

# Kootenai Health Foundation

## 2025 Impact Report

Investing in Health Care: Together We Heal



# Your gift makes a lifelong impact



Dear Friends and Supporters,  
Health care is ultimately about people - neighbors caring for neighbors, and communities coming together to ensure that no one faces illness alone. As I reflect on 2025, I am deeply grateful for the generosity and compassion that define our north Idaho community. Because of you, the Kootenai Health Foundation continues to expand what is possible for patients and families who rely on Kootenai Health.

This past year, your support helped us advance one of our most meaningful priorities: the Davidson Family Hospitality Center and Walden House. This center provides low-cost to no-cost lodging for patients and families traveling for care, ensuring that those facing serious medical challenges have a place to rest, find comfort, and remain close to loved ones during treatment.

Your generosity also strengthened the Compassionate Care Patient Support Fund, which offers direct assistance to patients experiencing financial hardship. For many, the help they receive with gas, groceries, prescriptions, or medical equipment means the difference between overwhelming stress and the ability to focus on healing.

Throughout the year, philanthropy continued to drive innovation and address unmet needs across our health system. With support from the Idaho Community Foundation, we placed a piano in the hospital's north lobby to create moments of comfort and connection for patients and visitors. Our physicians stepped forward in inspiring ways through the Medical Staff Impact Circle, demonstrating an even further commitment to patients. And through nearly \$1 million in federal funding, we will expand Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services and training across north Idaho, ensuring survivors receive the specialized care and dignity they deserve.

Each of these efforts reflects the same powerful truth: when a community invests in health care, the impact reaches far beyond the walls of a hospital.

Thank you for your partnership, generosity, and belief in this mission. With the unwavering support of donors like you, the Kootenai Health Foundation will continue building a healthier future for north Idaho.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara Nielsen". The script is fluid and cursive.

Cara Nielsen, MS, CFRE  
President  
Kootenai Health Foundation

# Kootenai Health Foundation Board of Directors



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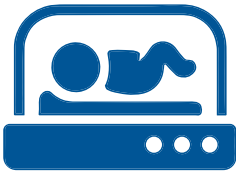










**Dr. Derek Khorsand**  
Director



**Mike Stegmann**  
Director

# Your support at work

These were the top 12 areas funded by donations made to the Kootenai Health Foundation in 2025:

<p>Women's Imaging &amp; 3D mammography</p>  <p><b>\$702,000</b></p>	<p>NICU 13 New Isolettes</p>  <p><b>\$514,000</b></p>	<p>Cancer Patient Support</p>  <p><b>\$100,000</b></p>	<p>Forensic Nursing</p>  <p><b>\$73,500</b></p>
<p>Employee Scholarships &amp; Trainings</p>  <p><b>\$66,500</b></p>	<p>Upgrade Blood Analyzer in Lab</p>  <p><b>\$40,000</b></p>	<p>Physician Lounge Remodel</p>  <p><b>\$35,000</b></p>	<p>Double Occupancy Room Upgrades</p>  <p><b>\$32,500</b></p>
<p>Family Fund (employee assistance)</p>  <p><b>\$29,500</b></p>	<p>Compassionate Care Patient Support</p>  <p><b>\$14,500</b></p>	<p>Cardiothoracic Surgical Residency</p>  <p><b>\$11,500</b></p>	<p>Labor &amp; Delivery Specialized gurney</p>  <p><b>\$6,500</b></p>

Total of \$1.7 million transferred to Kootenai Health in 2025

## Together we heal

# Giving by the numbers

## Total dollars raised.

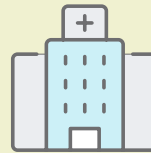
This year, our donors came together to realize the power of generosity in our community. The results have been inspiring.



<b>\$3,190,237</b>	<b>2025</b>
\$2,480,344	2024
\$2,756,475	2023

## Grants to hospital.

Transfers made by the Kootenai Health Foundation to Kootenai Health show collaboration as monies are transferred after the obligations of donor intent have been met.



<b>\$1,710,735</b>	<b>2025</b>
\$1,789,305	2024
\$4,385,881	2023

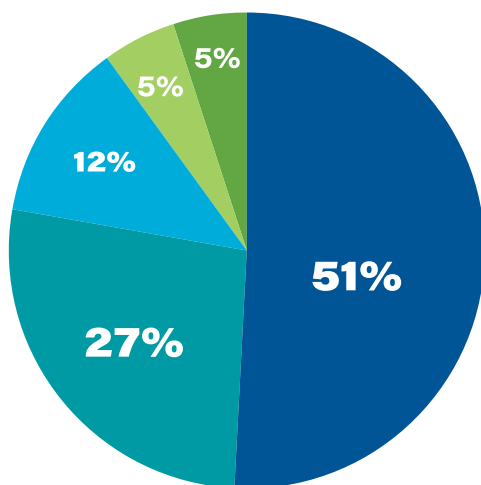
## Volunteer contributions.

Together we accomplish what none of us could do alone, and our volunteers give generously of their time. This includes the incredible individuals who support our hospital, assist at our events, and serve on our boards and committees throughout the year. Their dedication strengthens our mission and makes a meaningful difference in our community.

<b>2025: 22,907 hrs - \$865,655 (\$34.79/hour)</b>
2024: 21,787 hrs - \$729,646 (\$33.49/hour)
2023: 19,166 hrs - \$609,478 (\$31.80/hour)

# How funds are raised

At the Kootenai Health Foundation, a diverse group of donors supports our mission through a variety of ways—annual donations, grants, planned and estate gifts, events, and more. We are grateful to you for creating a significant and positive impact on the lives of patients in our community.



**Major Gifts (\$10,000+) 51%**

**Events 27%**

**Annual Support 12%**

**Grants 5%**

**Bequests 5%**

## Do you or someone you know need financial assistance to get a mammogram?

No one should delay a potentially life-saving screening because of cost. The Kootenai Health Mammogram Fund helps ensure women in our community can access both screening and diagnostic mammography services, even if they are facing financial hardship.

This important fund was created and continues to be sustained through the generosity of individuals and community partners who believe that early detection saves lives.

In 2025, two incredibly generous gifts strengthened this life-saving program:



**\$25,000 from Community Cancer Fund**



**\$50,000 from Chicks N' Chaps Coeur d'Alene**

Their support helps ensure that more women in our region can receive the screenings they need without worrying about the financial burden.

**To learn more about accessing support from the Mammogram Fund, please call: 208-625-6329**

## Idaho Community Foundation Piano Grant



Thanks to a grant from the Idaho Community Foundation, a grand piano now has a permanent home in the lobby at Kootenai Health. The piano is available for volunteers, staff, and providers who enjoy sharing music with patients and visitors, and it has already become a welcoming and uplifting presence in a space where comfort and connection matter deeply.

The piano was unveiled just before Christmas during a festive gathering in the lobby. Surrounded by seasonal decorations, board members, staff, and guests came together to enjoy live holiday music performed by physician Maggie Greene. Coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies were shared as the lobby filled with warmth, conversation, and music. It was a simple but meaningful moment that brought people together during the holiday season.

For patients and their families, the music provides a gentle distraction and a sense of calm during hospital visits. Some pause to listen for a few minutes, while others exchange smiles or brief conversations sparked by the familiar melodies, creating small but meaningful moments of connection.

# Walden House/Hospitality Center - A Legacy of Compassion

At Kootenai Health, we believe that healing requires more than just quality medicine; it requires peace of mind. That's where the Davidson Family Hospitality Center and Walden House comes in: an on-campus facility that provides a home away from home for patients and families traveling from across our region to receive care at Kootenai.



The impact the Walden House has on our larger community cannot be overstated. On average, guests who stay with us travel 165 miles to reach Kootenai for treatment. The Walden House also uses a sliding scale to help guests pay for their stay which goes all the way down to \$0 per night. While the center offers 20 comfortable rooms, two large kitchens, and laundry facilities, its true value lies in being just a 5-minute walk to the hospital. This is especially critical for our most vulnerable populations and the top three patients that we see the most Walden House: our NICU, oncology, and cardiology families.



Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors in 2025, we are excited to share that we have successfully completed a historic \$1M campaign to secure the future of this sanctuary.

Because of you, we raised and allocated:

**\$500,000 for an endowment:** ensuring the Walden House remains a permanent community resource for generations to come.

**\$250,000 for immediate use:** allowing us to offer a sliding scale for guests, because we recognize that when facing a medical crisis, the burden of finding affordable lodging should never be a barrier to care.

**\$250,000 for the Compassionate Care Patient Support Fund:** providing eligible patients facing financial hardship - many of who also stay at the Walden house - with up to \$500 in gift cards for gas and groceries to help offset medical expenses.

To our donors: you have provided a safe place for families to rest and in their most difficult hours. Whether it is a parent staying close to their newborn in the NICU or a patient undergoing cancer treatment, your support provides the comfort they need to focus on what matters most - healing.



On behalf of our patients, thank you for ensuring the future of this vital community resource.

## Medical Staff Impact Circle

In early 2025, a small group of dedicated physicians and advanced practice providers (APPs) began imagining what could happen if the medical staff at Kootenai Health united around a shared purpose: to elevate patient care through collective philanthropy.

What started as a simple idea became a bold vision, and after months of thoughtful planning and discussion, the Medical Staff Impact Circle was born.

The Impact Circle is an exclusive giving club for current and retired physicians and APPs who each commit a minimum gift of \$10,000 to the Kootenai Health Foundation. Members pool their donations to eventually vote on how to best distribute those funds back to hospital programs.

Since formally launching in September 2025, nearly 30 physicians have joined as founding members. Their commitments reflect not just generosity, but a shared belief that those closest to patient needs are uniquely positioned to work together to advance care.

With momentum growing, the Medical Staff Impact Circle is preparing to launch its first grantmaking cycle. Members will review Kootenai project proposals and vote on where their pooled contributions should be directed, ensuring that funding flows exactly where it will have the greatest impact on outcomes for Kootenai patients.

The Foundation thanks our Impact Circle members below, and invites interested Kootenai Health medical staff to contact us to learn more.

**Dr. Frederick & Sandy Ambrose**  
**Dr. Mark & Mary Brinkman**  
**Dr. Rob & Rita Burnett**  
**Dr. Karen Cabell**  
**Dr. Barbara Daugharty**  
**Dr. Brett Eliuk**  
**Dr. Walter & Susan Fairfax**  
**Dr. David & Tara Flores**  
**Dr. William & Luann Ganz**  
**Dr. Abby & Dr. Philip Gardner**  
**Dr. Todd & Jennifer Hoopman**  
**Dr. David & Megan Johnson**  
**Dr. Derek & Dr. Kate Khorsand**  
**Dr. Michalina Kupsik**  
**Dr. Jeffrey Larson**  
**Dr. Tori Lennox & Matt Forman**  
**Josh & Nicole Leppert**  
**Dr. Ben & Brinnon Mandel**  
**Nuria Martinez & Chad Taylor, CRNAs**  
**Dr. Brenna & Kevan McCrummen**  
**Dr. Robert & Barb McFarland**  
**Dr. Erik & Shannon Payne**  
**Dr. Emily Petersen**  
**Sarah Pierce, CRNA**  
**Dr. Tim & Wanda Quinn**  
**Dr. Jack Riggs & Sandy Pantano**  
**Dr. Mary Sanderson & Dr. Neil Nemece**  
**Dr. Robert & Maren Scoggins**  
**Dr. Robin & Mary Jo Shaw**  
**Dr. Kanan & Samantha Silvas**  
**Dr. Tom & Sue Thilo**  
**Dr. Marcus & Sara Torgenson**  
**Dr. Renee Umbdenstock**



## Making a Difference Through Monthly Giving - Dr. Renee Umbdenstock

Since 2016, Dr. Renee Umbdenstock has been a part of Kootenai Health not only as a skilled pediatric anesthesiologist but as a dedicated supporter of Kootenai's mission.

"Two things prompted me to start giving to the Foundation: first, I learned I could make the donation automatic, which drastically simplified the process, and second, I could choose specific funds to direct my money toward."

Today, Dr. Umbdenstock donates to Youth Behavioral Health, Children's Services, and the Pierce Scholarship Fund.

***"As a pediatric anesthesiologist and a mom, investing in the care of all youth is important to me because they are our future. They will grow up in this area, get great care at Kootenai Health, and maybe return to serve. Maybe they will even care for me in the future!"***

For Dr. Umbdenstock, becoming a monthly donor felt both manageable and meaningful. "Making a monthly donation makes the amount seem small. But when you review the year-end statement, you'll feel as if your small donation has become something big enough to make a difference." It's a message she hopes others will take to heart.

When asked why others should support the Foundation, her answer is simple. "Healthcare is a service that we will all need at some point in our lives. Why not invest in making the care where we live the best it can possibly be?" By giving locally, she believes, we strengthen the health care we all rely on.



**Dr. Renee Umbdenstock with her husband Todd Ebbert, and daughters Elly and Kendal.**

"We invest in each other to improve the entire organization. I hope I get to spend the rest of my career here; I feel incredibly lucky to say that."

## Dr. Chris and Georgianne Jessen - benefiting generations to come

After both having successful careers in health care, Dr. Chris and Georgianne Jessen believe deeply in the power of community and the importance of ensuring that high-quality health care remains strong in northern Idaho for generations to come.



As members of the Kootenai Health Foundation Legacy Society, they have created a charitable fund through the Innovia Foundation

that will ultimately benefit the Kootenai Health Foundation.

Through their estate plans, the Jessens have arranged for a future gift that will be directed to

the Foundation and trust the Foundation's leadership to steward their gift thoughtfully to where it will have the greatest impact. Dr. Jessen and Georgianne have expressed a desire for their legacy gift to support capital needs or organizational capacity - investments that help ensure the health system has the tools, facilities, and resources needed to care for the community well into the future.

Their decision reflects a deep confidence in the work being done today and a belief in the promise of tomorrow. By including the Foundation in their plans, the Jessens are helping ensure that patients and families in our region will continue to benefit from exceptional care for many years to come.

**If you would like more information about planned giving, please contact Katie Chambers, Director of Individual and Legacy Giving, at 208-625-4433 or [katie.chambers@kh.org](mailto:katie.chambers@kh.org).**

## Shannon Hollenbeck - thankful for compassionate care



On July 21, 2024, my daughter and I found ourselves in Urgent Care as she had been seen for strep throat multiple times. The doctor could see an abscess in her throat, so they sent

us to the Kootenai Health Emergency Room right away. Dr. deTar was on call, and could see the abscess and didn't want to chance it blocking off her airway, so he saw to her surgery that same evening. Her throat was swollen and the whole side of her face was swollen - it was a tense time. But Dr. deTar is hands down one of the best physicians/surgeons I've met to date. He told us how to get in contact with him and made sure to follow up with us after to make sure my daughter was all right.

From those helping us check in, to the nurses, to the physicians that saw us, to the PACU and recovery nurses... everyone was phenomenal. In a tense situation, we felt very taken care of and like nobody was too busy for us. My daughter is fully recovered! It was a good experience when it couldn't have been.



## Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Grant

The Kootenai Health Foundation received a \$950,000 multi-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to strengthen community responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking across the ten northern counties of the Idaho Panhandle.

This investment expands the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at Kootenai Health, helping ensure survivors have access to 24/7 trauma-informed medical forensic care. Specially trained nurses provide compassionate medical treatment, conduct forensic exams, and collect evidence that may assist in legal proceedings while prioritizing the dignity, safety, and well-being of survivors.



The grant also strengthens collaboration with Safe Passage and its Children's Advocacy Center, expanding support for children and families affected by abuse. Through this partnership, survivors have access to coordinated medical care, advocacy, and resources designed to support healing and long-term safety. "Survivors in rural communities often face significant barriers to care," said Cara Nielsen, president of the Kootenai Health Foundation.

***"This investment allows us to expand services across the region so survivors can access compassionate care and support no matter where they live or when they need help."***

By working in partnership with Safe Passage and the Northwest Hospital Alliance, the program is strengthening a coordinated regional response. Expanded nurse training, additional staffing, and specialized pediatric expertise will help ensure survivors of all ages have access to timely, trauma-informed care throughout northern Idaho.

For survivors and their families, these services are often the first step toward healing while providing compassionate care in moments of profound vulnerability while helping build a stronger, more supportive community response.



**Kootenai**Health  
Foundation, Inc.

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2003 Kootenai Health Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

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Together We Heal

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