

### Your Child's Health, Close to Home

New providers offer specialty services to meet the growing needs of children throughout the region.





# Your Child's Health, Close to Home

With trusted providers, expanded services, and a focus on whole-family care, St. Anthony Hospital is making pediatric health care more accessible than ever.



St. Anthony Hospital, families in Pendleton and across Eastern Oregon now have greater access to pediatric care—right in their own community. The hospital's growing pediatrics team is bringing expert, compassionate care closer to home, allowing families to get the services they need without traveling as far.

"We want to make it easier for families to grow with us throughout their healthcare journey," says Katy Norton, MHA, Director of Provider Services at St. Anthony Clinic. "Having a one-stop shop is really important."

#### **MEETING A GROWING NEED**

This expansion is a direct response to rising demand for pediatric services in Pendleton and surrounding communities. Many local families already rely on family medicine providers for their children's care—but as the number of young patients has grown, so has the need for additional support.

"We've seen a large increase in newborns and young children coming into the clinic," Norton says. "Our family practice team has stepped up, but the need for dedicated pediatric care became clear."

Access to pediatrics is especially important in rural communities like Pendleton, says Teri Rosselle, FNP, a family nurse practitioner who joined St. Anthony Hospital Family Clinic in March.

"Families here often face challenges, such as fewer pediatric specialists and longer travel times for care," Rosselle says. "It's important to have consistent, accessible services right in the community."

Access has become even more limited since the COVID-19 pandemic, Norton adds.

"We've seen it across the board—specialty services have gotten harder to reach," she says. "Bringing pediatrics into the clinic and keeping it local makes a huge difference in helping kids stay healthy."

#### **EXPANDING SERVICES FOR FAMILIES**

The addition of full-time pediatric experts allows St. Anthony Hospital to explore new services for children.

"We're looking at adding hearing screenings and more advanced vision tests," Norton says. "That could save families an extra trip out of town and bring more peace of mind."

The hospital is also expanding support for parents. This summer, it will offer Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) classes—group sessions designed to help parents navigate common challenges with confidence.

"We want to give parents tools that make daily life easier," Norton says. "Our approach is about supporting the whole family."

#### A VISION FOR LIFELONG HEALTH CARE

Looking ahead, Norton sees continued growth for pediatric services at St. Anthony Hospital. These efforts build on strong existing programs in maternity care, urology, internal medicine, surgery, family medicine, and sleep medicine.

"We want to be that local, familiar place people trust," she says. "When you come here, you'll see the same providers and staff. You won't feel like you're starting over every time."

Rosselle agrees.

"Preventive pediatric care is essential for early intervention and long-term health," she says. "When families can access that care close to home, kids stay healthier, and parents feel more supported."

That consistency is especially valuable when a child is sick or behind on vaccinations.

"When you know your provider, and they know your family, it's easier and faster to get help," Norton says. "You can call and say, 'Something's not right. Can we pop in?'
That's the kind of care we want to provide."

Need a pediatric visit or well-child check? Call St. Anthony Hospital Family Clinic at 541-966-0535 to schedule an appointment.





With the recent addition of nurse practitioner Teri Rosselle in March and the upcoming arrival of pediatrician Timothy Herndon, MD, in August, the pediatrics team is expanding to meet the needs of families in the region.



#### Teri Rosselle, FNP

As a family nurse practitioner, Rosselle treats a wide range of conditions—from ear infections and colds to asthma and eczema. She also focuses on preventive care, including well-child exams, immunizations, developmental

screenings, and age-appropriate health education.

"My goal is to provide family-centered, consistent care that meets the needs of each child," Rosselle says. "I understand the barriers families face in rural communities, and I work to bridge those gaps."

Rosselle brings a strong connection to the area.

"I was born and raised in Pendleton," she says.
"Giving back to the community that shaped me
is incredibly meaningful. I love working here and
raising my family in this town."

A graduate of Oregon Health & Science University and Gonzaga University, Rosselle is known for building long-term, trusted relationships with patients.

"I absolutely love Teri," says Katy Norton, MHA, Director of Provider Services at St. Anthony Clinic. "She's local, kind, and genuine. Families already know and trust her."



#### Timothy Herndon, MD

Dr. Herndon brings decades of experience, having practiced pediatrics since 1985. His specialties include attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder diagnosis and treatment, asthma management, and

developmental monitoring.

"Dr. Herndon has a heart for rural health care and for working with children," Norton says. "We're thrilled to welcome him. His skills will ease the pressure on other providers and help keep more families in town for care."



## Building Tomorrow's Nurses Today

St. Anthony Hospital's program helps new nurses grow into confident caregivers.

hen newly graduated nurses step onto the hospital floor, the transition from classroom to bedside can be overwhelming. At St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, the National Nurse Residency Program (NNRP) gives new nurses the tools and support they need to succeed during their first year.

"This is a yearlong program with multiple layers of support for our newly transitioning nurses to be more competent while building confidence," says Becky Wise, Nurse Residency Site Coordinator. "With the support of the NNRP program and our local stakeholders, we are continuing to build on the retention of our new grads."

#### **HANDS-ON SUPPORT**

The NNRP welcomes about 10 new nurses in each cohort. The program begins with a three-week onboarding period that includes two hands-on skills days to refresh clinical techniques. After that, nurses spend 18 to 24 weeks working closely with a preceptor in their assigned unit. They also attend training sessions every other week, meet regularly with the Site Coordinator, and participate in monthly group meetings and ongoing mentorship.

"Their preceptor is with them the entire time during orientation; they're never left alone," Wise says. "This allows for a safer environment for both the new nurse and the patient. It also gives the opportunity for more competencies to be achieved and validated much earlier in residency."

This layered structure helps new nurses build confidence and skills quickly.

"The feedback from the new nurses is that they feel well supported," Wise says. "That's important for building confidence and encouraging them to stay with our organization."

#### **FOCUSED FROM DAY ONE**

Unlike some programs that rotate nurses through different departments, St. Anthony Hospital's approach is more specialized. New graduates are placed directly into the unit that matches their long-term interests.

"The new graduates are actually hired into their specialty unit," Wise says. "After the first year, if they choose to transfer to a new department, we will support that transition."

This structure allows nurses to develop deeper expertise in one area while still benefiting from the broad support system the program offers.

#### **BETTER FOR NURSES—AND PATIENTS**

The benefits of the program extend beyond nurse development. With strong mentorship and hands-on training, new nurses are better prepared to provide high-quality, safe care from the beginning. This results in improved experiences for both patients and care teams.

Wise says the hospital is proud to help new nurses grow into confident professionals and values the role they play in strengthening the organization as a whole.

"It's an absolute pleasure for our department to be a part of their journey," she says.

To learn more, visit <u>sahpendleton.org/careers/new-graduate-rn-residency-program</u>.

## Meeting Community Needs— One Connection at a Time

St. Anthony Hospital's Community Health Outreach program takes health care beyond hospital walls.

ith the help of a new grant, St. Anthony Hospital is expanding its Community Health Outreach program to meet real needs in the community, such as access to health education, resources for people experiencing houselessness, and weekend food support for students. This important initiative actively engages and supports individuals and families directly within their neighborhoods, forging stronger ties and improving overall well-being.

#### **EXPANDING OUR REACH**

The three-year grant, awarded by the CommonSpirit Mission and Ministry Fund provides \$498,000 in funding. Though the grant cycle began last summer, hiring delays meant the program's full launch didn't happen until

Janet McFarlane, CHW April 2025, when longtime hospital employee Janet McFarlane, CHW, stepped into her new role as Community Health Outreach Coordinator.

"The hospital had a limited outreach program in place," says McFarlane. "This grant allows us to expand both the quantity and quality of our efforts—and to build stronger connections with schools and organizations across our service area."

The program has three focus areas:

- Health education in the community
- Support for people experiencing houselessness
- Weekend food bags for students in need

#### **RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE**

Outreach is already underway. Food bag delivery has launched in the Pilot Rock School District as well as food support for Athena-Weston School District and the Helix Community Pantry. The team has also supported events like a mini health fair at Sunridge Middle School and Earth Day Hot Plate at the Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living.

Recent appearances this spring include the Passport to Wellness Health Fair and the Stand Down & Resource Event at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

Although McFarlane is currently the only staff member assigned full-time to the program, she collaborates with nurses, medical assistants, and other hospital staff for extra support.

"If we're talking about something like stroke or fall prevention, I'll reach out to someone with expertise in that area," she says.

A major part of the program's success is its use of the Community Health RV, a mobile outreach vehicle often seen at local events, such as Pendleton Whisky Music Fest and the Jackalope Jamboree.

"We want people to see the RV and know we're here for them," McFarlane says. "That recognition helps build trust and trust is key to improving health outcomes."

Want to get involved? Call Community Health Outreach at 541-966-2211 or email janet.mcfarlane@commonspirit.org to learn more.

### Community Health Outreach by the Numbers

Grant cycle: July 2024–June 2027

Funding: \$498,000 from CommonSpirit Mission and Ministry Fund

> Houselessness outreach goal: 40 people served per month

Schools served:

school districts + 1 relief nursery

8 completed, more scheduled year-round





# Finding Her Path

Unlike many who leave their hometown after graduation, Hailei Lyda, lab assistant at St. Anthony Hospital, chose to stay and serve her community.

orn and raised in Pendleton, Oregon, Hailei graduated from Pendleton High School in 2021. Growing up, she had many different career aspirations, from law to politics and everything in between. Her father suggested looking into nursing, which sparked her interest in health care. She started at Interpath Laboratory as a COVID processor before joining St. Anthony Hospital as a lab assistant over two years ago, where she discovered her passion for phlebotomy (drawing blood) and patient care.

"Living and working in a small community doesn't diminish the need for high-quality health care," Hailei says. "I take a lot of pride in being able to contribute to the standard of excellence we at St. Anthony Hospital hold ourselves to."

#### **HEALING HANDS AND HEART**

Now, Hailei's days involve collecting blood specimens for emergency patients, hospital admissions, and surgical preparations. Beyond her official duties, she's also volunteered in the hospital gift shop, Inspirations, for five years.

"What I enjoy most at Inspirations is the opportunity to connect with the customers and patients who visit the shop," she explains. "Being a small source of light for them is what keeps me coming back."

When not at the hospital, Hailei is pursuing her Associate of Science degree and nursing prerequisites, while also enjoying baking sourdough and learning golf.

Interested in joining the team at St. Anthony Hospital? Visit <u>sahpendleton.org/careers</u> for more information.

"Your nursing staff along with technicians are second to none. Doctor Adams is the best doctor I've ever been to, and I'm 72! ...
St. Anthony is the best in all phases of working with operations. My hat is off to the best hospital in all of Eastern Oregon/Southeast Washington. Kudos to all who have been so kind to me with all my visits and surgical procedures!"

-R. T., PENDLETON