

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Didn't the foundation become a hospital foundation a few years ago? In early 2005, the foundation and hospital entered into a partnership to raise funds to support the health care needs of the region. The hospital agreed to fund the majority of the foundation's expenses, in exchange for the foundation agreeing that 90% of funds raised would be spent on projects identified by the hospital. However, the majority of the dollars raised have been designated for projects that, although worthwhile, did not directly support the hospital's strategic priorities.

Why are you changing the name? We want to make it clear that the foundation is focused on supporting the hospital and its strategic priorities in the community.

The hospital already charges for its services, why does it need to fundraise? Unfortunately, many of the programs that work best to improve health are not covered by insurance companies. When a service is covered, reimbursement is often less than what it cost the hospital to provide the care. In addition, more and more of our patients are uninsured and unable to pay for the care they receive, resulting in unprecedented increases in charity care write-offs and bad debt. Collectively, these forces have decreased the resources available to help the hospital grow and respond to the needs of this region. Now, more than ever, the hospital needs a hospital foundation to help fund equipment and programs that might otherwise be out of reach – things like chemotherapy, digital mammography, endobronchial ultrasound machines, etc.

Will Allina tell our foundation what to raise money for? No. Our foundation's board of directors will work with the hospital's advisory board and staff leadership to review proposed programs and projects and, ultimately, to determine what the foundation will work to support.

How do I know that my money is going to stay in our region? When money is raised to support local projects, those funds are earmarked for that purpose and cannot be used for other projects without the permission of the donor.

What happens to the money the foundation has already raised? Because the foundation's legal status is not changing, the foundation will retain control of its existing assets.

Does this mean the foundation will no longer make grants to other organizations? While the majority of the foundation's grants will be to the hospital, the foundation will likely continue to make grants to other not-for-profit organizations working to improve the health of the region. Currently, the foundation funds organizations that work to provide access to health care; most of the funds for the grants are raised through the foundation's annual Harvest Moon Barn Dance.

What will happen to the foundation's scholarship program? The board has no plans to change the foundation's scholarship program for non-traditional students. This program provides scholarships to individuals pursuing careers in health care, with preference given to applicants who are (1) pursuing degrees that meet an identified provider shortage in the region and (2) have a demonstrated commitment to practice in the region. Clearly, helping to fund a pipeline of staff for the hospital is critical to the hospital's future!

Has the foundation board changed, too? While a few board members did elect to leave the board for other volunteer opportunities, the vast majority of the board members are excited about this transition. Once we have successfully navigated the transition to a hospital foundation, we will welcome new members to the board, individuals who are passionate in their support of the hospital and the services and programs it provides. The foundation board's role will be to work with the hospital advisory board and staff leaders to identify the hospital projects or programs that are most likely to generate philanthropic support, and to raise funds for those projects or programs.