

# Western Health Foundation



## Western Health Foundation Board

- Jay Mason, President
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## Ex Officio:

- Ina M. Burmeister, Executive Director
- Donald R. Smithburg, RMCHCS Interim CEO
- Mary Bevier, RMCHCS CFO

## Projects We Support:

- COVID-19 Fund
- Hotel Isolation Program
- RMCHCS Employee Support
- Family Medicine Residency Program
- Mobile Health Clinic
- Reach Out and Read Program to purchase books for pediatric patients ages 0-5
- Well Spring Recovery Center

## Mission Statement:

To serve as goodwill ambassadors to the community and to support RMCHCS in providing quality healthcare close to home.

December 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your partnership and for supporting the Western Health Foundation. This past year has been unlike any other year. The corona virus has overshadowed our lives and work for most of 2020. At this writing, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of the corona virus vaccine, bringing a glimmer of hope that we can stop this deadly virus from spreading further.

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services (RMCHCS) treated its first COVID-19 patient in March 2020. During the months of April – June, we were at the epicenter of the pandemic. Our medical staff worked tirelessly, days on end without a break, putting themselves at risk as they cared for critically ill patients. And now, before we have had time to recover and process the trauma and grief over losses of loved ones, we are in the midst another surge, with an already weary staff in need of relief.

In March 2020, the Western Health Foundation collaborated with Gallup Indian Medical Center, COPE (Community Outreach Patient Empowerment) and others in the community to establish a Hotel Isolation program for unsheltered individuals who had no safe place to quarantine. The program grew as the need grew and to date it has served over 1200 individuals. We are grateful for the generosity of donors both locally and beyond who have supported this effort with their gifts, allowing us to provide over the counter medications, clothing, toiletries, transportation as well as other needs for this program.

The Foundation also supports RMCHCS front line staff who work tirelessly to care for critically ill patients. Through the generous in-kind and financial gifts from donors, we are providing meals and snacks for our essential workers who put their lives at risk every day. We are also providing care packages and other support as needed for employees who have become ill with the virus. Now with increasing numbers of COVID-positive patients, the need to support our staff is more important than ever.

## Charity Invitational 23

In 2019, we embarked on an aggressive \$2.25 million multi-year plan to raise funds for the establishment of a 3-year rural Family Medicine Residency program. The first phase was to raise funds to upgrade and renovate the Philip Kamps, MD Women's Health and Birthing Unit, located on the second floor of the hospital and to begin the renovation of College Clinic to accommodate a Family Medicine wing in preparation for the Family Medicine Residency Program.

Charity Invitational 23 raised \$433,744 after expenses. This included a generous donation from the Cibola Medical Foundation to establish an endowment for the residency program. In addition, the New Mexico State Legislature committed \$750,000 for the Women's Health Unit, totaling \$1,183,744. With the help of some additional funding from RMCHCS, we will be able to complete both the renovation of the Women's Health and Birthing Unit and the Family Medicine wing in 2021. While we cancelled plans for our 2020 annual fall Charity Invitational fundraiser due to Covid-19, we plan to host an event 2021.

### Family Medicine Residency Program

In April 2020, RMCHCS' Family Medicine Residency program achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. This welcome news brings RMCHCS one-step closer to accepting its first cohort of four residents to begin the 3-year program in the summer of 2021. By 2023, we expect to have 12 Family Medicine residents living and working in Gallup during their residency training. Over 800 applications came in from medical school graduates from all over the U.S. for the first four openings. Valory Wangler, MD serves as Director of the Family Medicine program while also serving as Chief Medical Officer for RMCHCS.

### Well Spring Recovery Center

The female clients at WellSpring Recovery Center (WRC) moved into the newly renovated upper floor of the old VandenBosch Clinic last spring. This move allows for much needed additional space for the clients in the 90-day residential treatment program. In August, WRC achieved its accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). In September, Dr. Teresa Meehan, who was part of the consulting team that assisted WRC in achieving its CARF accreditation, joined RMCHCS as Director. A long-term goal for Meehan is to expand treatment and recovery options at WRC to include outpatient and community-based services so clients have the opportunity to receive services along the full continuum of care.

### Mobile Health Clinic

The onset of Covid-19 interrupted the mobile health clinic's outreach services for most of the year. In January 2020, RMCHCS began offering women's health services in partnership with Pine Hill Health Clinic in the Ramah-Navajo region by way of the mobile health unit. By March, these services were suspended and the mobile unit was put to use as a COVID-19 testing site. Since the beginning of December, the unit is being used as a location to provide monoclonal antibody infusions. At the same time, outreach services have resumed at Pine Hill, with the addition of podiatry services and retinal eye exams.

### Thank you!

Thank you again for your partnership and support. This has been a challenging year, but our work has been important and fruitful. As we near the close of 2020, please consider how you might continue to support our work. The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. You can make a donation on line by going to [www.rmch.org](http://www.rmch.org) and click on the donations tab or you can mail in a donation to:

The Western Health Foundation  
1901 Red Rock Drive  
Gallup, NM 87301

Your gift will be used to support the ongoing work of the Foundation. Feel free to indicate if you would like your gift to go toward a specific project. Thank you so much.

We wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Ina Burmeister  
Executive Director

