



Charting the course for
health & wellness in NOCO



JOURNEY OF SERVICE



Service is a value that was ingrained in me since childhood, shaped by the impactful roles of my parents. My mother, a critical care nurse, and my father, a volunteer firefighter, instilled in me the essence of dedication and empathy through their care for others.

Despite taking a different path into the nonprofit sector, the value of service remains the cornerstone of my work. Alongside my team, we strive to uphold the same tenets that my parents exemplified - bringing our most professional and compassionate selves to individuals across this community who face the unimaginable.

Service also guides our approach to change. **The transition of McKee Wellness Foundation from a hospital-sponsored entity to an independent public charity in 2021 marked a significant milestone.** While maintaining a strong partnership with Banner Health, this new chapter broadens our scope, shedding light on issues beyond the hospital walls.

To better understand and address the health and wellness needs in northern Colorado, we recently conducted a community needs assessment. Through this process, we identified five distinct barriers faced by our local residents, which we delve into further on the following page.

Beyond the statistics, we heard the stories of individuals and families, many of whom are going without, forced to make impossible choices, and even grappling with their very survival in order to make ends meet. Truly, they are facing the unimaginable.

“
"You have taken on seemingly impossible challenges and shown that behind every hurdle is the promise of hope."
- Kara Pappas
”

The mission of addressing these issues felt daunting - until we remembered you. We recall the ways that you have stepped up and demonstrated your commitment to service. You have taken on seemingly impossible challenges and shown that behind every hurdle is the promise of hope. It's with this spirit that we embark on The Next Frontier campaign, boldly confronting the obstacles before us with innovative solutions and a collective commitment to service.

Within these pages, you'll discover not only strategies to overcome hurdles but also bridges to unite our community and pathways towards progress. We invite you to join us in this transformative journey and to become an integral part of shaping the future of northern Colorado.

We know you share this vision for our community, and we are committed to connecting you with the opportunities that most deeply touch your heart. **Together, guided by a commitment to serve, we will blaze new trails for northern Colorado.** I look forward to talking with you personally, to hear your insights, and to collaborate on realizing our shared goals as we venture into this exciting next frontier.

In service,

Kara Pappas, DMgt, CFRE
Executive Director
McKee Wellness Foundation



CHARTING THE COURSE FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

After four decades and more than \$40M invested to bridge gaps in health and wellness for northern Coloradoans, McKee Wellness Foundation has charted the course for The Next Frontier in health equity for our neighbors in need.

To fully understand the challenges and opportunities facing our community today, the Foundation conducted a community needs assessment, incorporating voices from the areas of healthcare, mental health, senior care, public education, veterans' needs, emergency response, case management, and more. **The assessment revealed five primary areas of need: healthcare affordability and financial toxicity, transportation, mental and cognitive health, healthcare workforce shortage, and collaboration.**

Equipped with an understanding of our healthcare landscape - past, present, and future, and with a desire to improve health outcomes communitywide, **the Foundation is pleased to share the top programmatic priorities within The Next Frontier initiative:**



Cancer Care - Alleviating financial burdens for individuals undergoing cancer treatment by covering medical costs, basic needs, and alternative therapies.



Crisis Health & Dental Support - Providing funding to cover medical, dental, and prescription costs, and daily living needs, that arise due to illnesses or injuries.



HEARTSafe Community - Placing AEDs throughout the community and training community members in CPR and AED use to save lives when sudden cardiac arrest occurs.



Blue Star Fund for Veterans - Supporting local heroes by providing transportation to medical appointments, alternative therapies, case management, and supportive communities through a network of partnerships.



Mental & Cognitive Health Support - Giving individuals access to mental and cognitive care without financial constraints, offering support for care, prescription costs, and daily living expenses during treatment.

Alongside this refocused slate of programs, the Foundation has linked arms once again with Sunrise Community Health to expand access to quality healthcare, mental health, dental, prescription support, and wraparound services for community members in greatest need. **With the help of our community, we aim to secure \$2M in funding support for the addition of Loveland Community Health Center North, a new campus to serve the needs of our growing community.**

Recognizing that a healthy community requires nurturing long into the future, sustainability is paramount to the Foundation's efforts both for today and tomorrow. **This inspired the launch of the McKee Legacy Fund, a quasi-endowment aimed at ensuring that we can address the greatest needs across our community for decades to come.**

We invite you to learn more about each of these initiatives on the pages that follow and look forward to talking with you about those that align with your unique vision and goals for northern Colorado.

On each program-specific page within this document, you'll find icons representing the focus areas identified through the community needs assessment. These icons illustrate the multifaceted impact provided by each program through The Next Frontier initiative.



Healthcare Affordability & Financial Toxicity



Transportation



Mental and Cognitive Health



Healthcare Workforce Shortage



Collaboration



HISTORY

1976

The Beginning
McKee Medical Center was built on land at Boise Avenue donated by the McKee family.





CANCER CARE

Tammy's Story



Like many of our Northern Colorado neighbors, when Tammy,* a single mother of a child living with autism, was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer, one of her first questions was how she could afford it. She didn't know how she was going to both support her son Ethan* and access treatment. How would she care for her son while battling this merciless disease? How could she continue to work while navigating her treatment journey?

Her clinical Care Navigators at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Loveland helped her to identify and access resources and shepherd her through the darkness. Through the generosity of local community members like you, McKee Wellness Foundation was there for her.

The Foundation manages several funds that distribute critical support for medical care and living expenses to our neighbors in need battling cancer and other chronic or emergent illnesses. We regularly encounter individuals diagnosed with cancer who may choose to not seek treatment because of the financial burden due to medical bills and the impact that treatment will have on their lives. Thanks to this crucial investment in our community, we could cover rent for Tammy, allowing her to seek lifesaving treatment without sacrificing her own or her son's wellbeing.

*Names changed to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.



"When someone is diagnosed with cancer, the first thing they ask is almost always whether or not they'll survive. The second question is how they'll afford it."

- Kristi Schafer, Banner MD Anderson Care Navigator



With the cutting-edge cancer care available in northern Colorado, there is tragedy in the reality that disease treatment remains financially unattainable for so many of our northern Colorado neighbors. Costs connected to a patient's medical care and prescription needs fall increasingly out of reach for individuals who must take unpaid time off of work, or who are forced to quit their job due to their illness and treatment. Some of these individuals are single parents or caregivers for spouses or aging relatives.

In the next year, an estimated 3,000 individuals across Larimer and Weld Counties will receive a cancer diagnosis. Approximately 50% of those individuals would qualify for funding support to assist with their needs.

We believe that individuals should not have to worry about how they'll keep their lights on, pay their medical bills, or afford transportation to treatment while they're fighting for their lives. The Cancer Care program supports individuals undergoing cancer diagnosis and treatment by covering medical and prescription costs; basic needs expenses such as housing, transportation, and utilities; and alternative therapies to ease pain and discomfort.

The program also supports the region's Breast Cancer Support Group, creating a community of care for individuals regardless of where they are in their breast cancer journey.

An average of 165 lives are expected to be touched annually through the Cancer Care program over the next three years.



1981



Birth of the Foundation
McKee Medical Center Foundation was started by a dedicated group of community members.

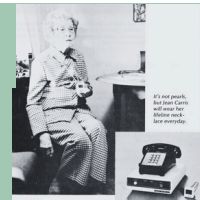
1983



Automatic Doors at Hospital Entrance
Funds were raised to create a future-forward and accessible welcome for patients and guests entering McKee Medical Center.



1984



Lifeline Program
A step forward for seniors in the Loveland community, providing medical alert services that allow individuals to age safely and independently in their homes.



CRISIS HEALTH & DENTAL SUPPORT

Medical and dental emergencies are rarely convenient, but for individuals who are already struggling to make ends meet, and members of vulnerable populations, these situations can be catastrophic. **With an average 15% increase in health insurance premiums over the past year, Coloradoans experienced the second highest average increase nationwide.**

Consequently, fewer individuals are enrolling in employer-sponsored plans, there's a decline in healthcare utilization, and people are rationing treatment and medication to manage their needs.

Dental and prescription needs represent the primary deficiencies in community health programs, leading to patients forgoing essential treatment. This deprivation engenders more severe and potentially catastrophic consequences over the long term, which is already being realized through metrics such as longer, costlier, average hospital stays.

Through McKee Wellness Foundation's Crisis Health & Dental Support program, funding will be made available to individuals struggling to afford their medical, dental, or prescription costs, and assist them with daily living needs to ensure a continuum of care.

Funding would also assist with medical respite services - ensuring those who are unhoused have resources during their recovery from a hospitalization. And funds would support preventative services such as LifeLine, helping our older adults to age safely and independently in their homes, equipped with tools to dispatch first responders in the event of a medical emergency.



"Thank you from the bottom of my heart. If you can keep helping, please do so. Your help does make a difference."

-Juan Carlos, baby Michelle's father



Baby Michelle's Story



When baby Michelle was born in Oct 2022 at North Colorado Medical Center and diagnosed with the fatal disease, Donahue Syndrome, it was simply a matter of time. Time that Michelle's family desperately wanted to spend with their baby girl. Every day they made the long drive to Children's Hospital in Denver to be with their child. Every night when they left, they didn't know if it would be the last time they saw her.

The financial challenges were building up as well. They didn't know how much longer they'd have a home to return to. How they would put food on the table. How they would be able to lay their baby girl to rest.

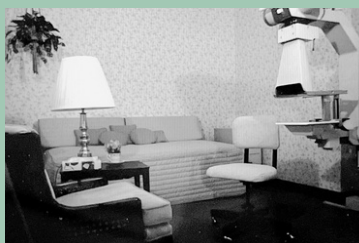
Reaching out to McKee Wellness Foundation, Baby Michelle's mother, Laura, shared "We don't have money to pay rent, or for her funeral when the moment comes."

Our community stepped forward, granting more than \$5,000 to keep Michelle's family safe and housed while they spent all the time they could with Michelle. There are more families like baby Michelle's; families who are struggling. Who don't know how they'll pay rent. Who have medical expenses soaring out of control. Families that need a light of hope.

1985

NOCO's First Mammography Unit

Providing a comfortable space for breast diagnostic care in the local medical center.



1986

HeartWatchers Cardiac Rehabilitation Program

created to provide a low-cost, medically supervised exercise and education program for those at high risk of or diagnosed with heart disease.





HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY



every 90 seconds someone **dies** of cardiac arrest

475,000

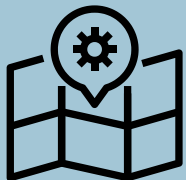
people die of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in the United States every year, making it one of the country's leading causes of death



less than 50% of cardiac arrest victims get help before emergency responders arrive

cardiac arrest survival doubles

when a bystander uses an AED



1/2 of all U.S. workers can't locate an AED at their work place



In our community, sudden cardiac arrests (SCA) occur at a rate of one per day, emphasizing the need for swift intervention. Immediate intervention, including calling 911, performing chest compressions, and utilizing the nearest defibrillator, can double the rate of survival for someone experiencing SCA.

Now in its 10th year, the HEARTSafe Community program is in a period of revival, led by the McKee Wellness Foundation in partnership with Thompson Valley EMS, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, and Berthoud Fire. **Over the next three years, the HEARTSafe Community program aims to place or replace 213 AEDs and train 3,000 more individuals** to confidently intervene during medical emergencies, particularly in vulnerable populations and high-density areas. Future phases of the program are slated to include the incorporation of hemorrhage control kits and expanded First on the Scene (FOTS) training.



"Trained members of the public who can recognize cardiac arrest, initiate CPR immediately, and apply publicly accessible AEDs have greater potential to save lives than anything else. The HEARTSafe Community program will multiply the people and resources available - helping the community to help itself - in improving survival."

-Chief James Robinson, Thompson Valley EMS



1987

Conference Center
Created as a gathering space for healthcare workers, community events, and educational presentations. Now the facility houses Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center.



1991

Sunshine Fund
Initiated to bring a little "sunshine" to patient stays by delivering cookies and small gifts. Today the program is comprised of 8 Sunshine Carts stocked with toiletry items, books, blankets, reading glasses, and various other items to make a patient's stay more comfortable.





BLUE STAR FUND FOR VETERANS

Larry's Story

Larry S., an Air Force Veteran who served in Vietnam, was two weeks overdue for wound care when a nurse from the VA outpatient clinic reached out. Larry lives alone and has many other health issues due to Agent Orange exposure. He couldn't find reliable transportation to the clinic, which was delaying his care and endangering his healing process. Funding from McKee Wellness Foundation's Blue Star Fund enabled a volunteer driver from Qualified Listeners to take Larry to his appointment and follow-up exams. Larry was very grateful for the ride and told us that he is "glad someone cares enough" to help him.



Larry (right) with his volunteer driver

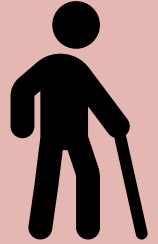
The Blue Star Fund for veterans provides an opportunity to support local heroes with a hand up in addressing the health and wellness needs of this distinct population. Through a network of partnerships, the Blue Star Fund provides:

- Transportation to medical, dental, and behavioral health appointments
- Alternative therapies for chronic pain, sleeplessness, anxiety, and depression
- Case management - providing warm, vetted handoffs for care
- Supportive communities, uniting veterans to improve connectedness and wellbeing



Nearly half

of America's 19 million veterans are aged 65 or older



Second

leading cause of death is **suicide** among veterans under age 45

2x

Suicide rate of Colorado Veterans compared to the national average



37%

of veterans with post traumatic stress disorder also met criteria for major depression

1997

Loveland Community Health Center

The Loveland community stepped forward to renovate and retrofit a downtown building where medically underserved citizens could access quality medical care, dental services, and prescription support.



1998

Wellness Walk

The McKee campus added a nature walking path, providing a place for healthcare workers, hospital patients and guests, and members of the community to find peace and wellness.





MENTAL & COGNITIVE HEALTH SUPPORT

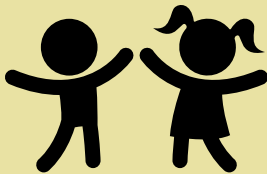


1 in 5

Larimer County residents struggle with behavioral health issues

70%

of local school district staff members express worry about student well-being



2x

Suicide rates in our community compared to the national average

22%

Community members who choose not to seek behavioral health treatment due to cost



"Partnerships in mental health and addictions are critical and serve as bridges, closing gaps by pooling resources, expertise, and perspectives. Through collaboration, we can amplify awareness, access to services, and support networks, fostering holistic approaches that address diverse needs and promote well-being for all."

- Michael Allen, SummitStone Health Partners CEO



Mental Health

Challenges involving emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing, mental healthcare challenges demand urgent attention in our communities. Concerns about the mental health of K-12 students have been underscored by **patients presenting with suicidal ideations as early as elementary school.**

Additionally, the older adult demographic faces escalating rates of loneliness and caregiver strain, all while northern Colorado grapples with a shortage of mental healthcare providers.

Cognitive Health

Individuals facing cognitive health challenges struggle with the ability to clearly think, learn, and remember. These community members, and the families who love them, represent another vulnerable subset of our population. **Dementia alone will affect one in seven individuals, a statistic expected to triple for individuals aged 40+ in the next two decades.**

McKee Wellness Foundation envisions a community where individuals are supported in accessing the mental and cognitive care they need, unencumbered by financial constraints. Programming support will assist with costs including:

- Mental/behavioral healthcare and prescription costs
- Daily living costs for individuals undergoing inpatient or intensive outpatient services
- Support groups to nurture continued care and connectedness



2005



McKee Cancer Center

A state-of-the-art facility was constructed to bring advanced technological treatments and world-class providers to the Loveland community in a warm, healing, and homelike atmosphere.



2008



Simulation Training Center

Funds were raised for the creation of an advanced training facility and installation of lifelike mannequins, allowing healthcare professionals to practice high-risk skills in a simulated clinical environment.



LOVELAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NORTH



Nearly 25 years ago, McKee Foundation supporters linked arms in creating the Loveland Community Health Center (LCHC), a resource providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place for uninsured and underinsured members of our community.

LCHC has relocated and increasing since that time, to accommodate more patients and greater needs, expanding medical care services to include dental care, mental healthcare, pharmacy, and wraparound support for vulnerable members of our community.

Today, there is a significant need to expand once again, influenced by a burgeoning population and ever-increasing healthcare costs. **One in three north Loveland residents currently live at or slightly above poverty levels, and 80% are unable to access LCHC's current singular location - largely due to transportation challenges.**

This multifaceted need inspires the construction of LCHC North - an additional 22K square-foot care campus located at HWY 287 and 65th Street in Loveland. The facility which, will eventually serve 10,000 individuals in north Loveland and south Fort Collins, is slated to open its doors in the spring of 2025. Individuals who need it most will be able to safely access the facility via walking or cycling if other transportation is unavailable.



McKee Wellness Foundation is launching a \$2M capital campaign to support this \$15.3M initiative, which, in combination with funds already sourced, will help bring the first phase of the facility to fruition, and allow for future expansion.



“

“LCHC was envisioned by leaders at the McKee Wellness Foundation, Banner Health/McKee Medical Center, and Sunrise Community Health - but LCHC was created by the generosity of the Loveland community. Starting with six exam rooms and one provider in downtown Loveland in 1997, LCHC brought much needed care to those struggling with low incomes.

That same mission continues today in LCHC's 38 exam rooms, 12 dental chairs, pharmacy, and care management space from which a talented team of over 60 dedicated people provide affordable access to quality care for all.

Without the community and partnerships, LCHC would not be what it is today - a comprehensive health care home serving nearly 10,000 people each year. And we would not be ready to expand to meet the ever-growing need.”

*-Mitzi Moran
CEO, Sunrise Community Health*

”

2010



Interfaith Chapel

Recognizing the importance of spirituality during life's most emotional situations, the Interfaith Chapel was constructed at Banner McKee Medical Center, providing a space to pray and reflect, for individuals of all faiths.



2014



HEARTSafe Community

Providing AEDs for schools, community buildings, and businesses across the community, as well as training for local high schoolers, the program provides tools and knowledge for early intervention when a community member experiences sudden cardiac arrest.



MCKEE LEGACY FUND

Imagine a health and wellness foundation that can respond quickly and decisively when natural disasters or economic downturns endanger lives and introduce uncertainty. Think for a moment about an organization that can address and bridge critical gaps even when incoming funds slow. Visualize, if you will, a nonprofit that honors your legacy by helping those who need it most when they need it most.

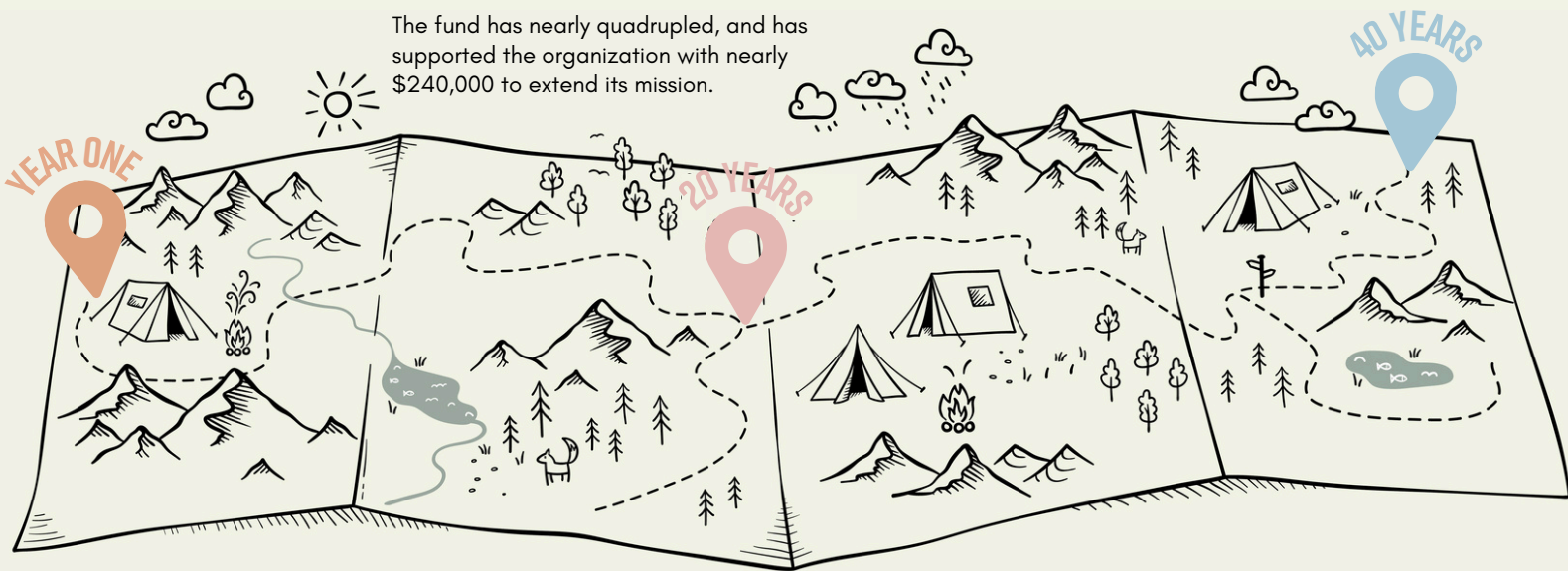
McKee Wellness Foundation has faithfully addressed the greatest health and wellness needs for our community for more than 40 years, which inspires us to think about where we will be in the next 40.

The McKee Legacy Fund is a quasi-endowment that will safeguard the future of health equity in northern Colorado. **By launching the fund with a preliminary \$1.5M collective investment, we can expect growth to \$25M by year 40, yielding just over \$1M in sustainable annual support.** This ensures the Foundation's ability to meet the most urgent gaps in health and wellness with a steady source of income from investments and interest-bearing accounts.

You can leave a lifesaving legacy for McKee Wellness Foundation both with a gift today and by pledging a future gift from your estate, to secure the Foundation's role in seeking out and addressing the most critical needs of the community for decades to come.

20 YEARS LATER

The fund has nearly quadrupled, and has supported the organization with nearly \$240,000 to extend its mission.



YEAR ONE

Fund is established with \$1.5M in contributions - Initial investment grows while distributing sustainable annual support for the organization each year.

40 YEARS LATER

The fund has exceeded \$25M, and yields over \$1M annually to sustainably support communitywide needs.

2019



Blue Star Fund

Supporting local veterans with a hand up in their health and wellness. The fund provides transportation to appointments, covers medical care and equipment, supports holistic care, and gives our nation's heroes a sense of community and connectedness.



2020



Healthcare Workers COVID Assistance

During a time when healthcare workers were needed more than ever, those with kids faced the challenge of school closures, necessitating in-home childcare during their shifts. Cost prohibitive for many, the Foundation stood ready to help with expenses, ensuring that staff were able to focus on caring for patients.



THE NEXT FRONTIER

impact & three-year budget

IMPACT

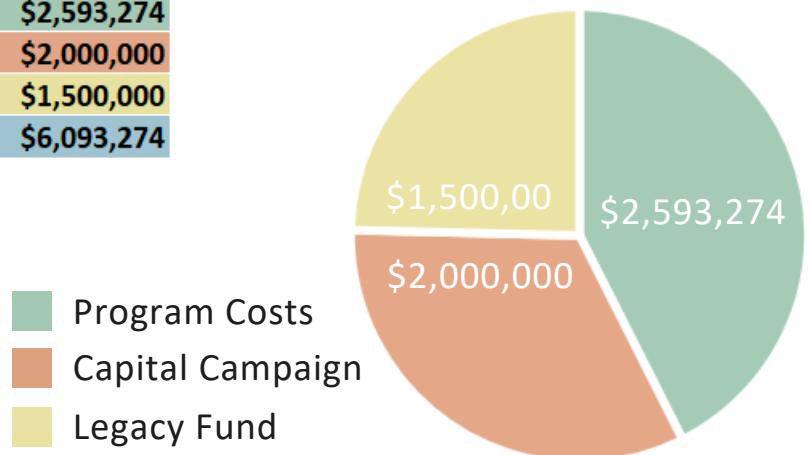
	# Served Y1	Cost/Person	# Served Y2	Cost/Person	# Served Y3	Cost/Person
Cancer Care	145	\$1,627.56	165	\$1,632.54	185	\$1,647.77
Crisis Health & Dental Support	4,301	\$38.00	4,311	\$42.64	4,321	\$47.73
HEARTSafe Community	24,850	\$8.58	24,850	\$9.21	24,850	\$9.86
Blue Star Fund for Veterans	450	\$127.39	500	\$131.00	550	\$133.00
Mental & Cognitive Health Support	16,404	\$6.45	16,609	\$6.90	16,814	\$7.51
TOTAL PROGRAM	46,150	\$1,808	46,435	\$1,822	46,720	\$1,846

BUDGET

PROGRAMMING	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Cancer Care	\$ 235,996.50	\$ 269,369.09	\$ 304,837.32
Crisis Health & Dental Support	\$ 163,445.38	\$ 183,806.86	\$ 206,226.81
HEARTSafe Community	\$ 213,263.34	\$ 228,764.58	\$ 245,080.10
Blue Star Fund for Veterans	\$ 57,327.46	\$ 65,498.52	\$ 73,151.56
Mental & Cognitive Health Support	\$ 105,735.62	\$ 114,555.84	\$ 126,214.98
Total	\$775,768.29	\$861,994.89	\$955,510.77

CAPITAL			
Loveland Community Health Center North	\$ 640,000	\$ 670,000	\$690,000

Total Program Cost	\$2,593,274
Capital Campaign	\$2,000,000
McKee Legacy Fund	\$1,500,000
CAMPAIGN TOTAL	\$6,093,274



2021

Banner Fort Collins Catheterization Lab
 Foundation supporters contributed \$1M for specialized equipment to provide immediate care when a patient presents with a cardiac emergency.



2022

Mental Health Fund
 Recognizing a gap in support for those with emotional and psychological challenges, McKee Wellness Foundation launched a dedicated mental health fund.





Board of Directors

Paul Matthews, President
The Group Inc.

Mike Ball, Vice President
FNIC Trusted Insurance Advisors

Adna Romero, Treasurer
Mountain Valley Bank

Victoria Cordova
Banner Health

Mat Dinsmore
Wilbur's Total Beverage

Jason Jarvis
CREST Insurance

Cole Ritchey
Transworld Business Advisors

Staff

Kara Pappas, DMgt, CFRE
Executive Director

Jennie Hunt
Business & Finance Director

Jen Sanders
Community Engagement Director

Megan Streetman
Development Director



To learn more or become involved with The Next Frontier, contact:



Kara Pappas, DMgt, CFRE
Executive Director
kara@mckeefoundationco.com
(970) 617-5975



Megan Streetman
Development Director
megan@mckeefoundationco.com
(970) 617-5547



Bridging gaps in health and wellness for northern Colorado

808 W Eisenhower Blvd, Ste 202
Loveland, CO 80537
970-617-2575
www.mckeefoundation.com

