

Contributor



Construction Now Underway on New Benefis Emergency Department



A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 12, 2017, marking the official start of the construction for the new \$12.5 million Benefis Emergency Department (ED). The size of the ED will be nearly doubled through both new construction and remodeling, and **the innovative design will allow more efficient and patient-friendly care with shorter wait times.**

Construction for the new ED will take approximately 18 months to complete. Throughout that time, the ED will remain completely functional to meet the needs of our community.

The Benefis Foundation committed to raising \$2.5 million for this state-of-the-art, patient- and family-focused center. To date, more than \$2 million has been raised.

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"Our amazing donors are helping to ensure the future of world-class, life-saving emergency care for years to come."

Kevin Langkiet, Benefis Director of Emergency Services and Critical Care



Construction Phases

Phase I

Relocate helipad, surrounding parking lots, remodel old cath lab

Phase II

Remodel old endoscopy building, build new ambulance parking garage and three new trauma bays

Phase III

Build ED radiology area

Phase IV

Build critical care suites

Phase V

Remodel old ED

Phase VI

New construction in current north parking lot

The current Benefis ED was designed and built nearly two decades ago to care for only 24,000 patients annually. Today, the Benefis ED cares for more than 34,000 patients per year.

As one of only four Level II trauma centers in Montana, Benefis Emergency Services is always ready to provide life-saving care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"On top of seeing patients way over the intended capacity, the complexity and acuity of the patients we're seeing is rising as well," commented Benefis Emergency Services Director Dr. Bridget Brennan. "We've flown over 1,000 Mercy Flights the last two years running, and every day we are seeing more psychiatric patients and unfortunately patients in need of sexual assault evaluations. The design team has been focused on those details plus hundreds more."

"When you think about it, the Emergency Department probably has more importance to our community and region than almost any other service provided by Benefis."

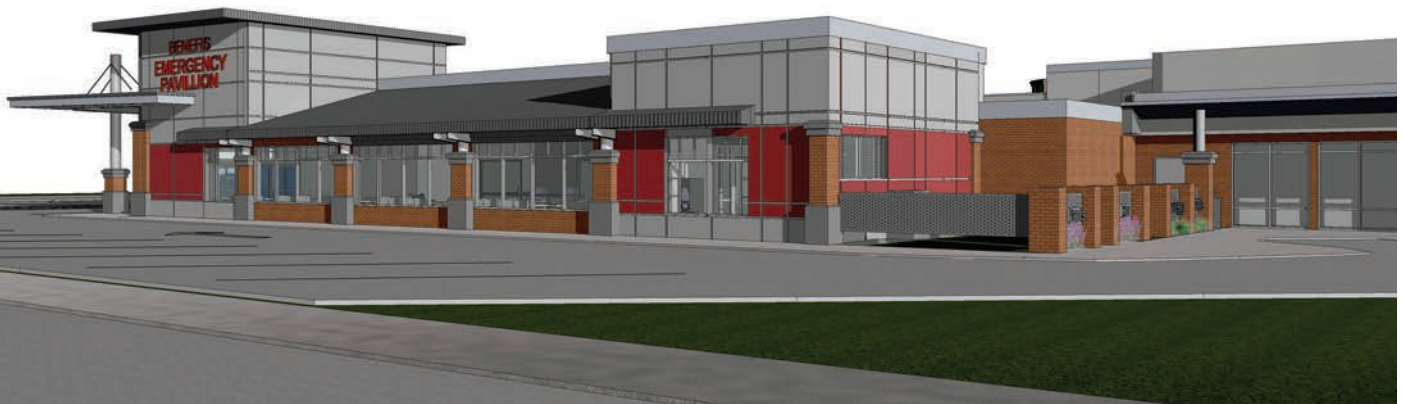
Benefis CEO John Goodnow

Several enhancements will be featured in the new ED:

- High-tech equipment and the flexibility to accommodate future technological advancements
- More than 30 rooms that will be significantly larger than the current 18 rooms
- Two pediatric suites
- Two-room sexual assault exam suite
- Behavioral health treatment room for patients facing an acute psychiatric crisis
- Enclosed ambulance garage with covered drive-through access ■

Please support the new Benefis Emergency Department and help us reach our \$2.5 million fundraising goal. You can make a gift using the enclosed giving envelope or online at www.benefisfoundation.org.

For information about naming opportunities in the new ED, please call the Benefis Foundation at (406) 455-5840.



More Than \$500,000 Raised at Mayfaire

Support for Mayfaire 2017 was tremendous—more than \$527,000 was raised for the new Benefis Emergency Department capital campaign.

The charity golf tournament on May 12 at the Meadow Lark Country Club boasted beautiful weather and 60 teams. The Gala on Saturday evening had all the glitz and glam to make it an event to remember. Benefis' 125th Birthday was celebrated with an art deco theme and an exquisite three-tiered birthday cake.

More than 75 silent auction items went to the highest bidders, and the live auction featured such exclusive items as a Muhammed Ali signed boxing glove and tickets to the Country Music Awards in Nashville. The Company Men from Los Angeles dazzled guests and filled the floor with dancing.

Benefis Employees were instrumental in Mayfaire fundraising—more than 200 gave financial contributions to the ED campaign. For the list of employee donors, visit www.benefisfoundation.org.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors, the community, and event attendees," said Mayfaire coordinator Kelly Michel. "Mayfaire 2017 was an incredible success because of their generosity and the dedication of our wonderful volunteers and committee members." ■



Mayfaire Numbers

69 business supporters

240 golfers on 60 teams

78 silent auction packages

10 live auction items

89 volunteers

36 gifts made during the special appeal

712 guests at the gala

\$3.6 million raised for improvements and special services to enhance healthcare services at Benefis over the past 18 years

Mayfaire 2017 Supporters

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Thank you for supporting Mayfaire
 2017 and the new Benefis Emergency
 Department. Your generosity will have
 a direct impact on thousands of patients
 from our region and will allow us to
 provide the highest quality care for
 years to come.



\$10,000 Raised for the 221 Children's Fund

The 221 Children's Fund at the Benefis Foundation helps families with various healthcare expenses for children suffering from devastating illnesses.

In May, The Sting Sports Bar and 221 Industries held a special event that raised more than \$10,000 for the 221 Children's Fund. The event featured live music, silent and live auction items, and \$1 was donated for every adult beverage purchased throughout the night. A mother of a child who was assisted recently by the 221 Children's Fund expressed her gratitude, "Our family appreciates it more than you will ever know."

To date, more than 83 families have been helped by the 221 Children's Fund.

The pediatric patients from the Great Falls area that have been assisted by this fund are affected by a range of health problems, including cancer, heart and developmental problems, blindness, deafness, autism, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, and cerebral palsy. Many require treatment or frequent follow-up appointments throughout Montana and the western United States.

The 221 Children's Fund has helped pay for travel expenses and medical bills so these children can receive the care they need. The fund also helps families with a variety of supplies and medical equipment, like wheelchair accessories, car seats, eye glasses, and more. The need for assistance from the 221 Children's Fund is always great. ■

**Please support the
221 Children's Fund
by donating today at
www.benefisfoundation.org
or by returning the
enclosed envelope to the
Foundation with your gift.**

Benefis Health System Foundation



About the 221 Children's Fund

Inspiration for this fund came from 221 Industries' Cory Smith's older brother, Tyson, who died from a rare form of cancer when he was just 13 years old. The Benefis Foundation's Angel Fund provided financial assistance to the Smith family to help with Tyson's treatments before he passed away 20 years ago.

Cory created the 221 Children's Fund with the Benefis Foundation and has held several fundraising events to support it. The name of 221 Industries was also inspired by Tyson. His lucky number was 22, and Cory's is 21.



(above) The Wench performed at the 221 Children's Fund event, which raised more than \$10,000.

(right) The Sting Sports Bar and the Hollis family donated \$1 for every adult beverage purchased at the event. Pictured (left to right): Cory Smith, Rich Hollis, Sara Hollis, and Colleen Murphy.





Donors Make MRI Scans Safer for High-Risk Patients

Thanks to the generosity of Foundation donors who gave to the Greatest Need Fund, the Benefis Radiology department recently purchased a cutting-edge vital sign monitor specifically designed to remain in the room during an MRI without being affected by the MRI magnetization.

With the Philips Invivo Expression MR400 MRI Compatible Patient Monitor, vital signs like heart rate, oxygen levels, and blood pressure are continually reviewed as patients undergo an MRI scan, which may take up to an hour and a half. This is critical for ICU patients or patients under anesthesia.

In addition to high-risk patients, this new technologically advanced MRI monitor ensures the safety of pediatric patients during an MRI scan. In order to get the clearest images, the patient must remain perfectly still for long periods of time which can be very difficult for small children and nearly impossible for infants and toddlers without the use of anesthesia.

“Our staff and physicians are incredibly happy with the results,” said Paul Fulbright, Benefis Radiology Services Manager. **“We are extremely thankful that the Benefis Foundation purchased this more than \$63,000 monitor for our department.”** ■

Typically, between five and eight patients per week need this monitor during their MRI. **That adds up to approximately 416 patients per year that are now safer because of donors like you.**

The Radiology department now has the most advanced technology available to safely produce extremely detailed diagnostic imaging for some of Benefis’ youngest and most critical patients.



Western Art Week Artist Supports Angel Fund

Countless families in Northcentral Montana have experienced the heartache of watching their child suffer from catastrophic illnesses.

Thanks to the Benefis Foundation's generous donors, **1,237 families have received assistance from the Angel Fund since 1997** to help pay for travel expenses when their children required advanced medical care at an out-of-state facility.

The Angel Fund exists to help families deal with the tremendous financial strain of caring for a seriously ill child. The children it helps have a special place in the heart of many Montanans, including renowned Billings artist Kira Fercho.

During Western Art Week in March, Kira Fercho partnered with the Angel Fund and Make-A-Wish Montana to hold a special event to benefit the two organizations. Taking place at the Celtic Cowboy in historic downtown Great Falls, Kira and several other artists displayed and sold their artwork throughout the week, donating 10 percent of their sales to the Angel Fund and Make-A-Wish Montana.



(left) A licensed clinical therapist, Kira loves working with children and is passionate about giving back to families in need. The Angel Fund requires ongoing support to continue helping children get the care they need, and these artists answered that call. Pictured: Artists Kira Fercho and Kevin Rose

The week culminated in a sold-out ticketed event on Saturday evening where guests had the exclusive last-chance opportunity to purchase artwork to benefit the two children's causes. This benefit event was sponsored and made possible by the Celtic Cowboy and Pathwise Partners, and raised more than \$1,000 for the Angel Fund. ■



If you would like to help families in our community during a time of dire need, please donate to the Angel Fund at www.benefisfoundation.org.



(middle) Thanks to Jared Brown (left) of Pathwise Partners and Wayne Thares (right) of the Celtic Cowboy for sponsoring the event.

(right) Many Benefis employees supported the event and enjoyed appetizers, beverages, and interacting with Kira. Pictured: (left) Roni Griffith, Clinic Manager, Benefis Medical Group, and (right) Betsy Yaeger, Clinic Manager, Benefis Medical Group



Photos by Cindy Cieluch Photography

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Richard "Dick" Doughten Retires from Benefis Foundation Board

Richard "Dick" Doughten retired recently after serving nine years on the Benefis Health System Foundation Board of Directors. Dick began on the Board in 2008 after he retired as a Ford dealership owner from Chinook. He and his wife, Nancy, moved to Great Falls to be closer to their daughter and her family and to have closer access to Benefis for his healthcare needs.

Dick was a member of the Development and Stewardship Committee, Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, and served as Board Chair from January 2012 through December 2014.

Thank you for your commitment and leadership to the Foundation Board of Directors and its mission of improving healthcare for our community and region. ■



"When the Benefis Foundation is successful, it helps the region's economy and community grow."

Jim Simmons

Benefis Foundation Welcomes New Board Member Jim Simmons

National Laundry Company has been a proud supporter of Mayfaire for the past 18 years, donating all of the table linens used at the Gala. Jim Simmons, Sales and Service Manager for National Laundry, recently stepped up his support and has become a Benefis Foundation Board Member.

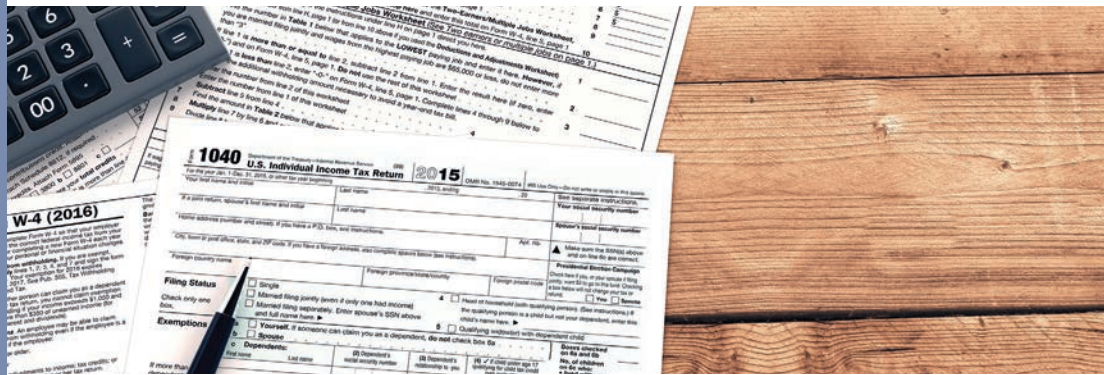
Jim looks forward to being a board member and serving on the Development Committee.

"The Benefis Foundation helps contribute not only to Benefis, but to the overall Northcentral Montana medical community and population," commented Simmons.

National Laundry was founded in 1910 and has grown to own the majority of major laundry operations throughout Northwest and Central Montana. Simmons is very active with sports, and he and his family love to spend time on the water skiing, wakeboarding, surfing, and paddleboarding.

We look forward to benefitting from the hard work ethic and new ideas Jim will bring to our Board! ■

TWO TAX-WISE GIVING TOOLS



Charitable IRA Rollover

For people who are age 70½ or older, a charitable distribution from your IRA is a tax-favored way to make a gift. Amounts given in this way count toward the IRA required minimum withdrawal amount and are not subject to income tax. These gifts must be directly transferred by your IRA administrator to the charity. Contact your IRA administrator or tax advisor for more information.

Montana Endowment Tax Credit

Gifts that qualify for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit are another tax-savvy way to make charitable contributions. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact us. We make it easy for you and provide all the information needed for your tax preparation.

To learn more about tax-wise giving,
call Marilyn Parker at (406) 455-5836.



Giving monthly to Benefis Foundation provides consistent support and makes sure funds are continuously available to help those in need. Joining the Caring Hearts Monthly Giving Club is easy—your gift will automatically transfer from your bank account or credit card each month to support the fund or program of your choice.

Call us at (406) 455-5840 to find out more.

CARING HEARTS MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

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.

Your generosity has a direct impact on the health and well-being of families across Montana.

Donors listed gave gifts February 1 - May 31, 2017.

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