



Cheyenne Regional
Foundation

WINTER 2022

Advancing Premier Regional Community Healthcare

advancement

pg. 12

CRMC UNVEILS
MOTHER/BABY UNIT

pg. 11

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DENIM & DIAMONDS SPONSORS!

Additional recognition will be included in the Spring 2023 issue of *Advancement*.

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Cover Photo: Dr. Art and Carol Merrell

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The Cheyenne Regional Foundation is a nonprofit 501(3)(c) organization committed to enhancing the health of individuals and the overall quality of life for our community. The Foundation informs, develops and stewards resources to enable the Cheyenne Regional Health System to provide the best possible health care.



TIM THORNELL

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CHEYENNE REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Let me start by applauding our Foundation Board of Directors for all that they do to support the health and well-being of our community. This group of talented and dedicated individuals puts in a tremendous amount of time, energy and creativity to support our health system and our mission of inspiring great health. When you get a chance, please join me in thanking them for all that they have done, and continue to do, for Cheyenne Regional and the many people for whom we care.

Having said that, I want to take a moment to thank Sue Mecca for serving as the Foundation’s Board Chair for 2021 and 2022. Her focus and commitment have truly been amazing. And a warm welcome to Dr. Sandra Surbrugg, who will be stepping in as the Board Chair for 2023 and 2024.

This is also a good time to welcome three new Foundation Board members: Sheridan Hanson with Laramie County Community College; Julie Malm with Coldwell Banker The Property Exchange; and Lorraine Salazar, a retired Human Resources professional. With so much happening at CRMC, it’s an exciting time to part of the Board!

One of the biggest CRMC “happenings” right now is the near completion of our new Mother/Baby Unit (MBU)! We were able to showcase the unit’s many advancements during an open house for the community in mid-October. The unit’s grand opening is set for later this year. A huge thanks to everyone who has been involved in this massive undertaking—including our Women and Children’s Services, Facilities, Project Management, Biomed, Environmental Services, Information Technology, Epic, the Foundation, our contractors, and many others. I also want to thank everyone in our Patient Tower and throughout the West Campus who has been impacted by the construction. Renovations are never easy or without challenges. But how great to know that we will be providing an inviting new space for the more than 1,000 moms who give birth at CRMC each year! You can read more about the MBU—and how our Foundation has contributed to the unit’s development—in this edition of Advancement.

Hopefully you have also heard that our Radiation Oncology Department has a new state-of-the-art linear accelerator, which delivers radiation with pinpoint accuracy to treat several kinds of cancers. We invited our community in to see the accelerator and learn more about its high-tech capabilities in September. You also have an opportunity to learn about the accelerator and how it is helping our patients in this issue of Advancement.

Other stories in this edition highlight the Big Boot that honors our local healthcare heroes; the annual Tree of Remembrance ceremony; the brave souls who took part in this year’s chilly (but still very successful) Great Bison Shuffle and golfers participating in the annual Golf Classic.

As I write this, it’s just a few short weeks until our Foundation hosts the 2022 Denim & Diamonds gala on Nov. 18, with proceeds to be used to support our Behavioral Health Services. Special thanks to our Foundation staff and Board for all the work they are putting into organizing and coordinating the tropical-themed gala and to the Honorary Chairs, Dr. Art and Carol Merrell. Dr. Merrell is a retired psychiatrist who has long been on the front lines of providing mental healthcare in our community. Mrs. Merrell is a long-time Foundation Board member and former Chair and hospital volunteer.

And finally, my heartfelt thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to our Foundation, in support of our health system and community – you allow us to pursue our mission to Inspire Great Health.

NEW STAFF MEMBER



JORDAN JAMES OPERATIONS & EVENT COORDINATOR

“I come to the Foundation after working for CRMC since January 2020 as a pharmacy technician. Working at the hospital through the beginning of the pandemic was quite the introduction to healthcare in Cheyenne. However, it showed me the importance of entities like the Foundation and how they support our healthcare team, allowing them to provide excellent care. I am very excited to join the Foundation team!”

from Scott

As Sue completes her term as chair of our Board of Directors, I want to thank her for her leadership, guidance & support throughout the past two years. Her willingness to volunteer her time and leadership drove the Foundation to new levels of success.



SCOTT FOX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHEYENNE REGIONAL FOUNDATION

from Sue

I was once asked, “Why did you want to join the CRMC Foundation board?” Very simply, Dr. Bud Davis strongly encouraged me to! There is, as they say, far more to that story & the true answer is very personal. Dr. Davis was my late husband Ernie’s doctor, and after Ernie passed, Bud made sure I understood the importance of “getting out” and being involved. I had so much respect for the care given to Ernie at CRMC; it meant the world to me, and I truly did want to give back. Joining the Foundation board was a perfect opportunity and I had to say “yes”!

As a board member, and now board chair, I’ve continued to be awed and humbled by both the professional care our community hospital provides and the outpouring of support provided back by the community, which ensures the teams within our health system have the tools they need to provide that care. The new Mother/Baby unit and the upcoming ICU project are two large examples of that support, funded significantly by Foundation Denim & Diamonds projects. But it wasn’t just large projects; the community partnership & collaboration on each Foundation event, from small to large, ensured we’d be able to meet the needs identified by CRMC.

I’d especially like to thank Tim Thornell, CRMC’s president & CEO. Since the day he started, and certainly throughout the pandemic, Tim’s ability to calmly and flexibly assess challenges, to be accessible and available, and to communicate both within the health system and across the community has been a superior example of leadership. He kept people informed, at every level—he was our “quarterback” & did all that in a way that was just right.

Thank you as well to Scott Fox and his staff at the Foundation: Vicky Fry, Landon Brown, Melanie Lenhardt and Jordan James. His leadership & the team’s efforts make those connections between the health system & the community not just possible, but vibrant & lasting. Equally important, I’d like to thank my fellow volunteer board members. In each of you, I see the faces of our community and in your actions, I see the passion that fuels support for Cheyenne Regional both today and into the future. Thank you all!

Finally, I’d like to thank each of you who support Cheyenne Regional. Without your passionate and continuing support, healthcare in our community just wouldn’t be the same.



SUE MECCA
BOARD CHAIR
CHEYENNE REGIONAL FOUNDATION

DID YOU KNOW?

MAXIMUM DONOR IMPACT

100% of your donation to the CRMC Foundation goes to the area you identify. Cheyenne Regional covers the Foundation’s administrative costs so your gift will have maximum impact!



GREAT BISON SHUFFLE



On September 10th, over 165 runners came out to the scenic Terry Bison Ranch for the annual Great Bison Shuffle. While a few were probably deterred by the weather ... the Wyoming weather decided “cold & rainy” was the them for the morning ... those hearty runners who did attend made this annual event a big success.

Runners participated in one of five events--half marathon, 10K, 5K, 2K and kids’ run, and raised \$7,000 to purchase equipment for Cheyenne Regional’s amazing Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation program. Of equal important to the amount of funds raised, was the event’s educational impact regarding community health ... cardiac & pulmonary health ... and the availability of that continued care at CRMC.

Like any event, it wouldn’t have been possible without the incredible team who planned and executed it. Thank you so much to all the sponsors, the planning community (including Foundation, CRMC & community members), and most importantly all those who came out and ran!





Photo by Scott Fox



Cancer Center Now Has Two Linear Accelerators

Radiation treatment requires extreme precision, and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's Cancer Center now has two of the most technologically advanced machines available to ensure their patients are being treated as safely as possible.

A purchase made by the hospital, a new linear accelerator – which targets radiation treatment directly at a tumor and avoids the surrounding normal tissue – has been installed at the Cancer Center.

“Accuracy is one of our top priorities,” said radiation oncology manager Sharon Young. “It has to be within a couple of millimeters of accuracy because we don’t want to treat anybody in any area that we’re not supposed to.”

Having the new machine on site prevents stress for cancer patients.

“When we prepare a treatment technique for the patient, those plans require days

and even weeks to prepare, and they are specific to that patient and the machine they are being treated on,” said medical physicist John Barrett. “This allows us to make plans that can work on either of these two machines, so that when one of them has technical difficulties or isn’t functioning properly that day, we can just move the patient over for treatment on the other machine rather than have them cancel their treatment. These radiation treatments are prescribed, and you’re supposed to get your treatment five times a week, so if you start skipping, it affects the effectiveness of the treatment.”

Both machines have new technology that makes positioning patients faster and easier. The new machine came with the improved capabilities, while the older machine has been retrofitted to match the new one.

New technology includes surface guidance that can tell if a patient has shifted by even millimeters, allowing providers to direct them to change position from outside the room. The machines use a six-degrees-of-freedom (6-DoF) couch that provides the most accurate positioning of patients.

“Before we did left to right, up and down, in and out, but now it can do all sorts of different things from outside the room to position the patient, even if we have to just roll them a few millimeters,” Young said. “It makes the machine faster, and makes the patient treatment faster.”

Both machines are multi-million dollar investments and require \$2-3 million in service and upkeep over their lifetimes, Barrett said, and having two is a boon for the Cancer Center.

“Some larger cancer centers will oftentimes have matched machines, but for a place as small as Cheyenne, it is very rare to have two matched machines,” he said. “I think it’s just a luxury that we’ll be able to provide for people here in Cheyenne.” ✨

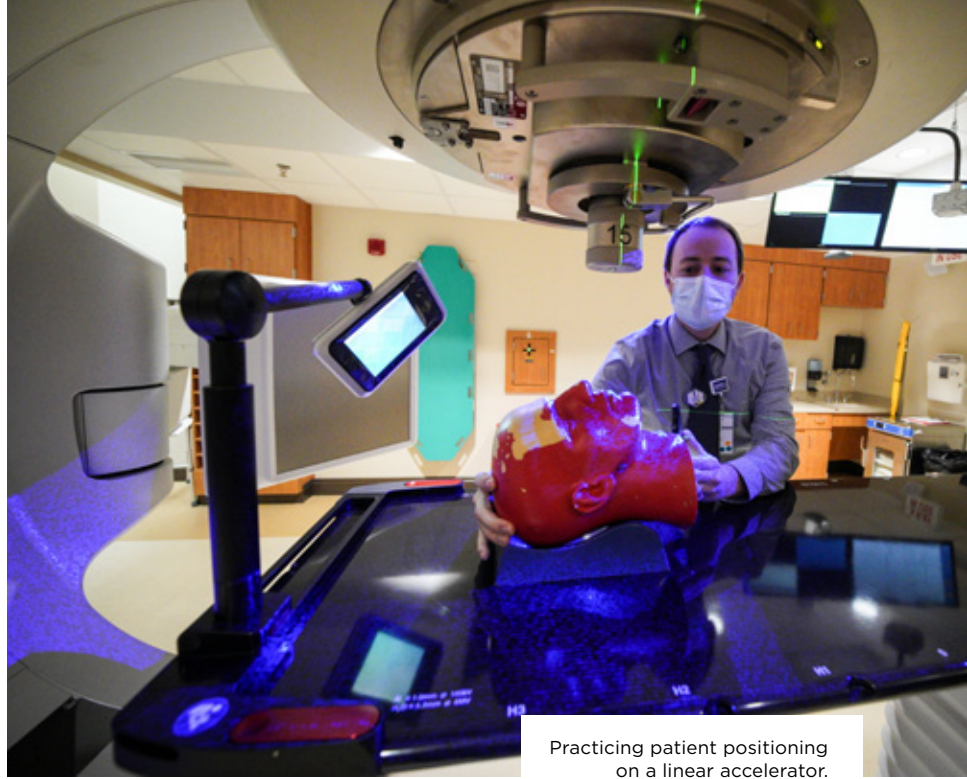


Photo by Michael Smith

Practicing patient positioning on a linear accelerator.

New linear accelerator at CRMC.



Photo by Michael Smith



NEW PANDA WARMERS WILL HELP NEWBORNS, FAMILIES, HOSPITAL STAFF

Renovations to the Mother/Baby Unit also brings a new, important piece of equipment: panda warmers.

These “essential tools” will be placed in all mother/baby rooms, said Landon Brown, hospital Foundation director of Annual Giving/Grants. A private foundation with ties to Cheyenne gifted \$100,000 to purchase 15 panda warmers.

“We were able to leverage an outside foundation’s grant because of the community support for the [new] Mother/Baby Unit,” he said.

The donors wish to remain anonymous, he added.

The warmers help newborns, families and hospital staff.

“The size is more compact, which gives more room for the family to interact with the baby,” said Erin McKinney, Women & Children’s Services clinical director. “They also allow for interventions when needed.”

The new warmers provide for “infant resuscitation to happen on the warmer with the needed equipment and monitoring within reach, and ensures consistency and quality with every patient,” said Sarah Whitman, clinical manager of Women & Children’s Services.

“This allows us to have best practices in neonatal resuscitation technology,” said McKinney.

Some of the pandas will replace older equipment in the labor and delivery rooms, and giraffe warmers, used for critical care infants, will remain in the NICU, she added.

“We are beyond grateful,” Whitman said.

“When our community is so giving, it helps us create that ask to these other private foundations, and it makes those dollars go so much further,” Brown said. “It’s because of our community’s generous support that we’re able to see additional donations for something like this.”



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health care is vitally important & through our 2022/2023 Denim & Diamonds fundraising, you can support CRMC’s Behavioral Health Services as they provide both in- and out-patient services to our community when they need it the most.

DID YOU KNOW?

KNOW YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



JULIE MALM
REALTOR, COLDWELL BANKER THE PROPERTY EXCHANGE

“I am so excited and proud to be serving on the CRMC Foundation board. It is an important board for the community that enhances our local hospital and its services.”

LACTATION PODS SUPPORT WORK/ LIFE BALANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

Offering breastfeeding women a clean, private space to pump breast milk has proven to save companies money by retaining experienced employees, reducing sick time taken by both moms and dads of breastfeeding children and lowering healthcare and insurance costs.

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Foundation recently raised around \$24,000 in extra funds to purchase two Mamava Solo Nursing Pods for CRMC employees and members of the public. The new pods arrived in May and join an already widely-used pod located near the Emergency Department.

Lori Boussuge, nurse and lactation consultant, said receiving breast milk is the best practice for babies, and supporting employees who want to pump breast milk while at work helps with work/life balance, noting the pods are located no further than two stair flights or an elevator ride from any employee in the towers.

She described the pods as peaceful and quiet, and said they contain a hospital-grade breast pump, which can express milk faster than regular breast pumps. Employees are already reporting their appreciation for the pods.

“Returning to work after having a baby can be tough,” said Katlyn Lovelis, infection preventionist. “Having a quiet, cool, well-lit, private place to pump makes it just a little easier. I am really fortunate to work for an organization that provides exceptional accommodations for breastfeeding mothers.”

Chelsea Rood, who is a nurse and lactation specialist, agreed.

“I really enjoy having a quiet, clean and secure place to pump,” she said. “Having these available makes pumping at work less stressful.”



2

3

RECERTIFICATION FOR NATIONAL BOARDS

Healthcare professionals at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center never stop learning, they keep up with advancements in medicine so they can provide excellent patient care and continue their education long after they leave school.

The CRMC Foundation understands this, and reimburses staff for the cost of taking national board certification exams in their medical specialties.

Such national certification is a recognized way to show that employees are highly skilled, according to Colleen Rodgers, CRMC clinical educator.

Healthcare professionals volunteer to take these rigorous exams, which require extensive studying in addition to working at their regular jobs, she said.

Certification is not cheap. Rodgers said it costs anywhere from \$70 to nearly \$600 to take a test. Such prices can keep some employees from taking part.

“We’re very appreciative” of the Foundation’s help, she said, adding that knowledge gained through certification improves care to the community.

National certification exams are available in many medical disciplines, including pharmacy, emergency medicine, neonatal medicine, phlebotomy and registered nursing.

The Foundation started the reimbursements in 2017 with a \$12,000 donation and recently approved another \$30,000, Annual Gifts/Grants Director Landon Brown said. The Foundation reimburses the costs of taking the test as long as employees pass the exam and agree to work at the hospital for at least a year.

Certification “helps them increase their abilities and depth of practice,” Brown said.



INFUSERS AT CHEYENNE REGIONAL

4



Cheyenne Regional Medical Center took a big step forward on October 1 to improve emergency care within the hospital with its rapid infuser system.

Infusers provide warmed blood and fluids to critically ill patients and fight against blood loss and hypothermia. Now, many Cheyenne Regional medical professionals are trained to use this state-of-the-art technology that saves lives.

Six new infusers are stationed at the hospital: In surgical care, intensive care, labor and delivery, and trauma and emergency departments. The compact units are on wheels and can be used throughout Cheyenne Regional, said Jeannie Hamann, director of perioperative services at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

Each infuser costs about \$33,000; the hospital bought five and the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Foundation purchased one that's housed at the surgical unit.

"It's a vital piece of equipment," the Foundation's Annual Giving/Grants Director Landon Brown said.

Hamann agreed. "It's very much a life-saving piece of equipment," she said, and added that it is a big plus for the community.

Use of this equipment can increase job satisfaction and is superior to the system used previously, she said. "It's much easier [to operate] than what we had before."

Employees who are expected to use the equipment took intensive training first, Hamann said. The system did not go live until everyone was properly trained.

Infusers will be used only during emergencies, such as when a patient has extensive bleeding, Cheyenne Regional's Trauma Program Manager Jennifer Dykshorn said.

Rapid infusers can be especially useful in labor and delivery, said Clinical Director of Women's and Children's Services at CRMC Erin McKinney.

"One of the highest risk times in a woman's life is during pregnancy," she said. The equipment "allows us to quickly respond in emergency situations."

DID YOU KNOW?

ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our caring & generous community make it possible for the Foundation to provide about \$1,000,000 in support to Cheyenne Regional annually.

KNOW YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



SHERIDAN HANSON
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, LCCC

"Behind every thriving system is a team of hard-working individuals who strive for continuous improvement. I am thrilled to help support the Cheyenne Regional Health System in serving our community to the best of our ability."



Dr. Art and Carol Merrell

Photo by Michael Smith

Advocates for Mental and Behavioral Health Care Chosen as Honorary Gala Chairs

A couple with ties to the medical community will chair this year's Denim & Diamonds gala, with fundraising focused on mental and behavioral health.

“Dr. Art Merrell is a retired psychiatrist, who has been practicing psychiatry in Cheyenne for over 45 years, and his wife Carol has been a longtime Foundation Board member,” said Scott Fox, CRMC Foundation executive director.

The couple moved to Cheyenne in 1974 after living in Colorado, California and Oregon. Dr. Merrell was the first Medical Director at Southeast Wyoming Mental Health Center, and he worked there for over 40 years. Dr. Merrell said, “We at the Mental Health Center covered the inpatient psychiatric needs for quite a few years until about 1986, when the first Psychiatric Unit was formally established at CRMC.”

In addition to working at Cheyenne Regional Hospital's Behavioral Health Center, Dr. Merrell has worked at Southeast Wyoming Mental Health Clinic, Cheyenne VA Hospital, F.E. Warren Air Force Base and the Wyoming Family Practice Residency. He also treated prisoners at both the Rawlins and Lusk prisons and was very active in the Wyoming Psychiatric Society.

Dr. Merrell retired from seeing patients about three years ago but still does administrative work at the Wyoming Department of Behavioral Health. Carol has volunteered at the hospital for over 20 years, including being a member of the Foundation, where she was chairperson in 2014, Fox said.

“Denim & Diamonds and the whole Foundation is all about connecting the community to Cheyenne Regional and community health,” Scott said. “Having people like the Merrells as our honorary chairs reinforces that tie. It's about representing the community, and we've asked them to do that.”

“We are happy the event brings a focus on psychiatric treatment, which isn't something that has been present for many years,” Dr. Merrell said. “Wyoming has a very high suicide rate per capita.”

“We've attended Denim & Diamonds for many years, and I think it's time for us to focus on mental health,” Carol said. “People come to the gala mainly to support the hospital and the Foundation and our goals. We've done Mother/Baby, the ICU renovation is next, and then we'll support behavioral health. We're hoping it will bring more beds and more support for the mentally ill.”

“Drug and alcohol problems are also very high,” her husband added. “We want to raise awareness about treatment for drug and alcohol problems as well. They are often paired with mental illness. Hopefully the gala will increase awareness about the importance of psychiatric treatment and mental health in Wyoming.” ❄

CRMC Unveils New Mother/ Baby Unit

RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADED
TECHNOLOGIES BRING
STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY
TO CHEYENNE THANKS TO
COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

For more than two years, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and the hospital foundation focused efforts on creating and funding a new, state-of-the-art facility for mothers and their newborns. On Friday, October 14, the renovated and updated facility welcomed numerous people from throughout the community for an open house event.





Comfort and care for our community
in the new Mother/Baby Unit.

Photo by Michael Smith

The new Mother/Baby Unit was greatly anticipated.

“We are very excited, and we are very thankful,” said Erin McKinney, clinical director of Women & Children’s Services. “The unit is beautiful – it’s a soothing and calm environment. The furniture and the artwork are classy.”

The ambiance is just one special component to the new space. Additionally, more rooms and more privacy have been woven into the design. The functionality of the unit is also a critical component.

“The rooms themselves are quite a bit more spacious and are designed to accommodate patients and their families and visitors,” said Dr. Rene Hinkle, MD, OBGYN. “There’s better technology ... [and] everything will be more easily accessed at the time of delivery.”

She added, “The rooms are big enough that patients will be able to keep the babies in their rooms more often. That decreases how often the babies will have to be in the nursery, so that’s a benefit for the moms.”

The nursery has also greatly “improved” with a larger space, she said.

“There is much more privacy in the nursery ... and the parents will be able to stay in the nursery for longer periods of time because of that. It’s also a naturally soothing and calming environment for families and new babies.”

Hospital staff largely designed the new space, including places for electrical outlets and connections for medical equipment, according to Scott Fox, executive director for CRMC’s Foundation.



Timeline



Photo by Michael Smith

Landon Brown leads a tour of the new Mother/Baby Unit during the open house event in October.

\$584k
raised from
community in
2018-2019

“It is intentionally designed by the experts, the people who will be working there,” Fox said.

“The design incorporated feedback from providers and staff which resulted in individual rooms for our babies requiring intensive care support, including two rooms equipped to accommodate twins,” added Robin Roling, CRMC’s Chief Operating Officer.

“Our goal is to provide the best possible care to our community and to our patients and doing so in a new unit with updated technologies and an updated environment is going to make that goal a lot easier,” said Dr. Samantha Michelena, MD, FACOG, OBGYN. “Our new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has single occupancy rooms instead of one big open bay ... which is huge. It’s easier to converse with patients and easier for parents to stay with their babies and feel a little bit more comfortable because you’re not just sitting there behind a curtain.”

McKinney agreed.

“This provides family bonding and space for mom, dad, and guardians to have that one-on-one time in their own private space,” she said.

Between 1,100 and 1,200 babies are born at CRMC annually, therefore, many women and their families use the facility.

“The new unit gives a comforting feel that will allow patients and families to relax and enjoy the birth of their infant,” said Sarah Whitman, clinical manager of Women & Children’s Services. “The staff will enjoy more space for patient care and their supplies and enjoy a beautiful new space. I’m so excited to see the community and patients’ perspective! This unit is beautiful, with a modern look ... and I’m excited knowing how much the staff and community will enjoy the space.”

Planning for the new Mother/Baby Unit began more than five years ago, when the Foundation asked the hospital about the facility’s greatest need, Fox said.

“The foundation board took that request and approved not just one year, but two years to do fundraising – this was a big project,” he said.

Raising money during 2018 and 2019, including through Denim & Diamonds and golf tournaments, focused on this major renovation. More than \$550,000

was donated. Total cost for the Mother/Baby Unit and the new ICU, which will come about because of the Mother/Baby Unit move to the fourth floor of the Patient Tower Building, will be more than \$21 million, Roling said. Construction started in September 2021.

“The new unit creates a 33 percent increase in space over our previous unit,” she said. “This allows us to provide larger rooms for mothers and their families in our labor and delivery and postpartum rooms. The rooms are also equipped with spacious bathrooms, state-of-the-art lighting, and integrated technology.”

The space also includes special air handling capabilities “to assist with isolation needs,” she added.

The new unit creates a 33 percent increase in space ... equipped with spacious bathrooms, state-of-the-art lighting, and integrated technology.”



“Cheyenne Regional strives to provide exceptional caring experiences for our community and staff,” Roling said. “This new unit provides an environment in which our staff and providers can best meet the care needs of our mothers, babies, and their families.”

Excitement and gratitude wafted across the hospital and through the foundation upon opening the new Mother/Baby Unit in October.

“Everybody who has seen it is excited, everybody who’s been waiting is excited,” Fox said.

“We look forward to being able to take care of our patients in a much more efficient way and help them stay more

comfortable during their time on labor and delivery,” Dr. Hinkle said.

“The foundation and community have always given amazing support to the Women & Children’s unit,” Whitman said. “They are so gracious and generous with any need that we have had through this project. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

“We are so grateful to the Foundation for their partnership in this endeavor,” Roling said. “Their financial contribution is very much appreciated, but more importantly, their support and care for staff, providers, and our community is inspiring.”

“As the Foundation director, it was really humbling to see the outpouring of

community care as they chose to donate, from small gifts to large gifts, in support of creating this new unit,” Fox said. “We talk about taking care of our community – this is one literally everyone can relate to in some fashion. Everybody has some tie to people going in and having babies and caring for them. Watching the community become excited about it, and seeing the support now become reality, is truly humbling.” ✨

Above, right: Touring the new Mother/Baby Unit during the open house event in October.

The Mother/Baby Unit was intentionally designed with the comfort of families in mind.



Photos by Michael Smith

comfort



CRMC Foundation Adds Hospital to Community's Big Boot Art Project

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center installed an art piece in May during Hospital Week as part of the Big Boot project that began in the community nearly two decades ago.

"I always felt like the hospital should be part of this group that has one of these beautiful boots representing it as part of this tour around our city," said Scott Fox, CRMC Foundation executive director.

Money came from the late Bill Nichols, a longtime hospital administrator, and his wife Marti. Their donation was given to help document the hospital's history, which is featured on a portion of the 8-foot-tall boot, Fox said.

The piece sits in front of the hospital and "honors all the people who provided healthcare over the decades," Fox said. Chad Blakely, local artist and South High School art instructor, created the work and titled it "Honoring Healthcare Heroes."

"The boot itself has two parts to it," Blakely said. "The top ... has images of different healthcare workers. Down on the lower part of the boot ... is the history of the hospital; there are photographs of when it was a tent hospital and the old DePaul building, as well as the Cancer Center and the CRMC building."

He also incorporated the compassion healthcare workers offer.

"On the toe of the boot I have a little girl with a stethoscope listening to the doctor's heartbeat and there's a nurse behind them," Blakely said.

This is the third boot he's created for the community and the second artistic piece he's done for the hospital.



Above: Artist Chad Blakely poses with the boot he created for CRMC.
Inset from left to right: CRMC Foundation Executive Director Scott Fox, CRMC CEO Tim Thornell, Artist Chad Blakely, Board Chair of CRMC Foundation Sue Mecca.

"Chad is a really great artist," Fox said. "He created this beautiful superhero art for the pediatric infusion unit so that when kids have to come in for that treatment and sit there for maybe hours, they can look at these superheroes and find themselves in it."

"I like storytelling – I do a lot of comic book illustration," Blakely said. "I love telling stories through my artwork."

He added, "I was honored to be asked to do this [boot project]. The idea that this is a legacy piece that could be there for the next 50 years is really humbling and pretty cool." ✨

KNOW YOUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



LORRAINE SALAZAR
HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

"I'm excited to join an outstanding Foundation Board who have supported our community and led in new and innovative healthcare initiatives. I look forward to contributing to something meaningful and invaluable that helps so many."

Tree of Remembrance a Comfort During Holiday Season

Twinkling Christmas lights and favorite carols around the tree can be just what the doctor ordered for families who are mourning the recent loss of a loved one during the holidays. Those favorite traditions can also be a comfort to people who remember how much a loved one used to enjoy the holidays—even years after their passing.

Davis Hospice Center is offering a quiet space for people to honor and remember their loved one during the holiday season. They are welcoming the community to their Tree of Remembrance, where people can hang a white paper dove ornament marked with the name of a loved one they have lost.

People are invited to a remembrance ceremony on SATURDAY, DEC. 3 AT 1:30 P.M., or come visit the tree and hang a dove any time between Dec. 3 and Christmas Eve from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hospice center Chaplain Dave Stratton said the remembrance ceremony is a simple affair with music, a dedication of the tree and speakers. This will be the 27th Tree of Remembrance Hospice has shared with the community, and Stratton said they try to keep things similar to previous years when it comes to the tree.

“There are things that need to maintain a tradition, particularly for the loss of a loved one,” Stratton said. “Tradition plays an important role. It’s not an event—it’s a moment. It’s not a big celebration—it’s this is my life now.”

Kimberly Koll, bereavement coordinator and counselor at Davis, said throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were not able to host memorial services for their loved ones, so the Tree of Remembrance can serve as an alternative for those families.

“It gives them that sense of closure and provides healing for them during that first set of holidays without their loved one,” Koll said. “They are going through that initial shock and trying to adapt to their new normal. It gives them the chance to have that ceremony and have that sense of closure.”

Koll said people of all ages visit the tree each year, noting Davis Hospice Center serves more than 400 families each year. She said children who have lost their mother will fill out a dove, and seniors who have lost their spouse will as well.

She added the tree isn’t just for Davis Hospice patient families—it is for the whole community. ✨



DID YOU KNOW?

HOSPICE DOVES & DONATIONS

You can get extra doves for the tree at the Davis Hospice Center or by contacting the Foundation at 307-633-7667. You can also make a donation to support Hospice Program Services at the same locations!



FOUNDATION CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

PRESENTED BY RBC WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The annual Foundation golf tournament was once again a resounding success! Many thanks to all our sponsors, our volunteers, and the Foundation board & staff members who made this premier event so successful on September 9th.

Like the previous year, the turnout was huge & we filled both the morning & afternoon flights with teams of four who came out to not just “play golf” but to support a great cause and have fun while doing it! As the teams teed off at the gorgeous Cheyenne Country Club, they were also reminded that the weather in Cheyenne is always going to make an impression. After a 2021 tournament that was “warm & sunny,” 2022 was let’s just say “not!”

Dan “Smackintosh” McIntosh, who holds the record for the world’s longest lefthanded drive, came back again and helped us talk to each person playing about the impact the money donated during this tournament will make on Cheyenne Regional’s Behavioral Health Services & the mental health care, both in- and out-patient, across our community. At the end of the day, over \$52,000 net revenue was raised through the generous support and donations of our community!

Thank you to everyone who made this success possible.







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