



Carson Tahoe Health

# FOUNDATION IMPACT REPORT 2025



CARSON TAHOE  
FOUNDATION

# OUR 2025 IMPACT

## At a Glance

At Carson Tahoe Health, our leadership, clinicians, and staff deeply understand the vital role philanthropy plays not only in sustaining the exceptional care our community relies on today, but in shaping the innovative, compassionate care of tomorrow. Your generosity inspires us, strengthens us, and makes our mission possible.

With the support of more than **1,934 DONORS**, we raised **\$945,611**

to expand access to high-quality care and ensure no one in our community faces illness or healing alone.



Your gifts have touched lives in powerful ways fueling healing, strengthening essential behavioral health services, expanding youth mental health access, advancing cancer care, and providing critical resources for patients and families across our system. Behind every number is a person, a story, a moment of hope.

Every donated dollar and every encouraging word helps build a healthier, more resilient community. Together, we are changing lives, today and for generations to come. This year brought tremendous achievements across Carson Tahoe Health made possible because of you.



## Achievements

**A record-breaking raffle**, thanks to Carson City Toyota, **raising more than \$100,000** for Healing Our Kids and Community to expand youth mental health services and programming.

Significant advancements in Cardiology, including the purchase of **new TAVR software**, enhancing lifesaving care for our patients.

The opening of **Behavioral Health Youth Services**, providing inpatient care, crisis stabilization, and outpatient support for children and adolescents. Donor and grant funding covered all programming support items.

The purchase of a **new ultrasound machine** for Labor & Delivery, funded jointly by the Foundation and the Carson Tahoe Health Auxiliary.

**Replacement of 13 infusion chairs** through a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, improving comfort and care for patients.

**Awarding 35 Advanced Caregiver Scholarships** to support professional development and strengthen our caregiver pipeline.

**More than \$2,100 in prescription assistance** for patients facing financial hardship, ensuring access to essential medications.

**Grocery support for cancer patients** undergoing treatment, helping ease the burden of daily living expenses.

**Safe, stable lodging** at the Merriner Cottages for 1,732 patients and families traveling for care.

**Partial rent assistance** for Behavioral Health patients as they transition back to independence.

**\$22,000 in transportation support** to ensure Behavioral Health and Cancer Center patients could access the services they need.

**\$7,200 in lodging support** to ease the burden for patients and family traveling outside of Carson Tahoe Health to receive essential medical care.

Another impactful Think Pink event, raising more than **\$14,000 to strengthen Cancer Support Services**.

The successful **launch of the Carson Tahoe Vehicles of Change pilot** with the Boys & Girls Club, with donor funding covering all program supplies.

Your support helped us earn national recognition, including:

**Becker's Healthcare**  
"Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare (2024 & 2025)"

**Forbes**  
"Best Employer in Healthcare"  
and "Best Employers in Nevada"

**USA Today**  
"Top Workplace for 2026"

These honors reflect your compassion and the collaborative spirit that fuels everything we do.

# LOOKING AHEAD

As we enter the new year, we are doubling down on a bold five-year initiative to address the root causes of the youth mental health crisis and expand access to care for all. Our ambition is clear and urgent: **to elevate Nevada from 50th in the nation for youth mental health and become a national model for community-driven transformation.**

As you read the stories of hope and healing in the pages ahead, please remember:

It is your compassion that empowers Carson Tahoe to deliver exceptional care.

Because of you, we are proud to remain an independent, not-for-profit community hospital—guided by local values, responsive to local needs, and deeply committed to caring for our neighbors today and for generations to come.

Medicine evolves, needs change, and our work continues—but so does our shared commitment to transform lives.

From all of us at the Carson Tahoe Health Foundation, thank you for your confidence, your collaboration, and your steadfast support. We are profoundly grateful for you.



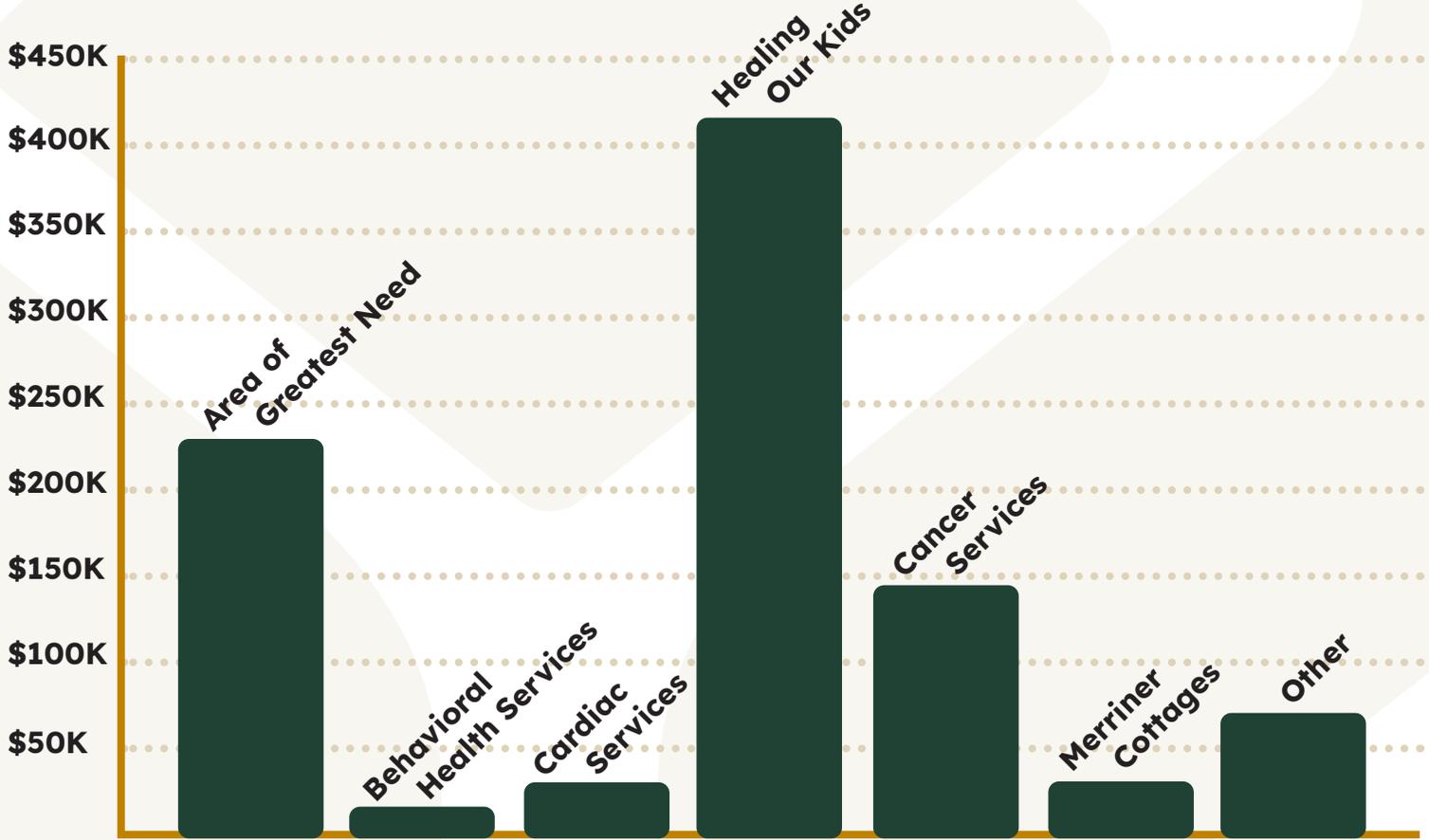
**MELISSA ELGES**

*Director of Foundation  
and Community*



**TAMI STEIN**

*Senior Giving Partner*



**\$452,762**  
in Support  
Delivered

**35**  
Caregiver Advanced  
Certifications Awarded

**\$132,442** in Employee Giving Raised

**616**  
Employee Donors  
What's number one reason why they donate? They believe in our mission.

"I give so others can get care with no fear."

"I dontate to lead by example and to support making our community a better place."



## EMPLOYEE GIVING

Our employees continue to demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to giving through their monthly contributions to the Foundation—showing that their generosity extends well beyond the hospital walls. They also played a key role in the Healing Our Kids Raffle, forming teams and taking part in a fun, interactive peer-to-peer fundraising

competition to see who could raise the most support.

When asked why they give, the majority of employees shared that it's meaningful to be part of the hospital's greater mission and the impact it has on our community.

## AUXILIARY

The Carson Tahoe Health Auxiliary has been a vital part of our healing community since 1952, beginning as a volunteer-led blood transportation service. What started as a small group has grown into a dedicated team supporting patients, caregivers, and the hospital in meaningful ways.

Today, the Auxiliary partners closely with the Foundation to help fund essential equipment and comfort items that enhance the patient experience—from a new ultrasound machine in Labor & Delivery to nursing chairs that support new mothers and their babies. Through their successful operation of the

Medical Center Gift Shop, they continue to reinvest in programs, technology, and care that make a lasting difference.

Their legacy of service, compassion, and partnership remains a cornerstone of philanthropy at Carson Tahoe.



# LEGACY GIVING

## Honoring Values, Shaping the Future

Many members of our community choose to support Carson Tahoe Health through their will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. These thoughtful legacy gifts quietly yet powerfully strengthen the future of healthcare in our region, ensuring that compassion and care continue for generations to come.

A legacy gift is a personal reflection of the values you hold dear and the hopes you have for the well-being of others. We are humbled by the individuals who choose to make this kind of lasting impact.

If you are exploring options with your financial or legal advisors, the Carson Tahoe Foundation is available as a resource to help you understand how different legacy avenues can align with your intentions, assets, and plans for your loved ones.

Should you wish to learn more, you are welcome to contact us at 775-445-5678. We also offer helpful planning documents that outline ways to ensure your legacy supports the areas of community health that matter most to you.



## In-Kind Donations

In-kind donations play a powerful role in the care and comfort we provide every day. Thanks to the generosity of our community partners and stakeholders, patients receive thoughtful items that offer reassurance, dignity, and moments of joy during difficult times. From teddy bears that bring comfort to our youngest patients, to Christmas trees that brighten hospital rooms, to clothing and essential items that support those in need—these gifts remind patients they are seen, valued, and not alone. In-kind contributions are more than donations; they are meaningful expressions of compassion that help us extend healing beyond clinical care and into the human experience at the heart of our mission.



# IMPACT IN ACTION

## Edna “Tini” Arens: A Journey of Strength, Gratitude, and Giving Back

Edna Arens, known to everyone as Tini, never imagined herself as a cancer patient. A lifelong picture of health, she was busy living a full life as a mother of five and stepmother to two more, with a total of seven kids. “I did everything,” she says simply. “And then all of a sudden, everything changed.”

In November 2022, a routine appointment uncovered a small tumor. It was malignant. A second tumor followed benign. Then a third, malignant and aggressive, one that marked a turning point. “That’s when things really started going south,” Tini recalls. The cancer had moved into muscle, and her care quickly became more complex.

Referred to Carson Tahoe, Tini began treatment under the care of Dr. Bijjula and the oncology team. Months of chemotherapy followed, then surgery at Stanford that included removal of her bladder and uterus, and later targeted radiation and chemotherapy. It was a long, exhausting road one that stretched across hospitals, specialists, and treatments that sometimes blurred together.

Yet when Tini talks about her journey, what stands out most is not the fear or uncertainty, it’s the care.

“It’s hard to separate one moment from another,” she says. “From the very beginning, the treatment I’ve gotten here has just been fabulous caring, kind, and thorough. Not just the nurses, but the doctors, the PAs, the infusion center, the Cancer Resource Center... every single part of it.”

For Tini, Carson Tahoe never felt transactional. It felt human.

*“There has never been a time when I walked in and didn’t feel embraced,” she shares. “My problems were embraced. My questions were embraced. I never felt like I was intruding.”*

That feeling of being truly seen mattered deeply especially during moments of vulnerability. When Tini faced complications and concerns that weren’t immediately addressed, she turned to the Cancer Resource Center. There, she found someone who listened.

“They said, ‘We’ll talk to the doctor. We’ll follow up.’ And they did,” she recalls. “Just like that, it was addressed. That kind of advocacy, it means everything.”

Brie Serfoss, Carson Tahoe’s Cancer Resource Center Patient Navigator, saw firsthand the strength Tini carried into each visit.

“She holds herself so well, regardless of the situation,” Brie says. “Every time she walks in, she’s beautifully put together. There’s a strength and dignity there that people notice. The way you think matters. I’ve seen it positivity, determination, and humor truly make a difference.”

Tini believes that strength was forged long before her diagnosis. “A lot of it goes back to motherhood,” she says. “I raised five kids, and for a good deal of that time, I was on my own. You learn how to dig deep. You learn how to stay positive when things are tough. I’ve always looked for the good part of whatever situation I’m in.”

That mindset carried her through treatment along with a sense of humor she refused to lose. “You have to be able to laugh,” she says. “Even at yourself.”

But it was the little things at Carson Tahoe that often meant the most. A warm blanket. A listening ear. A bag of thoughtful items handed to her on her very first visit.

“That first experience I remember thinking, ‘This can’t be real,’” Tini says. “But it was. And it still is.”

Over time, she came to understand that not every cancer center offers what Carson Tahoe does. “I didn’t know anything different at first,” she admits. “I just assumed this was how it was everywhere. Now I realize how special it is.”

The Cancer Resource Center became a lifeline providing answers, comfort, advocacy, and connection. “I truly don’t know how I would have gotten through

some of this without them,” Tini says. “I would have survived but it wouldn’t have been as easy.”

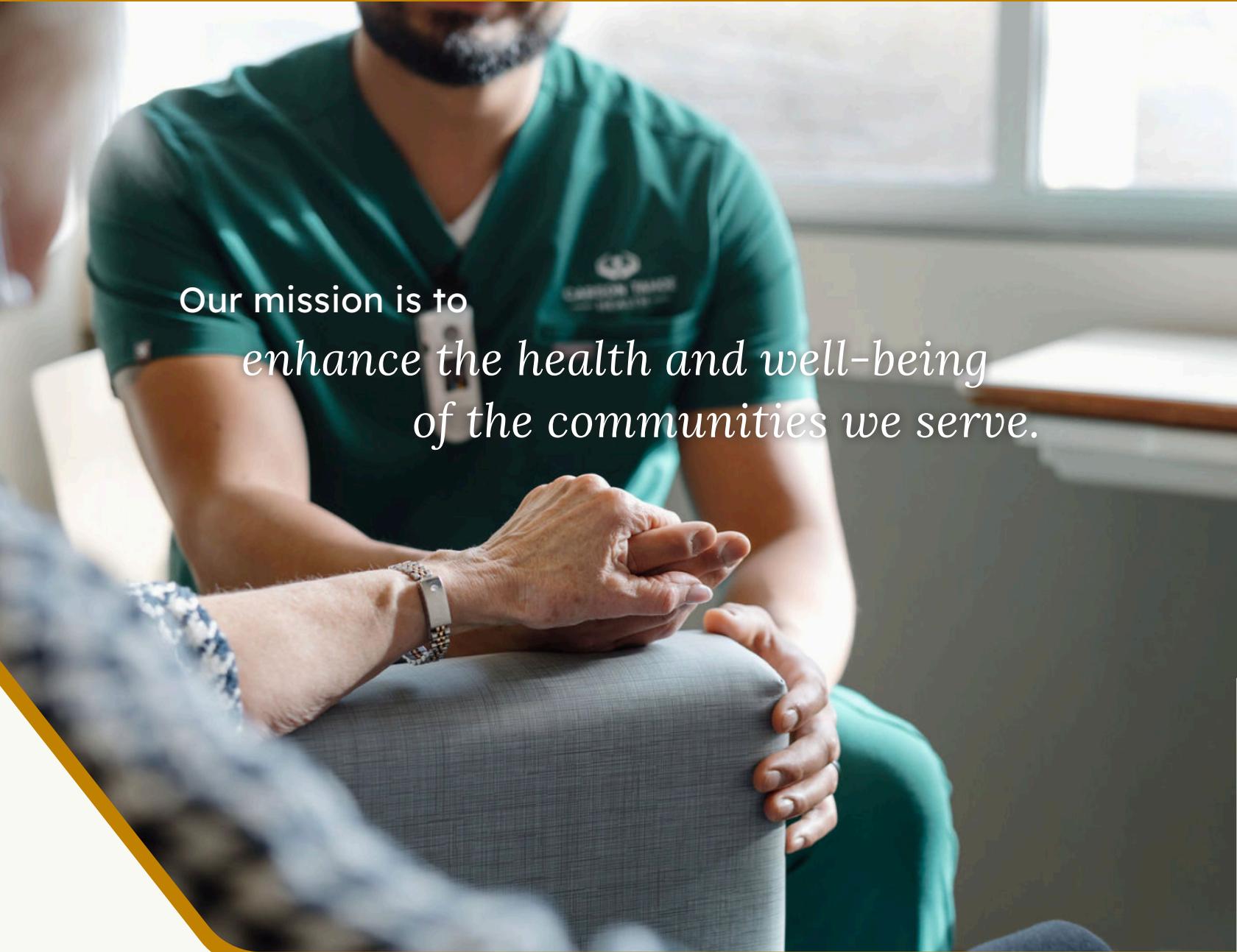
**It was this realization that inspired Tini to pay it forward with a generous donation.**

Her gift to the Carson Tahoe Hospital Foundation is a reflection of gratitude for care that went beyond medicine, for people who made her feel like she mattered. “We don’t do this work for recognition,” Brie shares. “We do it because we care. We want to make things lighter, take away some of the burden, and remind patients that they matter. When someone like Tini feels that and chooses to give back it means everything.”

For Tini, the reason is simple.

*“From the very first day, I knew I was in good hands,” she says. “That kind of care stays with you. And when you experience something that meaningful, you want to make sure it’s there for the next person who walks through those doors.”*



A healthcare professional in green scrubs is sitting and talking to a patient. The professional has a beard and is wearing a name tag. The patient's hands are clasped together on their lap. The background shows a window and a desk.

Our mission is to  
*enhance the health and well-being  
of the communities we serve.*

## MAKE A DONATION

Scan the QR code  
or [CLICK HERE](#)



**CARSON TAHOE**  
FOUNDATION

