



UCHealth Northern Colorado Foundation

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2023 WISH Funded Projects

Women Investing in Strategies for Health (WISH), a program of UCHealth Northern Colorado Foundation, is a giving circle formed by a group of local women. WISH educates, empowers and inspires women philanthropists. WISH members pool funds to support local programs, projects, and services provided by UCHealth in northern Colorado.

WISH is proud to announce its 2023 award recipients. A total distribution of **\$46,000** supports the following programs and services:

Department and Project/Program Title	Summary
UCHealth Community Health Improvement, Aspen Club senior services - Advance Care Planning Materials	The Aspen Club provides free education, tools, and personal assistance in creating and properly sharing advance directives, enabling patients and their families to make informed health care decisions. The WISH award will be used to purchase pamphlets and worksheets to help patients and their families with advance care planning.
UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital Trauma Services - Trauma Survivor Network Relaunch in Northern Colorado	The Trauma Survivors Network (TSN) provides resources and support for patients and families after serious injuries. The WISH award will be used to relaunch the program, which was paused during the pandemic. Funds will be used to purchase handbooks for patients, educational brochures for staff, and promotional items for education and awareness.
UCHealth Children's Therapy Services - Disconnect to Reconnect Connection Kits	The Disconnect to Reconnect program provides education and support for early language development. This program fosters language development in 1- to 3-year-old children by encouraging parents to put down their screens and connect with their children through play. The WISH award will enable Disconnect to Reconnect to provide families with materials such as books and toys and offer guidance on how to utilize them at home.
UCHealth Community Health Improvement, Aspen Club senior services - CircleTalk	CircleTalk is an evidence-based program that disrupts loneliness and isolation for older adults by creating opportunities to form new relationships and have rich conversations. The program offers a unique curriculum that encourages self-reflection, personal storytelling, and fun activities. The WISH funding will help Aspen Club defray the costs of the class.
UCHealth Children's Therapy Services Speech Department - Assistive Technology Update	Children's Therapy Services provides pediatric speech, occupational, and physical therapy. Many patients have complex communication needs and limited mobility, requiring alternative means to communicate and complete activities of daily living (ADLs). Assistive technology (AT) materials help patients with access to their environments, communication, and ADLs. The WISH award will enable Children's Therapy Services to update its AT materials to provide functional AT intervention for patients.
UCHealth Northern Region Diabetes Prevention Program - Diabetes and Medical Nutrition Therapy	The National Diabetes Prevention Program is a year-long lifestyle change program offered through UCHealth in northern Colorado. Participants with pre-diabetes and who are overweight work in a small group with a registered dietician/lifestyle coach to change habits, lose weight, increase physical activity, and eat healthier to prevent type 2 diabetes. Each group meets 24 times for 1 hour over the year. The WISH award will pay for seven low-income participants to attend classes.

<p>UCHealth Northern Region Professional Development - Enhanced Blood Pressure Training</p>	<p>To address the shortage of registered nurses and certified nursing assistants, UCHealth started an innovative program in 2022 to hire and train for the newly created role of patient care assistant (PCA). PCAs have proven to be a valuable addition that improves bedside care. PCAs can have difficulty learning to measure blood pressure manually (i.e., without the use of an automated cuff). Manual blood pressure measurement is more accurate—if the care giver is properly trained—and is often used on unstable or deteriorating patients. The WISH award will fund the purchase of a blood pressure arm simulator to enhance employee competency in measuring blood pressure.</p>
<p>UCHealth Children's Therapy Services, Developmental Care Team - Pacifier-Activated Lullaby (PAL) Unit for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Music Therapy program</p>	<p>The PAL unit encourages and reinforces effective non-nutritive sucking in premature infants via positive feedback (lullaby music) given to the infant in direct response to sucking. The device links a pacifier to a small speaker that's placed next to the child. When the infant sucks the pacifier, the unit gently plays a lullaby and then stops when the infant stops sucking. Non-nutritive sucking is a foundational skill that supports the development of proper oral feeding, which is a requirement for discharge from the hospital. The WISH award will fund the purchase of 10 pacifiers that connect to the PAL unit.</p>
<p>UCHealth Family Medicine Center (FMC) Behavioral Health Department - Postpartum Support Group</p>	<p>The WISH funding will support the establishment of a weekly postpartum support group for patients of FMC's Poudre Valley Prenatal clinic. A collaboration between FMC's behavioral health social worker and obstetric care manager, the support group will offer care and guidance for postpartum mental health, caregiver physical health, and infant physical health, feeding, and care.</p>
<p>UCHealth Greeley Hospital Birthing Center, Perinatal Bereavement Team - Keepsakes for Families</p>	<p>Labor, delivery, and nursery nurses care for families on the best days of their lives but other times care for families through their worst imaginable moments. One in four pregnancies ends in a loss. The WISH funding will help the perinatal bereavement team care for these families by creating lasting memories and cherished keepsakes with handpicked items that can be provided equally to every family that suffers this unimaginable loss.</p>
<p>UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital Inpatient Rehabilitation/Occupational Therapy - Weighted Blankets as Sensory Tools</p>	<p>Sensory enrichment tools assist hospital patients who have diverse needs, including dementia, behavioral disturbance, substance abuse, and ICU delirium. Weighted blankets are significantly effective in calming patients experiencing agitation or anxiety while in the hospital. Through regular usage, the inpatient rehab unit's supply of weighted blankets has dwindled. The WISH funding enables the purchase of weighted blankets to replenish the supply.</p>
<p>UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital Care Coordination, Social Work/Care Management - Shoes for Shoeless Discharging Patients</p>	<p>Regularly, patients are brought by ambulance to the hospital without shoes. For patients with friends and family, this is not a problem. Not everyone has that level of support, particularly unhoused people and people with limited social support. The WISH award enables the purchase of approximately a year's supply of shoes of various sizes and tubs to organize them, to help shoeless people leave the hospital with dignity and safety.</p>
<p>UCHealth Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Outpatient Speech-Language Pathology - VitalStim Plus Unit</p>	<p>Dysphagia and dysarthria affect the ability to swallow and speak and are prevalent complications among survivors of stroke, brain injury, and neurological disorders. Speech-language pathologists provide therapy, including the use of neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES), to help recruit and reeducate muscles in the process of swallowing. This WISH award enables the outpatient clinic to purchase a state-of-the-art NMES unit.</p>
<p>UCHealth Trauma Services - Car Seat Education and Distribution Program</p>	<p>Safe Kids Larimer County (SKLC) was founded in 1999 and is led by UCHealth. SKLC works to prevent accidental injuries to children 0 to 19 years of age. Among a multitude of injury-prevention programs SKLC provides, its most robust program provides car seats to families in need. This distribution includes safety education and installation education for the caregiver(s). The WISH funding will enable the purchase of approximately 20–30 car seats.</p>