

**PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST*****Teton Springs Foundation Awards Funding to Teton Valley Hospital Foundation***

Teton Springs Foundation awarded \$30,125.00 of funding to the Teton Valley Hospital Foundation to purchase a microbiology unit for the Teton Valley Hospital Laboratory for “Putting Patients First” capital campaign. The new purchase will enable Teton Valley Hospital to bring microbiology testing in-house.

As demonstrated in the grant application, Teton Valley Hospital had a strong need for the microbiology lab unit. Previous cultures from wounds, slow healing incisions, pneumonia cases and other drug resistant cases were sent out to neighboring laboratories in Rexburg or Idaho Falls. Turnaround times had been 48-72 hours; depending on weather and road conditions. With the much needed microbiology lab purchased and in-house, Teton Valley Hospital patients are now experiencing immediate testing results that leads to higher quality patient care. The microbiology lab unit provides immediate healthcare benefits in terms of increased accuracy in patient diagnosis and treatment for infections, reduction in turn-around time for sample evaluations to 6 – 24 hours, and ability to track antibiotic sensitivity within Teton Valley.

The new microbiology unit enables the physicians to diagnosis any health conditions sooner; if you are a patient with run-away pneumonia or failing health due to an antibiotic resistant wound, 72 hours may seem like weeks. Our patients benefit from quicker turnaround of their lab results because physicians can select a more specific and immediate treatment.

The “Putting Patients First” Laboratory Upgrade started with the purchase of a hematology machine, with a \$33,000.00 donation from the Teton Valley Hospital Foundation to the Teton Valley Hospital to replace an aging hematology machine with an updated, dependable model. The new microbiology unit is a second major capital purchase in the laboratory upgrade process.

The continued economic health of Teton Valley Hospital is understood by many Valley citizens who stepped forward to assist in the process of bringing the hospital back to financial health. Not only is the hospital a major economic contributor to the valley, but it is a life source for many of our residents. For all of our residents and visitors, having a viable health resource close at hand is a key factor to quality living in Teton Valley. It is through the generous contributions of foundations, such as Teton Springs Foundation, that this community hospital has been able to provide excellent care to its community members over the years.

The community is invited to attend Teton Valley Hospital’s Microbiology Unit Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Thursday, April 29th at 4:00 pm. Light appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks will be served.

*Teton Valley Hospital Foundation is a charitable 501 (c) 3 supporting the expansion, facilities and programs of the Teton Valley Hospital. For more information, please call Diane at 354-6317 ext. 181.*