



Sierra Nevada Memorial
Hospital Foundation

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If you would prefer to receive the
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Office Hours: Mon—Fri. 8am to 5pm

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SIERRA NEVADA MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

40 YEARS OF CARING. 40 YEARS OF GIVING.

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SACRAMENTO, CA



Sierra Nevada Memorial
Hospital Foundation

Spring 2024

Partners In Health

Our Mission: We touch and save lives every day by helping Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital deliver superior healthcare through outreach programs, education, state-of-the-art technology, and facilities by means of philanthropy and volunteerism.

Our Health. Our Community. Our Hospital.

Honoring Our Doctors National Doctors' Day

Eudora Brown Almond, the wife of a doctor in Georgia, believed her husband and other physicians deserved more recognition for their hard work and set out to make this idea a reality. The first observed Doctors' Day occurred on March 30, 1933.

Almond mailed greeting cards to all local physicians and their wives, and she put flowers on the graves of deceased doctors. The flowers were red carnations, which would later become the representative flower for the national holiday. A few other local doctors' wives even assisted Almond in preparing a celebratory luncheon so their husbands' work in healthcare could be publicly appreciated. The tradition of delivering greeting cards to physicians has continued throughout the years and is still a common way of celebrating this holiday today. The red carnation is also still popularly used to say "thank you" to doctors for their work in medicine.

Doctors' Day was unofficially celebrated for many years before it became a legal holiday. On March 30, 1958, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution that commemorates Doctors' Day and on October 30, 1990, George W. Bush signed the legislature after approval from both the House and the Senate.

In this issue of *Partners in Health*, we focus on how grateful our community is for the incredible lifesaving work of our physicians. Turn to pages five and seven to hear what our patients are saying about local physicians and special awards for their outstanding care. On page five you will also find an incredible story of gratitude from one of our grateful patients from the Cancer Center and the team that supported their journey.

You can participate in National Doctor's Day too! Please consider honoring your local physician with a gift today and share your gratitude for top-quality healthcare in our community.

How to participate in Doctors' Day

SEND A CARD

Write a special thank you note directly to your doctor's office letting them know how much you appreciate them.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Send us your grateful patient story of how a local physician made a difference in your life. We will share it with them!



DELIVER A CARNATION

Take a page from Eudora Brown Almond and deliver a carnation.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell the community! Letters to the editor in *The Union* newspaper are a great way to show the whole community your gratitude for great healthcare.



MAKE A GIFT IN THEIR NAME

Make a donation in their honor and we will send a special letter letting the physician know of this meaningful gift. Use the enclosed gift envelope or visit www.SupportSierraNevada.org



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40 Years of Caring, 40 Years of Giving

Sandra Barrington, SNMH Foundation Executive Director and Certified Fundraising Executive

In the early 1980's a dedicated group of concerned citizens gathered together to discuss ways to ensure our local hospital was able to continue in perpetuity. As the story goes, a group had their first meeting in the barn on Gay and Corinne Pryor's property. Gay Pryor, with Curtis Grimes and John Kneepkens, lead the efforts. With their leadership and innovative thinking, SNMH Foundation was incorporated in 1984 and has grown into a multi-million dollar fundraising organization with vital healthcare programs, and impactful capital improvements.

While the 80's were focused on the beginning development of an endowment and general nonprofit structure, the 90's focused on infusing capital investments into the hospital. In the first 10 years of the Hospital Foundation a major focus was placed on the development of the Outpatient Center and the Cancer Center.

The 1990's was also pivotal as the board of directors hired the first professional executive director, Pamela Comstock. It's hard to believe that in 40 years this organization has only had three Executive Directors including myself.

The early 2000's focused on strategic planning and capacity building as well as raising funds for the state-of-the-art Diagnostic Imaging Center. SNMH Foundation raised \$1.2 million for the new center that includes, MRI, CT-Scan, Women's Imaging, x-ray, and a laboratory. The lobby of the center was named by generous benefactors LaVonne and Frank Amaral whose picture and name is still there today. The Women's Imaging Center has a plaque for Muriel Gorder Stahl as her family dedicated this space in her memory with a significant gift.

These are just a few of the highlights of *40 years of Caring, 40 Years of Giving*. In 2024, we will take you on a journey of stories of impact and passion for our local hospital. If you have a story you would like to share, please reach out to me at (530) 477-9700 or email Sandra.barrington@dignityhealth.org.

Sandra Barrington, CFRE
Executive Director



SNMH Foundation
Founder, Gay
Pryor at a Sierra
Silver Ball Event



Ground breaking in the Cancer Center garden with past president Wyn Spiller, former Hospital CEO Katherine Medeiros, Cancer Center founder Dr. William Newsome, and former radiation oncologist Dr. David Kraus.



A new MRI machine was air-dropped into the newly built Diagnostic Imaging Center in the early 2000's.

Top Doc Awards

Our Hospital is blessed with incredible physicians from all types of specialties. When a physician goes above and beyond and is recognized by a co-worker or patients, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tyler Hill presents them with a Top Doc Award. In honor of National Doctor's Day, we are proud to share two recent Top Doc Award for Anesthesiologist Dr. Luisetti and Emergency Medicine Specialist Dr. Long.

"I really feel the need to shine a light on Dr. Luisetti and his consistent professionalism. I understand his position is demanding and stressful, but when he shows up on our unit, he is always patient, kind and professional. He listens to our needs and the needs and requests of our patients. He treats the nurses as an integral part of the health care team. He hears us, treats us with respect but most importantly, he takes our patient needs seriously. Our labor patients and their pain control matter to him. He is ALWAYS a joy to work with."

"Doctor Long is the kind of doctor I would choose for my personal doctor. He is very good!"

If one of the Hospital's medical staff physicians has gone above and beyond for you, please let us know so we can recognize their extraordinary efforts.



Award Recognition Reception

Tuesday April 16, 2024

Gold Miners Inn
121 Bank Street
Grass Valley

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Cost: Complimentary
Dress: Business Casual
Hors d'oeuvres
Cash Bar (no cards accepted)

Limited and open seating.
Please RSVP by April 5, 2024
Call (530) 477-9700 or email
infosnmhf@dignityhealth.org

Join us in honoring:

The Comfort Cuisine Volunteers
Volunteer Group of the Year

Lisa Stine
Volunteer of the Year

River Valley Community Bank
Business of the Year

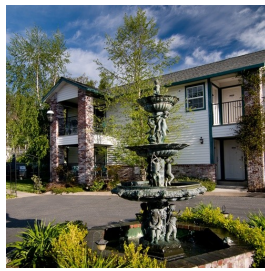
Julia Amaral and Mark Strate
Humanitarian of the Year

Dr. Andrew Chang
Curtis Grimes Perpetual
Leadership Award

Community Business Partner Spotlight

Our Community Business Partner Program recognizes businesses and organizations that donate \$500 cash or more a year to SNMH Foundation. Grass Valley Courtyard Suites has been a donor since 2005!

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 www.gvcourtyardsuites.com



Honor a Loved One

Honor the life of someone you love with a memorial or tribute gift to

Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation

Our Health. Our Community. Our Hospital.



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WHEELS FOR WELLNESS Vehicle Donation Program

Done with it? Do good with it.



Donate

Cars

Boats

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Motorcycles & more!

For more details call

(530) 477-9700

www.SupportSierraNevada.org

SNMH Golf Classic

**Monday
June 3, 2024**

Lake Wildwood Golf Club

Join us for a fun day on the course while raising vital support for our non-profit community hospital.

Golfers enjoy delicious food, on course games, ice cream, specialty drinks, an exciting raffle, hole-in-one prizes, and much more!

Only a few spots remaining!

Contact Jenni Toedtemeier, Development Director
jenni.toedtemeier@dignityhealth.org

Thank you to our Cart Sponsor



Martinis And A Movie

Sponsored in part by



**April 10, 2024
6:30pm**

**Del Oro Theater
\$35 in advance**

www.SupportSierraNevada.org

Event proceeds will benefit the Intensive Care Unit

No sooner does Italian-American widow Loretta accept a marriage proposal from her doltish boyfriend, Johnny, then she finds herself falling for his younger brother, Ronny. She tries to resist, but Ronny lost his hand in an accident he blames on his brother, and has no scruples about aggressively pursuing her while Johnny is out of the country. As Loretta falls deeper in love, she comes to learn that she's not the only one in her family with a secret romance.

**Starry, Starry Nights
Saturday
June 29, 2024**

Nevada County Fairgrounds

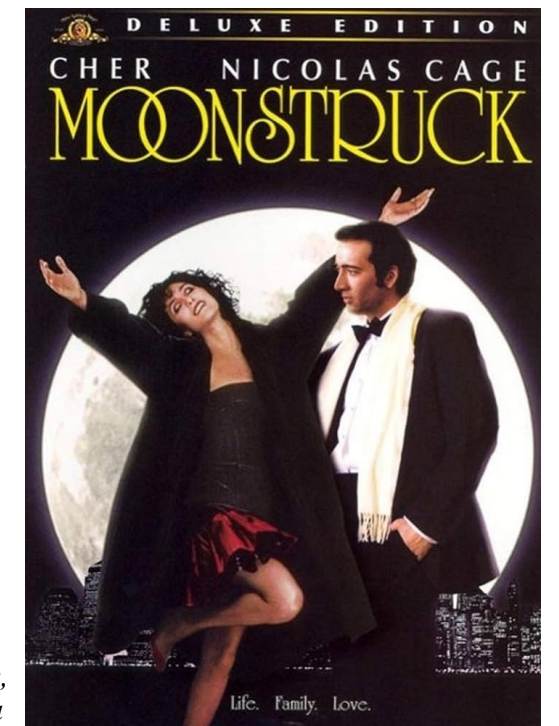
The magic of Starry, Starry Nights is back in 2024. This event will continue to be an incredible evening of award winning wines, gourmet food, specialty cocktails, dancing, and star gazing while we raise funds for our nonprofit hospital.

Sponsorships now available.

Reservations open to Red Rose Society donors in April. Reservations open to the general public late April.

Thank you to our Super Nova Sponsor

Meyers
Investment
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The Vital Role of the Intensive Care Unit

In the heart of our rural community lies a crucial lifeline that often goes unnoticed—the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. While it may not be in the spotlight, the significance of this vital facility cannot be overstated. The ICU serves as a beacon of hope and healing, playing a pivotal role in the well-being of our community.

The ICU is where life-changing moments unfold. It is where critical care is provided, where medical expertise meets unwavering dedication, and where lives are fought for and, more often than not, saved. In rural areas, the need for such specialized care is particularly acute. When emergencies strike, timely access to intensive care can be the difference between life and death.

One might ask, why invest in intensive care units in rural small hospitals? The answer is simple—our community's health and well-being depend on it. By investing in our ICU, we are investing in the lives of our neighbors, friends, and families. We are ensuring that when medical emergencies arise, our loved ones have access to the highest quality care right here in our community.

Furthermore, a robust ICU enhances the overall appeal and reliability of our local healthcare system. It provides reassurance to residents and can even influence decisions around settling in or moving to our community. A well-equipped ICU demonstrates our commitment to comprehensive healthcare and reflects positively on our community as a whole.

We cannot overlook the financial aspect of investing in our ICU. While the initial costs can be challenging, the long-term benefits far outweigh them. A well-equipped ICU can reduce the need for costly patient transfers to distant facilities, saving both time and resources. Additionally, it can attract skilled medical professionals who are vital to the success of any healthcare institution.

As we consider the importance of our ICU, we must recognize that the support of the community is paramount. Whether through fundraising, advocacy, or community initiatives, our collective efforts can make a tangible difference. The investment in our ICU is an investment in our health and our future.

Our local ICU has ten beds and has been a central life-line to this community, especially during the pandemic and increasing flu and respiratory virus seasons we have been experiencing. Over the next few months we will be focusing our fundraising efforts on a \$300,000 investment in the ICU at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. Please stand with us recognizing the indispensable role of our rural small hospital's ICU. Let us champion its significance and pledge our support to ensure it remains a beacon of hope and healing for our community.

Celebrating Crucial Milestones in Care

SNMH recently celebrated a major milestone with the ICU caregivers and the rest of the organization. Through phenomenal partnership with the medical staff, our ICU team, our Quality and Safety Team, and a special lift from Infection Preventionist Heather Scott, the hospital has now cared for patients for over 1100 consecutive days without a single one of them suffering a Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI). To add to the celebration, the Chair of our Board of Directors, Stephanie Ortiz, joined in rounding on the team and sharing the great news! This milestone puts SNMH in the top 1% of hospitals in the nation for patient safety and is one of the metrics that lead to the hospital receiving an A rating from the LeapFrog Group as well as the Top Rural Hospital award.



Grateful for Our Local Doctors

“Dr. Alsup is AMAZING. He was so kind, informative, and intelligent. He knew what he was talking about and made me feel comfortable. He explained everything so easily so I could understand. It was a nice breath of fresh air from doctors who use so much jargon. Thank you to him!”

“Dr. Miller was excellent. We discussed everything and why. Very pleasant and friendly personality.”

“I can't praise Dr. Van Horn enough—he kept me informed about my status and what was going to happen next, and was genuine and supportive throughout. Thank you, Dutch!”

“Dr. Joel Miller was wonderful! He explained the tests that were going to be done in relation to my symptoms. After the tests were done, he explained the test results, medication prescribed, and my responsibility to see my primary care doctor in a week. I appreciated his patience and advice so much!”

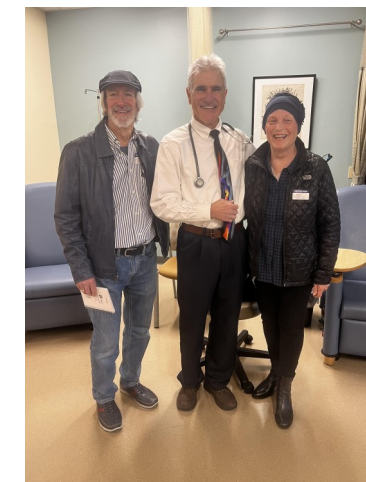
“I really liked Dr. Cara Meinholz—she was a pleasure to speak with and she was clear in her communication.”

“Dr. Summers kept me informed of what they wanted to do next. It was getting close to the end of his shift but he wanted to be there for the results if possible to address what the next step would be.”

A Healing Journey

In May of 2020, Liv and Denny Fitzpatrick moved from their home in the Eastern Sierras to Nevada City. They loved the remote beauty of the Graeagle area, but they felt that, in the event of their needing acute medical care in the future, the proximity to a renowned medical center would be practical at their ages. They found their dream home in Nevada City, a much larger community, but retaining enough forest and natural beauty to make it ideal for them.

Then, last June, Liv was diagnosed with Negative 3 Breast Cancer requiring 6 months of Chemotherapy to hopefully shrink the tumor before surgery, followed by radiation. The long journey for Liv and Denny began as they met with their extraordinary team at Sierra Nevada Memorial: Drs. Boyle, Campbell, and Hess. Liv started her weekly infusions in August at the A.T.C. (Ambulatory Treatment Center), sensitively monitored by Dr. David Campbell, her Oncologist. She is currently in the 2nd Phase of her chemotherapy treatment, scheduled to end in January 2024.



Liv and Denny Fitzpatrick with Dr. David Campbell in the Cancer Center at SNMH.

Liv feels that this disease, her second time with cancer, has in many ways been a gift in disguise. Both she and her husband have been overwhelmed by the compassion and professionalism of every person they have encountered at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. They feel that the doctors—together with their caring, upbeat staff—have taken a frightening, anxiety-driven situation, and embodied what Dr. Bernie Siegel advocates in his book, *Love, Medicine, & Miracle*, fighting effectively for your health with a positive, loving attitude toward yourself and others.

Referring to the amazing nurses in the A.T.C., Liv says she can't express the climate of warmth and empathy that can turn a long day into a sweet, memorable experience. Consequently, when they received the call for help from the SNMH Foundation in their current fund-raising drive, Liv and Denny knew it was time to try and express the inexpressible with gratitude and love. They hope that their gift of \$5,000 to benefit the Cancer Center will motivate others to join them in recognizing the true blessing we have in this community: the incredible healing staff at SNMH.