



Dakota Hospital Foundation
20 South Plum Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

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Cindy.Benzel@sanfordhealth.org
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Dakota Hospital Foundation *Times*

March 2026

Vermillion, South Dakota



The Best Medicine: LAUGH

A great evening of memorable laughter, food, and comedy with 160 of our friends. Marc Rueben headlined the 3rd Annual Dakota Hospital Foundation The Best Medicine: LAUGH Event at Old Lumber Company Bar & Grill.



An Evening For Women

On April 2, one of our signature events in partnership with Sanford Vermillion brought together a room full of inspiring women, guided by “Dr. Mo” Melissa Dittberner, PhD, CPS, PS, LMT, in reflection on inner journeys and meaningful connections. It was an evening full of energy, inspiration, & connection - truly a celebration of the remarkable women in our community!



DHF Leadership Dinner

Dakota Hospital Foundation’s Annual Leadership Dinner brought together community partners and supporters for an evening of celebration and recognition. Keynote speaker Lt. Col. Andrea (Gregoire) Kaman highlighted leadership and service as the DHF showcased its impact on community health and wellness.

Yes, I would like to support Dakota Hospital Foundation’s mission *Dedicated to Community Health and Wellness*

Please accept my donations follows:

Legacy	\$25,000	cumulative gift	Founder	\$500
Visionary	\$10,000		Investor	\$250
Trustee	\$ 5,000		Builder	\$20 to \$249
Benefactor	\$ 1,000		Other	

- Enclosed is a check for my gift of \$ _____ to my _____ Visa _____ MasterCard
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Credit Card Number: _____ 16 digit number

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Authorized Signature: _____

This signature authorizes Dakota Hospital Foundation to charge the credit card number above the stated and agreed upon amount.

I would like my membership donation allocated to the following project(s):
(Multiple selections will be distributed equally unless otherwise specified. If left blank, the donation will be allocated to General Membership.)

- General Membership
- Becky & Dave Nelson Healthcare Career Scholarship
- Cynthia & William Dendinger, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship
- Dennis & Mary Jo Olson, MD Family Medicine Scholarship
- Employee Crisis Fund
- Patrick & Theresa Wingen Family Endowment Vocational School Scholarship
- Timothy J. & Kathleen Tracy Health Administration Scholarship
- Wanda & Tim Hannahs Scholarship

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- Please contact me regarding planned giving.
- My employer matches charitable contributions. I have enclosed the appropriate form.
- I am interested in having a Dakota Hospital Foundation Board member contact me.

Please return to: **Dakota Hospital Foundation**
20 S Plum Street
Vermillion, SD 57069



dakotahospitalfoundation.org



Dakota Hospital Foundation

A foundation that gives back.



Jessica Jordan, DO

April 14, 2026
Dakota Center

Community Celebration

August 4, 2026

Vermillion High School



Leadership Dinner
Joseph Segeleon, MD
May 11, 2026

Muenster University Center



November 2026

What's Under the Hood?



DHF Golf Social
July 20, 2026

The Bluffs Golf Course



dakotahospitalfoundation.org



2025 Community Health
Service Award Recipient

Congratulations to Matt Lavin on this well-deserved honor! Community members expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for Matt's unwavering commitment to serving Vermillion. His leadership and generosity have had a lasting and positive impact on our community.



DHF Golf Social

The 20th Annual Dakota Hospital Foundation Golf Social was held on July 21. Dakota Hospital Foundation, in partnership with Sanford Vermillion, proudly hosted this annual fundraising event in memory of Sheri Ellis and Mary Merrigan, honoring their lasting impact on our community.



Mens' Night Out

On November 12, we welcomed a great group of guests for Men's Night Out, an engaging and informative evening dedicated to men's wellness. "What's Under the Hood," focused on the importance of preventative maintenance.



Community Celebration

On August 5, the annual Community Celebration was held at the Vermillion High School. The event was a great success - with a strong turnout of community members who came together to enjoy the festivities.



Marquee Messages

It's a fun and meaningful way to share Holiday Greetings, Birthday Wishes, Congratulations, or messages for any occasion. Whatever you'd like to say, we'll proudly display it on the Sanford Vermillion LED sign located at the corner of Plum and Main Streets.



Healthcare Career Camp

The Dakota Hospital Foundation is proud to support the USD Healthcare Careers Summer Camp, bringing hands-on healthcare experiences to high school students. The camp introduces students entering their junior or senior year to careers in nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, & emergency medicine through clinical simulations, anatomy labs, CPR certification, and tours of the Sanford Vermillion Medical Center.

John Prescott and Andy Howe were recognized for their dedicated service on the board from 2014 to 2025. Each served as Board President during their respective terms, providing steady leadership and guidance throughout their tenure. Thank you, John and Andy, for your commitment and leadership!



Thank you to Katherine Price for her two years of dedicated service as Board President. Katherine will continue to serve on the board in the role of Past President.

We are pleased to announce the board's new leadership: Lisa Ketcham will serve as President, Tom Overby will move into the Vice President position, and Michael Smith will serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

Welcome to the Dakota Hospital Foundation Board, Crystal Brady!

The Dakota Hospital Foundation is pleased to welcome Crystal Brady to the Board of Directors. Crystal grew up in Adrian, Minnesota, and earned her degree in psychology from the University of South Dakota. She began her law enforcement career with the Vermillion Police Department in 2000, rising through the ranks from detective to Lieutenant of Investigations. In 2022, she was appointed Chief of Police. A longtime Vermillion resident, Crystal raised her two daughters in the community—both graduates of USD. Her oldest daughter now serves as a nurse at Sanford Vermillion. Deeply committed to community service, Crystal has supported numerous civic and youth organizations throughout the years. She enjoys spending time with her daughters and her new grandson. We are grateful for Crystal's leadership and community dedication and look forward to her contributions to the Foundation.



Lisa Ketcham
President



Tom Overby
Vice President



Michael Smith
Secretary / Treasurer



Katherine Price
Past President

Dakota Hospital Foundation

A foundation that gives back.



Dr. Damon Alvey
Board Member



Crystal Brady
Board Member



Joni Freidel
Board Member



Julie Heine
Board Member



Farron Pratt
Board Member



Lana Svien
Board Member



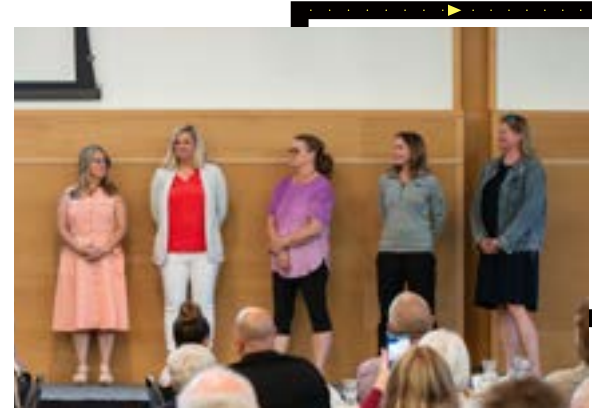
Cindy Benzel
Foundation Director



Veronica Schmidt
Administrator &
Chief Executive Officer



Jenn Eli
Executive Assistant



2025 Employee Idea Challenge

The 2025 Employee Idea Challenge generated an impressive array of innovative ideas.

Two projects rose to the top and were selected as this year's winners:

- Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy proposed by Paula Wright, PT
- The Safe and Sound Bassinet Upgrade proposed by Amber Baker, RN

Additional ideas submitted for consideration included:

- OB Labor & Delivery Room Sofa Sleepers proposed by Teri Nygaard, ES Supervisor
- Project Infection Prevention at Vermillion Care Center proposed by Courtney Gould, RN
- Trauma Bed for the Emergency Department proposed by Dawn Swanson, Radiology Tech
- Emergency Department Remodel proposed by Dawn Sawtell, RN

2025 Dakota Hospital Foundation

Scholarship Award Winners



Employee / Child Scholarship (\$1000 each)

Madigan Walllin; Elise Fornia; Sarah Burbach & Gunnar Swanson



Becky & Dave Nelson Healthcare Career Scholarship (\$1000 each)

Sofia Carrigan; Jaeley Christensen; Ayla Dimmer;
Mya Halverson; Theo Wittmus



Patrick & Theresa Wingen Family Scholarship (\$1000 each)

Christian Fiscus



DHF Investment brings DEXA scans back to Sanford Vermillion



Dakota Hospital Foundation is proud to announce the purchase of a new DEXA Scan machine for Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, restoring an important diagnostic service to our local community.

DEXA scans are the gold standard for measuring bone density and play a critical role in detecting osteoporosis and assessing fracture risk. With this addition, patients will have access to this essential test right here in Vermillion.



2025 DHF Grant Winners



Gayville-Volin Porchlight Program - Outdoor Classroom; Vermillion Fastpitch Softball Equipment Grant; SESDAC, Inc. Sensory Garden; Vermillion Youth Soccer League Barstow Park Soccer Complex Goals; Boys & Girls Club Edible Gardens & Feed Vermillion's Brain Boost Program

Wanda & Tim Hannahs Scholarship (\$700)

Samantha Skaare



Dennis & Mary Jo Olson Family Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)

Jessica Scheer

Cindy & William Dendinger, MD Family Medicine Scholarship (\$700)


Christopher Keyser



Timothy J & Kathleen Tracy Health Administration Scholarship (\$600)

Ava Stoick

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**Thank you
to our
2025 Donors!**