

Contributor

Webcams for the NICU



Donor-funded project helps loved ones keep watch

During her pregnancy, Jerri Lembo-Rogers and her husband, Jesse Martell, never expected they would leave the hospital without their new bundle of love.

But when baby Joseph suddenly had to be taken by Caesarean 8 weeks early because the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck, he only weighed 4 pounds. So Joey had to go to the Benefis Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and, after recovering from the C-section, Jerri and Jesse had to go home to care for their 2-year-old son, Justin.

Though there is comfort in knowing your new baby is in the expert hands of neonatal care providers, you still are leaving a huge piece of your heart behind when you leave the hospital. You worry so much. You long to be there, to make sure he is still breathing. You just want to gaze at the little miracle you created and start getting to know him.

Thanks to donors to the Benefis Foundation, the Benefis NICU is now equipped with NicView webcams so parents who have to be away from their little ones can keep a close watch on them, easing some of the worry and helping develop that bond.

The cameras, installed on the IV poles next to the isolettes, provide real-time streaming, 24 hours a day, through a secure online portal, allowing parents to stay connected through smartphones, computers or tablets. The cameras are only turned off during routine medical procedures. Parents can share the password with grandparents and other family members, friends and loved ones who live out of state.



Jesse Martell holds baby Joey while mom Jerri Lembo-Rogers explains to their 2-year-old son Justin how the NICU is helping Joey grow, develop and get stronger.

"It was pretty cool when we found out about the webcams," Jerri said. "It's so hard being away from him. One of us has our phone on him at all times."

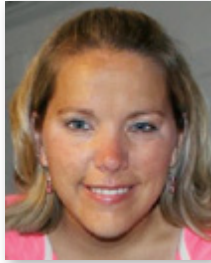
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Webcams for the NICU *Continued from the cover*

Jerri said she even sleeps with her phone next to her. Jesse checks his phone often while he's at work. Little Justin likes to watch "his baby" on mom and dad's phones, too.

The Benefis NICU treats about 320 babies each year, with an average stay of 17 days. That means each year hundreds of parents experience this difficult separation from their new babies.

"I think the webcams will put many families at ease knowing everything is OK when they are not able to be here, particularly at night or if they live out of town and can only visit a few days a week," said Staci Griffin, Benefis NICU Operations Specialist.



Staci Griffin

"We transport infants to the Benefis NICU from all over the state, and the drive for parents to visit their infant could be 6 hours or more, particularly for families from Eastern Montana."

Also, military families may not have any relatives in the area, so this is a way for them to show off their new addition. And close family members who are ill or siblings without certain vaccinations cannot visit the NICU, so this is a way for them to have a peek without putting baby at risk.

But, primarily, the camera is so mom and dad can look in on baby during those long days and sleepless nights without him... and rest assured that he is just fine.

"You wonder and worry a lot no matter what," said Jerri. **"But it would be so much worse without the camera. It definitely makes going home a lot easier."** ♦



The cameras are only turned off during routine medical procedures.

How You Can Help

Providing peace of mind to new parents who are worried about their little ones is priceless.

In order to provide this special gift, we need your help. Each year, service and support of the webcams will cost \$4,600. Plus, it would be nice to equip additional rooms with a webcam so more parents can keep an eye on their new babies.

To make a gift, you may use the enclosed giving envelope or make your gift online at benefisfoundation.org.



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"Fight On" Party Raises Awareness About Women's Cancer



Katie Carvell, Tiffany DeBolt and Motifs owner Kattie Meyer

In October, downtown businesses Motifs, The Blue Rose, My Viola and A Little Bit of Cake teamed up for a "Fight On" party to support women battling cancer and cancer survivors.

Those who wore pink received a 20 percent discount at Motifs and The Blue Rose, plus the two businesses put together a \$600 gift basket to be raffled off. Cancer patients and survivors were given a special corsage from My Viola. Guests enjoyed pink champagne, pink lemonade and pink cupcakes from A Little Bit of Cake throughout the evening.

The money raised through the raffle was donated to the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute's Circle of Hope Program, which provides wigs, breast prosthetics, cosmetology care and more for local and regional cancer patients.

Thanks to everyone who supported this perfectly pink event. You are helping make the cancer journey a little easier for patients in Great Falls and the region.

Remembering a Friend through Gift to Hospice House

If you've ever been inside Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, you have found yourself basking in the glow of sunbeams shining through dozens of stained glass windows, taking you to that place where you can reflect, find peace and deepen your spirituality.

Much of that beautiful work is thanks to Patti Black, who, with a few other members of the congregation, started a stained glass study group more than 25 years ago.

"None of us knew anything about stained glass," said Bill Zins, who works with Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company. "Patti took us under her wing."

Over time, the group proceeded to fill all of the windows at Sunrise Presbyterian. Now two artists from the group – Bill Zins and Bill Harp – have been dedicating stained glass works in memory of dear friends and loved ones at the Benefis Peace Hospice Residential Facility.

Most recently, they donated a black swan in loving memory of their longtime friend and mentor, Patti, who passed away in May 2014 after a battle with cancer.

"Patti loved to go to Gibson Park, and she loved the black swans," said Bill Harp of Harp Finance Group. "She also loved clematises, purple clematises."

And she loved Hospice, which was her home for the final six months of her life.

"Patti became such a friend to all of us," said Susie Taleff, former manager of Volunteer Services at Hospice. "She got to such a level of comfort while she was here."

Susie said some of the staff and Patti even ventured out to the Club Cigar for some fun on St. Patrick's Day.

Patti's son Eddie Black of Helena said Hospice meant the world to his mother.

"One day, when we were talking about her house, she said, It was just a house – my home is at Hospice," Eddie remembers. **"The connection and care at Hospice was very meaningful to her, and to us. We knew she was safe and comfortable."**



Patti Black

Bill Zins' mother passed away at Hospice in 2005. He also had a dear friend stay there. And both of Bill Harp's in-laws received the comfort and loving care provided at Hospice before they passed away.

So both had created and donated stained glass windows in memory of loved ones even before Patti moved to Hospice.

After seeing what Hospice meant to their friend Patti, they wanted to create a special tribute to her as well.

Their fellow parishioner, Bob Gentry, who also was a member of the stained glass group, designed the window with the swan, the flowers and the vine. Then Bill Harp and Bill Zins hand-picked the colors for the window, making sure the black glass wasn't too dark to let the light through. The window is made up of about 140 pieces of glass, including some from Patti's shop, the Stained Glass Emporium.

In November, Bill Zins and Bill Harp joined members of Patti's family along with Hospice staff members for a dedication ceremony, during which they gave the window to Hospice Manager Vicki Robinson to be installed in the room where Patti spent her final days.

"The addition of the stained glass above the door allows the patient and their family to experience beauty and calmness in a home-like environment during their stay at Peace Hospice," said Vicki, adding they now have nearly 20 pieces of stained glass at the Hospice House. **"We truly appreciate the beautiful gift."**

How you can support the Peace Hospice House

The Peace Hospice Residential Facility opened in 2002 and was expanded by eight rooms in 2012 thanks to philanthropy. The "Hospice House" needs ongoing support to continue providing such a special level of care for Peace Hospice patients and their families. Last year, donors made it possible to replace appliances, flooring and carpet; provide gentle, non-intrusive massages and over-bed tables for patients; and much more.

To donate, you may use the enclosed giving envelope or make your gift online at benefisfoundation.org.

To learn more about donating a stained glass window to the Hospice House or purchasing a paver in its Peace Courtyard, please call 406.455.3040. ♦

Bill Zins and Bill Harp with the beautiful stained glass transom window made in tribute to their friend Patti Black.



IRA Charitable Rollover Made Permanent

For people who are 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts.

In late 2015, Congress made this provision permanent for future years. A total of up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRAs to one or more qualified charities, such as the Benefis Foundation, free from federal income tax each year.

There may also be state income tax savings. Amounts given in this way count toward required IRA minimum withdrawal amounts for the year of the gift. In addition, the benefit is available even if you don't itemize your federal tax returns.

To make such gifts, it is important to have the gift amount distributed directly from an IRA to the charity.

For those with check-writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make gifts directly from an IRA.

Contact us, your IRA administrator or your tax advisor for more information.

To learn more about tax-wise giving, including the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, call Marilyn Parker at 455-5836. ♦



Benefis Employees Give \$381,630 ... Making the Future Bright for Others

Despite rain, wind, and heavy smoke last fall, Benefis employees' incredible generosity made the future so bright they could still rock their shades.

More than 1,100 Benefis employees donated a record-breaking \$381,630 to support Benefis Health System Foundation and other local nonprofits. These funds benefit programs and people here at Benefis and throughout Northcentral Montana.

Eighty-six percent of the donations were directed toward Benefis Foundation programs, such as the Angel Fund,

Greatest Need, Peace Hospice and the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute. Once again, our employees demonstrated their support for the Benefis Family by contributing more to the employee/volunteer compassion fund Caring For Our Own than to any other individual fund.

We are thankful to all employee donors for their dedication to helping people both through their work and their support of the Benefis Foundation.

The names of these caring, sharing people can be found on the following pages.

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"Benefis and Great Falls have been good to me and my wife Karla (who works in Bio-Med) over our careers, and this is a small way to give back to both."

Dave Runkel, Manager of Benefis Pharmacy



“As parents, we take it for granted that we will be able to be there to comfort our child in times of sickness or need. Even though very good and high level care is available in Great Falls, sometimes families have to travel long distances for specialty care for their children.

The Angel Fund helps defray these travel costs, easing worries about finances in an already difficult time.

Families make huge sacrifices to come together in times of sickness. Contributing to the Angel Fund has given me an opportunity to help families stay together to support their child.”

Dr. Emilia Ploplys, Plastic Surgeon with Benefis Medical Group



Kai and Miles Ploplys

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“During times of financial success, please remember to help your less fortunate fellow.

Benefis Foundation has many programs providing financial assistance to very good causes, and it's easy to pick programs you believe in.

Also, when you give to Benefis Foundation, 100 percent of your donation goes to the programs you want.”

Dr. Eliad Culcea, Neurologist with Benefis Medical Group



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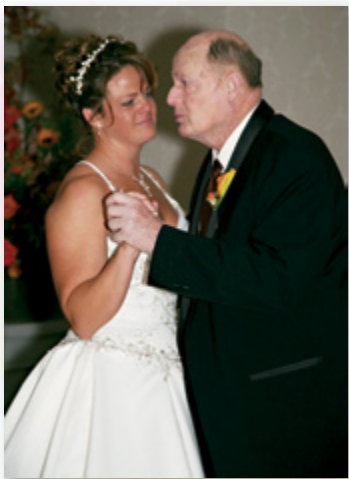
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Sara Scheer
Erin Schermele
Colter Schilling
Kimberly Schilling
Mary Schleer
Debbie Schmidt
Jamason Schmidt



“I’ve contributed through the We Care! We Share! Campaign since I started working at Benefis.

I give a small portion of my salary each pay period. I really don’t miss it, and what I get back in feeling like I make a difference for someone in need is priceless.

The best part is that I get to

decide where my money goes based on what is important to me and to my family in whatever stage of life we happen to be in.

My passion for giving started with my dad ... and a seizure ... and the diagnosis of a brain tumor in June 2001. He had surgery, and we were hopeful. In 2001, I began giving to the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute.

In 2002, my dad had more complications from the remaining tumor and was sent to the Mayo Clinic for a second surgery and radiation. My mom and I were fortunate enough to be guests of the ‘Hope Lodge,’ Mayo’s version of Gift of Life Housing. We were able to stay near the hospital and connect with other families. Dad had complications due to the radiation and was flown home, becoming one of the first residents of the Peace

Hospice House. He also is one of the very few who left the Hospice House as his situation improved and spent some time on the Rehab floor. This was the year I began giving to Gift of Life Housing, Peace Hospice and Rehab.

Life continued. Mom had to get a job to pay the bills, which meant Dad was home alone. His mobility wasn’t great; he had some falls and some issues in the kitchen, so we were directed to Meals on Wheels. Dad truly enjoyed the meals but more so he enjoyed the company. We were relieved to know that he had a good meal, a friendly face and the comfort in knowing that someone could check on him. That was the year I started giving to Meals on Wheels.

We spent more time at the Sletten Cancer Institute, where dad had a CyberKnife treatment ... and I contributed more to the SCI. In March 2008, Dad got really sick and there was nothing more we could do. We were welcomed back to Peace Hospice and we all were with Dad when he took his last breath on May 28, 2008.

I know I am not the biggest contributor. But it makes me feel good knowing I am part of a larger picture and that I can help those organizations that helped us when we needed it the most. Because of me and because of us, we can continue to help others who might face the same challenges. You just never know when it might be you who needs help.”

Andrea Cordeiro, Manager of West Campus Specialty Clinic



Help Ensure the Future of Healthcare

When you donate to support an endowment, that “forever fund” generates income year in and year out to support important healthcare services in Great Falls and the region.

Thanks to the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, donors receive significant savings when they make a planned gift to one of Benefis Health System Foundation’s endowments. The tax credit was created to encourage gifts to endowments because these types of funds will help ensure the future of excellent healthcare services in our great state.

In order to qualify for the tax credit, the following must apply:

- *Individuals must make planned gifts. This is easy – we provide all the necessary documentation.*
- *Those gifts qualify for a 40% tax credit, up to \$10,000 per person.*
- *Corporate or other business entity gifts qualify for a 20% credit, up to \$10,000, and these entities may make outright gifts.*

To find out more about how you can make a gift and receive benefits through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, please call Director of Planned Giving & Finance Marilyn Parker at 406.455.5840. ♦

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Megan Zuhoski
Tamara Zuidema



“I donate to support the Angel Fund. I don’t have everything I’ve always wanted, but I do have everything I have ever needed.”

“If you give of yourself, life will give back.”

Sarah Cuellar, Administrative Assistant at Benefis Senior Services

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester

"It's amazing what great things one little church can do."



"People in Montana need Gift of Life. It's essential because of the distances people need to travel to get the care they need."

—Pastor John Fauerbach

Pastor John and his wife Jeannie understand how crucial Gift of Life is to the people in their area.

*Opposite page, top:
The congregation at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.*

In sprawling Northcentral Montana, it's not uncommon for folks who live in outlying towns to commute 100 miles or more to Great Falls for medical care.

But this travel can be daunting when you've been diagnosed with cancer

and you need five days of radiation each week for six weeks or weekly chemotherapy treatments ... and your life depends on it.

Many people from the region who are faced with a prognosis like this conclude that it's just not realistic. Cancer treatments are exhausting, sometimes causing fatigue and nausea. Plus you're bound to have snow and icy conditions during the winter, and traveling back and forth gets expensive.

Then they hear about the Benefis Foundation's Gift of Life Housing Centers and breathe a sigh of relief. Treatment is possible after all.

Gift of Life Housing is free, apartment-style housing for people who live outside of Great Falls and are undergoing treatment at Benefis Health System for cancer or another illness, or who have a child in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"People in Montana *need* Gift of Life," said Pastor John Fauerbach of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. "It's essential because of the distances people need to travel to get the care they need."

And that's why the Our Savior's Lutheran Church congregation has given nearly \$25,000 from its Benevolence Fund over the past five years to support Gift of Life.

"Because of the make-up of the people in our community, we see a lot of people getting cancer," said Pastor John. "They are our families, friends and neighbors. We want them to get the help they need. I don't see how they could do it without Gift of Life."

Pastor John's ministry at Our Savior's began about six years ago, right around the time the church transitioned to a congregational church with the ability to choose the beneficiaries of its benevolent funds. After the transition, the church council began meeting to discuss which charities to support.



"The people of our congregation and, indeed, this community are very giving and generous," said Pastor John's wife, Jeannie.

"They really want to support programs like Gift of Life Housing so local people can take advantage of the programs."

Jeannie knows firsthand what a difference a place like Gift of Life makes. When her mother was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2012, she would fly home to Pennsylvania to take her mother to her chemotherapy and radiation treatments at a cancer center that was an hour and a half away.

"She had to go Monday through Friday for six weeks," said Jeannie. "We would leave at some early hour in the morning and wouldn't get back until suppertime."

That's a similar scenario to what people in Chester and along the Hi-Line might be facing when they are diagnosed with cancer.

"It takes about an hour and a half to get to Great Falls," Jeannie said. "If it's the middle of winter, then it takes longer."

Last year, 12 people from Liberty County stayed at Gift of Life, some more than once. In the past five years, a total of 38 people from this area have benefitted from this important program.

"It really does make a huge difference; for some people it really is life or death – they have to stay there in Great Falls," said Pastor John.

"It's such an important ministry you have there at Gift of Life – we have to support it," he said, adding that Gift of Life is one of the charities they support consistently.

Gift of Life Coordinator Sara Branom said the faithful generosity from this small congregation has made a difference in hundreds of lives.

"The people of Our Savior's Lutheran know giving to others despite their own needs is the right thing to do, so they decided to do it abundantly," she said. "On behalf of everyone who Gift of Life has helped, thank you again and again." ♦



How You Can Help Provide The Gift of Life

Gift of Life Housing Centers have been a home away from home for more than 2,250 people from 47 Montana counties, 31 other states, and two Canadian provinces since the first housing center opened in 1991.

This is thanks to grassroots fundraising efforts by people who cared and wanted to help others in their time of need as well as the hundreds of donors who have supported Gift of Life over the past 25 years.

The two housing centers, one on Benefis East Campus and the other on Benefis West Campus, together offer a total of 22 apartments and six short-stay rooms (similar to hotel rooms). The apartments each have a fully-equipped kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom, with linens and towels provided. There are laundry facilities as well.

Additionally, both housing centers provide RV spaces with necessary hookups.

People who stay at Gift of Life consider it a blessing because it makes treatment possible for people whose lives depend on it. It truly does provide the "gift of life."

You can help support this critical housing by giving a gift online at benefisfoundation.org or using the enclosed giving envelope. To find out more, please call 406.455.5840.



Apply Now for Healthcare Scholarships

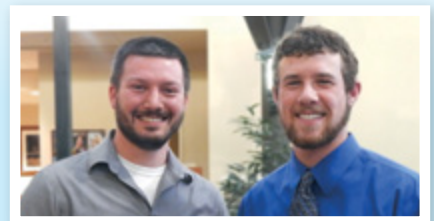
Applications for financial assistance through the Benefis Health System Foundation's Healthcare Scholarship Program are available now for students pursuing degrees in healthcare.

The available scholarships along with the application form are listed online at benefisfoundation.org.

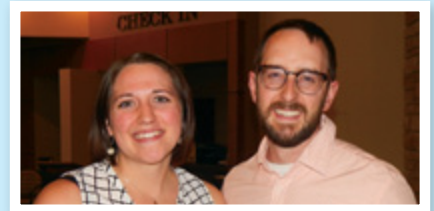
The deadline to apply for both Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters is June 1.

Last year, Benefis Foundation awarded 33 students from Great Falls and the surrounding region with a total of \$106,900 in scholarships.

Four of last year's recipients are included in the photos below:



Evan Thompson and Gavin Lee



Mary Middagh with husband Keith.



Natasha Yearous (right) with friend Marisa Bender.

You Can Help Make Nursing Career Dreams Come True!

We are grateful to the many generous donors who support the Benefis Foundation's Healthcare Scholarship Program for helping make it possible for so many students to realize their career dreams and find satisfying jobs right here in our community.

If you are interested in supporting this important program, you may give a gift using the enclosed envelope or give your gift online at benefisfoundation.org.



Mayfaire Supporters Enhance Life-Saving Care Provided by Benefis Emergency Services

Hundreds of lives are saved each year by the skilled care providers at Benefis Emergency Services.

This critical department, which includes the Emergency Department, Mercy Flight, the Communications Center and Trauma Services, is the front door to care for many people in our community and region—and no one is turned away.

People who donate to support Emergency Services help make it possible to provide excellent care as a Level II Trauma Center to thousands of patients each year. This has been going on since shortly after the hospital merger in 1996, when Carter and Judy Williams and Keith and Olive Ario came together and made the lead gifts that gave Great Falls a new Emergency Department at Benefis Health System.

Donor support has continued through the years, helping keep the emergency care providers equipped with the technology and training necessary to be prepared for the huge range of conditions they see.

Last year was no different. In fact, it was exceptional thanks to the support Emergency Services received from Mayfaire.

These are some of the enhancements Mayfaire donors helped make possible:

- ❖ High-tech wireless monitors that free patients from being tethered by all the lines to a bedside monitor or if they need to go to Radiology for an X-ray or even a trip to the restroom.
- ❖ Bike, skateboard and equestrian helmets for the Safety First Rally and other community events and, for the first time, winter sports helmets. A team from Trauma Services fit 152 new skiers and snowboarders with the free helmets in early January at Showdown Ski Area.
- ❖ Six radios that have plugged a communications gap. The radios use UHF frequencies to communicate internally with the Emergency Department and the Communications Center and VHF frequencies to communicate with emergency responders on the scene, be they with Mercy Flight, Great Falls Emergency Services or a regional first responder group.
- ❖ A Pediatric code cart for the Emergency Department so personnel will have all the specialized medical supplies in one spot to respond to a medical crisis for a younger patient.
- ❖ Emergency Services now has four sets of video laryngoscopes – two sets for the Emergency Department, one set on the Mercy Flight fixed wing and one set on the Mercy Flight rotor wing. All four are the same version and the entire staff will be trained on them in February.
- ❖ Educational training for the Trauma Services team and Emergency Department nurses.
- ❖ iPads for patients and their families in the reception area.

“Support from donors has allowed us to be flexible in how we provide patient care,” said Scott Schandelson, Manager of Benefis Emergency Services and Mercy Flight. “We can try new things to reduce overall cost, time and efficiency. The ability to do that consistently is important.”

Scott said some enhancements, such as the radios, don’t cost a great amount but have made a huge difference in how the care providers communicate with each other, much closer to real time.

“Philanthropy allows us to be creative in ways that aren’t always anticipated,” he said. “We will always meet the standard of care. But, with philanthropy dollars, we are able to exceed it continuously.”

An Encore Mayfaire Performance

The Benefis Foundation is excited to be teaming up once again with Benefis Emergency Services for Mayfaire 2016. This year’s focus is on supporting advancements in the Emergency and Trauma Center that will serve Great Falls and Northcentral Montana for decades to come.

The existing Emergency Department opened its doors nearly two decades ago, and the time has come for transformative changes. When it was completed in 1998, the department served around 24,000 patients a year. Now that number has climbed to 34,000. On top of that, the exam rooms are too small by today’s medical standards... and there aren’t enough of them at peak times.

The proceeds from Mayfaire, coming up May 13 and 14, will help with a transformation of the department that will increase the number and size of exam rooms plus many other enhancements.

To help support this important project, you may give a gift using the enclosed giving envelope or make your gift online at benefisfoundation.org.



Taylor Forsyth, with Benefis Trauma Services, fits a youth skier with a new ski helmet, courtesy of Benefis Foundation donors.

Your Gifts Make a Real Difference

Benefis Health System Foundation is grateful to the many caring donors who support our mission of improving and enhancing healthcare services in Great Falls and Northcentral Montana. Thank you for making an important difference for people and families in our region. Donors listed gave gifts October 1 through January 31.

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Continued on page 12

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Thanks to the Women of the Moose Chapter 547 and the Great Falls Moose Lodge #532 for your gift of \$1,200 for Gift of Life Housing Centers.

Your generosity will make it possible to continue providing a cozy home away from home for people who live outside of Great Falls and are being treated at Benefis. The money was raised through a fundraiser dinner in October and other events. Along with supporting Gift of Life and other Great Falls charities, these clubs also support Mooseheart, a home for children and teens in need located near Chicago.

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Last fall, the Great Falls Fire Fighters Local #8 presented two big checks – for \$4,000 each! – to the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute and Women Against Breast Cancer.

In October, the firefighters raised nearly \$8,000 by selling Care Enough to Wear Pink t-shirts. They also exchanged their work shirts for the pink shirts for a week in October to spread awareness, hope and encouragement for those who have had or are battling cancer.

Thank you to the Great Falls Fire Fighters and to everyone who cared enough to buy a shirt and wear it to help bring awareness to the cause. Each person who “Cared Enough to Wear Pink” is helping make many important services available to cancer patients treated at Sletten.

Your Gifts Create Lasting Legacies



Tough Enough To Wear Pink, Central Montana, recently gave \$6,000 in gas and grocery store gift certificates and hotel vouchers to support Central Montana patients who are being treated at the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute.

The group has multiple fundraising events throughout the year, including a pancake breakfast, a prime rib dinner, a golf tournament and fundraisers at the Central Montana fairs.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this amazing gift possible. Your donation will help make treatments possible for so many patients who live outside of Great Falls.

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Braids & Beer, a special event where professional stylists taught daddies how to do their daughters' hair, raised \$1,800 for Camp Francis.

The event was organized by Jared Brown of New York Life Insurance in collaboration with Studio Montage; The Boutique, which donated 15 percent of its sales that night; The Front, which provided craft beers and food; and Electric City Coffee, which provided gift certificates.

Camp Francis is an annual five-day bereavement camp for children ages 6 to 12 who are suffering the loss of a parent, sibling, grandparent or other loved one. The camp, a free service to Montana families, began in 1993 and has grown over the years thanks to support from many generous donors who give to the camp through the Benefis Foundation.

This past June, 36 children attended Camp Francis, where they participated in many activities – music, art, games, crafts, hikes, water gun fights and more – to help them with their grief journey. The children also made new friends and found they are not alone in their grief and that they can continue on to have a good life while always remembering their loved ones. Camp Francis is where children can let go of the sad and fill up on the happy.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize this fun-filled event that provided dads with a little more confidence with hairbrushes and ponytail holders and a lot of support for this wonderful camp that helps kids find their smiles again.

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Thank you to Scheels for the gift of \$1,669 to support the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute's Circle of Hope Program.

The money was raised through the Great Pumpkin Run held in October. The race featured more than one hundred participants from all over Northcentral Montana sporting spooky and silly Halloween costumes.

This is the fourth year that Scheels has donated the proceeds from the Pumpkin Run to help cancer patients treated at Sletten. Thanks to everyone who helped organize and supported this spooktacular event.

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Our donors deserve proper recognition for their generosity. If your name is listed incorrectly, please contact us & allow us to apologize & correct our records: 406.455.5840 or by email, foundation@benefis.org.

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Donors Make a Great Difference for Benefis Eastview Residents

The transformation is complete. In early 2015, senior care residents moved into the newly-remodeled Memory Care Unit

at Benefis Eastview (formerly called Benefis Senior Care Center). This made it possible for the other half of the senior care center to be renovated to be more comfortable and inviting for residents and also offer special amenities, such as a larger gym for residents to use with the help of therapists.

“The Benefis Foundation’s support has been instrumental in enabling us to offer great services and a comfortable living style,” said Peter Gray, Executive Director of Benefis Senior Services.

“We hear from residents and families each day how grateful they are for Benefis and our senior care center. I am proud to live in a community that is generous with its wealth and wise in its ability to identify where that wealth can do the greatest good.”

This major renovation that wrapped up in November was, in part, thanks to donors who support the Greatest Need. ♦



Pictured top and center are two of Benefis Eastview’s remodeled dining areas. Resident John Gibney said he tries to visit the therapy gym each day. “With my disease (multiple sclerosis), if you don’t use it you lose it,” he said. “So I try to come as often as I can.” Physical therapist Laurie Roberts guides John through his workout.