



Sierra Nevada Memorial
Hospital Foundation

40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

SNMH FOUNDATION HISTORY



SNMH Foundation Founding Board of Directors 1984

Executive Committee

President
Thies Murphy
Vice President
Gay Pryor
Treasurer
Don Woods
Secretary
Judy Blaylock
Director at Large
Marilyn Alstrand

Board Members

Hary Boisvert
Dale Boothby
James Chargin, MD
Curtis Grimes
Lou Johnson
Lois Jones
John Kneepkens
Beege Magill
Rita Scarlett

Curtis Grimes was president of the development organization before it officially became the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation.

The SNMH Foundation was incorporated in 1984 by a dedicated group of volunteers who recognized the importance of community involvement in maintaining the high level of health care in our area.

They organized as a not-for-profit with the mission of soliciting, receiving and managing gifts of money and property to benefit Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. Gay Pryor, Curtis Grimes, John Kneepkens, Bill Briggs and others set the tempo for this involvement. Gay went far above and beyond by actually "housing" the fledgling-would-be-foundation in his barn until, after months of hard work, the Foundation received its 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service, and became incorporated.

Forty years later, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation is a thriving independent nonprofit fulfilling our mission to support our local Hospital.

Community support has expanded access to healthcare by building the Outpatient Center, developing and expanding the Cancer Center, building the Diagnostic Imaging Center, expanding the Emergency Department, and ensuring that our community has access to vital health care programs and services. Nearly every area of our local hospital has been touched by generous community donations.



Gay Pryor



Betty Jane "Beege" Magill



Thies Murphy



John Kneepkens



President

Heather Thorpe

Vice President

Richard Keene

Treasurer

David Jones

Secretary

Barbara DeGraw

Member at Large

Denis Drew, MD

Member at Large

Sally Gallagher

Past President

Dylan Hendricks

Board Members

Pam Auld

Jake Bronson

Jean Creasey, DDS

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Marty Lombardi

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Edward Sylvester

Kim Zwick

SNMH Foundation Staff

Sandra Barrington, CFRE

Executive Director

Kirsten Dees

Marketing/Communications

Coordinator

Caitlin Ferrell

Major Gift Director

Jenni Toedemeier, CFRE

Development Director

Kara Liller

Finance Manager

Shawn Ryley

Executive Assistant

Melanie Tassone

Events/ Development

Associate

RESPECT FOR THE PAST, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

There have been many iterations of the saying that “you can’t know where you are going unless you know where you have been”. Maya Angelou may have said it most eloquently. Having a great respect for the past is important to me. Spending the last few months talking to the key people who helped shape this organization has been inspiring. Looking back on the photos and accomplishments of the organization makes me incredibly hopeful for the future and the next 40 years of impactful philanthropy.

As I reflect on these accomplishments, I am reminded that our work is far from over. The healthcare landscape is ever-evolving, and our Foundation remains committed to addressing the emerging needs of our community. The past 40 years have laid a strong foundation for future initiatives, and I am excited to see what lies ahead.

This year we launched a special 40th Anniversary campaign to raise \$1.2 million to modernize our Intensive Critical Care Unit. The past few years we have had an emphasis on ensuring that our “Circle of Critical Care” is incredibly strong. As a donor family, we have transformed our Emergency Department, invested in our Ambulance Department, and outfitted the Surgery Department with new technologies. The Hospital has reinforced the helipad for life flight services, and now we are focusing on ensuring that the sickest patients stay close to home for critical care. I hope you will consider a special gift to the ICCU Modernization Project this year, not only in celebration of our 40th Anniversary but as a testament to the essential need to provide the best healthcare for our most critically ill patients and their families.

To our board members, staff, and donors: Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. The impact we have made together is profound, and I am proud to have played a part in this legacy. As we celebrate this milestone, let us continue to work hand in hand to ensure that our Foundation remains a beacon of hope and health for generations to come. Here’s to the next 40 years of compassionate care, innovation, and community impact!

With gratitude,

Sandra Barrington, CFRE
Executive Director
SNMH Foundation





Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MOMENTS



June 14, 1989, at the Lake Wildwood Club House on the occasion of the 1989 SNMH Foundation Annual Meeting. This was Pamela's first day as Executive Director of SNMH Foundation.

Pamela Comstock **1st Executive Director, 1989**

One of the first and most rewarding projects I had the privilege to launch was the campaign to build a chapel within our hospital. This initiative was born from the recognition that healing extends beyond the physical realm; it encompasses the emotional and spiritual needs of our patients, their families, and our staff.

The part of this project that touched me the most was that it was the very first hospital-wide employee campaign with set goals and 100% employee leadership. The response from our employees was nothing short of inspiring. It was heartwarming to witness their involvement, generosity and commitment to creating a space that would cater to the diverse spiritual needs of our patients and their families. Together, we rallied! The hospital family led the way to raise the necessary funds to bring this vision to life. The chapel stands today as a testament to the dedication and compassion of our hospital staff, and a physical reminder of the love and support that permeates the organization.

Kimberly Parker **Executive Director, 2001 to 2022**



Kimberly Parker with former board member Tom Wulf accepting a check from a Lake Wildwood Golf Tournament for the Remember Me campaign for the Alzheimer's Outreach Program.

When I sit back and reflect on the work that I am most proud of with SNMH Foundation, it has to be the Alzheimer's Outreach Project. Continuing and expanding this program to serve caregivers and their families is one of the most important services we can offer. As we know, Alzheimer's disease affects not only those diagnosed but also their families and caregivers. This program was designed to provide support, education, and resources to those navigating this challenging journey. We launched support groups, educational seminars, and one-on-one crisis support that empower families with the information they need to cope with this complex disease. The response has been heartwarming; we have witnessed families come together, share their stories, and find solace in knowing they are not alone. This initiative embodies the spirit of our foundation—compassionate care that extends beyond the hospital walls and into the heart of our community.

Together, we have transformed a vision into reality, ensuring that our community has access to the highest standard of care.

SNMH Foundation

Established 1984



Development Director, Mary Price, with Hospital Board Chair Bo Searls reviewing the progress of the \$200,000 annual fund campaign.

1986



Dr. Bill Newsom was the catalyst for the creation of the Cancer Center. Newsom saw the opportunity to provide top-quality local cancer care. The center expanded to include a living room and garden in the early 2000's.

1990s



2008

Project Pink was launched rallying teams around the community to raise funds for advancing breast cancer technologies in the Women's Imaging Center.



2011 - 2012

We focused on raising \$1million for a new Linear Accelerator for the Cancer Center to advance Radiation Oncology Services.



SNMH Foundation focused on expanding diagnostic imaging technology such as new CT Scanners.

Mid-2000s

Foundation Highlights



1990s

In the 1990's, funding was raised to build the Outpatient Center and the Cancer Center which was completed in 1995.



Early 2000s

SNMH Foundation raised \$1.2 million to build the Diagnostic Imaging Center including a state-of-the-art Women's Imaging Center.

2017-2018

SNMH Foundation raised \$250,000 to expand the Infusion Center combining all chemotherapies and infusions into one beautiful space.



SNMH Foundation raised \$1.2 million to transform the Emergency Department and Inpatient Diagnostic Imaging adding more beds to the ED, streamlining the triage areas, and providing the community with an additional MRI.

2019 - 2020

2024

SNMH Foundation is currently Raising \$1.2million for our Intensive Critical Care Unit to modernize the 10 bed unit that serves 1,600 patients a year.



THE RED ROSE SOCIETY

In 2002, SNMH Foundation launched the Red Rose Society, a community of dedicated individuals, couples, and business leaders committed to fostering a healthier community. The Red Rose Society was established to honor and recognize our most steadfast annual supporters, who contribute \$1,000 or more each year.

During the inception of the Red Rose Society, Bill Drown served as President of the Board of Directors, while Wyn Spiller chaired the Philanthropy Committee responsible for developing the program. Bob Liddle, an instrumental figure in the Society's development, brought his expertise and dedication to the initiative. Serving on the SNMH Foundation Board of Directors since 2000, Bob's leadership and financial acumen helped establish an operational plan and investment strategy that ensures the Foundation's fiscal strength to this day.

Today, the Red Rose Society boasts 290 members, contributing over \$800,000 annually. This remarkable group of donors, including individual supporters, Community Business Partners, and granting organizations, has significantly increased access to healthcare, expanded hospital facilities, created innovative health programs, and ensured the enduring strength of our Hospital.

THE LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is a recognition program that honors individuals who have made the extraordinary commitment to support SNMH Foundation through planned giving. By including our organization in their wills or trusts, these forward-thinking donors ensure that their philanthropic intentions continue to benefit future generations.

Marjorie and Edward Sample had deep appreciation and admiration for the Cancer Center and donated a substantial part of their estate in 2005. The impacts of this gift resonates still today! Their well-thought out charitable giving has resulted in major advancements from a Cancer Center living room to advanced technologies.

Frank and LaVonne Amaral were pillars in this community. Their generosity touched nearly every nonprofit locally. Healthcare had a special place in their hearts. Around the Hospital you will see their name on several plaques and their picture is hung up in the Diagnostic Imaging Center where the lobby is named after them.

Having vision in the present helps to impact in the future. Local physician families owned land adjacent to the hospital. Beloved local physician, Dr. Rob Michelin, inspired the group to donate the land to the hospital to support potential access and growth of the Hospital campus. Doris and Rob Michelin, Callie and Dee Dawkins, and Glenda and George Burak are now all members in our Legacy Society. This present day donation of real estate is an incredible asset to the mission of SNMH.

Members of our SNMH Auxiliary have not only given thousands of volunteer hours in our Hospital, but their work has gone well beyond their monthly duties. Both Helen Conrey and Elizabeth Humphrey volunteered in the Emergency Department. Their donations through their estate plans ensured that the transformation of this department was possible in 2019.



Helen Conrey



LaVonne & Frank Amaral



Elizabeth Humphrey

SNMH AWARDS



SNMH TOP RURAL HOSPITAL

In December 2023, staff and community members celebrated SNMH's recognition as a Top Rural Hospital by Leapfrog. We are one of only 15 rural hospitals nationwide and the only one in California to receive this honor last year. The Leapfrog Top Hospital award recognizes hospitals with superior systems to prevent medication errors, higher quality maternity care, and lower infection rates, among other outstanding qualities.

5 STARS FROM MEDICARE

SNMH earned a prestigious 5-star rating from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We're proud to be one of 36 hospitals in California to receive this top rating. This honor reflects our commitment to excellence in safety, patient experience, readmission rates, and timely and effective care. The health and safety of our patients is our top priority and this rating shows we're delivering on that promise.

"A" HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADE BY THE LEAPFROG GROUP

In Spring 2024, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital was awarded an "A" Hospital Safety Grade by The Leapfrog Group, a respected national nonprofit watchdog. This recognition, based on over 30 measures, highlights our ongoing commitment to patient safety and quality care. Receiving our second consecutive "A" rating underscores the dedication of our exceptional physicians and staff.



SNMH AT THE TOP OF THE OPIOID CARE HONOR ROLL

We are thrilled to announce that Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital has received the Sustained Improvement award from the 2024 Opioid Care Honor Roll Program by Cal Hospital Compare for the second consecutive year! This honor recognizes our commitment to advanced opioid stewardship and harm reduction, ensuring top-tier care for our community. We've integrated these resources across all service lines to guarantee accessible preventative care and treatment for years to come.



Sierra Nevada Memorial
Hospital Foundation

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SAVE THE DATE

32nd Golf
Classic

June 2, 2025

A white golf ball sits on a tee on a green golf course under a bright sky.

SAVE THE DATE

Starry, Starry
Nights

July 19, 2025

A night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way is visible above a dark forest silhouette.

We invite you to
celebrate our **40th**
Anniversary with a
special gift to
SNMH Foundation!

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Donate Online:
supportsierranevada.org/donate
2. Join our Legacy Society
3. Gifts of Stock
4. Donate directly from your IRA
5. Sign up for a monthly gift
6. Write a Check: SNMHF, P.O. Box
1810, Grass Valley, California 95945

Please contact us for more information
on how to make a tax advantaged gift!