



Sierra Nevada Memorial  
Hospital Foundation

# PARTNERS IN HEALTH



## TOP RURAL HOSPITAL

**F**or the second year in a row, Dignity Health Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital has been honored as a Top Rural Hospital, one of only 15 hospitals in the United States to achieve this award. The prestigious recognition, awarded by The Leapfrog

Group, highlights exceptional patient care in categories such as infection rates, safer surgery practices, maternity care, and the prevention of medication errors.

"Achieving the Leapfrog Top Hospital award in two consecutive years demonstrates our determination to provide the safest and highest quality care," says Dr. Scott Neeley, SNMH President and CEO. "This is a promise our entire team believes in and delivers on daily."

Dr. Neeley's trust in SNMH's care is deeply personal. "When I needed major surgery, I chose SNMH because I trust our team. That same trust is what every member of our community can feel, knowing they are cared for by their neighbors and loved ones."

Beyond the Top Rural Hospital honor, SNMH earned recognition as a 5-Star Hospital by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and was placed on California's Opioid and Patient Safety Honor Rolls for preventing harm related to opioid use and hospital-acquired conditions.

SNMH also achieved a milestone in patient safety, going four years without a central line bloodstream infection from intravenous catheters. "This places us in the top 1% of U.S. hospitals for this critical safety category," Dr. Neeley shares.

Looking ahead, Dr. Neeley emphasizes that SNMH's mission extends beyond hospital walls. "We're building coalitions with the County and partners to support healthy living and increase not just lifespan, but healthspan—years lived in good health, independence, and activity."

Dr. Neeley concludes, "Quality care has no finish line. We remain committed to continuous improvement, earning the trust and support of our community every day."





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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear Friends and Supporters,**

The joys of this job are many. We have the opportunity to support our community, help people get excellent medical care, provide support through cancer treatment or a dementia diagnosis. Walking the halls of the Hospital and meeting with patients is one of my greatest joys and places of pride.

You may not think that opening the mail would be such an exciting part of my day, but it truly is fun. The bills are not my favorite, but what I love to read are the letters from Grateful Patients. Of course, we greatly appreciate the donations too! Often we receive beautifully written letters thanking the Hospital for supporting them and many times saving their lives. These letters bring me to tears knowing that our hard work and your support really made a difference in someone's life when they were going through a hard and scary time. Here are two recent examples:

*"I've learned that great teams are made of great people, and I truly believe that the Radiation Oncology Group is a shining example of excellence. Their compassion, professionalism, and kindness have far exceeded all expectation, and I will forever be grateful for the care and humanity they've shown me."*

*"It was such a comforting feeling to know that the hospital is so close and will take excellent care of incoming patients. I'm almost 90 years old and although I hope to never have to be admitted, I'm very aware that it's a definite possibility. It's reassuring to know I'll be well taken care of. Big kudos to all the medical personnel that were there in my time of need."*

*Turn to page four to hear another story from our Cardiac Rehab Program.*

Send me your story! I would love to learn how SNMH made a difference in your care. Show us that you too are a Grateful Patient. When these stories are shared, it creates a sense of healing for the patient and a sense of pride to all of our local health care heroes.

Warmest,

**Sandra Barrington, CFRE**



# ICCU FUNDING SURPASSED

## *Improving Critical Care*

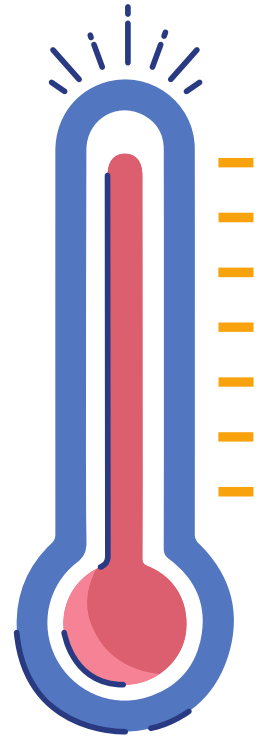
The Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation is thrilled to announce the successful completion of its fundraising campaign to modernize the Hospital's Intensive Critical Care Unit (ICCU).

The ICCU, a 10-bed facility that served 1,604 patients in the 2023 fiscal year, will undergo upgrades to enhance patient care, improve nursing efficiency, and provide greater comfort to families. Key improvements include upgraded headwall designs, advanced telemetry systems, state-of-the-art technology, and seismic retrofits.

To lead this important project, the Hospital has hired Project Manager Ben Burns, who brings 25 years of expertise in healthcare construction. His leadership will ensure the modernization is strategically executed, maximizing efficiency and patient-centered improvements.

"The project team is evaluating the area for any seismic upgrade needs, preparing the drawings and plans, meeting monthly, and working on the process to submit the plans to HCAI for approvals," said Sandra Barrington, Executive Director of SNMH Foundation.

This project builds on the Foundation's commitment to improving critical care, following the 2020 Emergency Department transformation and Surgery Department upgrades. Thank you to all donors and supporters for making this vital transformation possible!



# ALZHEIMER'S OUTREACH PROGRAM

## *Setting Sights on Expansion*

In FY24, the Alzheimer's Outreach Program(AOP)provided essential support to individuals and caregivers affected by memory impairments. Key activities included one-on-one crisis care, case management, caregiver education, and community outreach. Additionally, respite care funds were made available to families in need, ensuring access to critical support at no cost. The program provided 285 client contacts offering vital resources to enhance their quality of life. Of that, 50 families received ongoing one-on-one support.

In FY25, the program aims to continue providing comprehensive support through educational and clinical components, maintaining its commitment to those impacted by Alzheimer's and other memory disorders. Planned activities remain consistent, ensuring ongoing crisis care, case management, caregiver education, outreach, and respite care funding to meet the needs of the community.

Looking ahead, we need to expand the AOP program to full-time to better support the growing need in our community and are actively seeking sustainable funding options to ensure its long-term success. The reality is, the need for caregiver support is immense. Our friends and neighbors need more support. We have to help as many family caregivers as possible.





# RESIDENCY PROGRAM UPDATES

## *Intensive Care Unit Rotation*

The success of the Sierra Nevada Family Medicine Program continues. Becoming a teaching community for primary care physicians was no small feat, taking years of planning, vetting, partnership development, fundraising, and community ownership. Chapa-De Indian Health has been an incredible partner in this journey. Thank you to everyone in our community who has helped develop this vital program to bring more physicians to western Nevada County.

This year marks an incredible milestone for the program. 2025 will see the program come to full capacity with six residents in training starting in July. March 17th is national match day and the day we will find out who our next two residents will be. Please keep an eye on your email and our social media for those updates and announcements.

Recently, residents Dr. Nick Sparr and Dr. Kelty White completed a rotations in the Intensive Critical Care Unit. Under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Michelle Newsom, Dr. Sparr received airway management training in caring for the critically ill.



## GRATEFUL PATIENT STORY

### *Kindness in Cardiac Rehab*



Nina Essary, Cardiac Rehab  
Registered Nurse, and Becca  
Conway, Cardiac  
Rehab Exercise Physiologist

Dr. Robert Haight, a western Nevada County resident, experienced the SNMH Cardiac Rehab Program firsthand. "As I was in the recovery room after a stent procedure in a Bay Area hospital, I was trying to understand why, after years of annual cardiac exams, there was no clue that I had a 95% blockage of my right coronary artery," Dr. Haight recalls. "After a while my thoughts turned to 'what else is wrong with my vascular system' and 'how do I return to an active lifestyle of work and exercise safely.'"

"I continued to ruminate about my concerns," he says. "As I reviewed my discharge package at home I saw a brochure for a Medicare-sponsored cardiac rehab program at SNMH. I called the director, who gave me a description of the 12-week program. It sounded like the controlled exercise and detailed monitoring was exactly what I believed I needed to safely resume an active life. The extensive medical monitoring during the entire program provides the staff with the ability to detect anomalies and immediately address the issue with the patient," Dr. Haight says. "The staff at the hospital are nothing short of amazing."

# COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERS

*Thank you for the incredible support from local businesses*

**Brunswick Village** - Brunswick Village offers Independent and Assisted Living programs designed to help seniors maintain independence while receiving the support they need. We believe in living vibrant, active lives, with social activities and community events that foster meaningful connections. Our Memory Care program provides a safe, compassionate environment for those with dementia or Alzheimer's, with personalized care to support cognitive function and well-being. Our dedicated team creates a warm, home-like atmosphere where every resident is valued and respected. Learn more at [brunswickvillageseniorliving.com](https://brunswickvillageseniorliving.com) or call 530-274-1992.



**Budget Blinds** - Budget Blinds offers a wide selection of custom window coverings, bringing style, convenience, and quality directly to your home. Our expert team helps you find the perfect blinds, shades, shutters, or drapes to match your style and budget. With personalized service and professional installation, we make it easy to enhance your space with beautiful, functional window treatments. Experience style and service for every budget. Visit [budgetblinds.com/grassvalley](https://budgetblinds.com/grassvalley) or call 530-274-1122 to schedule your consultation today!



**Crystal Ridge Care Center** - Specializes in short term rehab as well as long term care, we also are able to help provide care for our veterans whether it be short term or long term. We are the only skilled nursing facility in Grass Valley that has a contract to serve our veterans as they have served us. During the holidays we love to decorate to lift our residents' spirits and encourage them to join us during the holidays. Please Visit us at <https://crystalridgecarecenter.com/> or call 530-272-2273.



**Eskaton Village** - Is a vibrant community offering the security of maintenance-free living with stimulating and enriching experiences that promote independence. We are proud to offer a variety of residential options to meet any need, including independent living with services, assisted living, and memory care. You can contact us at 530-273-1778 or [www.Eskaton.org](https://www.Eskaton.org).



**Golden Empire Nursing & Rehab Center** - Is a Medicare 5-Star Facility that has been servicing the community since 1973. We have short and long-term care, as well as a secured Memory Care/Dementia Unit. We provide Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy, all in-house, as well as wound care, IV therapy, diabetic management and pain management. We are proud to have had a 2022 Deficiency-Free Medicare Survey. Please visit us at [www.goldenempiresnf.com](https://www.goldenempiresnf.com) or call 530-273-1316.



# COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERS

*Thank you for the incredible support from local businesses*

**Grass Valley Courtyard Suites** - Is a locally owned luxury boutique hotel nestled in a quiet neighborhood, one block from historic downtown Grass Valley. Elegant and comfortable, we boast a variety of rooms and suites which offer accommodations that leave our guests feeling totally pampered. Our prices are competitive, and our friendly concierge services are sure to make your stay memorable. We offer a perfect setting for your Gold Country getaway, wedding, corporate event, or special party. Come by and check out the Grass Valley Courtyard Suites, where we're all inclusive and all about you! (530) 272-7696  
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**Pawnie's Home Care** - Is a quality-focused company that provides professional, experienced and reliable caregivers. They strive to bring the senior community the utmost independence and quality of life in the comfort of their own homes. Call them at (530) 268-8983 or visit [www.pawnies.com](http://www.pawnies.com).



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# 2025 EVENTS



## MARTINIS & A MOVIE

Join us for Martinis & a Movie at the Del Oro Theatre in Grass Valley on Wednesday, April 2, 2025! Doors open at 6:30 PM, with The Sting starting at 7:15 PM. Enjoy a glamorous evening with signature martinis, a great movie, and a fabulous venue. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$45 the day of the event (if available). Proceeds support the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation. Must be 21+ to attend. Make it a night to remember!



## AWARDS RECOGNITION RECEPTION

Celebrate an evening of gratitude and recognition on Tuesday, April 22nd from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Gold Miners Inn. This special event honors the incredible individuals, organizations, and community partners who have made a meaningful impact on healthcare in Western Nevada County. Enjoy light refreshments, heartfelt stories, and a chance to connect with others who share a passion for supporting the mission of SNMH Foundation.



## SNMH 32ND GOLF CLASSIC

Mark Your Calendar for the 32nd Annual SNMH Golf Classic! Join us on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the stunning Lake Wildwood Country Club for a fun-filled day of golf in support of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. Enjoy delicious food, exciting golf contests, a fantastic raffle, refreshing beverages, and so much more! Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just looking for a great day out, this event is not to be missed.



## STARRY, STARRY NIGHTS

On Saturday, July 19th, 2025, experience an unforgettable evening of elegance and wonder at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. Join 400 guests for a night filled with exquisite dining, lively dancing, and serene stargazing under the summer sky. This magical event promises an atmosphere of celebration and connection in a beautiful setting. Don't miss the chance to make lasting memories at this midsummer night's dream!



Sierra Nevada Memorial  
Hospital Foundation

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