

2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



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A Message from the CEO

At Logan Health, we believe that caring for our community goes far beyond the walls of our hospitals, clinics and other facilities. This year's Community Impact Report highlights the many ways we continue to invest in the health, well-being, and future of our region. From expanding services to better meet the needs of our neighbors, to supporting programs that nurture the next generation of caregivers, we are proud to serve as a trusted partner in health.

As a nonprofit health system, we actively provide financial assistance to patients in need, offer free or low-cost health screenings, support public health initiatives, educate future health professionals, and invest in programs that address social determinants of health, such as housing, nutrition, and education. We are proud to engage in these activities, not because we have to, but because we believe in our mission to improve the health of our entire community. Whether it's through partnerships with local schools, preventive care outreach, or supporting the underserved, we see these efforts as essential to our role as a community-focused health care provider.

In the pages of this year's report, you'll see evidence of this work. Together, with our dedicated staff and community partners, we remain committed to building a healthier, stronger future for all.

Kevin Abel
Co-CEO, Billings Clinic - Logan Health
CEO, Logan Health

Logan Health by the numbers 2024

456,850
Clinic Visits



11,033
Admissions

1,291
Births



6 HOSPITALS

Kalispell
Whitefish
Cut Bank
Conrad
Shelby
Chester

558 BEDS



69 CLINICS

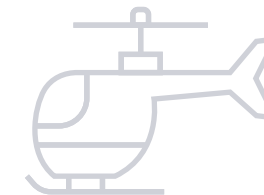
4,514 EMPLOYEES

542 MEDICAL STAFF



27,140
Surgeries

43,108
ED Visits



597
A.L.E.R.T. Flights

United in purpose: A new chapter in health care

Following the partnership of Logan Health and Billings Clinic, we are proud to unveil a unified mission, vision, and set of values that reflect the strength of our combined organization. Together, we are forging a path forward with a shared purpose: **to provide quality, compassionate care for all.**

Our new mission is both a promise and a commitment — to patients, families, and the communities we serve. It reflects the heart of who we are and why we exist: to ensure that everyone, regardless of circumstance, receives exceptional care rooted in empathy and respect.

Guided by our vision to **reimagine health care through connection, service and innovation**, we are transforming how care is delivered across Montana and beyond. By integrating expertise, resources, and forward-thinking approaches, we are creating a stronger, more connected system that puts people first and anticipates the future of medicine.

Our shared values are the foundation of everything we do:

Be Kind – Kindness is the cornerstone of compassion. It builds confidence, optimism, and a culture of care.

Work Together – Collaboration drives innovation, communication, and excellence. We achieve more when we unite as one team.

Trust and Be Trusted – Trust is earned through authenticity, empathy, and accountability. It strengthens relationships and fuels confidence.

Strive for Excellence – We are committed to high standards and continuous improvement, always seeking to grow, solve problems, and deliver the best care.

As one integrated system, we are united by purpose and inspired by possibility. The partnership has given us the opportunity to bring together our strengths and reimagine what health care can be — more accessible, more compassionate, and more innovative than ever before.



Community Impact

\$7,729,507

Charity Care

\$24,830,446

Subsidized Health Services

\$1,311,900

Health Professional
Education

\$99,182,910

Total Logan Health
Community Impact
2023 (partial)

\$62,782,580

Uncompensated
Cost of Care

\$815,305

Community Health
Improvement/Research

\$1,713,172

Community Building
Activities

This information represents community impact for April 1 – December 31, 2023. Since we recently changed our fiscal year to follow the calendar year, this data reflects only a portion of the year.

150+

Number of community events Logan Health supports each year.

**\$2.1
Billion**

Total economic impact of Logan Health hospitals in the communities we serve.

100+

Number of community organizations Logan Health supports each year through donations, sponsorships, gifts-in-kind and volunteers.

**~\$2.5
Million**

Total property taxes paid.



Students from area high schools visited LHMC's Hyped on Healthcare in April to learn about careers in health care.

Community engagement

Logan Health maintains a rich tradition of giving back to the communities we serve. We are committed to promoting health, well-being and a caring spirit throughout our communities.



Courtney McCord at Glacier Gateway Elementary School is one of 14 local educators to receive a Healthy Classrooms Grant this spring.



Chester leadership at summer community event.



Logan Health – Cut Bank team volunteers to distribute food at the Harvest Food Pantry in Cut Bank.



Dr. Nathan Bingham attends the Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance camp to provide families with helpful resources about pediatric diabetes.



Logan Health gives out 12 Winslow Nichols Leadership Awards, awarding \$250 donations to each school in their name.



Logan Health partners with Intermountain Animal Therapy to provide dog therapy at their facilities in Kalispell and Whitefish.



Cherie Taylor, President of Logan Health in Chester and Cut Bank, demonstrates how an X-Ray is used at the Kids Health and Safety Fair.



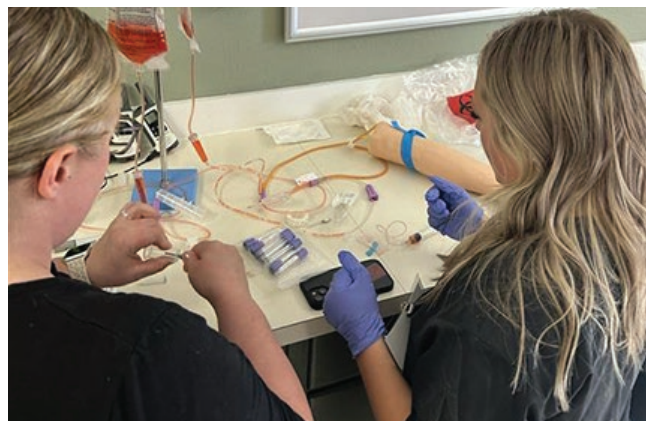
Vicki Newmiller, President of Logan Health in Shelby and Conrad, cuts the ribbon at the Logan Health - Clinic Shelby grand opening.



The Logan Health pediatric hematology & oncology team honored pediatric cancer patients for their hearts of gold during Kalispell's St. Patrick's Day parade.



Logan Health - Conrad Occupational Therapist, Amy Gilbertson, demonstrates how to measure grip strength during the annual health fair.



Logan Health - Chester hosted a REACH camp with AHEC that provided students with hands on activities designed to give them a realistic impression of a variety of healthcare careers.



At the Inaugural Cancer Survivors Day event, cancer survivors and their loved ones took part in a butterfly release symbolizing hope and healing.

Expert gynecologic oncology arrives in the Flathead

Through the collaborative efforts of Billings Clinic – Logan Health, the Flathead Valley now has access to an important service benefiting women across Montana. On January 13, Logan Health Women's Care began offering gynecologic oncology services, reducing the need for patients to travel by providing subspecialty care in their hometown.

The new service is provided by the Billings Clinic – Logan Health Gynecologic Oncology Outreach team, which includes Evelyn Fleming, MD; Dandi Huang, MD; and Bradford Whitcomb, MD. **With 40 years of combined women's health experience, this team of highly-trained, compassionate and experienced specialists from Billings provides women personalized treatment alongside the team at Logan Health Women's Care.**

In the United States, gynecologic cancers make up 11% of new cancer diagnoses in women. Gynecologic cancer encompasses five different types of cancer, including cervical, ovarian, uterine (endometrial), vaginal and vulvar cancers. This collaborative team provides expert care for women with known cancers of these kinds.

Dr. Fleming recognized the significance of this outreach, stating. "It's well established that when women with gynecologic cancers receive care from subspecialty trained physicians, known as gynecologic oncologists, they not only receive the most up-to-date care, but it actually improves their overall survival. It is an honor to provide specialized care to the women of this region."



Gynecologic oncologist Evelyn Fleming, MD, gave a presentation at the Kalispell Rotary to spread awareness of the new service.

The help of these fellowship-trained gynecologic oncology specialists will greatly reduce the need for women to travel long distances for this vital service, keeping them and their families close to home for this care. Dr. Thomas deHoop, an OB/GYN at Logan Health Women's Care, appreciates the collaboration for that very reason. "For as long as I have been practicing here, we have had to send patients to Billings or outside of the state. It will be much better for patient care to be able to keep the majority of cases here in the valley."

Since beginning the service in January, the team has had over 106 gynecologic oncology visits and they look forward to continuing these outreach efforts for the benefit of all women in Montana.

Logan Health welcomes gynecologic oncology specialists from Billings Clinic!



Evelyn Fleming, MD



Dandi Huang, MD



Bradford Whitcomb, MD

50 years of answering the call

The first rural hospital-based air ambulance program in the country was born out of tragedy 50 years ago near the Hungry Horse Reservoir. In July 1975, a 27-year-old logger named Dennis Buck was severely injured in a workplace accident. Desperate to get him medical attention, his crew worked with a nearby forest service helicopter to form a makeshift rescue operation. Unfortunately, Dennis died before he could reach the hospital, an all-too-common occurrence in the logging industry at the time.

Recognizing the need for change, Clyde Smith, co-founder of the Montana Logging Association, put his own business up as collateral and worked with Kalispell General Hospital, now Logan Health Medical Center, to form an air-ambulance program that could provide quick access to rural workers across northwest Montana.

Today, 50 years later, A.L.E.R.T. has evolved into a comprehensive emergency medical transport program. In addition to more than 21,000 helicopter flights in its history, the service now includes a fixed-wing aircraft transport service, a specialty pediatric flight nurse team and dedicated ground ambulances — all working together to provide lifesaving care across the region.

Having a program like A.L.E.R.T. in a community of this size is no small feat. Air ambulance services are rare in rural locations because of the high operational costs to maintain them. Logan Health has largely subsidized the program since the beginning, but the community has consistently stepped up to do its part, as well. Since 1977, the annual A.L.E.R.T. Banquet has been held to raise money for the program and to help ensure that this service stays in the Flathead Valley. Since 2000, more than \$10 million has been donated to enhance the program.



A.L.E.R.T. has become an essential resource for the entire region. In a place as remote as northwest Montana, quick access to advanced medical care can make all the difference. Today, the program plays a critical role in rescuing recreators in nearby Glacier National Park and responding to severe medical emergencies throughout the region. Whether it's a remote backcountry injury or a life-threatening condition in a rural community, A.L.E.R.T. remains ready to provide rapid access to emergency care when every minute matters.

50 years after its founding, the A.L.E.R.T. mission remains the same. What began as a response to a local tragedy has grown into a lifeline for the entire region — one that continues to evolve to meet the needs of northwest Montana. With the continued support of Logan Health and the community, A.L.E.R.T. stands ready to answer every call for help, no matter how remote.

To help ensure this life-saving program continues for generations to come, visit logan.org/donate or call the Logan Health Foundation at (406) 751-6930.

Here's to the next 50 years of service, dedication and lives saved.



Using his own business as a platform, Clyde Smith founded the A.L.E.R.T. program to help uphold safety standards in the logging industry.



A.L.E.R.T. was the second hospital-based flight program in the nation, and the first in rural America.



Since 1975, the A.L.E.R.T. program has saved nearly 3,000 lives through coordinated aerial and ground transport services.

Brendan House marks 40 years as a cornerstone of compassionate care

For four decades, Logan Health's Brendan House has stood as a beacon of compassionate, long-term care in the Flathead Valley. Since opening its doors in April 1985, the facility has grown from a modest concept into a 110-bed center dedicated to skilled nursing, rehabilitation, and comfort care — all while upholding a deep commitment to dignity and respect.

The vision for Brendan House began with Sister Mary Brendan Phelan, RSM, a nurse at Kalispell General Hospital from 1972 to 1982. Witnessing the struggles of patients needing continued support after hospitalization, she dreamed of a place that offered dignified, long-term care rooted in community values. Her vision became reality with the opening of Brendan House, named in her honor — a surprise to her at the unveiling ceremony. Those who knew her say she never would've agreed to such recognition had she known beforehand, but the tribute was well deserved.

"Sister Mary Brendan was the heart of this place in the beginning," said Cheryl Lowe, who has been with the facility since its opening. "She built more than a care center — she built a home."

Brendan House was ahead of its time, combining medical care, rehabilitation, personal support, spiritual wellness, and daily activities all under one roof. Its proximity to the main hospital also ensured residents could easily access specialized medical services, a rare feature for a long-term care facility in a rural community.

"It was never about the money," said Deb Wilson, who served as administrator during much of the 1990s. "The focus was always on patients — giving them a supportive environment when they couldn't be at home."

Growth followed. The first major expansion came in 1990 with the opening of the Lake Pod to provide more private rooms for end-of-life care. Another pod, Glacier, was added in 2005, raising the capacity from 69 to 110 beds and allowing the facility to better meet the community's evolving needs.

As health care options expanded, so did the complexity of Brendan House's patient population. In its early years, most residents were relatively independent. Today, the focus is on serving those with higher care needs — people who require consistent support in a residential setting. The facility now provides long-term, short-term and comfort care designed to maximize each resident's independence and quality of life.

The pod layout remains one of Brendan House's defining features. Six pods, each housing 18 to 20 residents, are centered around shared living and dining spaces. This design fosters companionship while ensuring nursing staff are always close by. Outside, a landscaped courtyard offers a peaceful space for families and residents to connect.

Through major challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, Brendan House has remained resilient. Staff adapted quickly with safety protocols, virtual family visits, and unwavering support. "We became brave," said administrator Kelly Bilau. "We did whatever it took to keep caring."

Now celebrating 40 years, Brendan House continues to honor the legacy of its namesake — a legacy of compassion, community, and home.



Top photo: Residents enjoy a beautiful summer day in the courtyard.

Pictured left to right: Brendan House past and present.

Guiding gratitude: Honoring care with the Buffalo Pin

When words don't feel like enough, gratitude has a way of finding other ways to speak.

That's the spirit behind Guiding Gratitude, a program from Logan Health Foundation that gives patients and families meaningful ways to recognize the care they've received and the people who made all the difference. Whether it's a nurse who stayed late to offer comfort, a surgeon whose hands brought healing, or a team that stood beside a family through the hardest of days, Guiding Gratitude helps express what can be hard to say out loud.

At the heart of the program is the Buffalo Pin, a symbol of strength, resilience, and compassion — values that define our Logan Family. When a grateful patient or loved one gives through the program, they have the opportunity to honor a specific caregiver or department with a Buffalo Pin and personalized message of thanks.

When a patient or family chooses to give through Guiding Gratitude, their donation goes beyond a simple thank-you, it becomes part of the healing process. The act of giving often brings a sense of closure, a way to honor what was received and pay it forward. For the caregiver being recognized, it's an affirmation that their work made a difference. And because donations made through Guiding Gratitude support Logan Health Foundation's unrestricted fund, they go where they're needed most — often toward programs, equipment, or services that directly enhance patient care. In this way, each expression of gratitude becomes part of a larger circle of healing, one that benefits both giver and receiver, and strengthens care for the entire community.

The program has continued to evolve, with new recognition levels designed to celebrate continued excellence and inspire pride across departments. But at its core, Guiding Gratitude is about connection. It's about honoring care, deepening engagement, and creating a culture where appreciation flows as freely as compassion.



When a grateful patient or family member makes a donation to the Logan Health Foundation in honor of the care they receive, we celebrate that caregiver with a Buffalo Pin. The Buffalo Pin is one way we recognize members of our Logan Health Family who go above and beyond, leaving a lasting impression on those they serve and work alongside.





GUIDING GRATITUDE



Each act of gratitude contributes to the future of care at Logan Health, enhancing services and strengthening the bond between our care teams and the communities we serve.

YOUR GRATITUDE CAN GUIDE CARE

If someone at Logan Health made a difference in your life — no matter how big or small — consider sending a thank you note or honoring their care by making a donation to the Logan Health Foundation.

Visit logan.org/gratitude to share your story, make a gift, or learn more about ways you can share your gratitude. Your words and your thanks have the power to guide care forward.

Enhancing community safety through injury prevention initiatives

Upholding Logan Health's vision to "reimagine health care through connection, service and innovation," employees of Logan Health – Whitefish (LHW) and its clinics extended their reach into the community this past year to provide education, information and services with the goal of improving public health and safety.

FALL PREVENTION

One might speculate that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of trauma at the Whitefish emergency department; however, it is high rates of falls that most commonly land people in the hospital.

Trauma coordinator Becky Cox, RN, recognized that this leading cause of emergency department visits is preventable with proper education. In early 2024, she launched a campaign to educate vulnerable and high-risk members of the community and equip them with ice cleats.

Cox teamed up with occupational therapist Terese Miskulin, OTR/L, and physical therapy assistant Kari Marsenich, PTA, to hold fall prevention educational events in Whitefish and Columbia Falls. At each event, every attendee was given a free pair of ice cleats to prevent falls on ice and help keep them out of the emergency department. Funded by a Roundup for Safety grant from Flathead Electric and the LHW Foundation, a total of 500 ice cleats were purchased and distributed to community members over the age of 65 at events, as well as to patients at the hospital, Logan Health clinics and pharmacies and area coumadin clinics.

SAFE SITTER® AND CPR

Logan Health – Whitefish's community health nurse Karrin Parker, RN, provided numerous opportunities for the public to learn CPR and safe babysitting practices through Safe Sitter® classes.

Safe Sitter® is a nationally accredited program for boys and girls aged 11 and older that provides instruction on how to safely and effectively care for children. Parker started offering the class in Whitefish in June 2024 and expanded to Eureka this spring. More than 50 Whitefish children are now Safe Sitter® trained, and another 50 community members are CPR certified.



Logan Health – Whitefish Community Health Nurse Karrin Parker, RN teaches a Safe Sitter® class in Whitefish.



Logan Health Whitefish occupational therapist Terese Miskulin, OTR/L and physical therapy assistant Kari Marsenich, PTA teach fall prevention at the Whitefish Community Center.

BICYCLE SAFETY

With a bounty of trails minutes away, Whitefish's emergency department also sees its share of bicycle injuries. Wearing a properly fitted helmet is the best way to protect against head injuries, and Logan Health is happy to provide free helmets to community members without one. Cox attended and distributed bicycle helmets at the Whitefish "Walk N Roll" event last June, as well as the Eureka Farmers Market in July.

She also helped create a bike safety card to distribute in the community, along with the helmets. Cox and other nurses from the emergency department also perform bicycle safety checks at Logan Health's Annual Spring into Safety event each May.

STOP THE BLEED

CPR or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation classes save lives, as can Stop the Bleed, a class developed by the American College of Surgeons that teaches people how to stop bleeding in a severely injured person. In 2004, Cox co-taught 11 sessions with a total of 261 attendees, including students and staff at Whitefish Middle School and Whitefish High School.

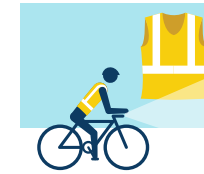
OPIOID HARM REDUCTION

In response to the misuse of opioids and increasing number of drug overdoses, The Montana Department of Health and Human Services established an initiative to train organizations and agencies to administer and distribute the opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone. Logan Health – Whitefish's primary care clinics in Eureka and Columbia Falls are a part of this harm- reduction initiative for opioid overdose. Since June 2024, the Eureka clinic has given out more than 150 boxes; each box comes with two doses. The Columbia Falls clinic on Talbot Road started their program in May 2025. With this training, both locations can now distribute Naloxone to the public with no appointment necessary.

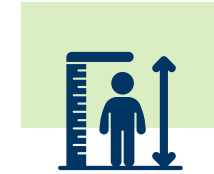
SAFETY TIPS FOR COMMUTING BY BIKE



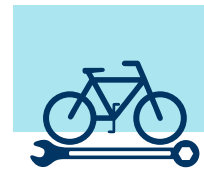
always wear
a helmet



use reflective
gear and lights



choose the right
sized bike



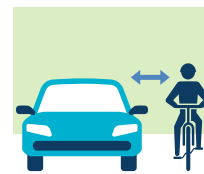
keep your bike
maintained



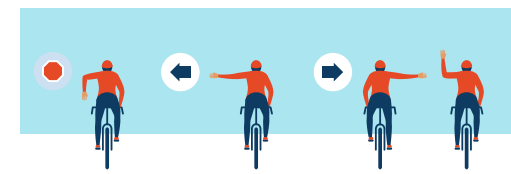
use dedicated
bike lanes



avoid busy
intersections



be seen,
be alert



follow traffic laws: use hand signals,
ride with traffic, ride single file

LOGAN
HEALTH

Strengthening community ties across senior living facilities

Recently, Logan Health – Chester’s long-term care and assisted living teams have partnered with the Sweetgrass Lodge, an independent senior living facility in Chester, to host regular events for the residents of each facility. These events are hosted monthly with each facility rotating as a host.

During the first month’s event, Logan Health – Chester Assisted Living hosted Sweetgrass Lodge, community members and long-term care residents at the assisted living facility. The event brought together old and new friends and fellow community members for socializing and connection. The intent for these gatherings is to bring together residents who may have previously lived in the same communal areas but have since moved and lost contact. Community members outside of these senior living facilities are also welcome to participate and connect, with the option to tour if they are considering becoming a resident.

These events are also meant to encourage families and provide assistance with planning for future transitions into any of these senior living facilities.

The first gathering held many emotions for some who recently transitioned into a new facility and were able to see old friends. We appreciate all those who are involved in making these gatherings possible and look forward to continuing the program for our residents and their families. Logan Health – Chester offers transportation to these events for those who need assistance and would like to join. We would also like to extend a big thank you to the community members who help with these events by providing homemade treats, playing music, or helping with set-up, take down and planning.



A warm welcome awaits: The table is set for a special tea party bringing together residents from Logan Health – Chester and Sweetgrass Lodge for an afternoon of connection, conversation, and community.

Pondera County's frontline for trauma emergencies

Logan Health – Conrad's trauma program plays a critical role in providing lifesaving care to residents in Pondera County. As a designated trauma receiving facility, Logan Health – Conrad serves as a vital first point of contact for patients experiencing serious injuries, including those resulting from motor vehicle accidents, falls, or farm-related incidents.

When living in a rural community, having a trauma-capable facility close to home is not just convenient, it's essential. Local access to advanced trauma care significantly improves survival rates and reduces the risk of long-term disability. Logan Health – Conrad's providers, nurses and support staff are trained to stabilize critical patients quickly and coordinate speedy transfers to higher levels of care.

“When it comes to caring for the trauma patient, it is crucial that our staff is prepared to handle these complex patients,” said Camille Ratzburg, BSN, RN, CEN, Logan Health – Conrad Trauma Coordinator. “Truly every second counts. Research has shown that the first hour after a traumatic injury is the most vital in improving the chances of a patient’s survival.”

In addition to providing immediate emergency care, the trauma program focuses on community education, injury prevention, and continuous staff training to stay aligned with the latest medical standards and community needs. The state of Montana requires trauma-certified clinical staff to complete two injury prevention activities within three years. In 2024, Logan Health – Conrad provided safety education at Conrad's National Night Out, taught health and wellness demonstrations to students in the classroom, held their annual community health fair and participated in various other injury prevention outreach activities.

To be a trauma designated facility, all nurses must be TNCC (Trauma Nurse Core Course) certified every four years and each year they must complete at least six hours of continuing education specifically related to trauma. This education could include attending local trauma conferences, participating in TEAMS courses, trauma skills day, advanced burn life support and more.

These proactive approaches and requirements to be a trauma-receiving facility ensure that the team at Logan Health - Conrad are always prepared to deliver high-quality care to Pondera County and surrounding communities even in the most critical moments.





First responders participate in a full-scale exercise at Logan Health – Conrad.

Health care meets education: Hospital funds school nurse role

For two consecutive years, Logan Health – Cut Bank board members and staff have been honored to provide a \$60,000 contribution for the Cut Bank school nurse program in support of Cut Bank Public School’s dedication toward the overall well-being of the student population.

“We value the school’s continued partnership and feel proud to work together to create a stronger, healthier future for our community,” said Cherie Taylor, Logan Health – Cut Bank President. “Cut Bank Public School staff, administration and board not only provide our community with a valuable education, but they also care for the health and safety of our students.”

The donation reflects Logan Health – Cut Bank’s mission to promote health equity and community wellness. Similar to the addition of the Logan Health School-Based Health Clinic located in Cut Bank Middle School, having a school nurse bridges the gap between health care and education and ensures the students’ physical and mental health needs are met without missing valuable class time. School nurse visits also allow parents to ensure that their children receive the care they need without having to arrange time off of work or transportation for the child.

The school nurse also helps manage chronic conditions, such as asthma or diabetes, tracks immunizations and handles minor illnesses or injuries – streamlining the role of clinic providers to focus on more complex cases.

“Working as a school nurse in a rural area like Cut Bank means being more than just a health care provider. I’m often the first and sometimes the only point of medical contact for many students,” said Emily Bye, RN, Cut Bank School Nurse. “I see firsthand how access to care, education and trust can transform young lives.”



Emily Bye, RN, Cut Bank School Nurse, examines student.

Take control of your diabetes with the DECIDE Program

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 77,100 adults in Montana have diagnosed diabetes. To alleviate the burden Montanans are facing when diagnosed with diabetes, the state's Department of Public Health and Human Services has chosen Logan Health Clinic – Shelby as a pilot clinic to roll out the DECIDE program, a free nine-week positive problem-solving support program, designed for adults 18 years or older with a diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

"I am excited to facilitate this program in Shelby and to help those in our rural communities take the next step in managing their diabetes," said Lisa Aichlmayr, RN, trained and certified DECIDE professional at Logan Health Clinic – Shelby.

DECIDE focuses on improving management skills, confidence and overall wellness through proven problem-solving techniques and peer support. The program offers nine weekly or bi-weekly in-person group sessions lasting about one hour each, teaching techniques to improve blood sugar levels, blood pressure and cholesterol, in addition to strategies for healthy eating, improving physical activity and medication adherence.

"I encourage those who have type 1 or type 2 diabetes to take advantage of this unique opportunity to enhance their diabetes management and improve their overall well-being," said Aichlmayr. "I look forward to supporting them on this journey."

To enroll or learn more, contact Lisa at (406) 966-7039 or laichlmayr@logan.org.
For additional information visit diabetes.mt.gov.



A heartfelt gift: How one family's legacy transformed cardiac care in the Flathead Valley

In early 2025, the Jim and CK Coles Foundation fulfilled a transformative pledge of over one million dollars toward the William James Coles Structural Heart Hybrid Surgical Suite at Logan Health Medical Center. First initiated in 2016, this philanthropic commitment laid the foundation for what is now one of the region's most advanced cardiac programs, providing life-saving procedures to patients in northwest Montana and beyond.

The suite, named in honor of Jim Coles' father, William James Coles — who died in 1947 at just 29 from then-inoperable heart valve complications — symbolizes a personal mission to improve health care access and outcomes. "The people of northwest Montana deserve access to top-notch health care," said Coles. "We wanted to help create a center that not only provides exceptional care but also puts this hospital — and this region — on the map. It's incredible to see how far the program has come since the original pledge."

That vision has come to life in a powerful way. Since opening in 2016, the Structural Heart Hybrid Surgical Suite has supported a broad range of minimally invasive procedures, including mitral valve repairs, transcatheter mitral valve replacements, paravalvular leak closures, and advanced vascular surgeries. It also supports bronchoscopy and endobronchial ultrasound procedures, with the ability to back up electrophysiology and catheterization labs.

One of the suite's major milestones came in 2025 with the completion of Logan Health's 500th TAVR surgery — a less invasive alternative to open-heart surgery for aortic valve replacement. The team has also performed more than 60 mitral edge-to-edge repairs, 15 transcatheter mitral valve replacements, and Montana's first LAMPOON procedure, which helps protect heart function during complex valve replacements.

According to Dr. Joshua Vogt, structural and interventional cardiologist, "The suite has made life-saving structural heart interventions a reality for northwest Montana, solidifying Logan Health as a trusted partner for comprehensive cardiac care."

At 1,768 square feet, the hybrid suite is nearly 40% larger than a traditional cath lab and features cutting-edge tools like mobile robotic fluoroscopy and cardiopulmonary bypass support. Its design allows for seamless transitions between catheter-based and open surgical techniques, which is critical during high-risk procedures.

Comparable facilities are located hundreds of miles away, making this suite a vital resource for patients across the Flathead Valley, the Hi-Line, and even parts of Idaho. For many, it's the difference between delaying care and receiving timely, lifesaving treatment.

"The generosity of the Jim and CK Coles Foundation has revolutionized cardiac care at Logan Health," said Kevin Abel, CEO of Logan Health. "Their support has helped us expand our program and deliver advanced care to patients who once had to travel far for these services."

Thanks to continued community support and cutting-edge innovation, Logan Health remains committed to raising the standard of heart care in rural Montana — right here at home.



Logan Health completed their 500th TAVR surgery in early 2025

Planting the seeds for healthy tomorrows

At Logan Health, the belief that community health begins long before someone enters a hospital room drives many of its community benefit initiatives. Two standout programs — Healthy Classroom Grants and Healthy Futures Scholarships — highlight the health system's ongoing commitment to supporting education, wellness, and the future of local health care.

The Healthy Classroom Grants program provides funding to teachers throughout the region to implement health-focused projects in their classrooms. These grants have supported a wide range of initiatives, from flexible seating arrangements that improve posture and concentration, to mindfulness corners that help students manage stress, to hands-on gardening projects that teach nutrition and encourage healthy eating habits.

Gail Hofstad, a counselor for Conrad Schools and recent grant recipient, is using the grant funds to institute a healthy snack program to address food insecurity.

"I work as the 7-12 Counselor for Conrad Schools, and I witness the tired and bedraggled kids that come in the morning needing something, anything, to eat. Students who are hungry can't perform like their counterparts who are consistently fed. This will help with the academic area for those who are in need of sustenance and can have a more level playing field."

The health system sees these grants as an investment in the well-being of local children. By promoting physical and emotional wellness at an early age, these projects help lay the groundwork for healthier communities in the years to come.

Complementing this classroom-based support is the Healthy Futures Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to high school seniors pursuing careers in health care. Each year, students from across the health system's service area are awarded scholarships to help them follow their passion for helping others, whether they aim to become nurses, doctors, therapists, or technicians.

Callie Wood, a student at Browning High School and recent scholarship recipient, shared in her essay her inspiration for pursuing a health care career and the importance of a scholarship for her future career in nursing.

"As a descendant of the Blackfeet Nation and resident of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, I have first-hand witnessed health care disparities in rural and Native communities. I aspire to use my education to ensure that quality health care reaches those who need it most. With the support of the Healthy Futures Scholarship, I can take the next step toward my dream of becoming a nurse, carrying forward the legacy of my mother and grandmother while forging my own path in the medical field. I am excited about the future, and I am ready to dedicate myself to a career that will allow me to serve, heal and uplift others for years to come."

Through these initiatives, Logan Health demonstrates that its commitment to health extends beyond clinical care. Supporting teachers, students, and future health care professionals is part of a broader strategy to build healthier communities through education and opportunity.

As part of its community benefit mission, the hospital continues to prioritize long-term, sustainable impact through programs like these. The success stories that emerge — whether from a thriving classroom or a dedicated new nurse — are reminders that the seeds planted today will shape the health of tomorrow.



LOGAN
HEALTH

DATE April 30, 2025

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Galata Elementary

\$ 500.00

Five Hundred + ⁰⁰/₁₀₀

DOLLARS

MEMO

Healthy Classrooms Grant

Vicki S. Quomiller

Logan Health awards classroom grants to local educators with \$500 towards classroom initiatives that promote health and wellness, safety, and community health needs.



Logan Health – Conrad leaders and nurses have fun while educating the community about colon health during the annual health fair.

2024 AWARDS ★ AND ★ RECOGNITION



2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellence by The Chartis Center for Rural Health

Quality:

Logan Health – Cut Bank and Logan Health – Conrad

Outcomes:

Logan Health Medical Center

Patient Perspective:

Logan Health – Whitefish



Logan Health – Shelby earned three **American Heart Association 2024 Achievement Awards:**

Get with the Guidelines – **Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Referring Silver**

Get with the Guidelines – **Rural Stroke Silver**

Get with the Guidelines – **Rural Stroke Bronze**



Logan Health – Conrad earned two **American Heart Association 2024 Achievement Awards:**

Get with the Guidelines – **Rural Stroke Bronze**

Get with the Guidelines – **Rural Stroke Silver**



Logan Health – Cut Bank earned **Montana Quality Program PIN Award 2024** for improving inpatient nutrition meals.



Logan Health Medical Center was named **2025 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital** by the Chartis Center for Rural Health

Logan Health – Whitefish received a **2024 5-star overall rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** for the second year in a row

LOGAN

HEALTH

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