THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE IN SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT

New statewide seismic requirements will soon go into effect that Jerold Phelps Community Hospital will be unable to meet. If we do not construct a new hospital by 2030, we will have no choice but to close our doors. Now is our once in a lifetime opportunity to build a new, modern hospital in Garberville.

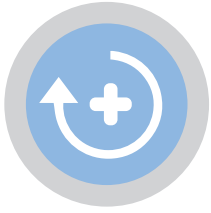
LABORATORY

HOSPITAL & CLINIC

CT & MAMMO SERVICES

FACILITIES FOR SPECIALISTS

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



NEW SERVICES

Updated October 2021

Twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round, for the last 70 years, the caring professionals of the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District have been here when you needed them.

OUR CHALLENGE

We all deserve access to timely modern healthcare delivery, but despite regular retrofitting and upgrades throughout the last half-century, the time has come for the ultimate upgrade: **an entirely new building.**

Our rural hospital must accommodate new technologies, outpatient procedures, telemedicine services, and be safe from earthquake damage.

State mandated seismic legislation was enacted to protect California's hospitals and their patients from earthquake damage. It is a non-funded and costly mandate.

Our current hospital facility will be unable to meet seismic standards by the 2030 deadline, and so it will no longer be able to be utilized as an acute care hospital after that date.

At this point, heating, cooling, dishwashing, electrical, corridor and room enlargement, and other infrastructure items cannot comply with the strict standards that acute care hospitals require.

Plain and simple, in the 70 years since a hospital was first built in SoHum, standards for acute care facilities have improved dramatically, as has medical care.

Without a replacement facility, the healthcare district would be forced to close its emergency and acute care services departments by the end of 2029. With insurance reimbursement as it is today, other services would be impossible to sustain, including laboratory, radiology, mammography, CT and other ancillary services. The skilled nursing facility is subsidized by hospital and laboratory services and would be unlikely to continue as well.

The hard truth is our community will slowly deteriorate without a significant local healthcare presence. Southern Humboldt residents will be forced to move away to have access to adequate healthcare. Consumer spending on healthcare is an important economic anchor. Jobs and subsequent payroll expenses multiply to benefit the local economy, especially in communities like ours with a highly seasonal economy.

A COMMUNITY SOLUTION

The good news is that we are well on our way to making a new facility a reality. By working collaboratively with College of the Redwoods and Humboldt County, SoHum Health has purchased the CR site and classroom building in Garberville. It is an ideal site for building a new medical facility, without closing our emergency room or any other services during the process. Our vision is to relocate the existing emergency and acute care departments into a new hospital building on the Sprowel Creek campus that meets licensing requirements, minimizes costs and provides needed medical advancements to Southern Humboldt.

The new campus will include:

- A hospital
- New community clinic
- Laboratory
- Radiology including CT, X-Ray, Ultrasound & Mammography
- Space for new services and specialists to better serve our patients

"I am grateful that in our rural community, emergency medical healthcare remains accessible. I never expected to be diagnosed with an incurable cancer - Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. It's something that I can live with, but it does weaken my immune system. Teaching in an elementary classroom is probably not the safest workplace for me but I have the medical back up I need at Jerold Phelps Community Hospital. Our hospital has made it possible for me to continue working here in this sublime place I call home, doing what I am passionate about, teaching music to elementary school students. Supporting our local hospital is important because it allows me and others living with a chronic disease to continue to live here and be a part of this community!"

—Hal Lepoff

former violin section leader, Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

Music Teacher at Redway Elementary School

OUR HE

Southern Hum

COMPLETE

1

CHASE LAND

2019

PHASE 1

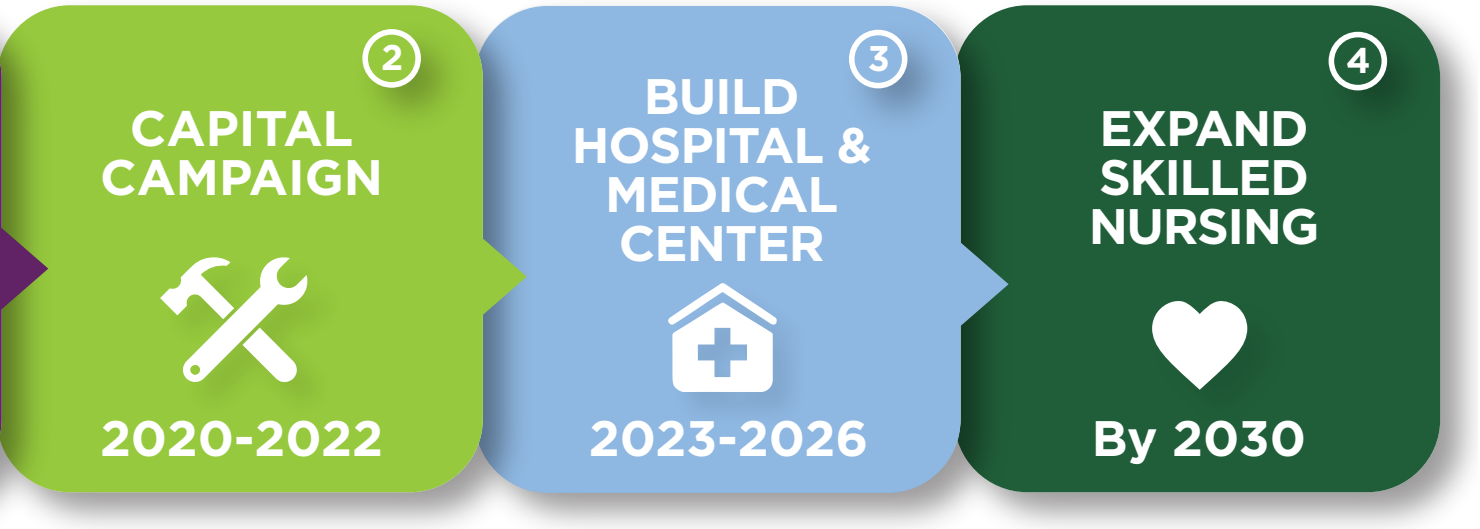
- Purchased land at Sprowel Creek site for $1.1M
- Initiate seismic upgrades at current facility

Linda Lowe and SoHum Health Clinic Provider Linda Candiotti, PA-C

ALTHCARE VISION

boldt Community Healthcare District

Master Plan Phases



PHASE 2

- Acquire $40M USDA loan
- Raise 10% down payment through community donations, foundations, and land purchase
- Design modern hospital and medical center

PHASE 3

- Build hospital to current standards of care
- Build modern clinic with room for specialists
- Attract doctors and mid-level practitioners

PHASE 4

- Repurpose current facility
- Increase Skilled Nursing beds
- Expansion of other health services

The publicly-elected District Board and the hospital's administrative team have been working closely together on long term planning. We have completed a purchase agreement with College of the Redwoods for the Old Garberville School site, and are actively developing plans for new facilities and plans for repurposing our current site. The Redwood Playhouse will remain open for community use.

The project must be phased in order to maintain emergency and all current services, and for financial feasibility.

With the help of the community and the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare Foundation leading the way, we are confident we can finance this project. **The good news is that the financial position of our District is strong, as demand for new and existing services continues to increase on a monthly and yearly basis.**

—Larry Basquez

Larry and Connie Basquez have been part of the Southern Humboldt Community for over 45 years.

They moved here in 1974, raised their family here and were owners of Peter Pan Market, The Eel River Café and Connie's Corner.

"I had fallen asleep in my favorite chair when I suddenly woke up. It felt like somebody had hit me in the chest with a baseball bat. I knew I was having a heart attack and couldn't wait for an ambulance to come and get me. Connie drove me to Jerold Phelps Community Hospital ER and as soon as she helped me through the door, the staff wasted no time in rushing me in to see the doctor. He immediately ran extensive tests to make sure I was stable enough to travel by ambulance to get the help I needed. The doctor forwarded my results and adamantly demanded they have a cardiologist ready on site when I arrived. He called more than once to emphasize the seriousness of my condition and I thank God he did! If they hadn't been prepared to receive me with the right staff in place, I would not be here today. I was in rough shape and ultimately life-flighted to St. Helena and underwent extensive open-heart surgery the very next day. **I'm alive today because of the experienced and dedicated staff at our healthcare district who stabilized me and conveyed the urgent need for special staff to receive me for my best chance of survival. I am so very grateful that we have a hospital and I know Connie, my three grown children and my five grandchildren are too."**

"After eating lunch one day, I had intense itching and swelling of my lips, hands, and feet. Soon after I began to experience shortness of breath - I was having a life-threatening allergic reaction. My husband, Steve whisked me to our local hospital, where the ER doc gave me a shot of epinephrine and other stabilizing medications. If we had not had a hospital, I would not be alive today. In an emergency, minutes matter. **Your life or the life of someone you love could depend on it as mine did. We are fortunate to have a hospital in Garberville which is why Steve and I are contributing to this vital campaign.**"

—Christina Huff

Longtime Garberville Resident, former Family Resource Center ED
Board Member: Redwoods Rural Healthcare Center
Board Member: Humboldt Area Foundation

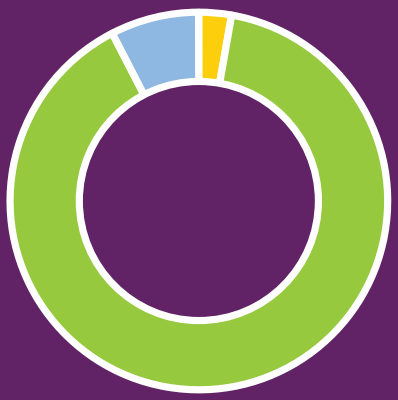
THE TIME IS NOW

A Federal loan is available for most of the new hospital and clinic costs, but strong community financial support for the project is a loan requirement. Charitable donations from local residents and foundations will be required to secure this financing.

Make a donation to SoHum Health Foundation online at: sohumhealthfoundation.org/give

Mail a donation check to:
Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare Foundation (SHCHF)
733 Cedar Street, Garberville CA, 95542

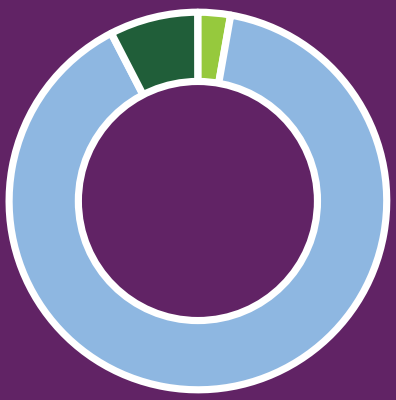
NEW FACILITY COSTS



- **$1,100,000** purchase Sprowel Creek Campus (complete)
- **$36,000,000** New hospital planning and construction (approximately $1,400/sq. ft.)
- **$2,500,000** New clinic (approximately $250/sq. ft.)

$ 39,600,000 Approximate Total Project Cost

FINANCING



- **$1,100,000** Invested already to purchase and update new campus
- **$35,600,000** USDA Rural Development 40-year Loan
- **$2,900,000** Community Donations and Cash from Hospital/Clinic operations

$39,600,000 Approximate Sources of Financing

The SoHum Health Foundation and its volunteers have started a Capital Campaign to build a new facility and hospital. Philanthropic gifts from community leaders, grants from local charitable foundations and donor-advised funds are being solicited.

Invest in the future of healthcare in Southern Humboldt and make a tax-deductible gift today. Partnering with the Humboldt Area Foundation, we can assist you in making a donation or pledge by using your real estate assets, an IRA or 401(k) retirement fund as well as other forms of giving.

Contact us with your comments and questions at:
foundation@shchd.org (707) 223-6630

OUR STORIES

"The Garberville Hospital treated a severe BMX induced staph infection in my shin as a teenager. I may have lost my leg without their help. Any community lucky enough to have a hospital should support this campaign."

—Ross Huber

"Before my husband, Stewart, was sent to Santa Rosa Hospital for a successful triple bypass he was stabilized at our local hospital. Having that local emergency room is essential in our rural community."

—Lelia Moskowitz

"I support the new hospital because it was at our ER that our daughter, Angie finally received care after many frustrating trips up north waiting hours to be seen."

—Kristi Nicola-Clark and Roger Clark

To read more stories or share one of your own, visit our website at:
sohumhealthfoundation.org

Frequently Asked Questions

1 WHY CAN'T WE REBUILD WHERE WE ARE?

Legally we must comply with new California earthquake standards. We are close to compliance with the 2020 standards, but the 2030 seismic standards cannot be met with the current facility.

The building was constructed over 50 years ago and standards for acute care facilities have improved dramatically since then. Current heating, cooling, dishwashing, electrical and other infrastructure items can no longer support the safety standards that acute hospitals require.

Today's rural hospital facilities must accommodate new technologies, outpatient procedures and telemedicine. Residents of our local communities deserve access to modern healthcare delivery.

2 WHY CAN'T WE BUILD A STAND ALONE ER?

California law currently does not allow a stand alone emergency room. The Federal reimbursement rates for such a facility would not be financially feasible. In addition, our community needs a long term plan and options for future expansion if needed.

3 CAN WE BE SURE YOU WON'T TEAR DOWN THE REDWOOD PLAYHOUSE BUILDING?

The stage and auditorium will remain available for public use. Producing high quality performing arts events has always been praised and valued by this community. SoHum Health Is committed to preserving this worthwhile community activity. Part of the remainder of the building will house the new Garberville Pharmacy, and remaining office space will be used for special programs and meeting rooms.

4 WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE OLD FACILITY?

Our plan is to remodel and expand to double the number of skilled nursing long term care residents. Currently, there is a waiting list for new residents.

5 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SMALL TOWNS LOSE THEIR HOSPITAL?

Small towns slowly deteriorate without significant local healthcare presence. Consumer spending on healthcare is an important economic anchor. Jobs and subsequent payroll expenses multiply to benefit the local economy, especially in communities like ours with a highly seasonal economy like tourism.

6 HOW CAN OUR COMMUNITY HELP?

Volunteerism and charitable giving are two hallmarks of Southern Humboldt culture.

Our community is what it is today because of the many generous members who have gone the extra mile to donate their time, money and energy over the decades. Join us by making a contribution today or joining our capital campaign volunteer team. Large as well as small communities often look for charitable support from those in their community who have the ability to give.

7 WHY DO WE NEED TO RAISE MONEY IF WE ALREADY HAVE A PARCEL TAX?

By law, the parcel tax is not available to build new facilities and can only be used for purposes approved by District voters. The parcel tax helps to pay for daily emergency room and hospital operations not fully covered by Medicare, Medi-Cal and commercial health insurance reimbursements.