

# FOUNDATION

PARTNERING TO CREATE AND CARE FOR  
THE HEALTHIEST COMMUNITY IN THE NATION

SUMMER 2020



# HEROES WORK HERE #BCHBrave

  
Boulder Community Health  
Foundation  
*Over 40 Years of Community Impact*



Boulder Community Health  
Foundation

Boulder Community Health  
FOOTHILLS MEDICAL CAMPUS

4715-4747 Arapahoe Ave • 1755 48th St

TRAUMA CENTER



## LETTER FROM BCH FOUNDATION PRESIDENT GRANT BESSER

As we leave the initial chapter of containment and enter what is expected to be the long-haul pathway of mitigation, I have been thinking about what it takes to have the “grit” to make it through this turbulent period. Grit is a choice: the choice to persevere in the face of adversity; the choice to refuse to quit; the choice to hold onto your dreams; the choice to take a step forward.

We have all witnessed countless stories of grit over the past few months. It has inspired us in the moment and reminded us of the underlying spirit of innovation, collaboration and sense of possibility that defines our community. As you read through our special edition newsletter on COVID-19, I encourage you to bear witness to the collective power of our community that made these transformational moments possible. A diverse sequence of thousands of micro actions that led to Boulder Community Health being able to quickly adapt in anticipation of the surge of COVID-19 patients and subsequently ramp back up to ensure we continue to hold a high bar of excellence in the comprehensive care we provide you each day.

During these extraordinary times, our gratitude runs even deeper. We stand in awe of the number of people who have taken swift action to generously support our fight against COVID-19 by reaching out in so many ways, from PPE donations to contributions to the BCH COVID-19 Response Fund to feeding our front line health care workers.

**On behalf of over 2,400 team members at BCH, please know how grateful we are for your unrelenting support during this critical period.** Knowing that the community has your back is incredibly powerful, both in the tangible impact it has through your generosity but equally important is the moral support it provides each of our team members during uncertain times.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Grant M. Besser, President, BCH Foundation

## BCH Foundation Board of Trustees

**Andrew Morley**  
Chair

**Michael Repucci**  
Vice Chair

**Catherine Moll**  
Secretary

**Janet Martin**  
Treasurer and Chair of  
Finance and Audit Committee

**Amy Batchelor**

**Leslie Burns**

**Virginia Carducci**

**Dave Drach**

**Scott Filion**

**Andy Franklin**

**Lisa Granat**

**Suzanne Hoover**

**Sam Inman**

**Clarissa King**

**Lori Jensen, M.D.**

**Lisa O'Brien**

**Vikas Reddy**

**Erika Trautman**

**John Wyatt**

HEROES WORK HERE  
#BCHBrave



## LETTER FROM BCH CEO DR. ROBERT VISSERS STRONG, SAFE AND REOPENED

Let me start with our thanks. Your commitment to BCH strengthens our capacity to deliver the highest-value patient care, offer the latest medical advancements and improve the health of our community.

In the wake of this unprecedented health crisis, care at BCH looks different. We're now screening all patients and staff for COVID-19 symptoms before they enter our facilities; requiring patients and staff to wear masks at every BCH location; testing patients for the virus before a surgical procedure or a hospital stay; configuring waiting areas and physical spaces to keep people at least six feet apart; creating safe check-in processes; restricting hospital visitations; and, expanding virtual visit options through video, phone and secure texting.

Although we've implemented these and many other changes to limit the spread of COVID-19, there is one thing that hasn't changed: our vision of creating and caring for the healthiest community in the nation.

Now, as much as ever, people in our community need high-quality care to maintain or improve their health and well-being. It's for that very reason we reopened nearly all patient services that were temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

Non-emergency surgeries, sophisticated imaging services and in-person visits at physician clinics have resumed. Our three Urgent Care Centers are available seven days a week for common illnesses and non-life-threatening injuries. As always, the expertise and extensive resources of the Emergency Department/Trauma Center at Foothills Hospital are available 24/7.

The stark reality is COVID-19 will remain a concern for an uncertain length of time, giving way to a new normal at BCH. A commitment to keeping our patients, staff and community safe was true before the pandemic, and it's still true now.

Thankfully, we have not experienced the surge in COVID-19 patients that had been predicted. BCH will remain prepared to bolster its response quickly and effectively to any surge of COVID-19 patients. We have the in-house expertise to safely and successfully identify, isolate and treat these patients. We can ramp up our ventilator capacity to four times our normal level and repurpose nursing units and other spaces to increase our bed capacity by fifty percent. We've already retrained hundreds of our nurses so they can shift to new duties. Many of our doctors are also ready to take on different roles.

COVID-19 has brought with it a new level of concern about seeking care unrelated to the virus. We're seeing patients delay emergency care and treatment for serious conditions such as heart disease, stroke and other life-threatening conditions. We're addressing this troublesome trend by providing a number of new care options so that patients can address their health care needs from the safety and comfort of their homes and communicating regularly with the community about safety measures we've put in place so that patients can continue to get the high-quality care they need.

Let me close where I began — with my thanks. We are heartened by the outpouring of support, acts of generosity and messages of gratitude. These are extraordinary times, and we thank you for partnering with us to create and care for the healthiest community in the nation.

Regards,

Dr. Robert Vissers, CEO, Boulder Community Health

### BCH Board of Directors

**Jeffrey Morgan**  
Chair

**Bryan Pieper**  
Vice Chair

**Deborah Lund, M.D.**  
Secretary

**John Greff**  
Treasurer

**Suzy Ageton**

**Randy Bjerke, M.D.**

**Philip DiStefano**

**Benita Duran**

**Sonny Flowers**

**George Karakehian**

**Valerie E. Lipetz, M.D.**

**Joel Montbriand, M.D.**

**Nancy Stevens**

**Rhonda Wallen**



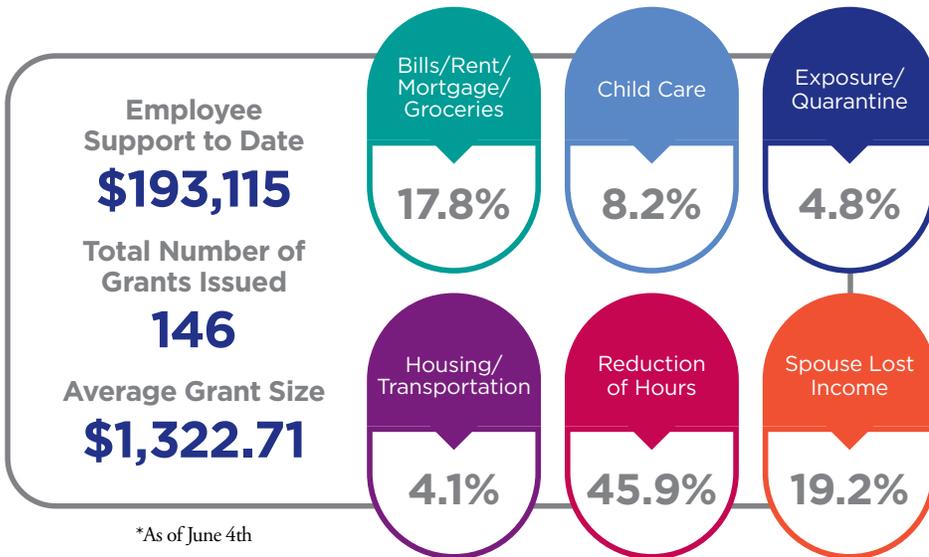
# COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

In mid-March, the BCH Foundation launched a fundraising appeal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with two priorities: to support our greatest asset, our people, and to remove any barriers to providing the best treatment for COVID-19.

## PRIORITY 1: SUPPORT OUR MOST CRITICAL ASSET AT BCH, OUR PEOPLE.

### COVID-19 Employee Assistance Fund:

The COVID-19 Employee Assistance Fund is available to all BCH employees to provide emergency aid for coping during this unprecedented time. The fund is available to help with unforeseen hardship caused by the pandemic related to loss of income — living expenses, child care and other bills.



\*As of June 4th

**\$1,257,787.16 HAS BEEN RAISED TO DATE FROM 885 DONORS.**

### Expressions of Gratitude from BCH Staff

“You have no idea how much this helps me and my family... I am in tears. I have been so stressed. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

“I have worked here for 33 years, through floods and fires and now a pandemic. I have always appreciated the way BCH supports its staff. It means a lot — thank you!”



“Our dedicated teams are working 24/7 to expand access to community based testing, to jump-start video visits and telehealth, to develop and implement an innovative “hospital-at-home” program and to offer the best diagnostics and therapeutics available. Your support helps us implement these solutions rapidly and using the best tools available.”

**- Ben Keidan, MD, Chief Medical Officer, BCH**

## PRIORITY 2: SUPPORTING BCH'S SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN TESTING CAPABILITY, EXPANDING TELEHEALTH ACCESS, SUPPLY MANAGEMENT, SPACE CAPACITY AND FLEX TRAINING FOR OUR STAFF AND PHYSICIANS.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The BCH Foundation significantly invested in Personal Protective Equipment for BCH staff which included items like masks, gloves, gowns and more to protect against the transmission of COVID-19.

In addition, BCH greatly benefited from community support through donations of PPE:

- 5,376 N-95 Masks
- 4,240 KN95 Masks
- 1,050 Face Shields
- 400 Misc. Eye Protection
- 40,000 Surgical Masks
- 700 Shoe Covers
- 700 Boxes of New Gloves



### EXPAND OUR REACH

As BCH modifies clinic operations in response to the COVID-19 virus, we are committed to finding safe and convenient ways for the community to get the high-quality care needed, expected and deserved by supporting ambulatory patients through expanding our telehealth capabilities and building out the “hospital-at-home” program.



**WELL OVER 10,000  
TELEHEALTH VISITS**

4,000+ Video Visits  
7,000+ Phone Visits



### FLEX TRAINING OF STAFF & PHYSICIANS

**Over 400 BCH staff from over 50 departments** went above and beyond and took continued education courses (didactic training, skills labs, shadow shifts, competency maintenance) to be redeployed and cross-trained to meet the needs of the pandemic.





# FEED THE FRONTLINES BOULDER

Inspired by a similar model established in San Francisco by Frank Barbieri and Ryan Sarver, Feed the Frontlines Boulder was founded in early April by local community members in partnership with the BCH Foundation. The program was kick-started by generous seed funding from Amy Batchelor and Brad Feld, Dan and Cindy Caruso, John Goldsmith and an anonymous local family foundation with the mission to ensure front line staff at BCH knew they had a nourishing meal to look forward to and that local, independent restaurants get badly needed business to keep running and keep staff employed — a true win-win moment.



**Raised \$687K**  
from over **1,400**  
individual donors and businesses

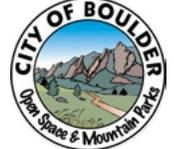
**Delivered over 39K**  
nutritious meals  
by July 3





**27 local restaurants**  
participated

Expanded to multiple front line agencies:





# BEACON CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Beacon Center for Infectious Diseases offers a comprehensive range of diagnostic and treatment services for patients with infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS. The clinic provides the highest level of inpatient infectious disease services followed by a well-coordinated transition to outpatient care. Beacon provides outpatient services to individuals over the age of 15 in Boulder and surrounding communities including Longmont, Louisville, Lafayette, Westminster, Arvada, Ft. Collins and Loveland.

To learn more about the Beacon Center for Infectious Diseases, please visit: [bch.org/beaconcenter](http://bch.org/beaconcenter)

The Beacon Center for Infectious Diseases has worked tirelessly to keep our community safe as we face the global pandemic. BCH has a team of four infectious disease doctors: Dr. Amie Meditz, Dr. Mark King, Dr. Todd Turner and Dr. Heather Pujet. Together, they have spearheaded the hospital's response since the coronavirus pandemic's onset, marked locally by confirmations of the county's first positive test on March 14th. The team's workload has been demanding since they continued to treat patients with other infectious diseases while helping to direct the system-wide response to COVID-19. BCH had the luxury, unlike a lot of the hot spots across the United States, to take the time to plan. BCH's contingency plan is ready to be activated at any time to continue the fight against COVID-19 and protect our community in case of a surge. The basics that you can continue to practice for prevention of COVID-19 are: physical distancing, frequent hand-washing and masking in public places.

## Keeping you Safe: Did You Know?

Safety remains our top priority in all patient care locations. BCH is taking specific actions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for patients and staff, including:

- All patients entering any BCH patient care facility are required to wear a surgical or cloth mask. All BCH staff wear face masks
- Limiting visitors
- BCH is supporting social distancing through actions such as spacing chairs at least six feet apart
- Routinely screening all staff for symptoms of COVID-19 and, if symptomatic, they are tested and quarantined
- Following established protocols for thorough cleaning and disinfection prior to using spaces or facilities.

To learn more about how the clinic and BCH prepared for the pandemic, see the Daily Camera article:

[bch.org/covidresponse](http://bch.org/covidresponse)



Matthew Jonas  
Staff Photographer

## COVID-19 PILOT PROGRAMS:

### CONVALESCENT PLASMA DONATION AND ANTIBODY TESTING

The BCH Foundation is supporting the expansion of convalescent plasma donation and antibody testing in the community, including:

1. Goal of collecting donations of convalescent plasma from 130 recovered COVID-19 patients. This will ensure that BCH has a readily available supply of plasma on hand to treat our own patients, which can drop treatment time from three-plus days to three hours.
2. Testing of 200 employees working in direct contact with COVID-19 to identify prevalence of the disease in our community and particularly in our workforce. This will help guide our pandemic response decisions going forward.



“Our infectious disease experts have been critical in our approach and developing contingency plans to help us care for any patient with COVID, but in particular as we look toward a potential surge. They not only have done that to the nth degree, but have been invaluable in our incident command meetings, and helped guide us and give us expert advice developing protocols to keep staff and patients safe.”

– **Jacqueline Attlessey-Pries, MS, RN, CENP, Vice President of Operations, Chief Nursing Officer, Boulder Community Health**



# THANKFUL FOR THE OUTPOURING OF

## Danconias Truffle Brownies by Community Table Kitchen

A special delivery of Danconias Truffle Brownies baked by Khaki Fox and Community Table Kitchen were donated by Mary & Tim Wolf and the Bridge House team as a special treat for BCH staff for all that they are doing to keep our community safe.



## Community Mask Making

In early March, BCH asked the community to donate hand sewn masks. That plea was answered with over 5,000 masks donated to date. Special thanks to all the community mask makers for participating in this effort, as well as Luana Rubin of eQuilter.com and JOANN Fabric and Craft Store of Boulder for their donations of many of the supplies needed for mask making.

## ONE Brands & The Hershey Company

ONE Brands and The Hershey Company donated a pallet of various Hershey's chocolates to BCH. The delicious treats brightened many days as our front line staff at BCH worked long hours.



## Reaper Rob's — Extreme Small Batch Colorado Hot Sauce

Boulder Native and BCH employee, Rob Locricchio, found a way to save his small business and help fight the pandemic. Rob started a 30% off sale on his hot sauce online and a promotion that donated all profits from April sales to the BCH COVID-19 Response Fund.

On April 18th, the Air Force Thunderbirds honored essential front line workers in the COVID-19 pandemic with a flyover that took them to over 40 medical facilities across Colorado.



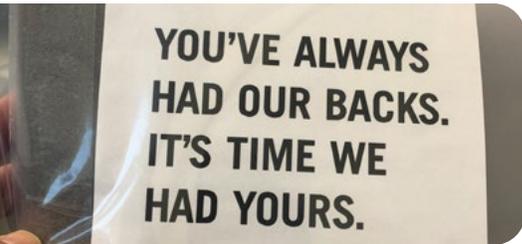
On April 23rd, Boulder Fire and Police saluted our BCH heroes at our Foothills Campus — a moment we will never forget!



# SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY

## N-95 Sculpture Donation

Boulder artist, Mitch Levin, created a mask sculpture celebrating all those who work on the front lines. After Mitch created this beautiful sculpture, Clay and Mia Della Cava purchased the sculpture and donated it to BCH. It is now mounted outside of the employee entrance at the Foothills Hospital.



## Yeti Cycles

Yeti Cycles, based in Golden, has temporarily shifted their focus to making Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to help heroes on the front lines — 600 protective shields were donated to BCH to help keep our staff safe!

## Crocs

As part of their “sharing a free pair for healthcare” initiative, Crocs donated 216 pairs of shoes to BCH healthcare staff working on the front lines against COVID-19. We are so thankful for their generous support!



## Foothills Gift Shop

Due to the closure of the Foothills Giftshop, the BCH Ambassadors gladly donated all Easter candy and treats to BCH staff.



## Expressions of Gratitude from the Community

“Thank you a thousand times over to all our BCH healthcare staff and administrative employees for your thorough, well-orchestrated response to the COVID-19 crisis, and to be available as needed to care for us. Love from this local resident!”

“Thank you for your great service to society and for being every day at the front line fighting against COVID-19.”

“Many thanks to those who work tirelessly to support the health of our community!”



# CHANNELING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY...

## Q & A with Jonah Lefkoff, rising senior at Dawson School

Jonah Lefkoff, 17, is a Boulder native and rising senior at the Dawson School in Lafayette. In his senior year he will serve as the captain of the Robotics Team where he has learned invaluable skills related to engineering, design and software development. His brother Asher, 14, also shares Jonah's passion of robotics, and over the years, the two siblings' parents helped them purchase various tools and programs to experiment and create with. They have a maker space in their basement which includes a CNC mill and a 3D printer — all which was put to use as the community faced COVID-19, a global pandemic.

### *How did you come up with the idea to create face shields?*

I chose to create these masks because I wanted to do something to help my community in this time of need. I searched the internet for ideas of things to make with the equipment that I had, and I found the Prusa face shield designs online. I thought this was a perfect idea, and I set about making them.

### *What materials did you use to create the shields and how long did it take you?*

I ordered high strength filament (for the 3D printer to extrude), and plastic sheeting to make the shield. It took around two days of designing and prototyping, a week to procure the materials, and another week to fabricate all of the parts.

### *How many shields did you end up making and donating to BCH?*

All in all, we produced 25 face shields, each of which would help prevent the spread of coronavirus to medical professionals working on the front lines.

### *What inspired you to take on this project and why?*

I was inspired to do this project out of respect and admiration for our healthcare workers who are working tirelessly to care for our community. This was the least I could do to help them.

Jonah and Asher are the sons of Kyle and Cindy Lefkoff who are long-time supporters of the Boulder Community Health Foundation. Cindy served on the Board of Trustees for the Foundation and was the Chair of the Board in 2017. The Lefkoff family truly exemplifies what it means to be stewards of the community.



## CU Boulder supports BCH with large donation of PPE

The University of Colorado Boulder donated more than 130,000 pieces of PPE and other medical supplies to the Boulder Office of Emergency Management. The supplies were dispersed to BCH and other organizations throughout the community. We are very thankful to CU Boulder for their support of our staff and physicians to keep them safe!

“On behalf of the Boulder Community Health team, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone within the CU Boulder biosciences community. From donations of much needed personal protective equipment (PPE) to securing essential lab materials to an outpouring of well wishes, we greatly appreciate all the CU Boulder team has collectively done to partner with BCH to best prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Forever grateful for the combination of heart, thoughtfulness and sense of possibility that fueled your every action. Go Buffs!”

– Grant Besser, BCH Foundation President

# WE MISS YOU!

To all our dedicated volunteers — we miss you all and are hopeful to re-engage with you all in the near future. We are actively working on a comprehensive volunteer re-engagement plan under guidance from the CDC, Boulder County Public Health, and of course our wonderful BCH administrators and infectious disease physicians. Now more than ever, the value of our dedicated volunteer corps is felt by all of us at BCH.



## A special retirement note from Pat Dimond, Volunteer Services Director for 41 years

“It seems the past four decades have gone by in the blink of an eye. My time at BCH is like a scrapbook filled with images of experiences and colleagues, both paid and volunteer, who have enriched my life and helped

give it purpose. Being part of this locally-governed, not-for-profit community hospital has been a gift. Being able to work alongside volunteers who helped build the foundation of this hospital has been inspiring. Helping future healthcare providers get their first hospital experience has been priceless. And, hopefully, making a small contribution to help care for those in our community has meant the world to me. I’m one of the lucky few whose career has been doing what I love, with those I love. I leave a piece of my heart within these walls and will carry all of you in mine the rest of my life.”

## Hello from the Canine Corps

One of Boulder Community Health’s unique volunteer programs is our Canine Corps. The Canine Corps was founded in 2000, and was the first of its kind in Boulder County. The program started with just a few participants, and now has around 40 active teams. Over the past 20 years, about 185 teams have passed through the program.

Rob Lathrop currently visits the Foothills campus with Semi. Semi is his third dog with the program. Rob says that all of his dogs truly love the volunteering. When asked “What’s the best part of volunteering with your dog?” he replied, “All of it. It’s amazing to walk into a room with a large group of people, and you know things may not be going too well. You just step aside and watch the dog perform their magic, and magic it is.” Semi and Rob, cannot wait to get back to visiting patients at Boulder Community Health.



## BCH Ambassador Update

Prior to the COVID-19 stay at home order, the BCH Ambassadors were busy managing and working in the Foothills Gift Shop, reviewing mini-grants, and awarding the annual Ambassadors’ Human Health Care Scholarship Awards.

- Gift shop net revenue was up 23% in 2019: all gift shop sales directly support and fund Ambassador driven initiatives at BCH.
- Scholarships awarded totaled \$48,000. 21 outstanding students were awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, community involvement, references/recommendations, essay content, and financial needs.

To say that the BCH Ambassadors are missed is an under-statement. Your long-standing commitment and dedication to furthering the mission of BCH is needed now more than ever. We can’t wait to see you all again in the near future – in person at BCH! For more information about the BCH Ambassadors or to join this amazing group of volunteers, please visit [www.bchambassadors.org](http://www.bchambassadors.org)



## Messages from BCH

As our community continues to deal with the spread of COVID-19, we at BCH have been modifying our operations to help keep our patients and staff safe. We want you to know that it is safe to come to us for your medical care needs. We have reopened traditional in-person clinic visits on a limited basis, elective surgeries and now offer virtual visit options to speak with your physician.

[Watch our video to learn more.](#)



In honor of the BCH Champions, both inside and outside of BCH, we are excited to share “You Give” from BCH house band Soul Medicine. This is an original song written and produced by our very own Dr. Alan Zacharias (BCH Associated Neurologists) and accompanied by his very talented colleagues at BCH (Karen Fremont, Sharna Ill, Christi Goettsche, and Michele Sternitzky).

[Watch the You Give video.](#)

BCH is facing unprecedented financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not insignificant in light of the razor thin margins BCH has operated within over the last few years while investing in new services designed to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the community.

Despite this financial strain, BCH continues to invest in keeping our community safe as Colorado begins to reopen. You have our commitment that we will continue to put 100% of your donations to the COVID-19 Response Fund to work in support of the stated priorities — supporting our front line staff and removing barriers to care.

On behalf of over 2,400 staff and physicians hard at work at BCH, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for all you have done for your community health system. We are forever grateful.

Donate today at [bch.org/covid19-fund](https://bch.org/covid19-fund) or use the reply envelope within this newsletter.

