2023
A YEAR OF good
SANFORD HEALTH FOUNDATION
Dear Friends,

As we often say, philanthropy is what makes progress possible. And because of you, progress is happening every day — for patients at every age and every stage of life, in every community we serve.

Thanks to your generosity, we’re powering new insights, driving breakthroughs and providing more patients and families with world-class, comprehensive care close to home.

Your generosity is making a difference for patients and families who are navigating some of life’s most challenging journeys — patients like Charleigh Ferguson in Hillsboro, North Dakota; Lindi Mrazek in Bemidji, Minnesota; and Melissa Weber in Canistota, South Dakota — each of whom you’ll read about in this report — as well as thousands of others who count on Sanford Health for life-saving, life-changing care.

Thank you for Giving for Good, for entrusting us with your philanthropic wishes, and for partnering with us as we put your generosity to work for the good of our patients and families, dedicated employees and the communities we serve.

With gratitude,

Deb Koski

Deb Koski
Chief Philanthropy Officer
As a nonprofit health care system, we know that philanthropy is the bridge between today’s success and tomorrow’s breakthroughs. Here, your generosity is at work in extraordinary ways in every community we serve — improving patient outcomes, ensuring staff remain on the leading-edge of care, and enabling us to move discoveries from the lab to the bedside faster than ever before.

We’re grateful for our growing community of donors who continue to show their passion for improving health care through philanthropy.

- **17,100 DONORS** joined us to help advance health, hope and healing.
- Together, we raised **MORE THAN $15 MILLION** to support innovation, research, care and everyday comforts for patients and families.
- We put your generosity to work in meaningful ways — distributing **$14 MILLION** to areas that encompass the greatest need for patients.

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, 2023 WAS ANOTHER YEAR OF GOOD:

- We provided care to **1,506,536 PATIENTS**.
- 95 principal investigators pioneered new breakthroughs by leading more than **400 RESEARCH STUDIES**.
- **3,673 PATIENTS** participated in clinical trials, accelerating new treatments, and new solutions.
- We trained the next generation of doctors, nurses and researchers by hosting more than **8,000 STUDENTS** in clinical, nursing and lab rotations, internships and more.
- We provided a place of belonging, faith and love for nearly **11,000 SENIOR RESIDENTS** each day through the Good Samaritan Society.
Endowment funds carry the names, hopes and charitable intentions of visionary donors who are passionate about improving the future of health care.

We’re privileged to manage hundreds of endowment funds, which grow over time thanks to thoughtful investment strategies. Earnings from these permanent funds are distributed annually to help advance new treatments, pioneer life-saving medical research and further define the future of health care across our region.

For Rob and Leanne Jordahl, giving to Sanford Health is an expression of gratitude.

After their newborn son required life-saving care from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Sanford Children’s in Fargo, the hospital quickly became much more than a medical facility — it became a sanctuary for hope, love and miracles.

“We received supportive and compassionate care from everyone,” Leanne said. “Their guidance and understanding helped us through a difficult time.”

Wanting to recognize and celebrate the place and the people that became a lifeline during their darkest hours, the couple established an endowment at the Sanford Health Foundation to support Sanford Children’s and future families who will tread the delicate path they once walked.

The Jordahls also started an endowment to support the greatest needs at the Roger Maris Cancer Center to benefit patients and their families.

Today, their generosity is advancing hope and creating miracles in countless ways. Their endowments help to ensure that pediatric patients and oncology patients have access to leading-edge, compassionate care close to home, and that families have the support they need to navigate their loved one’s health care journey.

Through their planned giving, they are also members of our Legacy Society, a growing community of donors who are investing in the future of health care. Learn more about our Legacy Society on page 31.

Endowment funds help grow at a rate of 9.23% over a period of 5 years.

$157 MILLION
Total held in endowment funds at the Sanford Health Foundation

1,148
Total endowment funds

9.23%
Average return on investment for endowment funds over 5 years

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Generosity helps us care for patients today, and it fuels innovation and discovery to accelerate better treatments for tomorrow. 100% of every dollar raised through the Sanford Health Foundation directly supports our efforts to provide access to world-class health care across America’s heartland.

Over the last year, your kindness made a difference in countless ways. In our 2023 Annual Report, we celebrate how philanthropy is impacting care for children, cancer patients and those with behavioral health conditions throughout the communities we serve.
GIVING FOR BRIGHTER futures

Every day, a local child’s life is changed forever by an injury or unexpected diagnosis. Thanks to you, kids like Charleigh and their families can turn to Sanford Children’s for world-class care, close to home.

CHARLEIGH’S STORY

After being placed into emergency foster care in 2018, Charleigh was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit at Sanford Children’s Hospital in Fargo where doctors initially gave her less than 12 hours to live.

Thanks to life-saving equipment and expert medical care made possible through philanthropy, Charleigh was quickly diagnosed with a rare, but treatable, immune deficiency disorder.

She spent two months in the hospital with us receiving treatment for her condition, including chemotherapy and several rounds of surgery, as well as support for behavioral health needs and other physical challenges. Each day, she grew stronger and more vibrant thanks to support from our Child Life Specialist team and the on-site hospital teacher — two initiatives supported entirely through donations.

Today, Charleigh is a spunky 11-year-old who loves art, basketball and spending time with friends. When she grows up, she wants to be a nurse “so I can help people,” she said.

For her adoptive family, she’s a miracle they cherish every day.

“For two months, the staff here at Children’s helped Charleigh get through everything,” said Jared Ferguson, Charleigh’s adoptive father. In her future, “I can see her doing something that helps others, because of the impact that Sanford Children’s had on her during that critical time in her life has carried through.”

YOUR IMPACT

Together, we raised $5 million for Sanford Children’s in 2023 — philanthropic support that fuels everything from staff education and support for families, to patient care services, to leading-edge technology like GlideScopes, life-saving video laryngoscopy equipment that allows us to better care for delicate NICU patients who require intubation.

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

1. Your help powers vital services like Child Life, social work, music therapy and more — all of which are provided at no cost to families.

2. Your generosity fuels leading-edge equipment like Giraffe OmniBeds for NICU patients and other life-saving technology such as pediatric ventilators, ultrasound machines, resuscitators and more.

3. Your support helps us provide assistance for families to help with treatment-related costs not covered by insurance and supports ongoing education, ensuring our staff remain on the forefront of care.
CANCER

GIVING FOR hope

Your generosity supports education and training for staff, as well as life-saving equipment and leading-edge research so patients like Lindi Mrazek from Bemidji can enjoy life again.

LINDI’S STORY

Cancer has touched multiple members of the Mrazek family and for Lindi Mrazek and her daughter, Kaci Peterson, the journey has been difficult and complex. But through it all, the family continues to see hope thanks to the expert and compassionate care they receive at the Sanford Joe Lueken Cancer Center in Bemidji.

After supporting her mom as she recovered from breast cancer and lung cancer, Kaci was devastated when her dad, Dan, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer. “The first thing you notice when you go into the Cancer Center is the staff — everyone is so kind and caring and gracious. We had top-notch care from the top to the bottom,” Kaci said, recalling time she spent with her dad while he received treatment at the Joe Lueken Cancer Center.

Sadly, Dan passed away in November 2022. Soon after, Lindi learned her breast cancer had returned. But with Sanford Health on her side, she knew she wouldn’t be fighting alone. “You may not have cancer, but you will know somebody in your lifetime that has it, and they will tell you how important the cancer center is here in Bemidji,” Lindi said. “We’ve got the best team here — emotionally, physically — they help with everything.”

After her mom’s diagnosis, Kaci said “we felt confident because we knew we had a team we could rely on. Sanford has done so much in our community and brought so many different services in. We’re so lucky for that.”

YOUR IMPACT

Together, we raised $5.7 million to help those living with cancer. Thanks to you, we’re fueling breakthroughs in research, we’re accelerating new treatment innovations through clinical trials, and we’re advancing important programming to help patients and families navigate some of life’s most challenging journeys.

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

1. Your help powers vital services like adult and pediatric nurse navigation, survivorship programming, healing arts and massage therapy — all of which are never billed to patients.

2. Your generosity fuels leading-edge equipment like ultrasound machinery, bone marrow transplant technology, chemotherapy recliners and more.

3. Your support helps us provide assistance for treatment-related costs not covered by insurance, complimentary wigs and head coverings for chemotherapy patients and more.
Melissa Weber from Canistota, South Dakota, still remembers the day she received her breast cancer diagnosis.

“I knew the minute I saw the call,” she said.

From her diagnosis through chemotherapy, radiation and surgery, the road to recovery was long and difficult, but support from the team at the Edith Sanford Breast Center made the journey easier.

“The hardest part of the treatment for me was seeing the effect it had on my kids, my family, everyone else,” Weber said. “I’m a year out now, and I’m just so thankful to my team of doctors and nurses and everybody at Edith Sanford who helped me along the way. I couldn’t have asked for a better team.”

Dominick Weber is a registered nurse at Sanford. He’s also Melissa’s son. He witnessed first-hand the support his family received from the Edith Sanford Breast Center throughout his mom’s cancer journey.

“The staff and doctors here at Sanford do an incredible job of making sure the patient comes first,” Dominick said.

Melissa agreed.

“When I think about Kami, my nurse navigator, and everything she did for us, and knowing her position is made possible through philanthropy — it’s amazing.”

EDITH SANFORD BREAST INITIATIVE

GIVING FOR healing

Generosity fuels life-changing programs that offer breast cancer patients and their loved ones support and guidance as they navigate the journey to recovery — helping families like the Webers find hope in healing.

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YOUR IMPACT

$1.3 MILLION • PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Together, we raised $1.3 million for patients who rely on the Edith Sanford Breast Initiative for compassionate, personalized care. From prevention and screenings to diagnosis, treatment and wrap-around efforts like our Nurse Navigator program, we’re bringing health, hope and healing to those with breast cancer.

1. Your help powers new insights and new breakthroughs in breast cancer research, provides support for clinical trial patient care costs not covered by insurance and more.
2. Your generosity is improving access to life-saving screenings and fueling leading-edge equipment like 3D mammography machines, leading to faster and more accurate diagnoses for more women and men, no matter where they live.
3. Your support ensures staff remain on the forefront of breast cancer care through advanced training, and helps us provide vital support services such as complimentary wigs and head coverings for chemotherapy patients, nurse navigation, survivorship programming and more.

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Today nearly one in 10 Americans of every age, gender, race and socioeconomic status will have an eating disorder in their lifetime — with the pandemic contributing to a recent spike among adolescents seeking care.

Tim and Dawn Bowman’s daughter, Rachel, was just 13 when they first noticed changes in her weight and eating habits. It was the beginning of what would become a long, painful battle against a disease that is often misunderstood and rarely talked about.

In her late 20s, Rachel’s struggles became increasingly severe. Seeking hope and a higher level of care, she discovered the Sanford Eating Disorders and Weight Management Center in Fargo.

Rachel participated in the center’s inpatient and partial hospitalization programs on and off for nearly four years. She dedicated her days to working toward personal goals with a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, therapists, dietitians and other skilled staff.

Sadly, the Bowmans lost Rachel in 2021.

Devastated, Tim and Dawn made the decision to turn their anguish into action — raising awareness and driving change through philanthropy.

But by sharing her story, and through a bequest in her name — made through the Sanford Health Foundation to the Sanford Fargo eating disorders program — they know Rachel’s legacy will live on to help others.

Your support is helping to turn heartbreak into hope for thousands across our communities who are struggling with behavioral health conditions.

Together, we raised $726,000 to help address the growing behavioral health needs of our communities. Thanks to philanthropy, we’re training more behavioral health professionals for the workforce, and we’re advancing efforts to provide greater access to care. We’re also introducing new and innovative solutions like BeHEARD for Educators in North and South Dakota, an initiative fueled by support from First International Bank & Trust that provides teachers and educators with resources to help identify teens who may be struggling with behavioral health issues.

Your generosity at work

1. Your help is powering innovative partnerships to train tomorrow’s clinical psychologists, integrated health therapists, social workers, counselors and behavioral health technicians.

2. Your generosity is helping to enhance care by integrating more behavioral health therapists into primary care clinics.

3. Your support is fueling research and analysis to identify patients who may be at risk for adverse behavioral health outcomes, allowing us to develop proactive outreach and care strategies.
The story of Sanford Health is written by our doctors, nurses and staff members who touch the lives of patients and families every day through exceptional care and kindness.

The Guardian Angel Program is a special way grateful patients and families can recognize exceptional caregivers who’ve made a difference. 100% of their gifts of gratitude go toward helping future patients and families in their communities.

Join us in celebrating our 2023 Guardian Angel honorees. These extraordinary caregivers each received special recognition and a Guardian Angel pin they can wear to share the power of kindness.

**GUARDIAN ANGEL HONOREE:**

**Dr. Jessica Sedevie**

Obstetrics and gynecology, Bismarck

“Dr. Sedevie is the best-of-the-best when it comes to providing care for pregnant women. She genuinely cares, and it’s obvious that she loves what she does. It reassures me that we are in great hands, and our baby is already so well-cared for.”

— Bismarck patient

**GUARDIAN ANGEL HONOREE:**

**Dr. Roxanne Newman**

Cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, Fargo

“Dr. Newman saved my life. Several hospitals declined to operate on me because they said it was too hard of a surgery. Dr. Newman, with the help of other physicians, agreed to do surgery. Without Dr. Newman, I would not be here today. She gave me a second chance at life and I will never be able to thank her enough.”

— Fargo patient

**GUARDIAN ANGEL HONOREE:**

**Dr. Eric Larson**

Internal medicine, Sioux Falls

“Dr. Larson and his staff always go above and beyond. They are always there for us and are always thinking about our health and well-being. They are the best.”

— Sioux Falls patient

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**GUARDIAN ANGEL HONOREE:**

**Scott Thompson, RN**

Sanford Joe Luken Cancer Center, Bemidji

“I met Scott for the first time when he gave me my first infusion. He became my ray of sunshine with his happy and positive energy. He walks his life from his heart and integrity. He gave me hope for being able to keep growing old. Blessed be.”

— Bemidji patient

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Learn more about how you can celebrate a caregiver through our Guardian Angel program.
Janice Lueken knows the importance of having world-class health care available close to home. After navigating health issues from the late 1990s well into the 2000s which required extensive travel for treatment, Janice and her late husband, Joseph, chose to step forward in philanthropy to help bring more treatment options to northern Minnesota.

Since her first gift, made with her husband more than 20 years ago, to her latest gift in 2023, Lueken’s generosity through the Sanford Health Foundation has helped transform local health care by supporting efforts like robotic-assisted procedures at the Sanford Bemidji Heart and Vascular Center to the latest in cancer care.

According to the latest data, each year more than 500 people are diagnosed with cancer in the Bemidji area. After Joseph passed away in 2014 following a heart-breaking battle with cancer, the Lueken family agreed there was no better way to remember his life and legacy than through a gift to help create a new, state-of-the-art cancer center in the community he loved.

Thanks to support from the Joseph and Janice Lueken Family Foundation, the Sanford Joe Lueken Cancer Center opened in 2018.

Today, Janice continues to give in support of the Cancer Center, including gifts to fund the purchase of a new Linear Accelerator, as well as PET and CT scan technology. Her ongoing support is inspired by the memory of her husband and the special place they called home for most of their lives.

“My husband battled a number of serious health problems, but through it all his positivity, spirituality and determination stood strong. Joe was truly an inspiration to us and all who knew him,” Janice said. “He once said, ‘When you can give back to the community who gave so much to you, there’s no greater feeling in the world.’ I couldn’t agree more. There’s no greater joy than to know we’re helping to bring health and healing to those right here in our community.”

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Over his 34-year career with Sanford Health, Dr. Walter Frank has cared for, literally, thousands of hearts across western North Dakota. Well known as the pioneer of cardiac medicine in Bismarck, Dr. Frank helped establish the first modern catheterization lab as well as nuclear cardiology, cardiac rehabilitation and other life-saving heart programs.

Even though he’s now retired, Dr. Frank is still caring for hearts — this time through the goodness of his own.

Together with his wife, Carolyn, a long-time volunteer for the Sanford Health Foundation, he established the Dr. Walter and Carolyn Frank Endowment for Cardiology through the Sanford Health Foundation. The fund will continue the Franks’ legacy of care by helping to support Sanford’s cardiology programs in Bismarck for generations to come.

“We believe in being part of the community and giving back to the community,” Dr. Frank said. “This hospital has been a part of my life for a long time, and I would like to see it rise.”

“I think it’s important that this community have access to quality cardiac care,” he said. “In our way, we hope to ensure what’s here now can continue and grow – with good equipment and good personnel for future patients who need cardiac services and cardiac care.”

Carolyn agreed.

“This community has been so good to us. We want to pay that forward,” she said.

“With your support, we’re fueling leading-edge technology, enhancing care and accelerating new breakthroughs — helping patients live longer, healthier lives.”

Thanks to you, we put philanthropy to work for patients and families across the Bismarck region in 2023 in areas like these:

**CARING FOR KIDS**
- Our tiniest patients are finding brighter futures thanks to leading-edge care and equipment in our NICU.
- Pediatric patients are experiencing joy and laughter despite being in the hospital thanks to our Child Life Specialists (shown above).
- Student-athletes are excelling thanks to Sanford Sports scholarships, and kids across our communities are finding hope and healing thanks to access to behavioral health support in local schools.

**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR US**
- We’re supporting the health and well-being of our staff with opportunities to reset and rejuvenate in the “Zen Den,” the Medical Center’s new wellness room for frontline staff.
- We’re filling vital workforce needs through our Internationally Educated Nurse program and through scholarships for nursing students in partnership with NDSU.
- We’re ensuring our staff remains on the leading-edge of care thanks to high-fidelity simulation equipment.

**CARING FOR THOSE WITH CANCER**
- We’re making sure no cancer patient fights alone thanks to efforts like our Look Good Feel Better Program, as well as complimentary wigs and head coverings.
- We’re providing support for patients who are traveling far from home, including gas cards and assistance with lodging.
For Norma Peltier, giving back is simply a way to pay it forward. “My husband, Joe, and I always felt that if we are blessed, we should in turn give to others,” she said. Sharing her resources, her time and her ideas for the greater good of all, Norma’s caring fingerprints can be felt across the Fargo area. When it comes to health care, her philanthropic impact to Sanford Health and Fargo-area patients is simply extraordinary.

Her generosity is fueling research and accelerating new treatment options for those with Parkinson’s disease and cancer thanks to endowments held in her name at the Sanford Health Foundation. Her gifts to Sanford Health are bringing peace and comfort to those who visit the Joe and Norma Peltier Chapel, a calming refuge lit by beautiful stained glass windows — a space inspired by the role faith has played in her life. Her support is helping to recognize, celebrate and connect active members of the military and veterans. Inspired by her husband’s US Army service, Norma’s gifts through the Sanford Health Foundation helped established the Veterans Club at the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo and recently launched the new Veterans Club inside our Broadway location — welcoming spaces for service members, veterans and their families to connect and reset. Her generosity also provides the yarn for veteran prayer shawls that are gifted to critically ill veterans in our hospitals. Norma’s gifts of time are equally as inspiring. Since the early 1970s, she has contributed more than 3,500 hours as a Sanford Health volunteer. We are grateful to celebrate Norma’s latest charitable endeavor — a transformational gift for patient lodging. The Peltier Lodge will provide patients and families a home away from home while they receive treatment at the Sanford Roger Maris Cancer Center.

Because of your generosity, we’re advancing new treatments, fueling discovery and providing compassionate care to help patients and families navigate some of life’s most challenging journeys. Thanks to you, we put philanthropy to work for patients and families across the Fargo region in 2023 in areas like these:

**CARING FOR PATIENTS**
- We’re transforming care for those with cancer and blood disorders thanks to our world-class bone marrow transplant program at the Roger Maris Cancer Center. In 2023, we launched the latest innovation in care — CAR-T cell therapy. This cutting-edge, life-saving practice collects a patient’s own T cells and genetically modifies them to recognize, grow and attack their own cancer cells.

**CARING FOR KIDS**
- We’re providing brighter futures for our tiniest newborns — babies born before the 26th week of pregnancy or who weigh less than 28 ounces — thanks to the new micropreemie program inside the NICU at Sanford Children’s (shown above).
- We’re enhancing the care we provide for pediatric trauma patients and families thanks to the KangooFix Neonatal Restraint System, a new device in many Sanford ambulances which can transport mothers and newborns together following births that occur outside the hospital.
- We’re helping student-athletes develop valuable life skills through the new Teiken Academy.

**CARING ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY**
- In 2023, we opened the new Veterans Lounge inside the Sanford Broadway Medical Center, a special place to recognize and celebrate enlisted and veteran service members.
- We stocked Wellness Pantries across our rural network and Sanford Children’s clinics for patients and families who identify as food insecure.
- We advanced important facility enhancements and renovations at our Thief River Falls and Mayville medical centers.

**TOTAL RAISED: $6.3 MILLION**
GIVING FOR good IN SIOUX FALLS

For David and Christine Billion, building a brighter tomorrow begins by investing in kids today. From supporting programs for underserved youth, to their recent gift through the Sanford Health Foundation for a new park and respite area outside the Sanford Children’s Hospital, the Billions are using philanthropy to make a difference in the lives of kids across the Sioux Falls area.

“We believe every child deserves a bright future, no matter their circumstance,” the Billions said. “We’re inspired by the amazing work Sanford Children’s Hospital does to bring not only healing and hope to local kids and families, but also joy through play, through art and music therapy, and now, through the outdoors. For a child, that joy is essential to the healing process, and to their ability to thrive in the future.”

The Billion Pavilion is set to open this spring at the Castle of Care. Made possible thanks entirely through philanthropy, including an inspirational lead gift from the Billions, the park will include accessible play equipment for pediatric patients, several shaded areas, including a covered picnic shelter for patients who cannot be in the sun, a caterpillar climber, spring rider, patterned path routes, an oodle swing and sound arch, and more.

Erin Sanderson serves as executive director for the Sanford Health Foundation in Sioux Falls. She called the Billion Pavilion “a dream come true.” “Play is such an important part of the healing process for children,” Sanderson said. “This outdoor park and respite area will allow children to play and experience the therapeutic benefits of being outdoors as they heal and recover. We’re so grateful to all those who helped make this possible and we can’t wait to put it to good use.”

With your support, we’re forgoing the status quo and blazing a new trail — pioneering life-saving medical research and enhancing care for patients at every age and every stage of life.

TOTAL RAISED: $7.4 MILLION

Thanks to you, we put philanthropy to work for patients and families across the Sioux Falls region in 2023 in areas like these:

CARING FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

- We’re enhancing the care we provide through Sanford Child’s Voice, one of only three nationally accredited Child Advocacy Centers in South Dakota, thanks to a new full-time behavioral health therapist. Funded entirely thanks to philanthropy, this position is providing crucial on-site mental health support services to children and families in crisis.

- We’re providing nearly one ton of food each week to patient families through Kids’ Kitchen, the food pantry located inside Sanford Children’s Hospital.

CARING FOR PATIENTS

- We’re giving strength to those impacted by breast cancer thanks to our team of Nurse Navigators, complimentary wig and head covering offerings, and survivorship programs.

- We’re enhancing care in our network communities with the addition of new 3D mammography — ensuring women have access to cutting-edge early detection technology, no matter where they live.

CARING FOR THE FUTURE

- Our team of expert researchers continues to work toward a cure for type 1 diabetes. In 2023, we treated our first patients with Tzield, a medication proven to delay the onset of type 1 diabetes.
For Sanford employees facing extraordinary and unexpected financial hardships, the Employee Crisis Assistance Program is a lifeline to hope and healing.

Thanks to the generosity of donors who are passionate about supporting our health care heroes and staff, we’ve provided more than $2 million in assistance to more than 2,100 employees since 2020.

For Leigh Merritt, a customer service representative for Sanford Health Plan in Sioux Falls, the Employee Crisis Program provided critical help during one of life’s darkest moments.

“About a year ago, I was suffering from some serious health issues,” Merritt said. “It was such a difficult time. I reached out to Employee Crisis and received assistance for rent, groceries and gas. That was just a lifesaver for me.”

Now fully recovered, Merritt remains grateful for the support — so much so that she recently made the decision to pay the kindness forward.

On Giving Tuesday, she connected with the Sanford Health Foundation to become an employee donor. Today she supports the work of Sanford Health through our payroll deduction program.

“I’m really humbled and grateful to have received support when I needed it, and I just want to pay that forward now that I’m back on my feet,” she said. “I say on a daily basis that I’m grateful for my job and being able to work with a group of coworkers who all want the best for each other. Everyone is here for each other. Our leaders have been a huge support to me and my family. I’m very lucky and very fortunate to work here.”

For Hedeen, giving felt like the right thing to do. She never expected recognition — so it came as a surprise when she was recently welcomed into the Foundation’s Honors Society. The Society is a circle of the Foundation’s most generous donors who have given $10,000 or more.

Today, she continues to give and do more good around her. She hopes to inspire others to do the same.

EMPLOYEE CRISIS: YOUR IMPACT

- Assistance Provided in 2023: $274,000
- Employees Helped in 2023: 207
- Since 2020: More than $2 million provided to more than 2,150 employees

Employees can support any cause close to their heart through payroll deduction or one-time gifts. Donations of PTO can also be made to support the Employee Crisis Program.
Many know Greg Sands as a visionary force in the Sioux Falls business community — a leader whose commitment to company culture, hard work and innovation has transformed Sands Wall Systems into one of the most successful, respected companies in the Midwest. His professional achievements are, without question, extraordinary.

For Sands, life is about more than corporate success — it’s about making a difference, giving back and advancing meaningful change — all of which he’s doing through philanthropy.

A Legacy of Care

Inspired by his own personal experiences and his passion for helping others, Sands recently established a planned gift through the Sanford Health Foundation to support Sanford Behavioral Health and its future work in addiction services.

“I am a big believer in supporting mental health and addiction services throughout our community,” said Sands. “I see it constantly in the construction industry and I see it everywhere in our community. It’s a community problem.”

Motivated by Sanford Health’s leading-edge research into behavioral health, as well as its continued efforts to advance care, access and delivery solutions for those struggling with behavioral health issues, mental illness and addiction, Sands said he was excited to partner with the Sanford Health Foundation to fulfill his charitable intentions.

“We established a legacy gift through the Sanford Health Foundation because we believe we need long-term solutions to these addiction and mental health issues,” he said. “I believe Sanford Health has lifted our entire community, through many different avenues, and they are always ready to help.”

Ashley Flynn serves as a major gifts officer for Sanford Health Foundation because we believe compassion will live for generations, impacting the Sanford Health Foundation in Sioux Falls. "We are always ready to help.”

Through his giving, Greg’s legacy of care and compassion will live on for generations, impacting patients and families who are grappling with the complexities of addiction and behavioral health challenges,” Flynn said. “We’re grateful for his generosity, and we’re honored to carry out his charitable vision.”

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*Deceased
100% of every gift changes lives through the work of health, healing and comfort.