

Heart Center

EXPANSION PROJECT 2023

Kevin's Story

When Kevin left his home for a quick run that July morning, he never imagined he'd soon be fighting for his life. With no previous health issues, Kevin expected to be out for some fresh air then back home to his wife and children. Gratefully, he has no memory of what happened next. A young couple driving by saw him collapsed on the side of the road. The young man had worked as a paramedic for seven years and immediately knew Kevin was in cardiac arrest. His years of training kicked into gear and he started CPR immediately. Kevin's pulse came back then disappeared a couple of times until the fire department arrived and rushed him to Kootenai Health Heart Center where he received life-saving care.

From 2003-2005, generous donations to the Kootenai Health Foundation helped provide the funding needed to build a state-of-the-art heart center to serve patients in northern Idaho. Their gifts made sure help was rapidly available to Kevin – and hundreds of others – in the years since.

Every day the Heart Center at Kootenai Health is helping more and more people like Kevin; people waking up to an average day that quickly takes a turn that puts them in a fight for their very life. As more people join our community, it is our goal to ensure the heart center has the capacity to meet this growing need. Twenty years ago the generous members of our community helped make the original heart center a reality. Now it's our turn.

Facts From the Heart

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. About one in four deaths is due to some form of this disease. Cardiac rhythm disturbances now affect an estimated one in 18 people across the U.S., with nearly 180,000 to 450,000 people dying each year from sudden cardiac death.



Conditions such as cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction are considered “time sensitive emergencies”. Because these conditions stop or significantly slow the flow of blood through the body, the entire body, especially the brain and heart, suffer from the lack of oxygen-rich blood. Every minute your brain is deprived of blood flow, 1 million neurons in your brain die. The longer the brain, heart and other organs go without blood, the more severely they are impacted. It is critical to have local resources readily and rapidly available to care for patients in need.



KootenaiHealth
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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Currently, the Heart Center has 15 patient rooms, one cardiac catheterization lab for treating blockages in the heart, and one electrophysiology lab for treating heart rhythm disorders. In the past year, Kootenai Health served more than 3,200 patients with these facilities, but there were times when more were needed. For example, if a patient is being treated in the cardiac catheterization lab and another patient requiring these same services arrives at the Emergency Department, care teams have to find other ways to make sure both patients' needs are met. Clearly this is not ideal.

With your help, Kootenai Health plans to add nine new patient rooms for a total of 24. It will also add a second cardiac catheterization lab and a second electrophysiology lab. These critical additions will provide the resources needed to ensure ready, rapid care is available even as our population grows.

About Kootenai Health Heart Services

Kootenai Health ranks among the top 10 percent of facilities in the United States for cardiac surgery. Their regionally-renowned physicians and highly-qualified staff members provide quality care that serves patients traveling from across the region with a full spectrum of cardiac care services. These services include heart rhythm disturbance diagnosis and treatment; diagnostic testing and imaging; interventional catheterizations and treatments; open heart surgery and intensive care; cardiac rehabilitation and support; and early intervention and prevention services.

Northern Idaho's population is expected to double over the next 20 years, and the need for heart services is greater than ever. As the community has grown and all indications point to continued growth, Kootenai Health is proactively preparing to make the facility and staffing investments necessary to meet this growing need.



EXPANSION DETAILS

The Heart Center Expansion project will occur on the second floor of Kootenai Health's main facility. In this newly designed space, rooms will be furnished with the latest cardiovascular equipment specific to the special services offered, such as cardiac catheterization, electrophysiology, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) and other lifesaving heart procedures. New diagnostic imaging equipment will provide high-definition, real-time views of patients' hearts and vascular systems so care teams can make the most informed care decisions. Together, this expanded space and enhanced technology in the hands of our capable and committed physicians and staff members will enable Kootenai Health to expand community access to care with enhanced safety features.

Through the Heart Center Expansion, Kootenai Health will be able to provide more complex, higher acuity services locally eliminating the need – and precious time – to transfer patients to a distant location for a higher level of care.

Attracting Qualified Physicians to Our Community

Additionally, because younger physicians often receive their training on newer equipment, having this equipment along with its outstanding reputation will position Kootenai Health to continue recruiting top talent from across the country to practice in its expanded Heart Center. Upon completion of the Heart Center Expansion project, Kootenai will have the capacity to hire five new interventional cardiologists, four electrophysiologists, three vascular surgeons, and eight non-interventional cardiologists. This will allow more patients to schedule appointments and receive the care they need more quickly.

How You Can Help

Cardiovascular disease does not discriminate. Every day, men and women of all ages, walks of life, social position and fitness levels find themselves, like Kevin, experiencing a cardiac event. Some of them may be your family members, friends and neighbors. This is an opportunity to consider your personal capacity to give and how your gift can be woven together with that of others like you to create a needed safety-net of care in our community.

This important work will not be possible without you. With your support, Kootenai can provide you, your family, your friends, and all residents, greater access to premier, specialized cardiovascular care.

With your support, we can:

- Expand facilities and upgrade technology to improve patient outcomes
- Expand world-class cardiovascular services close to home
- Attract and retain top-tier physicians

The Kootenai Health Foundation team would welcome the opportunity to share more specific information on giving opportunities that align with your personal priorities. Please email foundation@kh.org, or call (208) 625-4438 to start the conversation.

Together, we can save hearts and lives.

MEET KOOTENAI HEALTH'S HEART CENTER MEDICAL DIRECTORS



Kevin Kavanaugh, MD

Cardiovascular Division Director

As Cardiovascular Division Director, Dr. Kavanaugh specializes in Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology, and Nuclear Medicine. He is also board-certified in Internal Medicine, Adult Cardiovascular Disease, Nuclear Cardiology, and Interventional Cardiology.

In 1983, he graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in medicine. His Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, Adult Cardiovascular Disease, and Interventional Cardiology Fellowships were then completed at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Michele Murphy, MD

Electrophysiology
Medical Director

Dr. Murphy specializes in Electrophysiology and Cardiovascular Disease and is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease. She currently serves as Kootenai's Electrophysiology Medical Director.

Dr. Murphy graduated with a degree in medicine from St. George's University, subsequently completing her Internship, Residency, and Fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia and the University of Virginia.



Robert Burnett, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Medical Director

As a Cardiothoracic Surgery Medical Director, Dr. Burnett is certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and has more than 20 years of experience performing cardiac and thoracic procedures.

He completed his medical degree, internship, and residency at the University of Cincinnati, followed by a fellowship at the University of Washington.

Dr. Burnett started Kootenai's cardiothoracic surgical program in 2003. He is a current member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association.



Eric Wallace, DO

Interventional Cardiology
Medical Director

Dr. Wallace is board-certified in Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology, and Nuclear Cardiology. He is a registered physician in vascular interpretation and currently serves as our Cath Lab Medical Director.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Eastern Washington University, Dr. Wallace earned his medical degree from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He later completed his internship and residency at Wake Forest University. Dr. Wallace then completed his Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology fellowship at the University of Kentucky. His program included subspecialty training in peripheral and structural heart disease. He has been on faculty at Kootenai Health since 2015.