

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a purple paper funnel. The person is wearing a high-visibility vest with orange and yellow sections. A butterfly with orange, black, and white markings is perched on the person's left hand. The background is a blurred green field.

# 2026 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

LOGAN  
HEALTH

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*On the cover: Butterfly release at the inaugural Cancer Survivor's Day 2025.  
Don't miss this year's Cancer Survivor Day June 7 at Glacier Bank Park.*

# A Message from the CEO

Each year, our Report to the Community provides an opportunity to reflect on what matters most: our commitment to improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve and providing quality, compassionate care for all. This past year has brought meaningful progress, thoughtful growth, and deepened connection across our region.

We are proud to share the real-world impact of our work through the many ways our teams engage beyond our walls. From Healthy Classroom Grants that support student wellness, to our art therapy program that fosters healing in new ways, to the dedicated efforts of our community health workers and outreach on the Hi-Line, we continue to meet people where they are and respond to the needs of our communities.

A significant highlight of this year is the continued expansion of services designed to improve access to high-quality care close to home. We introduced new specialty services, including ENT services in the Flathead Valley and much-needed dermatology care for patients on the Hi-Line. We also advanced treatment options with new prostate cancer and GERD therapies, expanded orthopedic services on the Hi-Line, and opened a new women's care clinic in Whitefish. In addition, we strengthened access to behavioral health services in rural communities, helping ensure more people receive the care they need.

At the heart of this report are stories that bring our mission to life. You will read about a patient who experienced a cutting-edge treatment for atrial fibrillation, a person supported through our financial assistance program, and the mother of a NICU patient who was so inspired by her experience that she chose to pursue a career in nursing.



As we continue to grow as an integrated system and strengthen independent health care across the region, we remain focused on building healthier futures. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and the privilege of serving our communities.

Clint Seger, MD  
CEO, Billings Clinic - Logan Health

# Logan Health by the Numbers 2025



## 6 HOSPITALS

Kalispell  
Whitefish  
Cut Bank  
Conrad  
Shelby  
Chester

**558 BEDS**

**70 CLINICS**



**448,959**  
Clinic Visits



**29,010**  
Surgeries



**11,546**  
Admissions



**48,009**  
ED Visits



**1,295**  
Births



**605**  
A.L.E.R.T.  
Flights



**4,618 EMPLOYEES**

**714 MEDICAL STAFF**

# Community Impact

**\$80,417,507**

Uncompensated cost of care

**\$42,989,316**

Subsidized health services

**\$8,892,012**

Health professional education

**\$3,205,761**

Community health improvement/research

**\$6,599,457**

Charity care

**\$92,704**

Contributions for community benefit

**\$771,273**

Community building activities

**\$142,968,030**

Total Logan Health Community Impact 2024

**\$2.1 Billion**

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

**150+**

Number of community events Logan Health supports each year

**~\$2.5 Million**

Voluntarily paid property taxes

**100+**

Community organizations Logan Health supports each year through donations, sponsorships, gifts-in-kind and volunteers

# 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.



Becky Cox, RN, emergency department nurse at Logan Health – Whitefish, does a helmet fitting at the Eureka Farmer's Market.



Logan Health – Conrad and Stokes Market proudly present funds raised from the annual food drive to Conrad Schools in support of their Backpack Program.



Flathead High School Organic Chemistry students visited Logan Health Medical Center to learn about radiologic and surgical technology.



Logan Health – Whitefish nurses Karrin Parker and Becky Cox provided helmets and safety tips at the Walk & Roll event in Whitefish.



Logan Health – Conrad President, Vicki Newmiller, presents a medal to Whoop-Up Fun Run top finishers.



*In partnership with Spirit Halloween, Logan Health Children's hosted their annual Spirit of Children event, bringing Halloween costumes to pediatric patients in the hospital.*



*Logan Health – Cut Bank Senior Leadership members enjoy their time preparing fresh burgers at the Cut Bank Homecoming Pep Rally and Tailgate celebration.*



*Logan Health Digestive Center raises awareness about colorectal cancer prevention through interactive education like the Mega Colon exhibit and promoting regular colonoscopies.*



*Students from Peterson Elementary in Kalispell stopped by to learn about pulmonology from surgeons Luis Alberton, MD, and Allison Alberton, MD.*



*Logan Health employees volunteer to cleanup portions of Highway 2 twice a year.*



*This school year, Logan Health was honored to host several high school interns from across the Flathead Valley.*

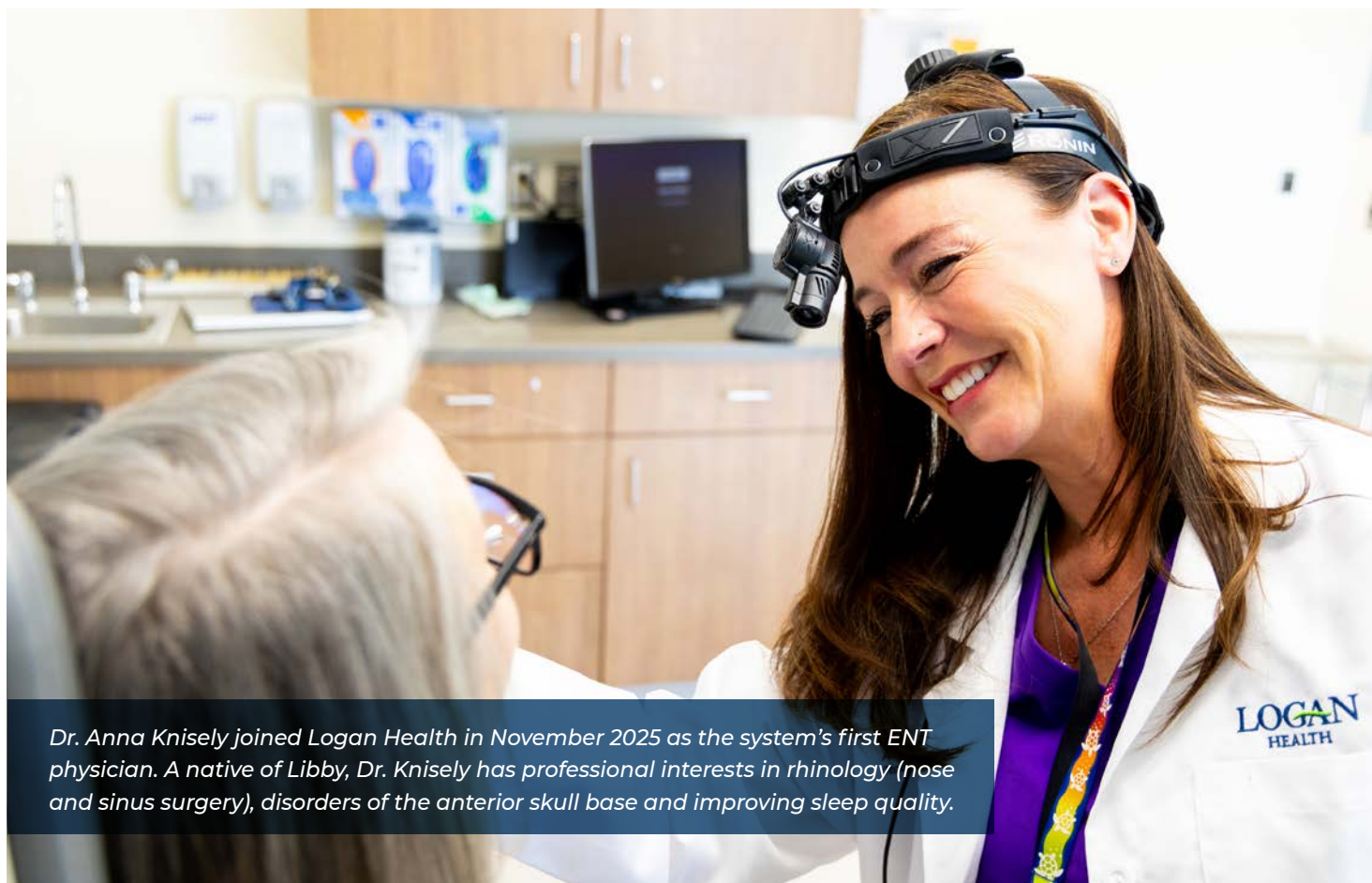


*Med Prep high school students from Shelby High School learn about surgical techniques from Logan Health Clinic – Shelby nurse practitioner, Ariél Weishaar.*

# Care that Grows with Our Community

## Logan Health launches multidisciplinary ear, nose, throat and lung service

*Logan Health recently introduced a new ear, nose and throat (ENT) service in Kalispell, expanding access to specialty care through an innovative, multidisciplinary approach designed to better address conditions affecting breathing, airway health and sleep.*



*Dr. Anna Knisely joined Logan Health in November 2025 as the system's first ENT physician. A native of Libby, Dr. Knisely has professional interests in rhinology (nose and sinus surgery), disorders of the anterior skull base and improving sleep quality.*

The service is led by board-certified otolaryngologist Dr. Anna Knisely and is housed within a new clinic called Logan Health Ear, Nose, Throat & Lung, bringing ENT, pulmonology and sleep medicine specialists together in one location. This collaborative model allows physicians to evaluate and treat symptoms that are often closely connected, including chronic sinus issues, airway obstruction, sleep apnea, voice and swallowing concerns, and other respiratory-related conditions.

Many patients experience overlapping symptoms that span multiple specialties, such as breathing difficulties that involve the nose, throat, lungs or sleep patterns. By integrating otolaryngology, pulmonary medicine and sleep medicine into a single clinic, providers can coordinate care more efficiently, reduce delays between referrals and develop more comprehensive treatment plans tailored to each patient.

The addition of ENT services strengthens Logan Health’s ability to provide coordinated specialty care closer to home for patients across northwest Montana. Rather than navigating multiple appointments across different locations, patients benefit from a streamlined experience supported by collaboration among specialists focused on related conditions.

This new service reflects Logan Health’s continued investment in innovative models of care that improve access while enhancing the overall patient experience. By aligning multiple specialties around shared symptoms and conditions, the Ear, Nose, Throat & Lung clinic offers a comprehensive approach to diagnosis and treatment designed to support better outcomes and long-term health.

### Logan Health launches dermatology services, welcomes new provider

*Logan Health has expanded its specialty care services with the addition of comprehensive dermatology care, led by experienced provider Lura Brown, PA-C. Brown began seeing patients in November 2025 and offers dermatology services across multiple Logan Health locations, including Conrad, Cut Bank, Chester and Shelby. Her arrival brings increased access to specialty skin care for residents throughout north central Montana, an area where access to dermatology has historically been limited.*



Lura Brown, PA-C

Brown brings nearly two decades of dermatology experience to the organization. After earning her Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) from Rocky Mountain College in 2007, she launched her career in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. A Montana native, she returned home in 2015 and has since practiced in Helena and Great Falls, further strengthening her ties to communities across the state. Brown’s clinical training took her to several regions of the country, including Texas, North Carolina, New York, Chicago, Wisconsin

and Montana, providing her with a broad foundation in evaluating and treating a wide variety of skin conditions.

“I am enjoying meeting the local people and helping them with their skin care needs,” Brown shared. “It’s hard to get specialty care in rural areas, and people appreciate having dermatology services close to home.”

Logan Health’s dermatology program focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders, such as acne, rashes, rosacea, skin growths and various forms of skin cancer. Brown offers comprehensive and compassionate care, supported by more than 18 years of clinical experience.

In addition to her professional dedication, Brown values building long term relationships with her patients and staying current with ongoing developments in dermatology.

**To learn more about dermatology services at Logan Health, visit [logan.org/dermatology](https://logan.org/dermatology).**

### Logan Health expands prostate cancer care with PLUVICTO treatment

*Logan Health is proud to announce the addition of PLUVICTO, a groundbreaking targeted treatment for prostate cancer, now available at Logan Health Medical Center. Logan Health is only the third health system in Montana to offer this innovative therapy, joining facilities in Helena and Billings.*

Unlike traditional chemotherapy, which affects the entire body, PLUVICTO is a targeted treatment designed to attack prostate cancer cells directly. This means patients often experience fewer side effects and generally feel less sick compared to systemic chemotherapy. The therapy is also quick and convenient, administered through a short intravenous infusion in a comfortable outpatient setting.

Patients typically undergo six doses of PLUVICTO, scheduled once every six weeks. Eligibility for the treatment is determined by a patient's referring physician or oncologist, who evaluates whether PLUVICTO is appropriate at a given point in the treatment journey. In some cases, it may even be recommended before chemotherapy.

The PLUVICTO treatment is administered at the Logan Health Medical Center Infusion Center, where patients receive the therapy intravenously in a supportive care setting. Logan Health's cancer and nuclear medicine teams successfully administered the first PLUVICTO treatment in September, marking an important milestone in expanding cancer care options for patients in northwest Montana.

This treatment is authorized by Logan Health Radiation Oncologists Jeffrey Eshleman, MD, and Justin Linam, MD, in collaboration with the Logan Health Nuclear Medicine program.

"PLUVICTO gives patients access to a more targeted, less invasive therapy while allowing them to stay near their support systems without traveling long distances for the latest innovations in cancer care," explained Dr. Linam.

**For more information about cancer services at Logan Health, visit [logan.org/cancercare](http://logan.org/cancercare).**



## Logan Health introduces advanced EndoFLIP Technology for esophageal care

*Logan Health Surgical Services has introduced EndoFLIP, an advanced technology that helps diagnose and treat swallowing and reflux-related conditions like gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Logan Health is the first health system in Montana to offer EndoFLIP as part of its gastrointestinal and surgical programs.*

EndoFLIP, which is short for Functional Luminal Impedance Planimetry, is used during upper endoscopy and select surgical procedures to provide real-time measurement of the function of the esophagus and the gastroesophageal junction, which is the point where the esophagus meets the stomach and helps control how food and stomach acid move between the two.

The EndoFLIP technology uses a soft, fluid-filled balloon equipped with sensors to measure pressure, diameter and distensibility, key factors that influence swallowing and reflux.

In addition to its diagnostic role, EndoFLIP is used during surgery for conditions, such as GERD, hiatal hernia and achalasia. Real-time feedback allows surgeons to tailor procedures to each patient's anatomy, helping to improve outcomes while minimizing complications like difficulty swallowing.

"This technology fills a critical gap in diagnosing esophageal motility disorders, particularly when other tests are inconclusive," said Dr. James Cromie, general surgeon with Logan Health. "We are very excited to offer the most advanced and comprehensive diagnostic testing technologies and treatments for our patients."

The addition of EndoFLIP reflects Logan Health's continued commitment to expanding access to advanced diagnostic tools and personalized surgical care for patients across northwest Montana and the surrounding region.



Members of Logan Health's Endoscopy team poses with the EndoFLIP in January 2025, following the first use of this new technology in Montana.



Tessa Winterton, MD, and Misha Russ, CNM, stand in front of the new women's care clinic in Whitefish.

## Logan Health Women's Care expands to Whitefish

In late 2025, Logan Health expanded women's care to the north end of the Flathead Valley by adding obstetrics and gynecology in Whitefish. Tessa Winterton, MD, Karysse Hutson, DO, and Daniel Tomlinson, MD, now offer obstetrics and gynecologic services at the Logan Health Specialty Clinic at 2000 Hospital Way in the Medical Village, just steps away from the Birth Center at Logan Health - Whitefish.

This expansion of services enhances access to Logan Health's comprehensive women's services and ensures continuity of care with the Birth Center at Logan Health – Whitefish. As a designated Baby-Friendly facility, Logan Health – Whitefish delivers around 600 babies annually and offers childbirth education and prenatal breastfeeding classes.

Dr. Winterton looks forward to collaborating with her colleagues at the specialty clinic to provide the best care possible for her patients.

"I am excited to partner with Logan Health - Whitefish to improve access to full-spectrum pregnancy and women's health care for the families of Whitefish and the surrounding communities," Dr. Winterton explained. "This collaboration will allow me and my colleagues the platform to provide even more comprehensive and coordinated care to women at every stage of life, and I look forward to our patients having an outstanding care experience."

Certified Nurse-Midwife Misha Russ, CNM, also joined the team in Whitefish, and Sheryl Logan, MD, will assist the hospital as a hospitalist in the Birth Center on an as needed basis.

## Logan Health – Whitefish Birth Center becomes a milk drop location

The Birth Center at Logan Health – Whitefish has partnered with Northwest Mothers Milk Bank to open a milk drop for breastfeeding mothers who wish to donate breast milk. Milk collected at Logan Health – Whitefish will support babies in neonatal intensive care units across the Northwest, including the NICU at Logan Health Medical Center, and help supplement the milk supply for mothers whose babies are underweight. Milk donors complete a screening process that includes an interview, a health history questionnaire and a blood test. For more information, visit [www.donatemilk.org](http://www.donatemilk.org).

## Logan Health expands orthopedic specialty care to Toole County

*Logan Health now proudly offers orthopedic specialty outreach services to residents in the Shelby area. Logan Health orthopedic specialist, John Willcut, FNP-C, began visiting Logan Health Clinic – Shelby in May 2025 and offers orthopedic services to patients of all ages.*

“We’re always excited to expand specialty care offerings in our community,” said Vicki Newmiller, Logan Health – Shelby President. “Expanding access to exceptional providers is an important strategic goal, and having an orthopedic specialist in Shelby helps us meet the needs in our community.”

Willcut’s orthopedic services include the treatment of joint, bone and muscle pain and injuries, as well as preventive care. Onsite physical therapy also is available at Logan Health – Shelby, providing close-to-home rehabilitation and supporting patients through their recovery and healing process.

“I enjoy meeting patients in their hometown and getting to know them to better care for their specific orthopedic needs for the lifestyle they desire,” said Willcut. “I have enjoyed coming to the Hi-Line and saving patients travel time, as well.”

The addition of orthopedic care in the Hi-Line region reflects Logan Health’s commitment to providing quality, compassionate care to the communities it serves. By expanding access to specialty services in rural areas, Logan Health is helping ensure patients can receive the care they need closer to home.

**To schedule an appointment or make a referral for orthopedics services at Logan Health – Shelby, call Logan Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at (406) 752-6784 or Logan Health Clinic – Shelby at (406) 966-7040.**



*John Willcut, FNP, orthopedic nurse practitioner, examines a patient at Logan Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine.*

## Logan Health – Chester brings new behavioral health service to rural health clinic

*Logan Health – Chester is pleased to announce the addition of a new behavioral health service at its rural health clinic, further expanding access to essential care for the Chester community and surrounding areas.*

Beginning in April 2026, a licensed clinical professional counselor candidate will join the care team and begin seeing patients. The counselor candidate will be working under the supervision of an experienced licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) while completing required clinical hours toward full licensure. This structure ensures that patients receive high-quality, evidence-based care supported by clinical oversight and professional guidance.

This new service reflects Logan Health – Chester's continued commitment to supporting whole-person care by addressing both physical and mental health needs in a convenient, local setting.

Patients will have access to a range of behavioral health services, including support for anxiety, depression, stress management, life transitions and other emotional or mental health concerns. Services will focus on creating a safe, supportive environment where individuals can explore challenges, build coping strategies and work toward improved overall well-being. Behavioral health services will be available for both pediatric and adult patients, 5 years old and up.

Appointments will be available Monday through Thursday at the Logan Health – Chester Rural Health Clinic, helping to reduce barriers to care often experienced in rural communities, such as travel distance and limited provider availability. Both in-person and telehealth appointments will be available.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (406) 759-5194.**



# Finding the Right Rhythm

Bob Griffin has always been an active person. The 76-year-old retired dentist has been rock climbing for more than 50 years and is an avid skier and mountain biker, as well as a regular in the gym. After finishing up a weight-training routine at the Logan Health Medical Fitness Center in June of 2025, Bob, who routinely monitors his heart rate during workouts, noticed on his Apple Watch that it was not dropping the way it normally would following physical activity. He decided to run the electrocardiogram (ECG) function on his watch, which produced an unexpected result: “Your heart has shown signs of an irregular rhythm suggestive of atrial fibrillation,” the alert read.

Atrial fibrillation, or AFib, is a common heart rhythm disorder that causes an irregular heartbeat and increases the risk of blood clots and stroke if left untreated.

Bob happened to be working out with his son, a neurosurgical physician assistant, who assessed the situation and directed him to go straight to the emergency department across the street. Upon arrival, the emergency team, in collaboration with the on-call cardiologist, confirmed he was in AFib and administered medication to bring his heart rhythm back to normal. He was monitored for a time and eventually cleared and released with a medication plan and an appointment with the Logan Health Heart & Vascular clinic.

Once there, Bob was connected with a general cardiologist to coordinate his care and the clinic’s electrophysiology team, led by Dr. Matt Brunson. Electrophysiology is a specialized area of cardiology focused on diagnosing and treating heart rhythm disorders like AFib. Bob was diagnosed with paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, a version that occurs intermittently rather than continuously. Dr. Brunson spoke with him about treatment options. For patients with AFib, there are typically two options for treatment: Medication or a minimally invasive cardiac ablation procedure.

“Both are legitimate options for most patients,” said Dr. Brunson. “About half start with anti-arrhythmic medication. The other half prefer to move directly to ablation to treat the underlying electrical problem.”

Medications are an effective way to treat AFib, but some patients can develop negative side effects. That was the case for Bob. “My heart rate had lowered quite a bit to the point where I had to ease off the medication a bit,” he recalled. “I was eager to pursue other treatments, and it was clear the ablation was the best option for me.”

Dr. Brunson informed Bob of a newer form of ablation for AFib that Logan Health had adopted just months earlier, known as pulsed field ablation, or PFA. Ablation works by disrupting the abnormal electrical signals in the heart that cause AFib, helping to restore a normal rhythm. While traditional ablation techniques rely on either extreme heat or cold to correct those signals, PFA uses targeted electrical pulses to treat the problematic heart tissue. Today, all AFib ablation procedures at Logan Health are performed using this pulsed field approach because it carries less risk of damaging nearby structures like the esophagus and nerves, which lowers the risk of complications and allows for faster recovery and overall better patient outcomes.

**The technology was introduced nationally in 2024 following FDA approval, and Logan Health moved quickly to bring the procedure to Kalispell. Recognizing both the advancement in patient care and the growing need for specialized heart rhythm treatment in northwest Montana, Dr. Brunson and the electrophysiology team worked with Logan Health administrators to make PFA available locally.**



*Bob Griffin poses with the electrophysiology team at Logan Health Heart & Vascular. (L-R) Bob Griffin, Dr. Matt Brunson, Kiersten Hubbard, Aimée Zupicich.*

The first PFA procedure at Logan Health was performed in April 2025. By the time Bob met with Dr. Brunson for his initial visit, the team had already completed dozens of cases using the pulsed field method, gaining early experience with the technology and seeing overwhelmingly positive results. After discussing the option with his care team and doing his own research, Bob felt confident that PFA was the right treatment choice for his condition.

Bob's procedure was scheduled later in the year, following the completion of another necessary medical procedure. By the time he underwent his ablation in November, more than 100 PFA procedures had been completed by Dr. Brunson and his team, a milestone that reflected both the demand for AFib care in the Flathead Valley and the success of the new technology.

"It was reassuring to know they had already done that many successful procedures," Bob said, noting that he was the 102nd PFA case completed in Kalispell. "When you're having a procedure like that, it helps to know your provider has a lot of experience."

**Bob described the entire process — from initial consultations through the day of treatment — as seamless. The procedure itself took less than an hour, with his total time at the hospital amounting to roughly five hours, including preparation and recovery. He was able to go home that same day.**

As Bob had hoped, the recovery from the procedure was minimal. He was advised to avoid strenuous exercise for about a week, allowing his body time to heal. Beyond that brief restriction, he experienced no complications and was able to quickly return to the active lifestyle he has enjoyed for decades.

Stories like Bob's show a growing demand for advanced heart care in northwest Montana. "Seeing how quickly pulsed field ablation has taken off shows how much of a need there is in this community," said Dr.

Brunson. "For many patients, it has made a real difference in their lives and offering it here in Kalispell helps us meet the growing demand for advanced, low-risk treatment options. Our team is looking forward to connecting more patients to the right treatment option and expanding access to this procedure throughout northwest Montana."

**For more information about heart services at Logan Health, visit [logan.org/heart](https://logan.org/heart).**



*Dr. Brunson explains to Bob how the Pulsed Field Ablation procedure works.*

# Compassion in Action: How Logan Health's Financial Assistance Program Changes Lives

For many patients, a medical challenge brings more than physical pain; it brings fear about the financial impact that follows. At Logan Health, the Financial Assistance Program exists to ensure that access to medically necessary care is never limited by a patient's ability to pay. Rooted in compassion and delivered with dignity, the program has become a critical lifeline for individuals and families across our region.

**The organization's financial assistance policy offers a sliding scale based solely on household income and family size. Each situation is evaluated individually, taking into account income, available resources and the amount the patient is responsible for paying. While the policy provides structure, it is the financial counselors who bring the program to life.**

"We guide the patient ... [and] help them find a way to take care of any balances that they have pending. Our leadership has fine-tuned our program, allowing us to establish personal relationships with our patients," shared Financial Counselor Lisa Harbaugh. "The relief in their voice when we tell them that we're going to send them an application and help them," Harbaugh emphasized. "[Worrying about paying their bill] causes a lot of stress for a lot of people."

That stress often turns into relief once patients understand they are not alone.

Counselors routinely witness the profound emotional weight that medical bills can carry. Financial Counselor Holly Miley recalled working

with an uninsured family whose seriously injured child required emergency air transport and intensive care.

"The entirety of the bill was forgiven," she said. "They were so grateful... Logan Health's financial assistance program has a lot of heart behind it."

For many patients, the conversation goes beyond dollars and cents. That broader impact is something the entire team takes pride in.

"When people come in to talk with me, a very small portion of what they talk about is their financial situation," Financial Counselor Sarah Ritchie explained. "A lot of time they're talking about their whole life, their life situations, what's going on... we are part of something much larger."

After surviving a serious motorcycle accident that required surgery and intensive care, Gregg Caley described the fear he carried while recovering.

"Laying in intensive care, the thought went over and over in my mind, how on God's green earth am I going to pay for all of this?" Caley said. "I prayed asking God if there was any way, just this one-time Father, could you please somehow, some way help me ... [Afterward] I ran into someone that said I could apply for financial aid."

When he received notice that his bill had been fully forgiven, the effect was life changing. More than financial relief, the program gave him peace of mind.

"You can't even begin to imagine the anvil ... taken off of my shoulders," he said. "I feel as though I can breathe again. No more stress."



*Gregg Caley stands with his motorcycle prior to the accident.*

Despite the program's reach, counselors frequently encounter patients who hesitate to apply because they assume they will not qualify.

"We encourage all of our patients to apply for financial assistance," said Manager of Financial Assistance Joni Struck. "While you may not qualify for 100% coverage, our program uses a sliding scale, and you may be eligible for a 35% or 50% discount to help reduce your financial burden."

Across clinics, hospitals and communities, Logan Health's Financial Assistance Program quietly delivers compassion when it is needed most. For those who manage it, the reward is simple.

"In this position we have the ability to make a difference," Struck said.

And for the patients whose burdens are lifted, that difference lasts a lifetime.

Free copies of the Financial Assistance Policy and the Financial Assistance Application are available through any of these sources:

***In Person***

At a check-in desk in the hospital or a Logan Health provider's clinic

***Over the Phone***

(406) 752-1767

***Online***

[logan.org/financialassistance](http://logan.org/financialassistance)

***By Mail***

Logan Health Financial Assistance  
Attn: Financial Advisors  
310 Sunnyview Lane  
Kalispell, MT 59901



*Logan Health Financial Counselors (pictured left to right) Joni Struck, manager; Lesli Flora, Lead; Lisa Harbaugh, Sarah Ritchie and Holly Miley*

# Healthy Classroom Grants Making a Difference in Local Classrooms

Through the Healthy Classroom Grants program, Logan Health is helping local educators fund initiatives that support the health, wellness and safety needs of their students. From elementary classrooms to high school leadership programs, these initiatives are making a true difference in the lives of local students.

**Deborah Gideons' sixth grade classes at Eureka Middle School** are participating in a comprehensive wellness experience that supports both physical and mental health. Students track their daily steps with pedometers, write in gratitude journals, reflect on healthy habits, plant seeds in the wellness garden, complete KIND projects tied to the book *Wonder* and participate in "Motivational Mondays." These activities were made possible through the Healthy Classroom Grant. Gideon said students have been fully engaged and are beginning to connect the dots between their daily choices, movement and mindset and their overall well-being.

**Muldown Elementary School teacher Miranda Shadle and her fourth grade class** are bringing science lessons to life thanks to their new hands-on tools acquired with the grant. During a recent geology unit, students were able to examine and identify rocks from a new classroom rock collection. A seismograph model helped them better understand how earthquakes work. In addition to the science resources, the grant also funded new recess equipment designed to promote movement and healthy activity. The added equipment encourages students to stay active, build coordination and practice teamwork during unstructured playtime. Shadle shared that her students, "love the equipment," and that

"having real materials to explore has made learning more engaging and memorable."

**Lisa Pollard of Whitefish Middle School** used her grant to strengthen life-saving skills in her classroom. She was able to attain four adult CPR manikins that provide real-time feedback. Having this additional equipment helps her students practice in groups of three instead of six. The smaller groups have led to more hands-on time and individualized coaching. Pollard added that her students are becoming increasingly confident in their CPR skills, which could make a true difference in the event of an emergency.

**Grant recipient Cody Olson is using the funds to prepare Whitefish High School HOSA students** for the State Leadership Conference, happening this spring in Billings, Montana. His students are finishing technical skill videos for competition, and Cody expects six to eight students to qualify for state. At the state conference, students will have the opportunity to compete in events like CPR/first aid, dental science and creative problem solving. The whole group is excited for the opportunity to display their skills and talents.

**Zachary Hayes at Shelby Junior High School** used grant funds to obtain ten sets of snowshoes, allowing his students to safely participate in class and school snowshoeing activities. The program encourages physical activity, teamwork and a connection with nature during the winter. Zachary shared, "It was fun to see the students test out the snowshoes. They realized how they could be a useful and fun way to get outdoors." One student, Brielle Hooker, added that "the field trip was fun, and I would like to go again!"



*Students at Shelby Junior High School enjoy school snowshoeing activities thanks to their Healthy Classrooms Grant.*

**Conrad High School seventh- and eighth-graders, along with biology students in Monica Tomayer’s classes,**

learned through hands-on investigations using GlowGerm simulated lotion and black light analysis to evaluate effective handwashing techniques, reinforcing the importance of proper scrubbing and drying. Her sophomore biology students expanded their research by culturing bacteria from school surfaces and body areas, counting colonies, performing Gram staining, using microscopes, comparing cleaning products and conducting zones of inhibition tests with *E. coli*. The project strengthened students’ understanding of hygiene, microbiology and laboratory procedures.

**At Columbia Falls High School, Cydney Finberg-Roberts** used the grant funds to obtain detailed anatomical models that provide students with hands-on access to body systems. The models allow students to see each organ and how they are oriented together. “Thank you so much for the opportunity to give students access to these anatomical structures. They are equally intrigued, interested and a little freaked out by them. I love seeing all their reactions,” Finberg-Roberts shared. She is also looking forward to using the models in the full unit and her medical terminology class next year.

**At Ronan High School, Katie Umbriaco** brought her “Fast Food Favorites—Made Healthier” unit to life in her culinary classes. Students take on the role of nutritionists, analyzing fictional teen profiles, researching fast food nutrition information and creating realistic, personalized recommendations for healthier choices. They also reflect on their own eating habits and explore the connection between nutrition and mental health. Umbriaco said, “This experience helps students realize that healthy eating can be practical, affordable and empowering.”

**With support from Logan Health’s Healthy Classroom Grant, these educators are creating experiences that reach far beyond the classroom, inspiring students to grow as learners and future leaders in our communities.**



# Transforming Cancer Journeys: Finding Connection Through Art

When Paul Levanen first heard about art therapy at Logan Health, he was skeptical. Already navigating treatment for multiple myeloma, the idea of returning to campus for a class—especially one centered on art—felt uncomfortable.

Paul recalled telling his care team, “I’m no kind of artist. I don’t know nothing about artists or drawings.” Still, with encouragement from Logan Health Naturopathic Oncologist Dr. Lynn Troy, he decided to give art therapy a try. That choice changed far more than he expected.

“I was kind of sheepish when I came in,” he said of his first session. Sitting among six to eight other patients, Paul wasn’t sure what to say or do. As introductions began and stories were shared, something shifted. “Some had the same thing I did, so we could compare notes... I wasn’t feeling like I’m the only person with any type of cancer,” he added. He found comfort in connecting with others on a similar journey.

Art therapy uses creative expression to open conversations. Materials help guide each person’s experience. Led by registered art therapists, group sessions help patients process emotions, reduce stress and connect with others. Each session offers simple prompts and a range of materials, allowing patients to explore what they’re feeling at their own pace.

Logan Health Board-Certified Art Therapist Jason Heisey, LCPC, ART-BC, facilitated Paul’s group, focusing on a safe, judgment-free space. “There’s no right or wrong outcome,” he reminds participants. The art, he explained, is simply a starting point—a catalyst for reflection and conversation.

Paul felt that catalyst immediately. In one session, he drew a place where he felt completely comfortable. In another, he closed his eyes and scribbled, later turning the marks into a bird.

“I just kind of felt like, OK, I can fly away,” he said. Over time, the projects became deeply personal, including a small box filled with symbols of faith, family and love. “I’ve held on to these because they’re special,” Paul shared. “They brought me to a better frame of mind.”



What surprised him most was how quickly the group became a source of support. “By the end, it was okay to talk about it,” he recalled. “It was a huge opening.” The sessions helped him feel grounded, connected and understood. “I couldn’t wait to get back,” he added. “It kind of formed a family.”

Two years later, Paul still looks at his artwork and reflects on his time in art therapy. For patients who feel unsure, he offers simple advice: “It’s understandable to feel apprehensive, but after a couple of sessions, you think, ‘This is what I need.’”

His message is clear. Healing doesn’t always come from medicine alone. Sometimes, it starts with a piece of chalk, an open table and the freedom to simply be yourself.

# From NICU Mom to Pediatric Nurse: Kayla McMahon's Story

After leaving the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with their child, most parents hope to put their experience behind them, but Kayla McMahon felt the opposite. Her time in the NICU inspired her to pursue a career working with pediatric patients of all ages at Logan Health Children's.

When Kayla was 13 weeks into her pregnancy, she found out that she had placenta previa and started experiencing placental abruption. She was restricted to 13 weeks of bed rest and eventually received a Cesarean section to help both her and her baby. While in the NICU, a cascade of medical concerns followed that kept the entire family on their toes.



"My baby ended up having intussusception at seven days, so a big bowel surgery, followed by every other thing under the sun," Kayla remembered. "They did an interview on her in the Daily Inter Lake because she was, at that point, the youngest baby to survive there. It was one thing after another."

Kayla and her family spent 90 days in the NICU. On the second week of being home, her baby came down with community-acquired pneumonia and coded for 24 minutes. After being life-flighted to Denver, she stabilized and made a full recovery. Today, Kayla's daughter is now seven years old and full of life. "We joke that she was feisty in the NICU, and she's still feisty," Kayla shared.

**Kayla's decision to start nursing school came about when her daughter was just six months old. Seeing the nurses care for her own child inspired her to take on the same role. Moreover, having the support of the pediatric teams at Logan Health Children's proved very convenient in her studies.**

"It was very handy doing half of your homework in the hospital," she explained. Kayla spent many hours studying in the pediatric unit of the children's hospital, and she would sometimes ask staff to explain nursing concepts as she was learning about them.

Today, Kayla has been working at Logan Health Children's for over a year and uses insights she gained during her own NICU stay to provide quality, patient-centered care to all the families she sees.

"The most rewarding part is getting to give back to the parent and knowing the little things, like 'Did you actually order food?', 'Have you eaten anything?' or 'Have you slept?' because that's all important," she said. "Knowing the other side of the couch helps. I feel like you can give more compassionate care."

Kayla looks forward to the rest of her career with enthusiasm. "I've just been enjoying it. I'm happy to be here and hope to be here for quite some time," she added.

As Kayla continues her career with Logan Health Children's and various other departments, there's no doubt that her care is marked by a level of empathy that few experience.



*Kayla's time in the NICU with her daughter inspired her to pursue a career working with pediatric patients at Logan Health Children's.*

# Community Health Care Workers Bring Care Beyond the Clinic

**An emerging role in health care is helping bridge the gap between patients and the services they need, often far beyond the walls of a clinic. Logan Health's community health care workers (CHWs) may be found meeting people in coffee shops, community centers, food banks or community gardens. Based out of rural primary care clinics, these team members are intentionally embedded in their communities to help improve access to care and connect patients with critical resources.**

It began with a grant from the Montana Health Network. In 2022, Logan Health – Whitefish used the grant to hire two CHWs, one for Columbia Falls and one for Eureka. Handpicked from within each community, these workers understand the barriers to health and the available resources because they live in the communities they serve.

Marissa Reynolds, director of care continuum at Logan Health – Whitefish, oversees the program and the two community health care workers.

“The program’s intention is to foster connections in the community,” Reynolds explained. “As trusted, frontline professionals, they bridge the gap between our hospitals and clinics and the communities we serve.”

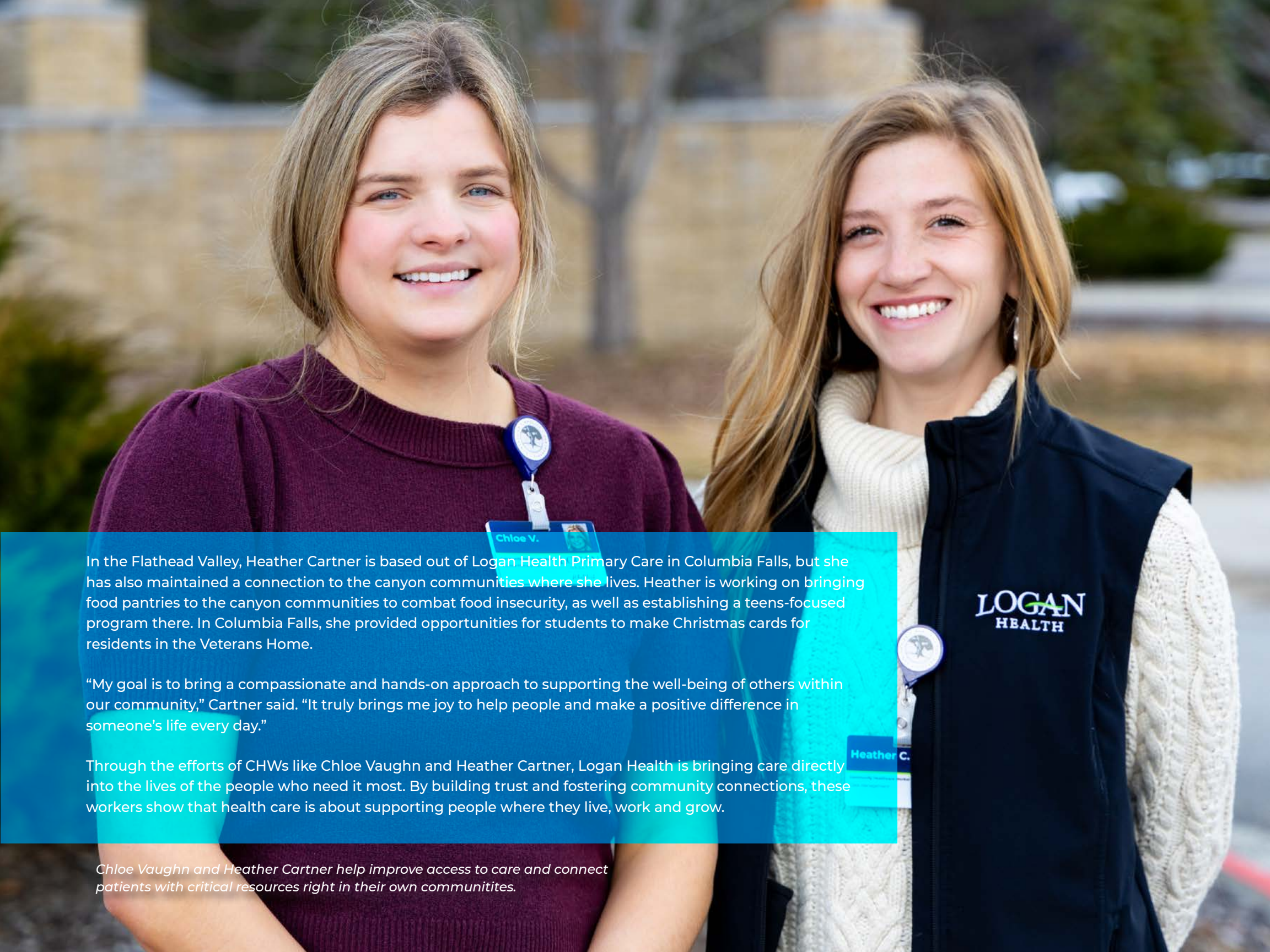
Reynolds added, “With feet on the ground, these two workers identify gaps in their communities and develop programs to fill them which ultimately improves the quality of health care and yields better outcomes.”

Much of the work relates to helping meet social determinants of health including access to transportation, safe housing and food security.

A registered medical assistant, Chloe Vaughn helps community members in Eureka find the resources they need, such as medical equipment, support programs, mental health services and connecting services within Logan Health.

“I advocate by helping people understand what services are available, removing barriers and speaking up about the common needs I see in the community,” Vaughn said. “I make sure families get connected to the right programs, so they can get better care.” She added that she loves building relationships and creating spaces where the community can thrive as a whole.

Vaughn also works on Eureka's Family Strong Program, which is a non-profit focused on providing space for local families to connect and learn while strengthening community bonds. She assists with coordinating regular family gatherings like its preschool playgroup where children and their parents or caregivers can get together with other families for playtime. In addition to Vaughn, a nurse from Logan Health's primary care clinic in Eureka also attends and can answer health-related questions. Other events like their cornerstone potlucks feature themes for food and different activities. All program activities help families connect, have fun and learn about local resources available for parents and young children.



In the Flathead Valley, Heather Cartner is based out of Logan Health Primary Care in Columbia Falls, but she has also maintained a connection to the canyon communities where she lives. Heather is working on bringing food pantries to the canyon communities to combat food insecurity, as well as establishing a teens-focused program there. In Columbia Falls, she provided opportunities for students to make Christmas cards for residents in the Veterans Home.

“My goal is to bring a compassionate and hands-on approach to supporting the well-being of others within our community,” Cartner said. “It truly brings me joy to help people and make a positive difference in someone’s life every day.”

Through the efforts of CHWs like Chloe Vaughn and Heather Cartner, Logan Health is bringing care directly into the lives of the people who need it most. By building trust and fostering community connections, these workers show that health care is about supporting people where they live, work and grow.

*Chloe Vaughn and Heather Cartner help improve access to care and connect patients with critical resources right in their own communities.*

# Saving Miles, Strengthening Communities

*Local specialty care on the Hi-Line reduced patient travel by 305,504 miles*

In 2025, Logan Health continued its commitment to expanding specialty care across north-central Montana. This effort is already making a meaningful difference for rural patients. By offering high-quality, specialty services in Chester, Conrad, Cut Bank and Shelby, Logan Health helped patients avoid a combined 305,504 miles of travel. Without these local services, many patients would have needed to drive to Great Falls, Kalispell or Whitefish to access specialty services.

For many rural families, long-distance travel is more than an inconvenience. It can mean missed work, increased fuel costs, the challenge of coordinating childcare, dangers of winter driving or very limited transportation options, especially for older adults and those without reliable vehicles, resulting in delayed access to the care they need. By prioritizing regional access to care, Logan Health is helping ensure that rural residents receive world-class medical expertise without sacrificing time, safety or affordability.

**Over the past year, Logan Health expanded and strengthened multiple specialty offerings across the region, giving rural patients access to services that once required hours of travel. These specialties include:**

- **Cardiology**
- **Colonoscopy and endoscopy**
- **Dermatology**
- **General Surgery**

- **Obstetrics & gynecology**
- **Orthopedics**
- **Sleep Medicine**
- **Telehealth-supported specialty consultations**

Each of these offerings reflects Logan Health's mission to strengthen rural access to care through strategic partnerships, expert recruitment and continuous investment in regional clinics.

Leaders across Logan Health have highlighted both the practical and emotional impacts of improved local access.

President at Logan Health in Conrad and Shelby, Vicki Newmiller, said access to quality medical care, whether specialty services or everyday primary care, should not be determined by a patient's location.

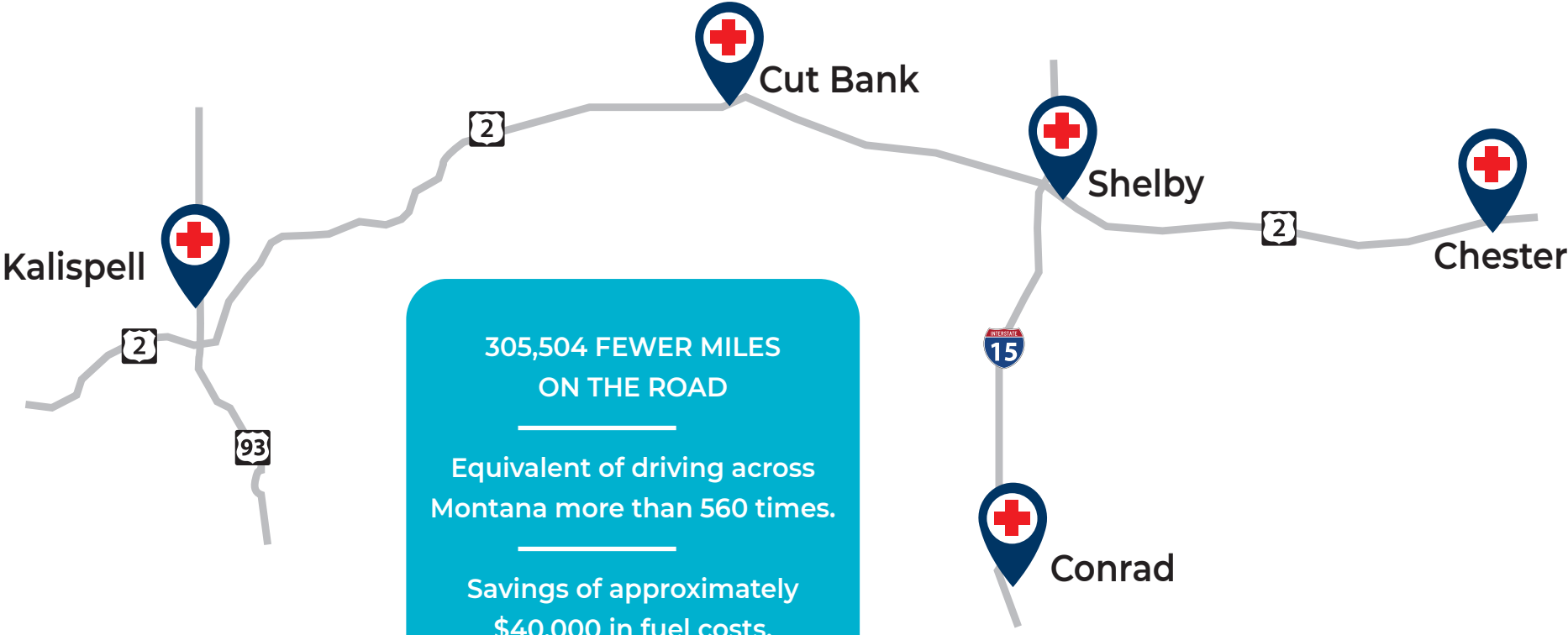
"For rural families, having care close to home means fewer miles on the road, less time away from work and school, and greater peace of mind," she said. "We are deeply proud to care for our neighbors and to strengthen the health of our local communities."

Cherie Taylor, President of Logan Health Chester and Cut Bank, emphasized the invaluable impact of local access to care, adding, "Every mile a patient doesn't have to travel matters. Local access to care not only saves time and expense for rural families, but it also improves continuity by allowing patients to build lasting relationships with their care teams. We're committed to delivering equitable care that keeps patients connected, supported and close to home."

According to Logan Health Executive Director of Regional Operations Rhonda Tallman, "Investing in local clinics helps expand services, strengthens the Hi-Line and ensures rural patients continue to receive the care they need close to home. These programs are an important part of our long-term vision for strong, sustainable rural health care."

**Throughout the Hi-Line, patients are already feeling the difference. Less time on the road means more time at home, faster follow-up appointments and better long-term outcomes.**

The 305,504 miles saved represent far more than fewer hours on the road; they symbolize greater health equity for rural Montanans. Logan Health remains committed to continually evaluating which services can be brought closer to home on the Hi-Line, making exceptional care more accessible within the local communities it serves.





# 2025 AWARDS ★ AND ★ RECOGNITION

*Hundreds of kids participate in the Annual Logan Health Kids Triathlon each year. Don't miss this year's event July 11 at Woodland Park!*



Logan Health  
Medical Center

**Stroke and  
Resuscitation Care**

Get with the Guidelines:

**Stroke GOLD PLUS**

Target: Stroke Honor  
Roll Elite Plus

Target: Type 2 Diabetes  
Honor Roll

**Resuscitation BRONZE –  
Adult**

**Resuscitation BRONZE –  
Pediatric**



Logan Health – Shelby  
earned four **American  
Heart Association 2025  
Achievement Awards:**

Get with the Guidelines:

**Rural Stroke Bronze**

**Rural Coronary Artery  
Disease NSTEMI-ACS Bronze**

**Coronary Artery Disease  
STEMI Referring Bronze**

**Rural Coronary Artery  
Disease STEMI Bronze**



**Rural Cardiac Care**

Get with the Guidelines:

**Coronary Artery Disease  
STEMI Receiving Center  
GOLD PLUS**

Target: Type 2 Diabetes  
Honor Roll

**Rural Coronary Artery  
Disease STEMI GOLD**

**Rural Coronary Artery  
Disease NSTEMI-ACS GOLD**

**Coronary Artery Disease  
NSTEMI GOLD**

Target: Type 2 Diabetes  
Honor Roll

**Heart Failure GOLD  
PLUS**

Target: Heart Failure  
Optimal

Target: Type 2 Diabetes  
Honor Roll

**Rural Heart Failure  
SILVER**



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



**Top Hospital in Montana  
for Community Benefit  
(2025) – Lown Institute**



Logan Health – Whitefish  
**2025 Montana PIN  
Quality Award** for  
Implementing SDOH in  
OB Unit



Logan Health – Whitefish  
**CMS 5-Star Rating for  
Cleanliness**



# LOGAN

HEALTH

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