



G R E A T   F A L L S   C L I N I C  
**LEGACY**  
— F O U N D A T I O N —

An end-of-year annual report for friends & donors  
of the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation.

**2021 Annual Report**

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation brings hope and healing to Great Falls and surrounding communities.

### ABOUT US:

The Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation is dedicated to helping patients and families from around Montana seeking medical treatment in Great Falls. For many years, there has been a great need in our community for patient housing while receiving outpatient treatment.

The Foundation and a generous community will take us to a new level of service in the area of healthcare. The care and comfort of our patients and families are of the utmost importance to us and sustaining our patient housing facility has become our top priority.

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Our goal is to sustain our new, free housing facility, the Harold & Carmen Poulsen Legacy Housing, to support patients and their families traveling for medical treatment to Great Falls, Montana.

Dear Friends and Donors of the Legacy Foundation. The Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation was founded in 2015 after Great Falls Clinic providers heard and acted on behalf of our patients' concerns. Patients shared their challenges of having to repeatedly travel with their family from long distances, without an affordable place to stay during their treatment. Over 40% of the 250,000 patients we provide care for each year travel from outside our community. The last thing they should have to worry about during this time, is where they will stay while they are here.

August 2021 marked an exciting milestone for the Legacy Foundation as we opened the doors of our new 'Harold & Carmen Poulsen Legacy Housing' facility and accepted our first patients. The facility is comprised of 12-bedroom suites, a communal kitchen, living room and reading area, at NO cost to the patient and their family. In our first month we had 20 patients staying with us from 14 different Montana cities.

Even though our facility is open, our fundraising efforts have not ended. We still need your help raising the remaining funds to cover the construction of the facility as well as its sustainability well into the future. The construction cost of the Harold & Carmen Housing facility was \$3.6 million. Thanks to a generous community, we have received over \$2.7 million dollars in donations to-date, but we still have approximately \$900,000 left to raise. Your contributions will help the Legacy Foundation continue its ongoing efforts in providing free patient housing to patients traveling to Great Falls for medical treatment.

100% of your donation goes to support the mission of the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation. This is your opportunity to leave a legacy. Your donation will support patients and families in need during some of the toughest times in their lives. Your support will directly impact cancer patients, children, families, and other fellow Montanans in need, by reducing the financial burden and stress during their medical treatment.

Will you help us raise the remainder of our goal?

Please join us by making a meaningful, tax-deductible gift supporting the Harold & Carmen Poulsen free housing facility.

We are so grateful for our sponsors, donors, and supporters! It is because of you, that we were able to open our doors this fall and to begin providing FREE housing to patients across Montana.

Thank you!



Grant Bebee  
Fundraising Manager



Samantha Shinaberger  
Executive Director



Ed Venetz  
President

# LEADERSHIP

## OFFICERS

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**Ed Venetz, Chair**, Retired Vice President/Project Manager, Dick Anderson Construction

**Tim Peterson, Vice Chair**, President/Principal Architect, LPW Architecture

**Wyman Taylor, Secretary**, Retired Administrator, Great Falls Clinic

**Reed Bassett, Treasurer**, Community Banking Business Relations Manager, US Bank

## BOARD MEMBERS

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**Jon Boutilier**, VP-Branch Manager/Commercial Loan Officer, Stockman Bank of Montana

**Wayne Gillis**, Chief Executive Officer, Great Falls Clinic

**Dr. Karl Guter**, Oncologist, Great Falls Clinic

**Dr. Robert Henderson**, Retired Chief of Ambulatory Care Clinics, Veteran Affairs Northeast Region

**Greg Schwandt**, Retired Attorney, Church, Harris, Johnson & Williams, PC

**Dr. Thomas Warr**, Hematologist and Oncologist, Great Falls Clinic

## FOUNDATION STAFF

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**Samantha Kaupish (Shinaberger)**, Executive Director

**Grant Bebee**, Fundraising Manager

**Audrey Phillips**, Assistant

## BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Reed Bassett

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**Where do you currently work and what is your title or position?**

I work at US Bank as Business Banking Relationship Manager.

**What do you do when you're not working or volunteering with the Legacy Foundation?**

I enjoy hiking, backpacking and spending time with my four kids. I happily spend most of my free time with my kids.

**How did you first hear about the Legacy Foundation?**

Samantha Kaupish asked me to serve on the board.



**How do you relate to the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation's mission and vision?**

My cousin contracted cancer in his early 20s. He had to travel about 2 hours each way to receive treatment. If there had been a facility like the one provided by the Great Falls Legacy Foundation, it would have made a big difference for him and his family.

**How long have you been involved or served with the Legacy Foundation?**

I have been working on the board of the Legacy Foundation since 2018.

**As an officer, what do you like about your current role?**

I am currently the treasurer, I like supporting the Foundation any way that I'm able.



**Why are you passionate about the housing project?**

The housing project is really just neighbors helping neighbors without having to give up your bed.

**What have your favorite fundraisers been?**

The Legacy Gala, which has good entertainment, good food and generous donors.

**What is your favorite part of working with nonprofits?**

When working with nonprofits whatever you can offer is appreciated.

**What are you most excited for, in the future, for the**

**Legacy Foundation?**

I really look forward to getting the building paid for so that we can offer even more value to the community at the people that we strive to serve.

**If you could share with the community one important message regarding the Legacy Foundation, what would it be?**

We appreciate every donation large and small. Every sacrifice is appreciated. For the people that get to stay in the facilities it's one less thing that they have to stress and worry about.

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT: Grant Bebee

### Welcome New Fundraising Manager - Grant Bebee

Originally from Havre and a graduate of Havre High School, Grant attended the University of Montana in Missoula where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Grant has worked the past twenty-five years in the fields of marketing and advertising.

He was inspired to pursue a career in the nonprofit industry to give back to the community he has lived in for the past 25 years. Grant shared, "I understand how and why the Legacy Foundation is needed. My mother started her battle with cancer 33 years ago and has been diagnosed with four different types of cancer during that time. With my parents being from Havre and my mother's treatments being done at the Great Falls Clinic, they would travel the 220-mile round trip each week, for months at a time. Over three decades later, I can honestly say that my parents would have loved to have the opportunity to stay at the Harold & Carmen Legacy House."

In his free time, Grant enjoys gardening, and traveling with his wife, Doree. In the fall you can find him glued to his TV watching college and NFL football, especially when his beloved UM Griz take to the field. It is also not uncommon to see Grant in the confines of Washington-Grizzly Stadium at least once during the football season.

"With our doors now open, guests staying, and our annual fundraiser successfully completed," Grant

said he's busy, "working to increase our donor prospects and educating folks in and outside of Great Falls about the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation." "If you haven't visited the facility yet, I urge you to do so and allow us to give you a tour."



*"If you haven't visited the facility yet, I urge you to do so and allow us to give you a tour. We are a home away from home for those traveling to Great Falls for medical treatment."*

We are a home away from home for those traveling to Great Falls for medical treatment."

You can reach Grant at (406) 216-8040 and his email is [Grant.Bebbe@gfclinic.com](mailto:Grant.Bebbe@gfclinic.com).

# HAROLD & CARMEN POULSEN LEGACY HOUSING

The Harold & Carmen Poulsen Legacy Housing facility was named after Harold & Carmen Poulsen due to a generous \$1 million donation from Carmen Poulsen in memory of her husband, Harold Poulsen. August 2021 marked an exciting milestone for the Legacy Foundation as we opened the doors of our new 'Harold & Carmen Poulsen Legacy Housing' facility and accepted our first patients. The facility is comprised of 12-bedroom suites, a communal kitchen, living room and reading area, at no cost to the patient and their family. In our first month we had 20 patients staying with us from 14 different Montana cities.

The facility is located within the Great Falls Clinic medical corridor for the use primarily for cancer, pediatric, and emergency patients and their families traveling from surrounding areas. The facility allows patients and their families to stay in a safe and healthy environment while reducing the stress and financial burden of having to commute. It will increase patients' care levels by making multiple visits for treatment less overwhelming both emotionally and financially.

Some key amenities for guests include:

- Donor recognition areas
- Communal kitchen and dining area
- Living spaces for gatherings
- Laundry and guest amenities
- Reading/computer room
- Terrace with fire pit for gatherings
- Office spaces and conference room
- Healing garden
- Pet park





## THE FACILITY

There are twelve rooms in the facility, all are handicap accessible. There is an elevator and two sets of stairs for accessing the second floor. Rooms include a kitchenette with refrigerator, sink, microwave, and a small table and chairs. The Poulsen Legacy House contains a fully equipped communal kitchen and dining area, outdoor terrace, reading room, laundry rooms, meeting room, and two-family lounges.

The outdoor patio has a terrace and fire pit, healing garden, seating area, and an outdoor children's play area. Also, there is a fenced pet park for patients whose pets come with them in travel trailers and motor homes. There is also plenty of spaces for vehicles, motor homes, and travel trailers.

### Facility Occupancy:

Poulsen Legacy Housing will comfortably house up to 13,140 individuals per year: six double rooms x two occupants x 365 days per year = 4,380 occupants; six king suites x 4 occupants x 365 days per year = 8,760;  $4,380 + 8,760 = 13,140$ .

The facility can comfortably house up to 36 people per day at full capacity. However, estimated facility capacity is approximately 12-15 patients/family members per day.



## THE NEED

The Cancer  
Care Center  
sees **400**  
patients  
per month

**40%**  
of these  
patients  
live outside  
Great Falls

- The Great Falls Clinic cares for approximately 250,000 patients from all over Montana.
- About 42% overall of patients with serious illnesses travel from as far away as almost 300 miles, necessitating an overnight stay and frequently resulting in funds spent on lodging, fuel, and meals.
- Great Falls Clinic Cancer Care Center sees approximately 400 cancer patients per month, 40% of these patients live outside of Great Falls.
- Depending on the site of cancer, treatment can be very expensive and take months to deliver. Housing and travel costs add to the financial burden.
- A course of radiotherapy may take as long as 8 weeks to complete, with treatments given daily, Monday through Friday.
- 100% of patients living outside of Great Falls will benefit from free patient housing.

## NATIVE AMERICAN IMPACT

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*“From January 2020 to October 2021, the Great Falls Clinic provided care for 2,175 Native Americans, with over 36% traveling from outside of Great Falls for their medical care.”*

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Great Falls has the largest number of Native Americans not living on reservations in Montana. It is commonly known that most Natives living in Great Falls migrate between Great Falls and their home reservations. Thus, when living on their reservation, if healthcare is needed, they will travel to Great Falls, and it is their custom to bring family members. The Foundation board will ensure all Natives and family members are welcome at Poulsen Legacy Housing.



## VETERAN IMPACT

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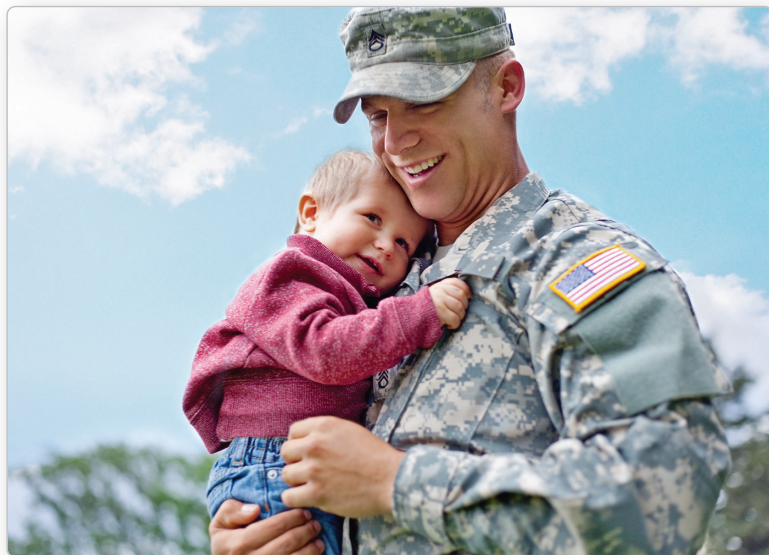
In August 2018, the Clinic received a Veteran Affairs Award letter to lease over 16,000 sq. feet of medical space to serve VA patients and this space opened to the Veteran community in the summer of 2020. We firmly believe that the VA population in and outside of our community will begin to benefit from the Harold & Carmen Poulsen free housing facility when traveling for specialized healthcare. One of the Foundation's original board members, retired, Dr. Robert Henderson, from the Montana VA Healthcare Network agrees with this. When he arrived in Great Falls to practice in October 2013, he assumed the position of Chief of Ambulatory Care Clinics of the VA in Northeast Region. One of the most pressing issues he noted at the time was the need for adequate space for providers. The need for facilities to serve our veteran population becomes apparent when looking at the area in and around Great Falls.

The US Census Bureau reported\* that there were over 9,000 veterans living in just Cascade County. That's 15.2% of Cascade County's entire population. Additionally, there were reportedly 86,270 veterans living in the state of Montana, which is just over 10% of the population. Montana is one of four states where the number of veterans as a share of the adult population exceeds 10%. Being that Great Falls has an active military base, we can assume that many veterans would be in and around the Great Falls area and would, therefore, benefit greatly by being able to utilize the patient housing facility when traveling for their medical care.

\*SOURCE: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=population%20and%20veterans%20in%20Montana&tid=ACST1Y2019.S2101&hidePreview=false>  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/07/04/states-with-the-most-veterans-new-york-alaska/39645251/>

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*“Montanans traveling to Great Fall Clinic for medical treatment have enough to worry about without the financial and emotional stress of making housing arrangements. With folks across the state traveling here for cutting-edge care, I’m thrilled the Great Falls Legacy Foundation is expanding their footprint to ensure that even more families have access to a comfortable, nearby place to stay while their loved ones get the treatment they need.”*



*– United States Senator Jon Tester*

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# FOUNDATION HISTORY

## TIMELINE

**April 21, 2015** - Foundation founded

**February 24, 2016** - Foundation holds first board meeting

**May 5, 2017** - Foundation receives \$1 million donation from Carmen Poulsen

**June 29, 2017** - Foundation kick started capital campaign

**July 6, 2018** - Foundation holds first major fundraiser at the History Museum

**October 24, 2019** - Foundation holds first annual Leaving a Legacy Gala

**August 27, 2020** - Foundation receives major grant from M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

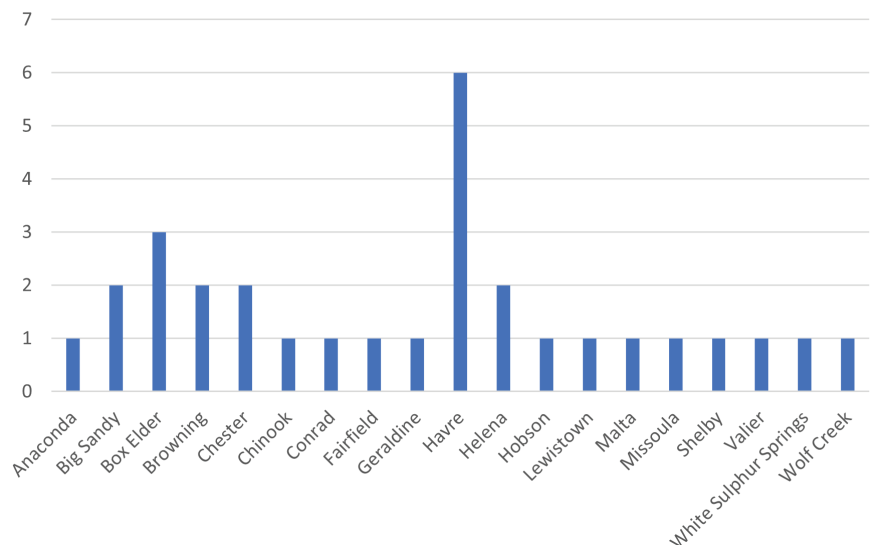
**September 18, 2020** - Foundation breaks ground on new patient housing facility

**August 17, 2021** - Grand Opening

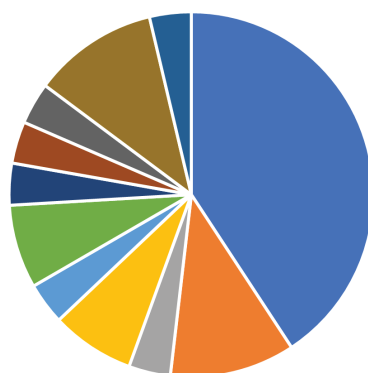
**September 7, 2021** - First Patient Welcomed

## OUR PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

In our first couple of months of operation, we have had over thirty guests stay with us from 19 different Montana cities. To-date, 20% of the guests who have stayed are from Havre, which is a roundtrip drive of 210 miles. The bar chart shows each patient's city of residence.



Patient Diagnosis



A breakdown of the primary diagnosis for our patients staying is represented by the pie chart.



# FACILITY GRAND OPENING - AUGUST 17, 2021



“When I was in middle school I remember my mom having cancer and having to travel out of state for treatment with my dad. The added burden of lodging expenses during her extended stay, created additional financial hardships on our family, not to mention the years of uncertainty until we learned she was cancer free.

The Harold and Carmen Poulsen Legacy Housing Facility is a God send for families who are not only dealing with the uncertainty of needing medical treatment for their health and well-being, along with not knowing if they will be able to cover the medical costs, but also the additional expenses of finding a temporary place to stay, which adds to the anxiety and stress of the entire situation. This new facility providing temporary housing with a kitchen and laundry capabilities, will help alleviate this additional stress, so the family can focus on the health treatment and care of the person.

Great Falls is a caring community and this new facility shows how much we care for those who are facing extremely challenging circumstances! A big thank you to the Poulsen's, to our community who helped raise funds, but also to the Great Falls Clinic and their vision to provide free housing to those in need!”

**Shane Etzwiler**  
President/CEO

**Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce**





# GREAT FALLS CLINIC CANCER CARE CENTER

**CLINIC CANCER CARE'S MISSION STATEMENT:** Every person is unique, and so is every person's journey through cancer. That is why it is so important to ask questions about your condition, the options presented to you, and the treatments you may receive. Even if you feel you have already been given an answer, if you don't understand, ask again. Your active involvement empowers you as the most important soldier in your personal, mental, and physical battle with cancer.



Thomas Warr, MD, Kelly Underhill, MD, Jessica Kaae, DO, Karl Guter, MD

The Great Falls Clinic's Medical and Radiation Oncology physicians have a longstanding history of high-quality patient care. These highly experienced providers have come to know and treasure the uniquely close relationships that develop between themselves and those they serve.

The Cancer Care nursing staff members hold professional certifications in oncology nursing, which makes them competent in administering chemotherapy and other biologics in both adults and pediatric populations. The nursing staff also do more than deliver radiation or chemotherapy and draw blood samples. Their compassionate, caring interaction with patients and family members is based on an understanding and appreciation of each individual's struggle with the implications of their experience with cancer. Nurses closely monitor patients' response to chemotherapy and other disease specific infusion therapies. These include autoimmune, hematologic, and metabolic disorders. They provide education to patients and families about what to expect during

treatment. They also serve as a resource to oncologists on a daily basis.

The Cancer Center's infusion center is equipped with an on-site state-of-the-art pharmacy, staffed with pharmacists and a certified pharmacy technician. This allows for continuous collaboration of patient care, patient education and medication management.

The Cancer Center's radiation oncology department is a comprehensive department offering state-of-the-art radiation treatments, working in conjunction with Medical Oncology to provide

seamless, quality care for cancer patients.

The physicians, pharmacists, and nurses work collaboratively to provide patient-centered care. Additional resources available to patients include an on-site social worker, patient care navigator, pastoral care, patient support volunteers, nutritional consultation, physical therapy, lodging and travel assistance and massage therapy.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## CANCER PATIENT TRAVEL FUND

This fund helps pay for cancer patient hotels and fuel during times of treatment. Including hotel stays (until housing facility is built), fuel cards, meal cards and more. Since 2017, we have funded over \$20,000 in hotel stays and fuel cards to patients traveling from all over Montana.

### How I Beat Breast Cancer

My name is Rachelle Murphy and this is my story about how I beat breast cancer more than once. My story with cancer goes back to 1993. About a month prior to my diagnosis, my dad had a biopsy of one of his breasts. It was benign. I was not as lucky.

One day I was applying lotion and I discovered a lump, which prompted me to make an appointment to see my primary, Dr. Jerry Speer. He performed an exam and sent me for a mammogram. Unfortunately, the mammogram did not show the lump due to it being located too high up on my chest. My primary referred me to see Dr. Jake Allen, a surgeon. He gave me the option of having a biopsy performed. He removed the lump and within a few hours, they knew I had breast cancer. I was 39 years old when I received the diagnosis.

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*“Thankfully, I had a strong support system between my loving husband and my two children... I was going to get through this”*

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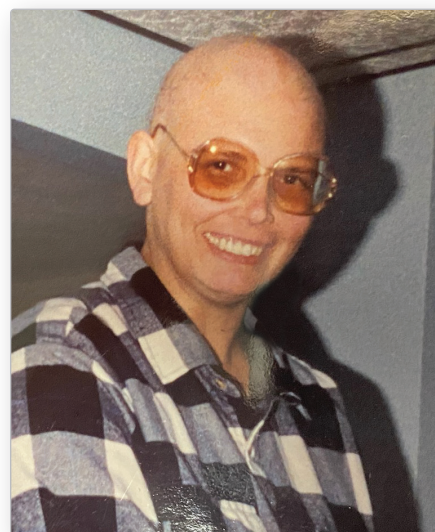
Thankfully, I had a strong support system between my loving husband and my two children. I was also armed with a positive attitude and a large support system of friends, family, and church. I was going to get through this.

On December 6, I had a lumpectomy and they removed several lymph nodes. Then I had an appointment with Dr. Grant Harrier to review my plan of care. On January 2, 1994, I began my chemo treatments consisting of an infusion followed by pills for two weeks, they had me in a study program aimed at helping to aid future cases.

*by Rachelle Murphy*

I lost my hair about two treatments into the chemo. I had always had thick hair, even as a baby, so this was an especially difficult part of the journey for me.

I was fortunate enough to be able to maintain my full-time work schedule at the Poulsen's Lumber yard (owned by Harold and Carmen Poulsen) and they were incredibly accommodating to my treatment schedule and



recovery days. Thursdays I had infusion and Friday and Saturday were my recovery days, sometimes Sunday as well. My immune system was exhausted and I had to stop treatments the entire month of April due to my dangerously low white blood cell count, a result of the chemo. I was determined, though. I missed very few days of work and kept my positive attitude going. I know the power of prayer and felt the love that came my way. The prognosis was good, also.

June 10, 1994 was a day to celebrate! I had my last chemo treatment in the office. I still had two weeks of pills, but the infusion treatments were complete. On July 5, 1994 I started radiation oncology treatments three days a week through August 23rd. I had to stop treatments as I was getting too burned from the radiation. I teased my Mom and Dad about having treatment for nine months, but there was no baby.



Following treatments, I was on Tamoxifen for five years. I also took Zoladex as a monthly injection in my stomach wall.

5 years later, in 1999, I had finally entered into remission. I felt fine and I was still in remission for another 15 years to follow. I routinely checked myself, had regular mammograms and encouraged everyone to self-check and get their mammograms. I actively participated in a support group and later participated in Relay For Life.

Fast forward to 2010, about 17 years after the initial diagnosis. I was diagnosed with breast cancer again in the same breast. Different spot. Different type of cancer. My doctors were very thorough and I opted for a double mastectomy followed by a reconstruction to eliminate any further risk. I completed the mastectomy in December of 2010, though the reconstruction needed to be done out of town in Seattle. That procedure was completed in September of 2011 with Dr. Santin following my post-op care locally.

The year is late 2011 and I was back in remission. Life was good again.

Then in November of 2017, I was having pain in my right hip. Through a CT scan and subsequent biopsy, it was found that breast cancer had metastasized to my bones. Then a few months later, it expanded to my liver. Thankfully, my liver function has all been normal since. I've had no side effects except the occasional pain and hot flashes, but I've had hot flashes since 1994. I was put back on Letrozole or Femara that I had been off of for 14 months, along with a new drug called Ibrance. I've been given frequent doses of Zomeda via half-hour infusions to help with bone strength.

In 2018, the numbers revealed that the Letrozole I was on was not making a difference. So, I was put on Fasladex injection along with the Ibrance. I finished my last dose of Ibrance around July 2020 and I am now on Tamoxifen every day.

Recently I have been having shoulder pain and saw PA Dave Crossley in Orthopedics. He ordered an x-ray and from that an MRI. There were some abnormalities in the humerus, so I did 10 treatments of radiation. During those treatments, I had a PET scan done, which showed there are scattered areas through and are nothing to be alarmed about. The most painful area right now besides my shoulders is my sternum.

I started another round of radiation on September 8, 2020, consisting of five treatments, one every other day.

It is hard to believe I've been on this journey for 27 years now. I know I have survived because of the love I have surrounding me as well as the prayers, and I would not be here without the doctors, staff, treatments, and care.

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*"I know that if I were living anywhere in Montana besides Great Falls, it would be a hardship to travel for appointments and treatments. That is why I love the idea of the Poulsen Legacy Foundation housing and the hope it gives people to get through their treatments."*

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#### **Background and context: What drives me**

I come from a very large family. I have 38 cousins (42 total counting my siblings and myself) on my mom's side alone. Before I was diagnosed, one of my cousins, Sandy, passed from breast cancer. She had gone through diagnosis, chemo and radiation. Then it came back and it was too late for treatment the second time around. This hit our family very hard, so naturally they were all very concerned about me. I wanted them to see in-person that I was better. In October of 1994, I took my first ever plane ride and surprised my grandmother and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins in Lincoln, NE. My grandmother was 95 at the time. She passed about a year later, on October 9, 1995 at the age of 96, so I was extremely grateful for the time we had and the memories we made that day.

A year after my initial breast cancer diagnosis treatment was completed; my Aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995. We joked with each other, asking if I gave it to her or if she gave it to me. A good sense of humor is everything when dealing with a difficult time. She ended up having a double mastectomy and never had any reoccurrence. She passed peacefully in 2005 in her 80s of natural causes.

Flash forward a few more years to 2002, my younger cousin Debbie was diagnosed with breast cancer. She fought long and hard for about ten years, leaving behind her young son. He just graduated high school this year and is thriving under the care of his aunt, uncle, and extended family. Then again, in 2009, a third cousin Tari was diagnosed with breast cancer and is doing well.

#### Acknowledgements:

The Great Falls Clinic Cancer Care department has done a fantastic job of taking care of me, and all of their patients. It takes a village. I remember when I was in my support group – one of the other members wanted to do a breast reconstruction and insurance would not pay for her surgery. They would cover the reductions, but not the reconstruction. Dr. Guter, our oncologist, went to Helena and fought for her to have her surgery paid for. When a doctor goes to those lengths, it just goes to show how he is 100% invested in his patients. The trust I have in Dr. Guter has truly been my saving grace. Dr. Underhill in radiation oncology is top of the

line, as are the nurses and staff. From Maggie to Leisa in reception, to Sheila, Dr. Guter's nurse, and all the people behind the scenes from the pharmacy to the nurses who administer chemo and infusions.

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*“Knowing that you do not have to fight this battle alone is powerful. It does not matter if you have faith or religion, but knowing someone is praying for you shows that there is someone who is in your corner and cares.”*

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Knowing that you do not have to fight this battle alone is powerful. It does not matter if you have faith or religion, but knowing someone is praying for you shows that there is someone who is in your corner and cares.

I have worked at the Great Falls Clinic for 15 years now and I feel the doctors and staff really care about every patient and it shows. I have a great job and love what I do because it feels like we are a family.

## A Survivor's Story

My mother, Evalee Bebee started her battle with cancer 33 years ago at the age of 55. For the next 18 years, she would be diagnosed with four different types of cancer during that time. “I guess, I feel my attitude and that I made myself feel blessed each day, helped me get through the surgeries and treatments,” she said, adding, “I refused to let myself get down and made myself find the good in each day. Keeping myself busy and active so I wouldn't have to think about it was tough to do, but it helped me get through it and see another day.”

My family found the news of my mother's cancer difficult to accept. Our first reaction was one of disbelief, followed by our question, “How can someone who has always been so healthy, have cancer?” As my

family's shock of the diagnoses subsided, it was replaced by an uneasy acceptance, and a strong determination to help her find a treatment for the disease.

A woman who had raised three

*by Grant Bebee*



boys, made a home, and started her own seamstress business, began 18 years of doctor's visits, surgeries, and chemotherapy. With my parents being from Havre and my mother's treatments being done at the Great Falls Clinic Cancer Center, they would travel the 220-mile round trip each week, for months at a time. Over three decades later, I can honestly say that my parents



would have loved to have had the opportunity to stay at the Harold & Carmen Poulsen Legacy House.

Today, my mother has been cancer free for the past 15 plus years. Her successful treatments at the Great Falls Clinic allowed her to

experience my college graduation, my wedding, my family, and share another 21 years with the love of her life, my father. On April 11th of this year, we celebrated her 88th birthday. With my father's passing in 2009, my mother continues to live independently and is still cancer free.

As my mother's experience attests, treatment is difficult and often long, but with family, friends, and a

caring community it can be beat. She said, "after my chemotherapy, having cancer made me feel a loss of control in my life." She talked about how immediately after her treatments she had trouble even doing the simplest tasks. Her ability to sew or even make dinner

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*"My mother credits her family's support, knowledgeable doctors and nurses, a caring community, and advanced cancer treatments for giving her back, her life."*

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became a laborious chore for her. As a cancer survivor entering her sixteenth year of remission, my mother credits her family's support, knowledgeable doctors and nurses, a caring community, and advanced cancer treatments for giving her back, her life.

In addition to those credits, I firmly believe her inner strength and wise outlook on the world contributed strongly to her being a survivor.

Love you Mom!

## BUMBLEBEE PEDIATRIC PATIENT FUND



This fund helps grant parents and guardians the funds they need to receive treatment for their little ones. This fund could help pay for a trip to Seattle for medical treatment or a much-needed medical assistance device for a child such as hearing aids or mobility devices. These funds are available to all pediatric patients in our community via application. Since 2017, we have funded over \$15,500 in requests to pediatric patients in our community.

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*"We were able to utilize the pediatric grant for travel expenses after exhausting all of our travel benefits through our insurance."*

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*Amy Harrell*

# EMPLOYEE GIVING

## EMPLOYEE GIVING STATS

This year we were fortunate to have 62 employees enroll in payroll deductions, which is 40% higher than last year. Our employee's generosity translated to over \$12,000 being donated in 2021 alone from payroll deductions. The average employee donation total for 2021 was \$195 per employee – incredible! Great Falls Clinic employees can choose among causes such as the Pediatric Fund, Cancer Travel Fund or the Poulsen Legacy Housing fund.

*“Our patients inspire me to give. When a person gets a cancer diagnosis, it is devastating news that impacts every part of their life. For those out of town with daily treatments, the Legacy Housing is such a wonderful resource to help carry some of their burden. Back when the Legacy Foundation was just a dream, I had the opportunity to contribute. It has been so rewarding*

*to see it to completion and actually be able to offer it to patients who need it! I encourage every employee to donate. We are all here because we care about our patients and it is such an easy way to bless those who need housing. There is nothing easier than payroll deduction; you don't even miss the money.”*

Jill Tanner  
Chemo/Infusion Pharmacist

*“My Grandpa that passed away three years ago from cancer. I heard about the Legacy Foundation through emails from work, and it feels great knowing the money that comes out of my paycheck every month is going to a great cause.”*

Ashland Hasner  
Supply Chain Technician

**The Great Falls Clinic has been blessed with generous staff, whether they attend fundraisers, volunteer or donate to our causes, we appreciate their continued support.**

## 2021 PAYROLL DEDUCTION DONORS:

Allison, Brian	Heichelbech, Ashleigh	Mahn, Danielle	Schultz, Alice
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Hasner, Ashland	Loomis, Leah	Rohrback, Markie	



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEER STATS

Over the course of 2021, the Foundation's volunteers have given over 200 hours of their time. That is over 25 business days of volunteering! At this time, we have over 34 active volunteers and we hope to have more join now that the housing facility is built.

There are many benefits to volunteering. The first being that volunteering connects you to others with similar interests. Volunteering has a positive impact on the community, and while this is probably the driving factor behind most volunteers, it can also help you learn new skills and advance your career. Volunteering as a family can also be a great way to show your children how their actions can impact the community around them.

Volunteering is emotionally good for you. It can reduce stress and anxiety, and can help combat depression. It increases self-confidence, too.

**"I volunteered for the Legacy Foundation because I want to be an active participant in making Great Falls a better place for people to live. I also can speak to the heart of some of those who work at the Legacy**

**Foundation, that their love is for people in need, something that I love to be a part of!" – Emma Clark, Great Falls High School, Math Teacher**

Volunteering can also provide a sense of purpose. Retired adults, or students who have their summers off can find meaning and direction by helping others. It also helps keep people physically healthy, too. "Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not."\* If volunteering with us is something you're interested in, we may have a position that suits you! We will be looking for greeters, gardeners, receptionists, bakers, and occasional class teachers with subjects like cooking, baking, knitting and more. If you have a skill that you want to share with the Legacy Foundation, please reach out to us by phone at (406) 216-8057 or email [gfclegacy@gmail.com](mailto:gfclegacy@gmail.com).

\*SOURCE: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/volunteering-and-its-surprising-benefits.htm#:~:text=Volunteering%20helps%20you%20stay%20physically,and%20have%20better%20thinking%20skills>.

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: Karen Venetz

Karen Venetz has had a unique and diverse career. Her professional career began as a soil science specialist for a local engineering company. By day she researched soil samples to ensure safe building conditions. In the evenings Karen took night classes. She balanced full-time work and continued her education, while raising two small children.

She eventually obtained her associates degree. After leaving the engineering field, Karen pursued a career in advertising. Her eagerness to help others and tenacity to ensure a job was well done made her perfect for this role.

Her years of experience with advertising and sales provided her with the experience and knowledge to join the Great Falls Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). Karen joined the TBID in 2010 with a mission to bring more tourism and a strong growth to Great Falls.

Karen is a Great Falls native and has always been committed to giving back to the community. As the

Marketing Director for the TBID she increased international leisure travel visits and formed valuable local partnerships. She also was a key driver to get a multi-event center study

conducted so the people of Great Falls could further





invest into the community. Prior to retiring, Karen created the Great Falls Tourism Alliance (GFTA) to ensure a legacy of investing in Great Falls as an attractive location for events and tourism.

After retiring, Karen wanted to spend more time giving back to the Great Falls community. Over the past five years, she has continued to donate her time to ensure the success of the TBID and GFTA. During the last election, she became a Super Volunteer for the Vote Forward get out the vote campaign. She has been a regular board member at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Great Falls, and she

presently is serving on the Stewardship Council.

Karen has also been instrumental in helping raise funds for the six-year-old nonprofit, Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation. Prior to the Legacy Foundation's recent Grand Opening, you could even find her cleaning windows and arranging furniture to make sure every guest has the best possible experience. She truly cares for those who will be coming through the legacy doors today, and into the future. So much of what Karen does goes under the radar! She shows up when people need her help and never asks for recognition. She's the best!

## Q&A DONORS OF THE YEAR Dr. Nancy and Dr. Bobby Maynard



**Dr. Nancy Maynard**



**Dr. Bobby Maynard**

### **Tell us a little about yourself.**

We were both raised in different parts of Oklahoma and were medical school classmates at the University of Oklahoma. Healthcare was an obvious career choice as a way to help others. Nancy chose pediatrics and Bob trained in Internal Medicine. We arrived in Great Falls in 1984 after finishing medical training in Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Alabama. The journey to Great Falls was thanks to the Air Force. When Bob completed his

military commitment at Malmstrom Air Force Base we made a firm decision to stay in the community to raise our children. The Great Falls Clinic was a natural fit with our goals of caring for patients and professional development!

### **How did you first hear about the Legacy Foundation?**

We learned of the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation when it was originally started by the Great Falls Clinic Partnership. There was an obvious need for a foundation to complement the mission of the Great Falls Clinic.

### **Who or what inspired you to donate?**

The Foundation Board identified patient and family housing as a great need to assist patients needing specialized care outside of their home community. We felt the cause was very worthwhile. We made the Legacy Foundation part of our giving. The community and the Great Falls Clinic have given us much - the Legacy Foundation has allowed us to give back in a meaningful way.

### **What have you enjoyed most about donating to the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation?**

It has been a joy to know that we are a little part of creating something that will help others. Watching the construction of the new Harold and Carmen Poulsen Legacy Housing has been fun to observe.

**What has your favorite fundraiser been?**

The Gala held in 2019 for the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation was held at the new University of Providence Center. There was a strong sense of community at the event with broad participation in the fun!

**Why are you passionate about the Legacy Foundation?**

In our years with the Great Falls Clinic the values we most treasured were that we exist for the patient and that employees are our greatest asset. The Foundation helps fulfill those values by addressing the need for

adequate housing while patients receive ongoing treatment. The support of the Legacy Foundation by Great Falls Clinic providers, employees, and the region has been wonderful.

**Do you have a personal experience that ties you to the mission to provide free patient housing?**

A large number of the Great Falls Clinic patients travel many miles to receive treatment. We have seen the stress medical illness can impose. Having free housing is one way to decrease the tremendous burden these patients face.

## Q&A BUSINESS DONOR OF THE YEAR

### Dick Anderson Construction

**How long has your business been based in Great Falls?**

Dick Anderson's office in Great Falls was opened about 27 years ago.

**How did you hear about the Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation (GFCLF)?**

One of our retired former employees became involved with the project and brought it to our attention. Projects such as these benefit our community and surrounding area and we were anxious to help its development.

**How long has your business supported the GFCLF?**

We began participating in the project at its beginning assisting the owner and architect with design questions and cost information. We worked with all of the team partners and just recently completed construction of the facility.

**What inspired your business to support the GFCLF?**

We have been a construction partner of the Great Falls Clinic for many years and when this Foundation was started as an independent arm of the Clinic's mission, it was only natural for us to support. As a long-time fixture in our community, it was the right thing for us to do. Projects such as this benefit our community and surrounding area during a time when the users are vulnerable and help is needed and appreciated.



**DICK ANDERSON  
CONSTRUCTION**

**Has anyone in your business benefited from the Legacy Foundation, or an organization on like it?**

We are lucky that none of our employees or family members have yet to need the services of the Foundation. However, as we all know, cancer can strike any one of us and it's comforting to know that we have a cost-free housing option for any of our employees or their families if needed.

**Since DAC has been connected to the Foundation for a long time, do you have a favorite memory/experience about the Foundation you would like to share?**

We have enjoyed the yearly Gala and look forward to the event next fall!

**What have you enjoyed the most about giving to the GFCLF?**

The satisfaction of knowing that your efforts make a difference in the lives of patients and families that need help, and that participation makes our community a better place.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

We would just like to encourage any and all individuals and businesses in our community and surrounding area to consider becoming a donor to the Foundation. It may seem like a small thing to them, but the effect and help to the Foundation is deeply appreciated as we have found through our partnership.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### Are you interested in giving to the Legacy Foundation?

There are many different and easy ways to donate to our Foundation, including but not limited to the following:

1. Online, secure donations
2. Mail
3. Phone
4. Planned gifts such as securities, real estate, and more
5. IRA and other retirement gifts
6. Bequests
7. Charitable remainder trusts and unitrusts
8. Payroll deduction through United Way or Great Falls Clinic
9. In-kind gifts to the Legacy Housing facility or fundraisers
10. Participation in Foundation fundraisers
11. Purchase flowers from our Flower Shop
12. Volunteer



### DONATE ONLINE

You can donate to the Legacy Foundation online using your debit/credit card or with your Paypal account by visiting [www.gfclegacy.org/donate](http://www.gfclegacy.org/donate). From here you can choose to donate one-time or a monthly recurring donation.

### DONATE BY MAIL

Donations may be mailed to the following address:

Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation  
Attn: Donations  
3004 15th Avenue South  
Great Falls, MT 59405

### DONATE BY PHONE

Contact our office at (406) 216-8057 to make a secure donation to the Legacy Foundation using your credit or debit card.

To find out more information on other ways to donate, please call us at (406) 216-8057.

## LEGACY FOUNDATION'S 'MY VIOLA MINI FLOWER SHOP'

The Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation is excited to announce we have partnered with My Viola to add a Flower Shop in the Great Falls Clinic Hospital lobby at 3010 15th Ave South, Great Falls. 25% of your flower purchase will benefit the Legacy Foundation directly.

You can visit our Flower Shop page to view our options here: <https://gfclegacy.square.site> and you can also purchase online. We will deliver any flowers to Hospital patients, while all other flower orders will need to be picked up at the front desk. You can also purchase in person at any time by asking the Hospital front desk for assistance.

For phone orders, please call (406) 216-8057 or you may call (406) 216-8000.





## LEAVING A LEGACY GALA - 2021

# Leaving a Legacy Gala

A BENEFIT FOR THE HAROLD & CARMEN POULSEN  
LEGACY HOUSING

This year's event had  
over a 20% increase  
in donations compared  
to 2019, concluding the  
evening's fundraiser at  
**\$116,839**

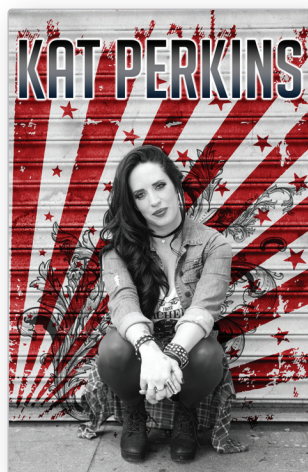
FUNDRAISER REVENUE ITEMS	2019 ACTUAL REVENUE	2021 ACTUAL REVENUE
Silent Auction	\$6,799	\$11,781
Live Auction	\$21,450	\$24,600
Sponsorship Tables	\$49,150	\$73,050
<b>TOTAL=</b>	<b>\$92,596</b>	<b>\$116,839</b>

This year's annual Leaving a Legacy Gala set a single-night fundraising record for the Harold & Carmen Poulsen Legacy House. All items in the live and silent auctions were sold. It was a packed house, with table sponsorships being sold up until the last day.

Kat Perkins, contestant for NBC's The Voice season 6, personally selected this year's Gala to perform an exclusive live concert to benefit the Harold & Carmen Legacy Housing. 100% of the evening's proceeds go towards covering the remaining construction costs as well as its sustainability well into the future. In addition to the beautiful music provided by Kat Perkins, the event also featured a 3-course meal, live and silent auctions and a no-host bar.

With sponsorships, live and silent auctions and other donations, the Foundation concluded the evening's fundraiser at \$116,839. Thanks to a generous community, this year's event had over a 20% increase in donations compared to our previous fundraiser.

**We are so grateful to our sponsor's, donors, and supporters for making the evening such a HUGE success! Thank you!**



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 DONORS

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**[WWW.GFCLEGACY.ORG](http://WWW.GFCLEGACY.ORG)**

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