St Luke's | WOOD RIVER FOUNDATION

The Heart of Healthcare

Fall 2026

St. Luke's Wood River Foundation

Mission: To inspire generosity that improves health and well-being in the community.

Vision: We envision a community where generosity ensures clinical excellence and empowers health for all.



A New Approach to Behavioral Health Crises



Sergeant Josh Pritchard and Benson Blair, LMSW, are on the crisis co-response team.

This summer, Blaine County launched a new crisis co-response team, pairing a licensed behavioral health clinician with a specially trained sheriff's deputy to respond to behavioral health emergencies throughout the community. The three-year pilot program emerged from the community's mental well-being planning efforts and is funded in part through the generosity of St. Luke's Wood River Foundation.

The team provides crisis intervention, de-escalation, care coordination, and connections to ongoing support, helping individuals receive appropriate care while strengthening community safety.

"This program demonstrates the power of collective impact to improve well-being in our community," said Jenna Vagias, executive director of TogetherWe. "This isn't just a new program. It's an example of how Blaine County is building a more connected, coordinated system of care."

The co-response team reflects what can happen when healthcare, law enforcement, philanthropy and community partners work together to address one of our community's most important health needs.

To support mental well-being, contact Jennifer Gennuso, at 208-727-8413 or gennusoj@slhs.org.

A Lasting Investment To Ensure Care for All

A healthy Wood River Valley depends on making sure everyone has access to quality healthcare close to home. Earlier this year, when a significant rent increase threatened the long-term stability of a Family Health Services clinic, St. Luke's Wood River Foundation stepped forward to help protect this vital community resource.

Family Health Services remains open, thanks to the Foundation's commitment to community health.

The Foundation purchased the property at 621 N. Main Street in Bellevue and leased it back to Family Health Services at a sustainable rate, helping ensure essential healthcare services remain available for years to come.

Family Health Services provides medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmacy services to hundreds of people across the Wood River Valley. As a federally qualified health center, it serves patients who are uninsured or underinsured, as well as those who rely on Medicare and Medicaid. Its bilingual care team helps make compassionate, high-quality care accessible to all.

"Our commitment is to the health of every person in the Wood River Valley," said Megan Tanous, chief development officer of St. Luke's Wood River Foundation. "By helping Family Health Services remain strong and stable, we are ensuring that essential care remains available close to home for local families today and in the future."

This investment reflects the Foundation's commitment to strengthening community health, supporting a healthy workforce and removing barriers to care. Through thoughtful stewardship and donor generosity, we are helping keep healthcare within reach for those who need it most.

To learn more about supporting access to care, contact Jennifer Gennuso at 208-727-8413 or gennusoj@slhs.org.

Community Generosity Powers 25 Years of Excellence



Brock Bemis, MD, and Autumn Loomis, MD, St. Luke's Wood River Emergency Department physicians.

As St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center celebrates 25 years of serving the Wood River Valley, our community has much to be proud of. Recently, Forbes recognized St. Luke's Wood River as one of the nation's top-performing hospitals, awarding the medical center a five-star rating and highlighting its commitment to patient outcomes, collaboration, continuous improvement and safety.

While this recognition reflects the dedication of exceptional caregivers, it is also a testament to our community's generosity. For 25 years, donors have invested in local healthcare, helping St. Luke's Wood River enhance facilities, acquire advanced technology and expand services so patients can receive outstanding care close to home. Those investments have helped create a culture of excellence throughout the medical center.

"St. Luke's Wood River has gone more than five years without a catheter-associated urinary tract infection and more than seven years without a central line-associated bloodstream infection," said Almita Nunnelee, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at St. Luke's Wood River. These remarkable milestones reflect an unwavering commitment to patient safety and quality.

Every achievement, innovation and life touched is strengthened by the generosity of individuals, families and businesses who believe in the importance of exceptional healthcare. Together, this community has helped build a medical center recognized among the nation's best, while ensuring world-class care remains available close to home.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we are deeply grateful to the donors whose support has helped make years of excellence possible and continues to shape a healthier future for our community.

To support St. Luke's Wood River, please contact Jennifer Gennuso at 208-727-8413 or gennusoj@slhs.org.

Reduce Your Tax Burden

Do you have an IRA or other qualified retirement plan? Are you looking for a tax-wise strategy that provides significant tax advantages? An IRA rollover gift allows you to give from pre-tax assets and could help you avoid income that could push you into a higher tax bracket.

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year if certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact on certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Please contact your tax advisor to determine if your IRA qualifies for a QCD.

If you would like more information about how to support healthcare through your estate plan, contact Betsy Mullins at mullinse@slhs.org or 208-727-8419.

If your estate plans include a gift to St. Luke's Wood River Foundation, please let us know. We want to thank you for your generosity, honor your wishes and invite you to our Legacy Society.



Tom Lowe, a member of the Legacy Society.

A Legacy Gift Helps Make a Meaningful Impact

"Throughout my life, I've believed in giving back to organizations that make a meaningful impact. St. Luke's Wood River Foundation is an essential part of our community, and I'm honored to make a planned gift that will help support the health and well-being of others for years to come."

Tom Lowe, Legacy Society Member

Join our Legacy Society.
Call 208-727-8419.

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Contact Us:

The Heart of Healthcare is published by
St. Luke's Wood River Foundation.
208-727-8447
slwrf.org

Join us with a gift today.

Generosity impacts lives. Makes a difference. Heals.

Highlights in Giving

Congratulations to the caregivers and individuals who have been honored through a gift to St. Luke's Wood River Foundation.

In Honor of:

Yolanda Arriaga
Meghan Bostrom
Dr. Joel Carlson
Sasha Chavez
Dr. Garrett Coman
Dr. Kelly Dilorenzo
Megan Edwards
Lisa Efinger
Cassie & John Garrison (9)
Carl A. Gray
Harvey L. Gray
Linda Gray
Dr. John Hatzenbueler
Lexie Hook
Dr. Matthew Kopplin
Dr. David Laxson
Dr. J.P. Prouty
Buddy Wilton
The Wound Care Clinic

We recognize the legacy of the following individuals who have been lovingly remembered through a gift to St. Luke's Wood River Foundation.

In Memory of:

Jon Adams (2)
Marcia Brown
Gretchen Palmer
Paula
Bud Purdy
Robert M. Smelick

Gifts donated May 1, 2026, to Sept. 15, 2026. To honor a caregiver or loved one, please call St. Luke's Wood River Foundation at 208-727-8419.

TSK-1641.10.26

Community Support Advances Education

St. Luke's Wood River Foundation has committed over $40,000 this past year to support educational training for hospital employees. These funds will ensure clinical staff has the latest training to provide the highest quality patient care. St. Luke's Wood River employees have received funds to further their education and gain expertise in areas such as pediatric emergency medicine, women's health, healing touch and lymphedema.

Mohammed Elshafei, CNA, is a recipient of the Return to Learn Nursing Scholarship.

