



100% of every donated dollar goes to the foundation's philanthropic funds, with no overhead costs or administrative fees.

UCHealth Northern Colorado Foundation Impact Report | 2022

We empower our community members to live healthy, generous and meaningful lives.

UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital (PVH), Medical Center of the Rockies (MCR) and Greeley Hospital (GH) strive to promote individual and community health and leave no question unanswered along the way. We exist to help our patients live extraordinary lives.

These hospitals, their affiliated clinics and UCHealth Northern Colorado Foundation serve residents of northern Colorado as well as those living in southern Wyoming and western Nebraska.

Through the generosity of individual, corporate and foundation donors, as well as through public grant funding, UCHealth Northern Colorado Foundation provides resources to support innovative research and education, patient financial assistance, community health programs, and enhancements to patient care. Many critically important services offered to UCHealth patients and families would not exist without private donations made through the foundation.

The amplitude of generosity.

Communicating the impact of generosity on health care—showcasing how we steward your donations—is an opportunity we delight in. Your dollars make a difference to an astounding range of people and projects.

As I reviewed this report, my overarching impression was of amplitude: The range of projects, causes and people affected by the work your generosity fuels is full and wide, almost boundless. If someone dreams of a way to improve care, a way to help a patient in need feel better or less stressed, a means to fight a seemingly intractable disease, we can apply philanthropic dollars and make real progress—faster progress than what might otherwise be possible.

The word amplitude has an expansiveness to it that I hope expresses the heft, the abundance, of what your contributions make possible for health care in our community. The stories in this report vividly demonstrate that amplitude.

Thank you for your support that fortifies our purpose: to empower our community members to live healthy, generous and meaningful lives.

With sincere gratitude,



Kristi Benningsdorf

Kristi Benningsdorf
Board Chair
UCHealth Northern
Colorado Foundation

UCHealth Northern Colorado Foundation fast facts.

The foundation disburses an average of **\$3.4 million annually**

to support a broad spectrum of programs at our northern Colorado hospitals and clinics. Funds have been used to support cancer care, provide financial help for patients in need, fund innovative research, procure equipment that helps deliver leading-edge care, provide scholarships for our health care workforce, support community health initiatives, and more.

Over the last five years, we have received **\$21 million in gifts** from individuals, businesses, private foundations and state and federal grant sources.

The culture of philanthropy is strong at UCHealth. About **16% of employees in UCHealth's northern region give to the foundation**, a testament of their commitment to our mission.

Women Investing in Strategies for Health (WISH), a giving circle, has been seeding health care innovation in northern Colorado since 2014—awarding **over \$435,000 to 117 local programs**. Members pool their funds to support programs, projects and services provided to women, children and families through UCHealth.

Since 2014, the foundation has awarded **\$480,000 in scholarships to 322 employees**.

Poudre Valley Hospital, Medical Center of the Rockies and Greeley Hospital BY THE NUMBERS, FISCAL YEAR 2021*

	PVH	MCR	GH	TOTAL
Available beds	303	185	57	545
Babies delivered	1,695	1,225	597	3,517
ER visits	60,274	43,045	24,853	128,172
Surgeries	7,935	8,799	2,489	19,223
Inpatient admissions and observation visits	16,252	12,882	4,618	33,752
Outpatient visits	304,053	45,714	59,526	409,293



*Annual totals based on UCHealth fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.



Scholarship recipient Trinette Chapin, pictured with her family, is a PVH nurse who received support for her pursuit of a master's degree in health administration. The scholarship enabled Chapin to complete the last courses of her degree—while working through obstacles such as battling cancer, raising two young children, and handling her family's challenges with the impacts of COVID-19.

“ I am very grateful to be a scholarship recipient. I am a trauma nurse clinician at Poudre Valley Hospital. Over the years, I have been a tech, an ICU nurse, a preceptor, a charge nurse, a research nurse, a rural hospital house supervisor, and a part of this wonderful health system. I have come to a time in my career when I want to learn more to expand my practice. To achieve this goal, I enrolled in a master's degree program in health administration with a specialization in organizational development, to build on my foundation of knowledge and leadership and to continue to do all that I can to assist in taking our trauma programs into the next phase of challenges in health care. I can now say I am a recent graduate of my postgraduate program thanks to this wonderful scholarship program.

Thank you for your generosity in helping support my education. It is my objective to strive each day to represent the values and goals of this program in both my role as a leader and a community member. This generosity is something I hope to pass on to others through my own donations to the program for future recipients.

– **Trinette Chapin**
Trauma nurse clinician

COVID-19 Impact

Philanthropic contributions are helping in efforts to develop effective treatments, foster resilience among front-line workers, and enable quick response to evolving patient care needs.

Your generosity helps us continue to rise to the challenge of understanding and treating a new disease.

Philanthropic dollars are helping support a COVID-19 biobank study. A team of scientists and clinicians at CSU and UHealth created NoCo-COBIO, a biobank to collect biological samples from COVID-19 patients. Adult patients submitted biological samples over several months and were periodically assessed for health and quality of life.

The study concluded that hospitalization, disease aftereffects, and disease severity were associated with significantly lower quality of life for patients. Dr. Julie Dunn, director of trauma research at UHealth Medical Center of the Rockies, is one of the study authors.

"The findings are important for clinicians across medical specialties and for public health practitioners," Dunn said, adding that the research is yielding much benefit that will be shared with the wider medical community and will help us better understand future pandemics.



"Our team is grateful for the donor support that helped us launch NoCo-COBIO," Dr. Dunn said. "Studies such as this one help us gain more understanding of the effects of COVID-19 on survivors' quality of life. Our study results highlight the need to develop targeted approaches to prevent, control and treat disease aftereffects to improve COVID-19 quality-of-life outcomes globally."



Your generosity is helping strengthen our workers' resilience:

- **Recharge rooms at each hospital:** To help employees take care of themselves, providing relief from the stress and trauma they face throughout their shifts. The spaces are small and cozy, offering comfortable chairs with massage pads, soothing lighting and restful decor.
- **Random Acts of Kindness initiative:** Cheerful, small gifts for employees as they work shifts in our northern Colorado hospitals and clinics:
 - Vouchers for take-home meals from local restaurants distributed to approximately 1,200 employees.
 - Pumpkin-carving kits and holiday wrapping paper distributed to hundreds of employees.
 - Gourmet holiday cookie boxes once again given to 3,500 employees, repeating a well-loved effort that originated in 2020.
- **Health care hero retreats:** Held at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in the foothills west of Loveland, 25 eligible participants were randomly chosen from our northern hospitals to enjoy a two-day retreat offering a blend of wellness sessions, recreation activities, free time and social time. In 2022, plans include three cohorts of 25 participants each.



Your generosity helps make communication easier for patients with hearing loss.

Masking creates a barrier to effective communication for people with hearing loss. Infection concerns prevent patients in health care settings from borrowing the hospital's personal sound amplification devices. Donor contributions were used to purchase 500 SuperEar personal sound amplifiers for use in our hospitals. The devices are given to patients to keep and use throughout their stay and to take home to use afterward.



Community Impact

Philanthropic contributions elevate the health of our community and have far-reaching impacts, such as ensuring adequate blood supplies, providing technology that augments patient care, ameliorating food insecurity, and more.



UCHealth Family Medicine Center food pantry.

The UCHealth Family Medicine Center (FMC) food pantry, which partners with Food Bank for Larimer County, helps provide fresh, healthy food to people in need. Medicaid patients make up 66% of the FMC's clientele, and many of the center's clients struggle to afford groceries.

Addressing food insecurity in our community is an ongoing need. In 2021, donations totaling \$97,000—including city, county and private grants as well as contributions from individuals and organizations—helped the pantry provide 200,000 pounds of food, 70,000 pounds of which was fresh produce.

In 2021, the food pantry served thousands of people:

- 10,026 visits.
- 1,641 unique households, including 477 new households registered in 2021.
- 4,474 unique individuals.

According to data from the Food Bank for Larimer County, nearly 40,000 of the county's residents are food insecure. People of all ages are vulnerable to food insecurity, from children to single parents to older adults.

A retired nurse who is a client of the pantry said, "I have been an active volunteer my whole life. When living in Arkansas, I had strong ties and enjoyed volunteering at my local food pantry. After my circumstances changed, I felt blessed to have found the food pantry here because it allows me to eat healthy and delicious meals that meet my dietary needs to help manage type 2 diabetes."

Another pantry client, a grandmother of five, said she appreciates the nutritious options available. "I often take care of my five grandchildren, and the protein and dairy options have been very helpful for feeding them."

UCHealth Garth Englund Blood Center:

The generosity of our donors enabled UCHealth Garth Englund Blood Center (GEBC) to purchase an electronic donor-screening system that increases efficiency, which is especially helpful as our country experiences an ongoing blood shortage. GEBC provides 90% of the blood needed at our northern Colorado hospitals—having a profound impact in our community.

The system, called Donor Doc, was implemented in late November 2021, and it enables blood donors to complete GEBC's donor questionnaires electronically on iPads also purchased with philanthropic dollars. Some key benefits of the new system are:

- A simplified electronic process for collecting and reviewing donor history information.
- Ability to maintain an electronic history of a donor's travel information.
- Immediate identification of donor history responses that require further staff analysis.
- Reduction in errors, such as incomplete or missed entries.



"By shifting away from the paper form," said Anna Johnson, GEBC manager, "we have seen our errors decrease, which better ensures the safety of the blood products we collect."

Nicolette Clark, an apheresis technician at GEBC, agreed.

"With a few months of using this system under our belts," Clark said, "I've noticed that a lot of donors comment that they really like how quick the iPads are and how much better they like them than our paper system. Donor Doc cuts down on errors, such as accidentally skipping qualifying questions. Plus, donors can list the medications they are on more accurately. The system lets the user type in the first few letters of a medication and then select the correct one from a list, which makes documenting medications extremely accurate."

Comparing data for medication-entry errors before and after the implementation, mistakes were reduced from 61 in the period December 2020 to February 2021 to seven in the period December 2021 to February 2022. The number of skipped questions went from 20 in the period December 2020 to January 2021 to seven in the period December 2021 to January 2022.

An additional benefit is Donor Doc's Spanish option.

"Spanish-speaking donors can go through the questionnaire easily and quickly, versus when we had to call interpreters. On the back end, we see their responses in English," said Stacy Ader, supervisor of GEBC. "Another neat feature is that donors can increase the size of the letters on the Donor Doc form, so the questionnaire is easier to read than our paper version was."

"Because of the support of the foundation and its philanthropic donors," Johnson said, "we were able to accelerate this project. The funding from the foundation enabled us to be on the forefront of technology and continue to grow. We are extremely grateful and excited to have this tool."

Other opportunities made possible through philanthropy:

- **Detecting sepsis, a severe and potentially life-threatening blood infection, early in premature babies:** Donors' gifts to our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) fund enabled the purchase of the HeRO monitoring system for the PVH NICU. HeRO analyzes vital-signs data and produces a score that serves as an early-warning system for sepsis in NICU patients. Early diagnosis and treatment is the best way to stop sepsis.
- **Accelerating MCR's path to becoming a Level 1 trauma center—the highest level of trauma care:** Donors' contributions to our emergency department/emergency services fund facilitated the purchase of LUCAS chest compression devices and GlideScope Core airway visualization systems. The LUCAS system extends the reach of care by maintaining chest compressions during transport to advanced lifesaving therapies. The GlideScope delivers clear airway views and enables rapid insertion of a ventilation tube into the trachea.



Cancer Impact

Philanthropic contributions empower patients to receive the best cancer care right here in our own backyard—from outstanding physicians, researchers, nurses and staff who dedicate their lives to providing hope and healing.

Your generosity is helping bring specialty cancer care close to home.

Gifts to our cancer center and oncology services fund helped bring a gynecologic oncology program to northern Colorado. GYN-ONC is a unique surgical subspecialty that provides innovative treatments for patients with cancers of the cervix, ovaries, uterus, vagina and vulva. Specialty surgeons work as a multidisciplinary team with our UHealth northern region oncologists, providing expert care close to home for patients.

In 2020, the program was established and philanthropic dollars were used to purchase equipment to diagnose and treat precancerous and cancerous conditions of the cervix. In 2021, philanthropic dollars helped provide specialized training for care providers in the program: Oncology rehabilitation staff received specialized training to provide pelvic floor therapy, and a nurse practitioner undertook training to qualify as a surgical assistant for complex GYN-ONC patients.

Kristina Slunecka is the nurse practitioner who received training to assist in surgeries. She supports Dr. Christine Walsh with complex GYN-ONC patients but needed qualification as a surgical assistant.

“As we discussed the scope of my NP role, I was thrilled at the prospect of assisting in surgery,” Slunecka said, “but I was also aware of the gaps in my education because NPs do not routinely train in graduate school for roles in the OR. To adequately fill the needs of this role, I sought out formal training opportunities so I could rapidly improve my skill set and provide this additional layer of support for Dr. Walsh and our northern Colorado patients.”



An Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), Slunecka found a course that APRNs can take to qualify as surgical assistants. An APRN is a nursing professional who has earned a master’s or doctoral degree to handle advanced roles in health care.

With full tuition supported by donor contributions to the foundation’s cancer services fund, Slunecka signed up for the course.

“I am so appreciative of the foundation’s vision for the future of this program and for the financial support that has enabled me to contribute to a culture that prioritizes patient outcomes and improved patient experience,” Slunecka said.

Thanks to our donors, the foundation is grateful for the capacity to invest philanthropic dollars in bringing advanced care close to home and training employees to provide that care.

Other opportunities made possible through philanthropy:

- **Relieving financial stress for patients undergoing cancer treatment:** Patient assistance funds helped 258 cancer patients in 2021, providing dollars to pay expenses patients have trouble covering, for example, if they are unable to work because of their illness or the treatment side effects.
- **Making breast cancer surgeries more efficient and reducing patients' time under anesthesia:** Philanthropic dollars supported the purchase of high-definition imaging systems for PVH and MCR breast cancer surgeries so that surgically excised specimens can be imaged in the operating room rather than taking them to the radiology unit.
- **Restorative yoga for cancer patients:** Through donor generosity, these supportive classes are free for patients and their loved ones. Cancer didn't stop when COVID-19 hit, so the cancer center's wellness staff pivoted to offer the classes virtually. The virtual classes have been well-received and offer some benefits over in-person classes. For example, immunocompromised patients and patients with transportation issues can join from home; patients often relax and fall asleep at the end of class, and their rest is not interrupted by having to drive home after class; and some patients have joined while traveling—from as far away as Montana and an island in Puget Sound.

Working part-time at a local church while home-schooling her two young children kept Connie* very busy. Her world caved in when she first heard the words "you have cancer." Being a parent and a teacher while living with cancer was physically and emotionally exhausting.

The demands of cancer treatment forced her to reevaluate her priorities. Parental and job responsibilities shifted. She learned to be kind to herself and accept help when it was offered by family, friends and colleagues. Our cancer patient assistance funds, sustained by gifts from RamStrength, Human Bean of Northern Colorado, Wilbur's Total Beverage, other businesses, and individuals, helped Connie meet basic expenses when she was unable to work due to treatment side effects.

Connie's story echoes those of hundreds of other patients and families who are helped as they face serious illness.

**Name changed to protect privacy.*



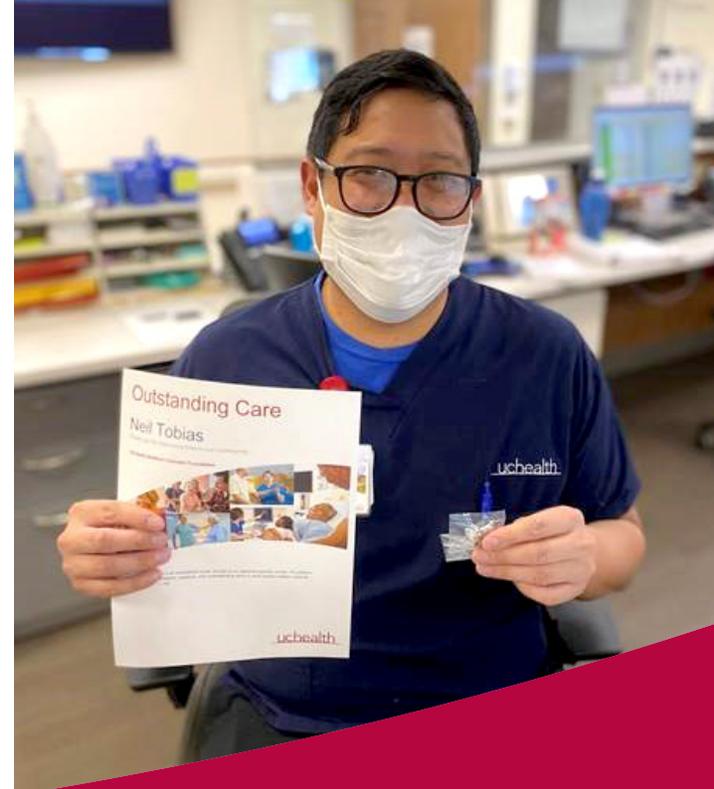
Grateful giving: part of the healing journey.

In 2021, grateful patients in northern Colorado recognized 114 of our health care workers for outstanding care by donating in their honor to a range of programs the foundation supports. To express gratitude for care, patients and families made gifts to programs such as cancer patient assistance, medical research and innovation, and greatest need.

Expressing gratitude is a powerful part of the healing process for many, such as this family who recognized the care their loved one received at Medical Center of the Rockies.

"Dr. Lee and staff saved our son's kidney, as well as his life. We are grateful and appreciative of the world-class care administered by UHealth physicians, nurses and staff of the MCR post-trauma surgical unit. We recognize the personal and family sacrifices of the physicians, nurses and staff to assure this top-quality care and compassion, especially in the last couple of years with the catastrophic event of COVID-19. Thank you all for your extraordinary dedication to health care."

Providers who are recognized receive Outstanding Care certificates and lapel pins from the foundation. In these particularly stressful times for health care workers, recognition from grateful patients shows them that their hard work is respected, appreciated and impactful.



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Our mission.

The mission of UHealth Northern Colorado Foundation is to support its affiliated hospitals and clinics in the delivery and advancement of world-class health care in northern Colorado. The foundation realizes its mission through the development and stewardship of philanthropic resources in support of the hospitals' mission and strategic goals.

