St. Peter's Health FOUNDATION

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

INSPIRED IMPACT

MATCHING DONOR PASSION WITH PRIORITY SINCE 1978

FIRST BREATH OF LIFE ENDOWMENT:

Giving Newborns the Best Start

A generous donor has established the **First Breath of Life Endowment** with a transformational gift of $670,000. The First Breath of Life Endowment will strengthen care for newborns and families across our region for generations to come.

The donor also gave an additional $100,000 designated for our immediate medical equipment and birth mom comfort. The $100,000 equipped the Women's and Children's Unit with technology and comforts that allow more families to receive specialized care close to home. New equipment includes an incubator for premature and medically fragile infants, phototherapy lights for jaundice treatment, a bladder scanner, bassinets and family recliners that support skin to skin bonding between parents and their babies.

"This endowment allows us to provide an even higher level of care for our smallest and most vulnerable patients right here in our community," says Melissa Edwards, MD, MHA, Chief Medical Officer at St. Peter's Health. *"This is an important investment in the health and well-being of local families."*

According to Betsy Williams, MSN, RNC, Director of Women's and Children's, the new equipment has transformed what the unit can provide. The incubator creates a quiet, womb like environment for vulnerable newborns, while phototherapy lights allow more babies with jaundice to be treated locally. Family recliners encourage kangaroo care, a practice shown to improve infant health while strengthening the connection between parents and their newborn.

Scan the QR code to read the entire story at foundation.sphealth.org



Pictured: WAC nurses: Theresa Huschka, Sherry Kosena and Betsy Williams - Director of the Women and Children's Unit

The endowment also supported specialized infant equipment in the Emergency Department, helping care teams provide rapid treatment when every moment counts before babies transition to the Women's and Children's Unit if additional care is needed.

The First Breath of Life Endowment reflects a shared commitment to keeping families close to home while giving every newborn the strongest possible beginning.

"Diapers by Dolly" Program

The donor also created the "Diapers by Dolly" program, which provides a three month supply of diapers to eligible newborn families facing financial challenges. This new service helps ease the financial demands that often come with welcoming a baby, allowing parents to focus on caring for their newborn during those important first months.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

Every 27 Hours



Stephen Mason
Executive Vice President
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Pursuing excellence and reaching our full potential is a core human drive. Whether it is being Montana's top skier or golfer, or enjoying one of the fastest growing economies and unmatched outdoor recreation, being number one is usually something to celebrate.

Juxtaposed with those accomplishments is a ranking no one wants. Year after year, Montana ranks number one, or among the top three states in the nation, for deaths by suicide. One every 27 hours.

It is a tragedy we cannot afford to ignore.

This year, our compassionate and highly trained physicians, advanced practitioners, and care teams will deliver over 26,500 mental and behavioral health patient assessments, consultations and life-changing treatments. From crisis response and emergency care to counseling, addiction medicine, grief support and innovative treatments for depression, our teams are working every hour of every day to help our community heal.

What does this look like?

2:00 a.m. Our Mobile Crisis behavioral health therapist responds to police call to deescalate 34-year-old female in crisis, preventing ER visit or incarceration.

5:04 a.m. Three people experiencing mental health crises arrive in our Emergency Department. One is admitted to St. Peter's 22 bed Behavioral Health Unit, one of only six adult inpatient psychiatric units in Montana.

9:00 a.m. A patient receives Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation treatment for severe depression. Later, his daughter writes, "Thank you for giving me my dad back."

10:45 a.m. During a routine checkup, a physician identifies depression and links the patient to care, framing mental health as physical health.

1:00 p.m. A Helena Public Schools official requests help for a 10 year old student in crisis. Our Mobile Crisis Response Team responds.

1:30 p.m. An addiction medicine physician helps a patient take another step toward recovery.

4:00 p.m. Nurses gather to remember a colleague who died by suicide four years ago. The pain remains. So does the love.

9:15 p.m. A young adult is evaluated in the Emergency Department for suicidal thoughts, provided a private sitter, and admitted to our Behavioral Health Unit for continued care.

One day. A few examples of the daily impact at St. Peter's Health.

The brain is an organ, just like the heart or lungs. At St. Peter's Health, we treat brain health with the same expert care and compassion as any other physical health need.

Our January 30, 2027 Gala is dedicated to advancing brain health in our community. Together, we can strengthen programs, expand access to care and help more Montanans receive the support they need, when they need it most.

Join us as we work to lose the number one ranking.
Let's build a healthier Montana.

FOUNDATION BOARD:

Welcome New Foundation Board Members

Jessica Moore



A lifelong resident of the Helena area, Jessica Moore brings strong community ties and a passion for service to the St. Peter's Health Foundation Board. As the designated and managing broker of Windermere Real Estate in Helena, she leads a team committed to giving back through charitable support and volunteer service.

Jessica's commitment to the community extends well beyond her profession. She has served in leadership roles with the Helena Association of REALTORS®, the MLS Advisory Board, and the Jefferson High Booster Club.

Inspired after attending the Foundation Gala several years ago, Jessica saw firsthand how philanthropy strengthens local healthcare. She is especially appreciative of the Foundation's commitment to supporting St. Peter's employees and their families, believing that caring for caregivers helps build a stronger organization. She is proud to help advance the Foundation's mission and ensure exceptional healthcare remains close to home for future generations.

Darryl Rensmon



Darryl Rensmon joins the St. Peter's Health Foundation Board with a long history of leadership, community service, and a commitment to strengthening Montana communities. As President of Opportunity Bank of Montana, he helps lead one of the state's largest community banks while championing a culture of service and community investment.

Throughout his career, Darryl has served on numerous nonprofit and community boards and spent 13 years coaching softball at Capital High School. His passion for healthcare is also personal. His mother served as both a nurse and hospital administrator, while his father and grandfather founded the first ambulance service in Great Falls.

Darryl believes every family should have access to exceptional healthcare close to home. He is honored to support the Foundation's mission and help ensure St. Peter's Health continues to grow and meet the needs of Helena and the surrounding region.

ST. PETER'S HEALTH FOUNDATION PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUND:

Removing Obstacles for Patients



After returning to Helena following Hurricane Helene, Shannon Womack was ready to rebuild his life with his constant companion, Ace, the dog he rescued during the storm. Made possible our patient assistance fund, Shannon found the support he needed to get back on his feet and reconnect with the St. Peter's Health care team he knows and trusts. Your generosity helps patients overcome life's unexpected challenges, keeping neighbors, families, and even miracle dogs together when they need it most.

$205,254
in patient assistance provided in 2025.

1,929
patient requests were fulfilled, serving 1,183 patients and their families in 2025.



Stanger's Gift to Expand Emergency Care

A transformational gift from Suzi and Jim Stanger is helping shape the future of emergency care at St. Peter's Health. Their recent leadership commitment of $500,000 will support the expansion of the Emergency Department, strengthening access to high quality care for patients across our region.

For years, the Stangers have been dedicated supporters of projects that improve the health and well-being of our community. Their generosity reflects a belief that exceptional care should be available close to home and that investments made today will benefit families for generations to come.

The Emergency Department expansion will help St. Peter's Health meet the growing demand for emergency care by increasing capacity, improving the patient experience, and creating a more efficient environment for patients, families and care teams.

Since 2022, the Stanger's have contributed more than $1.1 million to St. Peter's Health Foundation. Their philanthropy also established the **Suzi and Jim Stanger Endowment for Community Based Services**, which helps patients overcome barriers such as housing, transportation, and other basic needs that can affect their health and recovery.

"Suzi and Jim continue to demonstrate what community leadership looks like," said Wade Johnson, President and CEO of St. Peter's Health. *"Their generosity will help ensure St. Peter's Health can meet the growing demand for emergency care across our region while creating a better experience for patients, families, and care teams."*

Thank you, Suzi and Jim, for your vision, generosity and lasting commitment to the health of our community. We appreciate you.

A Celebration in support of Behavioral Health Services

THE GALA

JANUARY 30, 2027

Join more than 500 of your friends and neighbors for a black-tie affair featuring a plated dinner, hosted bar, inspiring program, live and silent auctions and dancing to the crowd-favorite Famous Undercover band on January 30, 2027. Enjoy patient stories, videos and the opportunity to bid on items and experiences—all in support of behavioral health services.



First Interstate Bank Helps Expands Emergency Department

St. Peter's Health Foundation received a $275,000 donation through First Interstate Bank, the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Member Impact Fund. The grant will support the expansion of the St. Peter's Health Emergency Department, helping meet patient needs and ensuring exceptional care remains close to home for nearly 97,000 residents across Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Powell, Meagher, and Jefferson counties.

"This investment reflects a shared commitment to the future of health care in our region," said Wade Johnson, Executive Director of St. Peter's Health Foundation. *"Support like this strengthens our ability to provide compassionate, high quality care for every patient, every person, every time."*

Guy Almquist, Helena Market President for First Interstate Bank, said First Interstate is proud to partner with the Foundation to expand emergency services that will benefit local residents for years to come. The donation was made possible through the Member Impact Fund, a matching grant program that allows member financial institutions to amplify their support for nonprofit organizations serving local communities.

This donation also builds on First Interstate's longstanding partnership with St. Peter's Health. Over the past several years, the bank and its foundation have helped expand child care capacity through Pete's Place Early Childhood Learning Center, improve access to primary and specialty care, recognize the dedication of our employees, and provide assistance for patients facing financial hardship.

Together, these investments are strengthening health care across our region and helping ensure exceptional, compassionate care remains available close to home.

Retired Nurses Luncheon

St. Peter's Health Foundation welcomed retired nurses to St. Peter's Health Regional Medical Center for our 2nd Annual Retired Nurses Luncheon on August 13, 2026.

The gathering brought former colleagues together to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate the legacy of nursing at St. Peter's Health. Guests shared stories from careers spanning 12 to 79 years in nursing, making for an afternoon filled with laughter, memories and meaningful connections.

Guests enjoyed lunch from Montana Event Thyme, empanadas from Elizabeth Rock's kitchen, cookies from Shari's Cookies, LLC. Each guest received a commemorative St. Peter's Health nursing rubber ducky as a fun keepsake.



We're grateful to everyone who joined us and look forward to gathering again next year. Know a retired nurse who should be invited? Contact the St. Peter's Health Foundation at 406-444-2370.

THANK YOU
2026 Golf Tournament



Sponsors and Participants

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE ST. PETER'S HEALTH FOUNDATION PATIENT AND EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE FUNDS

— helping patients access transportation, medications, medical equipment, wigs and other essentials needed for their care, while providing emergency financial assistance to St. Peter's Health employees facing unexpected hardships.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

DICK ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION

PRO SPONSORS:

BlueCross BlueShield

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Independence Bank

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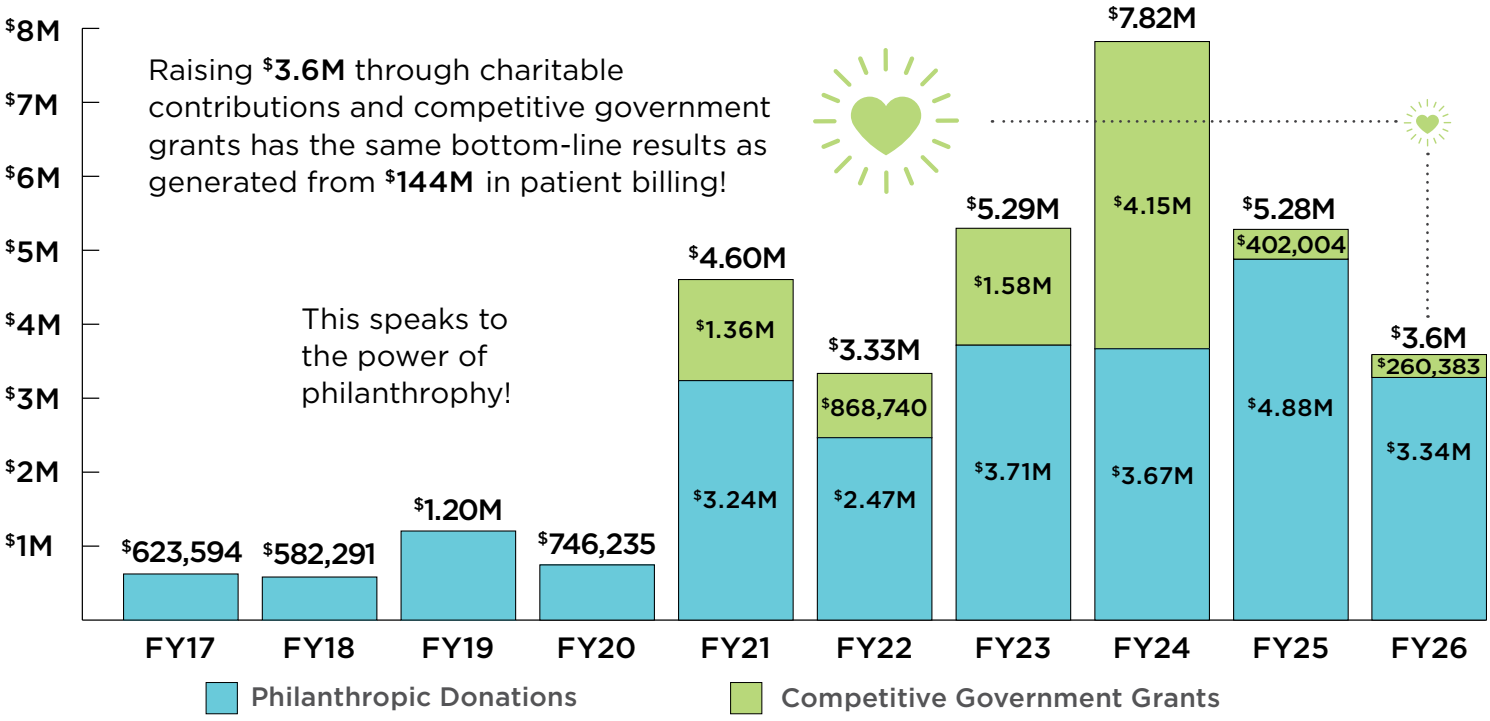
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POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

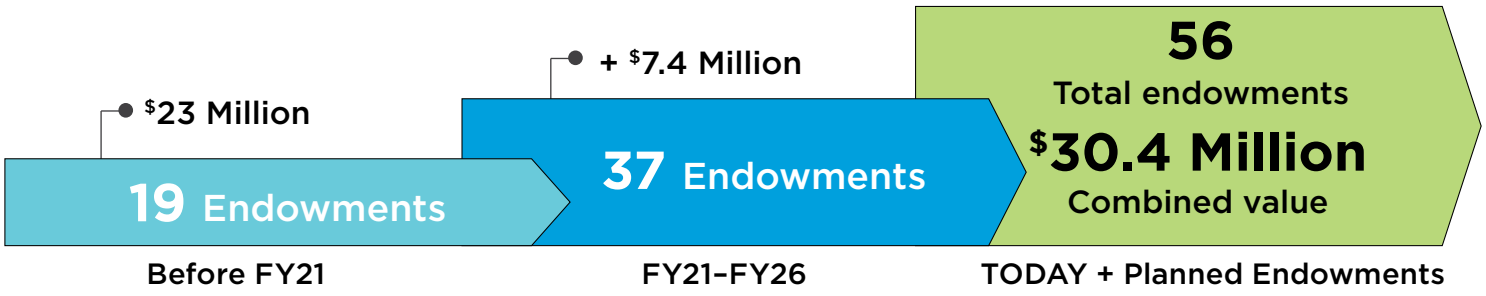
10 YEAR FUNDRAISING RESULTS



MAY 31, 2026 - MARKET VALUATIONS

INVESTING IN TOMORROW THROUGH ENDOWMENTS

Your generosity fuels a lasting legacy. St. Peter's Health Foundation Endowments are carefully invested so that a portion of earnings can provide ongoing, annual support for vital health programs—ensuring your impact continues for generations.

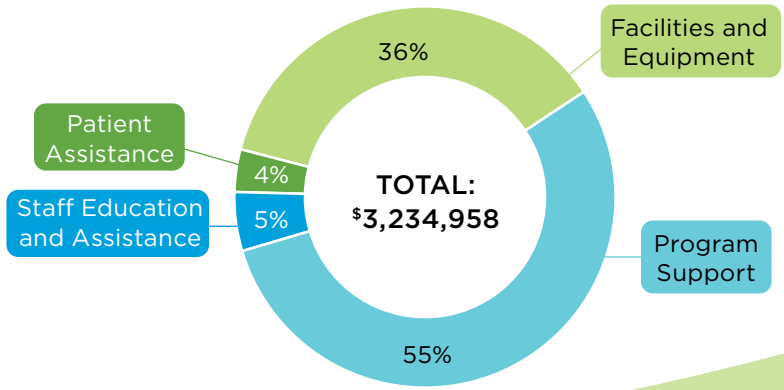


FY26 ACTUAL

DONOR FUNDS

TRANSFERRED OR PAID IN SUPPORT OF ST. PETER'S HEALTH

We're grateful for our generous donors and partners who invest in local healthcare programs and services with their giving. Thanks to you, FY2026 was a year of impact.



Hats On! Skin Cancer Protection for Kids



For families across Montana, time outside is part of everyday life. Sun exposure begins early and so does the risk of skin damage that can lead to skin cancer.

The **Karrie's HATS ON! The Fairbrother Family Skin Cancer Prevention Project,** in loving memory of Gary Fairbrother, DDS, 1944-1989 is helping change that story by giving children the protection they need from the very beginning. Created by Karrie Fairbrother, a registered nurse with more than five decades of experience, the endowed fund honors the memory of her husband, Dr. Gary Fairbrother, who passed away from metastatic melanoma at just 45 years old. His loss inspired Karrie's lifelong commitment to skin cancer prevention through education and early intervention.

Since launching in January 2026, the program has provided 497 newborns and young children with sun protective hats and skin cancer prevention resources. Each hat represents an opportunity to encourage healthy habits that can last a lifetime, helping parents and caregivers protect the children they love.

Support from the community allows the program to continue providing sun protective hats for newborns and children, educational resources for families, sunscreen access, and prevention focused initiatives



that help reduce long term skin cancer risk.

What begins as a simple hat can become a lifelong habit. Together, we can help more children enjoy Montana's outdoors safely while giving families the knowledge and tools to protect their health for years to come.

To learn more about the Karrie's HATS ON! Fairbrother Family Fund or to support this work, visit the program page by scanning the QR code or go to foundation.sphealth.org

A Century of Heart: Helen Celebrates 100

St. Peter's Health recently celebrated a remarkable milestone as longtime volunteer Helen Bunkowske turned 100 years old. Surrounded by family, friends, and St. Peter's Health team members, Helen was recognized for more than five decades of service to patients and visitors.

Since beginning her volunteer journey in 1972, Helen has served in many roles throughout the hospital. Today, she continues to share her compassion through **Hospice and the No One Dies Alone program**, offering comfort and companionship during life's most tender moments.

Thank you, Helen, for your extraordinary generosity and the lasting difference you have made in our community.



Training the Next Generation of EMS



A decommissioned St. Peter's Health ambulance has found a new purpose, helping prepare the next generation of emergency medical professionals through hands on training at Helena College.

The donated ambulance gives students in Helena College's Fire and Emergency Services program the opportunity to practice real world emergency response in the same type of environment they will encounter in the field. From patient care and equipment placement to communication and teamwork, students can build confidence before responding to actual emergencies

The donation reflects a longstanding partnership between St. Peter's Health and Helena College that extends well beyond equipment. St. Peter's Health EMS professionals serve as instructors, mentor students during skills training, and provide ambulance ride alongs and Emergency Department clinical experiences that are required for graduation. The health system also welcomes paramedic students from programs across the country for advanced clinical training.

"Our responsibility extends beyond caring for patients today," said Chris Mulberry, EMS Services Manager at St. Peter's Health. *"We also have a responsibility to help educate the people who will care for our communities in the future."*

By combining classroom instruction with practical experience, the partnership is creating a strong pipeline of skilled emergency responders ready to serve Helena and communities across Montana. It is an investment not only in students, but in the future of emergency care for the region.

AEDs Bring Added Safety to Helena Softball Fields

Thanks to the generosity of the Physician Partners of St. Peter's Health Foundation, the Barraclough family, and other community donors, four automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, have been installed at Helena Girls Softball Association fields. The project was inspired by a cardiac emergency during a youth softball tournament, when immediate access to an AED helped save a young athlete's life. Today, these life saving devices are available during practices, games, and tournaments, providing added protection for athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators while strengthening emergency preparedness throughout the Helena community.





Intrepid Credit Union Invests in Family Fun Fest

Intrepid Credit Union has committed to a five year Premier Sponsorship of the annual St. Peter's Health Family Fun Fest through 2030.

Each summer, Family Fun Fest brings together more than 1,000 children and family members for a morning of movement, learning, and fun. Hosted by the St. Peter's Health Population Health team, the event encourages healthy habits through interactive activities, community resources, and the popular kids fun run.

Intrepid Credit Union's investment helps make the event free, accessible and reflects Intrepid's longstanding commitment to supporting children through financial literacy and community engagement.

Thank you, Intrepid Credit Union, for investing in the health and well being of our community.



Independence Bank Supports Bike Rodeo and Patient Assistance

St. Peter's Health Foundation received an $8,574 grant from Independence Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Member Impact Fund to support two important community programs: the annual St. Peter's Health Bike Rodeo and the Foundation's Patient Assistance Fund.

The Bike Rodeo helps children build safe riding skills, encourages helmet use, and promotes injury prevention through hands on activities and community education. The grant also strengthens the Patient Assistance Fund, which helped more than 1,100 patients and families in 2025 by reducing barriers to health care and recovery.

Thank you to Independence Bank and FHLB Des Moines for investing in healthier, safer communities

Investing in people. Building the future of health care.

Through the Fred C. Olson Learning and Development Institute, St. Peter's Health Foundation continues to invest in education and professional growth for those caring for our community.

In 2026, 58 scholarship recipients received a total of $138,598 to support education, training and development opportunities. Made possible through the generosity of donors, these scholarships help strengthen our health care workforce and create opportunities for continued learning and growth.

The Institute honors the legacy of longtime Helena physician Dr. Fred C. Olson and his commitment to education and exceptional patient care. Since October 2020, donors have committed $3.45 million to the Institute.

58
Scholarships awarded in 2026

$138,598
Total scholarship support in 2026

379
Employees awarded since June 2021

$784,982
Scholarship support since June 2021

AWARDS & RECOGNITION:

National Recognition for Exceptional Care

St. Peter's Health continues to earn national recognition for the care it provides close to home. This year, St. Peter's Health was named among **Forbes' Top Hospitals for 2026**, placing it among a select group of hospitals recognized for excellence in patient outcomes, best practices, value, and patient experience. The recognition is based on independent analysis of quality measures from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

St. Peter's Health was also named one of the **2026 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals by The Chartis Center for Rural Healt**h for the third consecutive year. The national recognition honors outstanding performance among rural hospitals and reflects St. Peter's Health's continued commitment to delivering exceptional care.

These recognitions are a testament to the dedication, compassion, and expertise of every member of the St. Peter's Health team.

EXCELLENCE IN CARDIOVASCULAR CARE

St. Peter's Health earned two 2026 American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines achievement awards, recognizing its commitment to delivering evidence based care for patients with coronary artery disease and Type 2 diabetes.

The awards honor hospitals that consistently follow the latest research based treatment guidelines, helping improve patient outcomes and ensure high quality cardiovascular care. By participating in the Get With The Guidelines program, St. Peter's demonstrates an ongoing commitment to providing patients with care that reflects the most current clinical standards.

This year, St. Peter's received the Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Receiving Gold Plus with Target: Type 2 Diabetes award and the Rural Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Gold award.

#1 IN MONTANA FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT

St. Peter's Health earned an A grade for Community Benefit on the 2026 Lown Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility, making it the top ranked health system in Montana in this category and placing it among the nation's best performing hospitals. The recognition reflects St. Peter's commitment to investing in the community, caring for patients covered by Medicaid, and providing financial assistance to those who need it most.

St. Peter's also received A grades for Health Equity, Value of Care, Inclusivity, Avoiding Overuse, and Cost Efficiency. The Lown Hospitals Index is the only national ranking that evaluates hospitals on social responsibility, equitable care, community investment, and high value care.

Official title: Facility Dog. Unofficial title: Chief Comfort Officer.

Mocha plays an important role at St. Peter's Health, bringing comfort, companionship and a wagging tail to patients, families and employees every day.





St. Peter's Health FOUNDATION
2475 E. Broadway St.
Helena, MT 59601

Learn how you can make a difference

» Volunteer
» Give
» Share Your Story

Learn more at **foundation.sphealth.org**

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRED C. OLSON LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE SCHOLAR-DONOR RECEPTION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | 5:30PM – 7:00PM
ST. PETER'S HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
2475 E. BROADWAY | HELENA



Sock Sew

DECEMBER 7, 2026 | 9:00AM
ST. PETER'S HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
2475 E. BROADWAY | HELENA

Light a Life

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
4:30PM DOORS OPEN | 5:30PM CEREMONY
HELENA CIVIC CENTER | 340 NEILL AVE | HELENA



For more information on our upcoming events,
contact Bennett MacIntyre at bmacintyre@sphealth.org