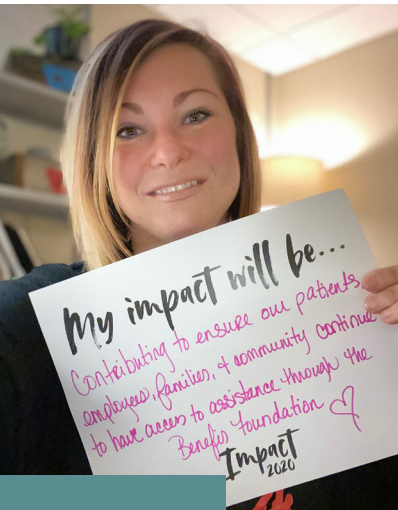
Among our young professional donors is **Crystal Bahnsen**, a nurse practitioner in clinical pediatrics. She and her husband are contributing to the project because of the way it directly empowers those she serves at Benefis.

**"We want to partner with families in helping children be healthy and their best selves,"** she said. "The opportunity to support a project financially with the match donation positively impacts these women and children and the generations to come with quality and compassionate care in a state-of-the-art facility."

To learn more or donate, visit [Benefis.org/DonorMatch](https://Benefis.org/DonorMatch).

# Benefis Employees See Foundation's Work Firsthand and Give Generously

Benefis Foundation's work helps people feel loved and lifted in times of crisis.



During the Impact 2020 employee giving campaign, 54 percent of employees donated \$510,000 to the Foundation, to United Way, and to other local nonprofits. Twenty-six departments had 100 percent participation.

Employees chose from causes such as the Angel Fund, which helps the families of children who must travel for further treatment, the Caring For Our Own Fund, which supports employees in crisis, or directed their contributions to whatever has the greatest need.

Impact 2020 co-chairs Roni Griffith and Tobi Magruder both hold close to their hearts Benefis Foundation's Caring For Our Own Fund.

Tobi, a business systems analyst, said she loves the employee giving campaign "and the chance to make a difference in even the littlest ways."

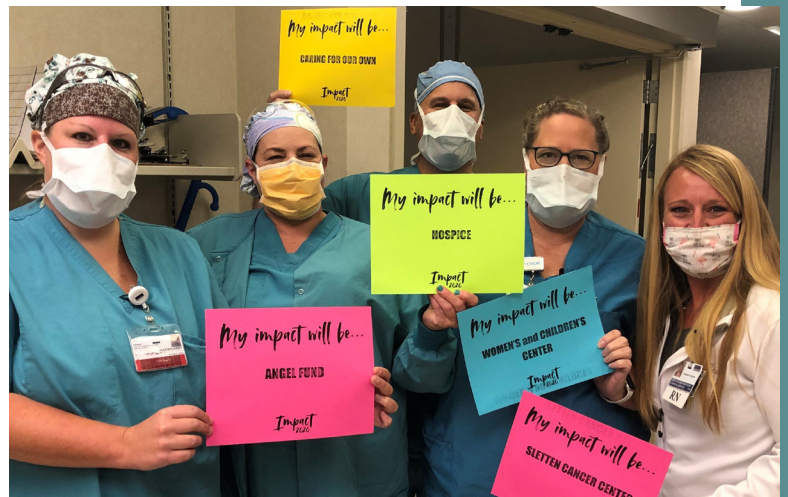
"I believe it is very important to show people that they are important and loved," she said. "Benefis and its employees are a family, and I have seen time and time again where we have taken care of our fellow employees."

## Impact 2020 Top Three Supported Funds

- Women's and Children's Center
- Caring For Our Own
- Angel Fund

“ I believe it is very important to show people that they are important and loved. ”

Tobi Magruder, Impact 2020 co-chairwoman



Since the first employee giving campaign in 2002, Benefis employees have given more than \$5 million to help people in need.



## Can you help?

Benefis employees who give to the Impact campaign understand that no matter the size of their gift, every contribution makes a difference. **Help ensure people continue to receive the assistance they need. Visit [Benefis.org/Foundation](https://Benefis.org/Foundation) to donate to your favorite fund today.**





## Jumping for Joy! Mayfaire Finds a New Way Forward This Year

Challenging times call for grace and flexibility, and that's what our generous Mayfaire supporters offered us this year.

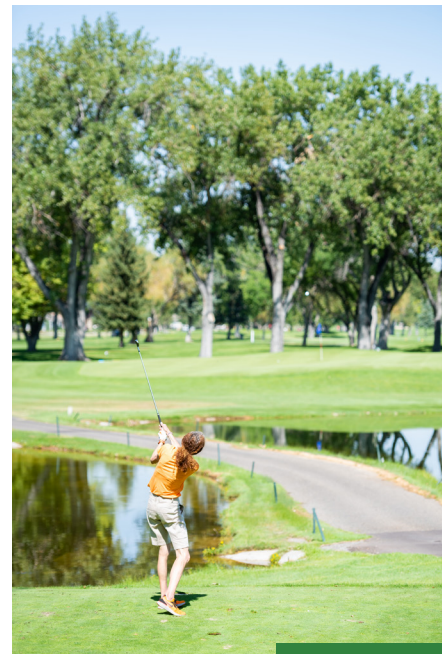
Mayfaire 2020 raised more than \$475,000 toward building the state-of-the-art Women's and Children's Center and bringing us one step closer to realizing this vision of better care for Montana families.

The 21st edition of Benefis Foundation's signature fundraiser was postponed from May to August amid the first crest of the COVID-19 pandemic, then became a largely virtual event to protect participants and our community.

We were able to have an in-person golf tournament since the sport doesn't depend on indoor spaces and lends itself well to social distancing. The sunshine and fun were most welcomed.

The virtual silent auction drew new participants into the Mayfaire fold, and we're grateful for everyone who made a bid this year. One auction item of particular note was an original painting artist Tom Gilleon generously donated.

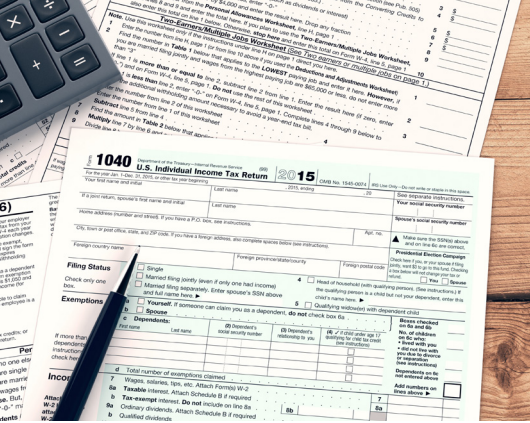
When you take part in Mayfaire – whether it's in May or in August – you know you've made a difference. We're hopeful for the year ahead, and we're grateful for the support that carried us through 2020.



To support the new Benefis Women's and Children's Center, please donate **online at [Benefis.org/Foundation](https://Benefis.org/Foundation)** or use the enclosed giving envelope.







# Cameron Family Leads the Way on Supporting Women's and Children's Center

## Use Your IRA to Make Tax-Wise Gifts!

Among the many reasons to make charitable gifts are the chance to help build the Women's and Children's Center, to support the greatest need of our hospital during the pandemic, or support students pursuing careers in healthcare.

New tax rules and tried-and-true strategies can help maximize the impact of your charitable gifts.

## New for 2020

There is a \$300 charitable deduction for non-itemizers. The higher standard deductions eliminated itemizing deductions, such as charitable gifts, for many people, but this new rule allows for a special deduction.

As in the past, if you give appreciated stock you have owned for more than one year, there may be tax advantages. Even if you don't itemize, you can avoid paying long-term capital gains taxes on that stock.

Making a tax-free transfer from your IRA is a great way to give. People who are 70½ and older can give up to \$100,000 per year, tax-free from their IRA.

In Montana, we have the special opportunity with the Montana Endowment Tax Credit to reduce your state income tax. There are a few special rules to qualify for the credit – the gift must be to an endowment fund at a Montana charitable organization and must be given through a prescribed planned giving procedure.

Foundation staff can help you determine whether this opportunity is right for you and answer questions you may have about the best strategy for making charitable gifts.

Working in public health north of Nome, Alaska, Nancy Cameron confronted for the first time that some families are unable to meet their most basic needs.

That awareness has stayed with Nancy throughout her career and inspired her in her philanthropy.

Nancy recently contributed \$600,000 toward building the Benefis Women's and Children's Center, an outpatient clinic with pediatric therapies, pediatrics, and women's health along 10th Avenue South.

Nancy said she appreciates the chance to contribute to a project that will impact generations to come.

"When it comes to helping mothers and children, I'm big on that," she said. "I feel blessed to be able to contribute."

Nancy added another \$300,000 earmarked for scholarships awarded by Benefis Foundation to support medical education. She said the scholarships are a way to support medical professionals in their careers, something that has been top-of-mind this pandemic. Scholarships also are a way to help ensure northcentral Montanans have healthcare providers in the future.

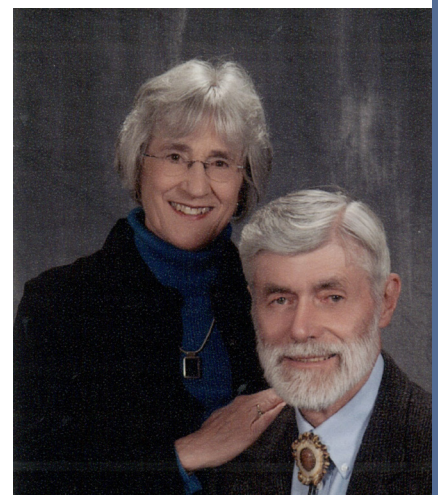
Nancy now lives in Boise, Idaho, but said her brother told her about the Women's and Children's Center being built in her hometown of Great Falls. David and Tanya Cameron also are significant backers of the project.

Marilyn Parker, chief operating officer of Benefis Foundation, said the Camerons donate in a way that leads others to give, too.

"The incredible generosity of the Cameron family to Benefis Health System across many years – as well as to other important causes throughout Montana – is an inspiration. They give with humility, with a spirit of gratefulness, and with a deep love for Great Falls," Marilyn said. "They truly want to make our community better for everyone – and they do."



Nancy Cameron



David and Tanya Cameron

# Donors Support Student on Her Way to Becoming Fourth Generation Nurse

In 1987, before she knew the granddaughter who would follow her into nursing, Dori Berndt died in a Mercy Flight crash along the Rocky Mountain Front with a pilot and two doctors.

Dori, a flight nurse at Deaconess Hospital (now Benefis), inspired her daughter Sherry to become a flight nurse, too. And now her granddaughter, McKenzie Taylor, is studying to follow in the footsteps of her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Lillian, who was a nurse at Choteau's hospital.

**“My grandmother gave her life to her profession,”** McKenzie said. “Knowing that my family has given so much to the nursing profession, it is my heart’s desire to follow in my own mother’s footsteps, as well as the paths of two prior generations.”

Donors to Benefis Foundation’s scholarships program sponsored \$100,500 in scholarships for 47 students like McKenzie this year. Many students already have ties to Benefis as employees furthering their medical education. **Since the scholarship program’s founding, 715 students have shared \$1,381,000 in scholarships.**

This year, McKenzie received the Darcy Dengel Nursing Scholarship, named for a nurse who died in a Mercy Flight crash in 2007. Another Benefis Foundation scholarship honors paramedic Paul Erickson, who also died that day.

“I am honored to receive this scholarship in Darcy’s memory,” McKenzie said. “Besides the money, it helps boost my motivation and confidence to keep going beyond my RN to become a registered nurse anesthetist.”

McKenzie and her mother recently visited the new memorial at Benefis Health System honoring those who died in the two Mercy Flight wrecks.

“For me, it brought up a lot of emotions knowing what my mom went through growing up without her mom,” she said. “It made me think of my grandmother’s passion for her profession and that I have that in my blood.”

McKenzie, who grew up on a ranch at Rock Springs, Mont., between Miles City and Jordan, splits her summers between cattle chores and working as a certified nursing assistant taking care of elderly patients. She’s a junior on the Dean’s List at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., but dreams of building her expertise to bring back to serve rural Montana communities.



McKenzie Taylor (3) exploring the cockpit.

“Knowing that my family has given so much to the nursing profession, it is my heart’s desire to follow in my own mother’s footsteps, as well as the paths of two prior generations.”

McKenzie Taylor, fourth generation nurse



Left to right: Lillian Berndt, BSN RN, late great-grandmother to McKenzie Taylor; Dori Berndt, BSN RN, flight nurse, late grandmother to McKenzie Taylor; Sherry (Berndt) Taylor, BSN RN, flight nurse, mother of McKenzie Taylor; and McKenzie Taylor, student nurse.



# Angel Fund Donors Stand with Family After ATV Wreck

In 30 minutes on a recent Sunday afternoon, a birthday party turned from scenes of fun, family, and cake, to “a horror movie” of screaming, blood, and panic after a wreck left 13-year-old Cory Amelsberg crushed beneath an ATV.

**The wait for help seemed to last an eternity, but Cory’s family cherished each moment, expecting it would be their last with their boy.**

Cory suffered a skull fracture, a ruptured spleen, a shattered humerus, and lacerations on his back. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was leaking from his ear, clots were in his brain, and something neurological affected his right eye and lower lip.

Benefis doctors made the call that Cory needed to get to specialists in Seattle. His mom, Heather, flew with him. His dad, Arin, borrowed money to make the drive to Seattle.

“Just about everything was stressful and challenging in Seattle,” Heather said. “The second night I was there, I didn’t even have enough money to get my car out of the parking garage. I sat and cried and thought about sleeping in the car.”

**After receiving an Angel Fund grant, Heather could afford a few essentials and some clothing – a relief after days in clothes she wore when they left Great Falls.**

Heather is the sole provider for their large family after Arin had to have a foot amputated six weeks before Cory’s wreck. She was out of work for two weeks, and Angel Fund donors helped her family cope with that as well.

Because of a helmet and a team of EMTs, sheriff’s deputies, Benefis Mercy Flight, and dedicated medical providers at Benefis and Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Cory’s story didn’t end with an ATV wreck at age 13. He’s healing, cognitively normal, and enjoying the extra attention.

Because of Angel Fund donors, his family knew comfort in their time of crisis. **Tomorrow another family will be in the Amelsbergs’ shoes, hoping for a miracle for their injured or sick child and in need of your help.**



## 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](https://Benefis.org/Foundation).