

# TETON VALLEY HEALTH CARE RECEIVES \$2 MILLION GIFT TO SUPPORT HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

GIFT FROM TETON RIDGE RANCH FOUNDATION ADDRESSES URGENT NEEDS AT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Teton Valley Health Care today announced that a \$1.5 million gift from the Teton Ridge Ranch Foundation will fund hospital expenses, including payroll, vendor payments and equipment costs. The investment addresses pressing needs at the 87-year-old community hospital, which serves as the only hospital in Teton County, Idaho, and the county's second-largest employer. This follows a \$500,000 donation made in October to replace the hospital's failing HVAC system and install a dedicated power source for the operating room.

Teton Valley Health Care has faced mounting financial pressure over the past year as federal reimbursement cuts, rising costs, and the structural challenges of rural medicine have strained operations. More than half of the hospital's revenue comes from Medicare and Medicaid, programs that reimburse well below private insurance rates. In January, the hospital was forced to lay off 26 employees and close its infusion clinic, which had provided chemotherapy, hydration therapy and specialized nursing care to patients across the valley.

The Foundation's gift will allow Teton Valley Health Care to remain open and continue to serve the community. This donation will give Teton Valley Health Care the runway it needs to thoughtfully and strategically plan for the future.

"I've lived in this valley for over 30 years. I've seen what this hospital means to families in their best moments and their worst," said Ken Dunn, Chair of the Teton Valley Health Care Board of Directors. "Rural hospitals across the country are closing. We refuse to be one of them. Keeping these doors open isn't just a financial challenge, it's a community obligation. Our board, our staff, and our community partners are committed to building a sustainable future for healthcare in this valley, and this investment is a meaningful step in that direction."



*As a critical access hospital, we provide essential 24/7 emergency and acute care to the Teton Valley community. We are committed to providing a full range of exceptional medical care, but funding gets more difficult each year. Recent times have been particularly tough, and the administration has made difficult decisions to ensure we keep our doors open and the hospital running. In a time of financial crisis, this donation is such an incredible gift. It allows us the breathing room to make intentional and unhurried decisions as we mature as an organization. Their generous contribution does so much for our organization and the whole community. It communicates to me that the donor has heart for the people of Teton Valley and understands that maintaining quality health care is critical.*

DR. JOSHUA CLUTTER, EMERGENCY MEDICINE, CHIEF OF STAFF

*In a rural community like ours, access to care cannot be taken for granted. This hospital is more than a building; it is a lifeline. This donor stepped up, making it possible to keep our doors open and ensuring that we are able to continue showing up for every patient, every family, every day.*

MICHELLE CAMPBELL, RN

The gift is the latest in a series of community investments from the Teton Ridge Ranch Foundation, which has directed more than \$2 million to Teton Valley organizations including the Teton County Sheriff's Foundation, Teton County Search and Rescue, the Community Foundation of Teton Valley and the Teton County Joint Housing Authority. The Foundation's giving in Teton Valley reflects a broader philanthropic commitment by founder Thomas Tull, whose charitable work has included support for the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, a \$4.2 million donation of personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic and grants for brain cancer research at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Healthcare access is foundational to any community's wellbeing. The challenges facing rural hospitals are real and urgent. When a community institution needs support, you step up. That's what neighbors do," the Teton Ridge Ranch Foundation said in a statement.

Teton Valley Health Care continues to explore long-term strategies to stabilize operations, including potential partnerships with larger health systems and efforts to resolve the hospital's land ownership structure with Teton County.

"Every dollar we bring in right now buys time for thoughtful decision-making about this hospital's future," said CEO Lianne Everett. "We are focused on keeping essential services running for this community while we build toward something more sustainable."

