



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025

FAIRMONT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Supporting Health Care in a Time of Change

Mayo Clinic Health System's decision to close the local Obstetrics (OB) and Surgery departments has sparked deep concern across our community. These essential services are critical to the well-being of residents in our area, and their absence poses a serious challenge to accessible, quality care. For many families, the loss of local OB services means traveling farther for childbirth—a potentially risky and stressful situation. Similarly, the discontinuation of surgical services could delay urgent procedures or force patients to seek care far from home.

In light of these developments, the Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation remains fully committed to supporting and preserving local health care. At our recent annual meeting, a vote was passed that allows the Foundation to expand its mission: **we are now be able to support not only our local hospital but other not-for-profit health organizations within our service area as well.** This change empowers us to respond more flexibly and effectively to the evolving health care needs of our community.

This expansion of our mission marks a significant step forward. While the closure of OB and Surgery is deeply disappointing, it has also underscored the urgent need for collaborative, community-based health care solutions. In response, the FCH Foundation is actively engaging with expert consultants to help explore all possible options and identify actionable next steps.

We want our community to know:

- ✓ Our focus remains local.
- ✓ Our commitment is unwavering.
- ✓ Our goal is to ensure that every resident has access to quality health care close to home.

We understand that many in our community are feeling uncertain and frustrated—and rightfully so. These are challenging times, but they also represent an opportunity to come together and shape the future of health care in Martin County. We appreciate the community's continued support and engagement. Together, we will continue to advocate for sustainable, high-quality health care options and build a system that serves everyone—now and for generations to come.

A STRONG FOUNDATION

Welcome to Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization led by a volunteer board of directors and a full-time Foundation Director. Together, they work to promote and support not-for-profit health care organizations within the service area through fundraising, bequests, and solicitations. Established in 1989 as a non-profit charitable corporation, the Foundation continues to grow stronger each year thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Mission

The mission of Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, is the development, management, and distribution of philanthropic support to assist local not-for-profit 501(c)(3) health care organizations in providing excellent health care for the communities we serve.

Vision

Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation believes much of the strength of rural life lies in having excellent health care close to home, with neighbors caring for neighbors. We will continue to be an active and dedicated fund development entity that supports high-quality health care. We will collaborate with health care organizations to identify and respond to community health and wellness needs.

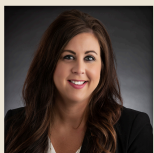
Purpose

The purpose of Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation is to obtain funds through charitable giving, to invest and administer those funds, and to allocate them to local not-for-profit 501(c)(3) health care organizations. These funds enhance patient care, support health-related education, provide clinical equipment, and fund scholarships.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



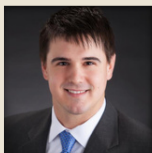
Darla Lytle



Tonya Mortenson



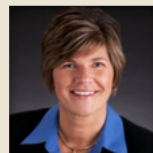
Tim Miller



Logan Peymann



Ross Wohlhuter



Courtney Cutler



Mike Sullivan



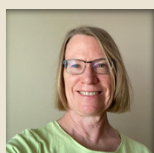
Robynn Buhmann



Jake Reuter



Marlys Bummond



Dr. Catherine Johnson



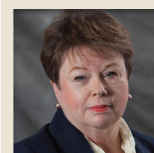
Deb Heinrich



Susan Rock



Michelle Duncan



Jane Kotewa



Dr. Tim Slama



foundationfch@gmail.com



(507) 236-3397



fchfoundation.com



facebook.com/fairmontcommunityhospitalfoundation

GOOD NEW GEMS YOU MADE POSSIBLE

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EDUCATION

Tuition reimbursement allowed RNs to attend the Minnesota Emergency Nurses Association Conference, where they gain access to the latest, most comprehensive information on patient care. This opportunity helps ensure that nursing staff stay current with best practices and continue to lead in delivering high-quality, evidence-based care.



MOCK SIMULATION EQUIPMENT

Simulation equipment and training models provide staff with hands-on experience in life-saving emergency strategies for both adult and pediatric patients. While mock codes are already in practice, having dedicated simulation tools greatly enhances learning opportunities—particularly for new graduate nurses—by offering a more realistic and effective training experience.



ALL PURPOSE STRETCHER

Previously, the clinic had to rely on a cot for emergency patient transfers, but its size made it impossible to navigate the narrow hallways or fit into exam rooms, complicating urgent care.

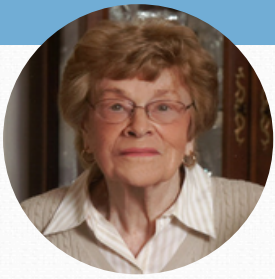


With the right equipment now in place, the clinic can provide safer and more efficient care during critical situations.

COLD CAPS

Scalp cooling significantly reduces hair loss during treatment by protecting and conditioning hair follicles, minimizing damage, and promoting stronger, healthier hair with faster regrowth. This process not only preserves physical appearance but also offers an important emotional boost to patients during a highly stressful period in their lives. Without support of the FHCF grant, patients would be required to pay out of pocket for this valuable service.





2025 ERMA ROSEN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Next round of Scholarships will open for applicants February of 2026. Applications can be found on our website.

VANESSA BLIESMER

I chose nursing because of my desire to make a difference. Nursing is a special profession that allows a unique opportunity to impact people's lives on both their most challenging days and their most triumphant days. Patients often claim it is their nurse who provided wonderful care, comfort, and reassurance when it was needed most. Nurses are workers who bring care to life through communication. They communicate with patients by explaining orders and advocating patients to their physician. I want to be this person for each patient of mine. I want to be their voice when they cannot be their own. I do not want a job; I want a career. I want to leave my workplace each day knowing that what I do matters, and I am making a positive impact on people's lives.



PRAMIT PATEL

From an early age, I was drawn to making a meaningful impact on others. Nursing is more than a profession – it is a calling that aligns with my passion for health care, continuous learning, and service. Witnessing the dedication of nurses and their transformative role in patient care inspired me to pursue this career with unwavering commitment. As I advance in my nursing education, I have developed a strong interest in critical care and anesthesia, with a long-term goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. The challenge of working in high stakes environments, making precise decisions, and ensuring optimal patient outcomes excites me. My commitment to evidence-based practice and clinical excellence strengthens my confidence in this path.



MERISSA CARTWRIGHT

My first job ever was working at a farrowing barn in Northrop, MN and I loved it. I loved taking care of the sows and their babies. My favorite part was when we could nurse a sick baby pig back to health. That is where my passion for nursing began. I then went on to working in nursing homes and home health care and my love for health care grew even more, so I decided that I would major in nursing when I entered college.



KAMRYN BECKMANN

I have always loved working with children and babies, and as I progressed in my education, I realized I want to pursue either pediatric or labor and delivery nursing. Right now, I am getting firsthand experience in labor and delivery during my clinicals. I recently observed a C-Section, which was one of the most incredible experiences I've had in nursing school. Seeing the teamwork and care involved in bringing a baby into the world reinforced my passion for this field.



ANNA BUSCHE

I chose nursing as my career path because I have always been drawn to health care, and after learning about nursing and how nurses impact people every day, I decided that is what I wanted to do with my life. Nurses are responsible for people in a very vulnerable state, and I would like to be there to help them in any way I can. Nursing combines compassion with caring and truly makes a difference in people's lives. I would like to inspire others to help people or become nurses themselves.



HALEY TVINNEREIM

I have always dreamed of helping others. Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to do a job that impacted people. For the longest time, I thought that job would be teaching. Both of my parents are teachers at Jackson County Central, my mom at the high school level and my dad at the elementary level. I always loved going into their classrooms and playing teacher with my brother. But once I got older, I fell in love with science and the physiology of the human body. I decided I wanted to pursue a career that allowed me to learn and grow my medical knowledge and provide care to patients daily. That is when I found nursing. The perfect fit to combine all my dream jobs into one. I will get to provide patient care, comfort, and education.



ELLIE HERNES

I have known for a long time that I want a career focused on service, and ever since I was in Kindergarten, I've felt called to pursue a career in the medical field. As I've grown and explored different paths within health care, it has become clear to me that nursing is where I belong. My current goal is to specialize in pediatric nursing. I'm passionate about working with children and families, and I'm excited by the opportunity to bring hope, healing, and joy to young patients during some of their most vulnerable moments. Pediatric nursing is unique in that it emphasizes building trusting relationships not only with patients, but with their families as well. I want to be the kind of nurse who collaborates closely with parents and caregivers, listens deeply, and offers peace and comfort during difficult times.



ELLEN MEAGHER

My eyes were opened as I was getting to learn many new things within the nursing career. One experience that sticks out to me on the surgical trauma floor was when I was attempting to start my first IV. We practiced them in the lab many times which gave me confidence. After my first attempt at not getting the IV placed, my instructor tried but also failed. This reassured me that it happens to everyone, and I could not give up. The next week when my clinic group and I returned to clinical, I had the opportunity to place another IV. I did not think twice when given the chance. Once attempting the second IV, I was not seeing any flashback of blood in the IV chamber, and I wanted to give up. The nurse that was helping me had confidence in me and told me to try again. On the next attempt, I saw a flashback of blood in the IV chamber. All the joy and confidence had come to me again; I finally got it. There was no doubt in my mind that I was in the right place.



BECCA SALENTINY

"Being the light" has been my greatest motivator through my nursing journey. Months before grandpa passed away, he had taken a trip to the emergency department. I walked in to see him and with a great big smile on his face, he turned to the nurse and said, "This is my granddaughter. We love all our grandkids, but she is just such a bright light." Growing up, grandpa always told me that I would make a great nurse. I decided to take a different path, graduation from college with a psychology degree. I began working at the psychiatric hospital and while I loved the psychology world, I slowly began to fall in love with the medical aspect in the hospital. At the same time, grandpa was sick, and I longed to more deeply understand his diagnoses and complications. After grandpa passed away, it was finally the push I needed to go back to school for nursing."



A NOTE FROM FCHF SECRETARY

My name is Ross Wohlhuter, and I have had the privilege of calling Martin County my home for my entire life. This community means a great deal to me, and I've always believed that having access to quality health care close to home is one of the most important resources a community can have.

For the past five and a half years, I have been proud to serve with the Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation. During that time, I've witnessed many changes within our local health care system.

Through all of these transitions, one thing has remained constant: our Foundation's steadfast commitment to supporting local health care services and ensuring that quality care remains accessible to everyone in our region.

At our annual meeting this past spring, our members took an important step forward in strengthening that commitment. By an overwhelming majority, the membership voted to approve an amendment to our by-laws, allowing the Foundation to expand its reach and impact. Previously, we were limited to supporting only the Mayo Clinic Health System in Fairmont. With the new change, we are now able to financially support any local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides medical or health-related services in the immediate area.

This expansion opens the door for greater collaboration and impact across our community. Whether it's funding new medical equipment, supporting community wellness initiatives, or helping nonprofit providers meet growing needs, the Foundation is now positioned to make an even bigger difference in the health and well-being of our residents.

As we continue to grow and adapt, I am continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of the people in Martin County. Your ongoing support makes it possible for us to invest in the future of local health care and ensure that high-quality services remain available close to home.

If you are passionate about improving health care in our community, I encourage you to consider becoming a member of the Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation. Together, we can continue making a lasting impact on the health of our friends, families, and neighbors.



2025 THERESA C SMITH RADIOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

LAUREN KUEBLER

"The best thing I have learned is how rewarding the job is. Being able to show people you care about them and want to help them get better. Some people don't always feel those things on a regular basis, so knowing I might be making an impact even a little is one of the best things."



Ross Wohlhuter



DONOR RECOGNITION

In Memory

Pat Cochran

Darlene M. Lutz

Jim Danielson

Jim & Rhonda Cone

Nancy Erickson

Don & Sue Anderson

Mark & Linda Hinz

Jason & Holly Hegdal

Brenda Jones

Sandy Lunn

Luella Fisher

James & Betty Smith

Jim Forshee

Carol Carlson

Mark & Ilene Reiter

William & Susan Paulson

Jack & Joyce Schultz

Carolyn Bird

Ross & Cindy Wohlhuter

Matthew & Michelle Lissick

Kenneth & Anita Tumbleson

Lorraine Cook

Wayne & Michelle Duncan

Marcia & Randy Musser

Thomas & Londa Wickham

Paul & Mary Edman

Kristin Sparks

Carol Eggert

Lisa Hunwardsen

Jim Forshee

Marian Holland

Joe & Jolene Rosol

Jeff & Kim Ehlert

Daniel & Cheryl Attig

Marianne Hagen

Dennis Hagen

Maynard & Mary Jagodzinske

Leonard & Carol Tvedten

Duane & Jan Rieland

Ethel Hagen

John & Connie Gerken

Kenneth Fritz

Sharon Huse

Allen & Lorna Bremer

Sandy Beckendorf

Marysue Apitz

Larry Hill

Stephani Geerdes

Julius Irmiter

James & Betty Smith

Dr. Jim Lindblade

Darwin & Bev Anthony

Betty Lium

Kathleen Lloyd

Deb Mosloski

James Hansen

Robert & Connie Katzenberger

Jerald Mosloski

Barb Peterson

Darwin & Bev Anthony

Leo Salz

Phyllis Salz

Rita Schultze

Marvin Schultz

Dale Thompson

Fred & Lorraine Carlson

In Honor

The Hospice Team

Darwin & Bev Anthony

Tim Miller's Birthday

Jane Kotewa

Cardiac Rehab Team

Richard Anderson



Help Us Finish Strong—Give Today!

As we near the end of 2025, we want to take a moment to reflect—and most importantly, to say thank you. This year has been one of growth, healing, and extraordinary community support. None of it would have been possible without you.

Because of your generosity, the Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation was able to fund essential initiatives including educational programs, medical equipment, patient therapies, and scholarships. These investments have had a direct impact on the quality of care delivered each day to your neighbors, friends, and family members.

But our work is far from over.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're inspired by new opportunities to strengthen and expand local health care. With your continued support, we can meet the challenges ahead and continue building a healthier future for our community.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation before December 31. Every gift—no matter the size—makes a real and lasting difference.

You can donate online at www.fchfoundation, Venmo or via the giving envelope enclosed.

On behalf of everyone at the Foundation and Fairmont Community Hospital, thank you for standing with us. Your support isn't just appreciated—it's essential.

