



For Immediate Release

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Rotary Pledges Major Gift to Hospital

The Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce a \$20,000 pledge from the Rotary Club of Spruce Pine to name the hospital's Emergency Department lobby in the Phillips Care Center, the new clinical wing of the hospital.

“Rotary’s mission is to encourage and foster the ideas of service and worthy enterprise,” said Bing Crosby, president of the Mitchell County Rotary. “By partnering with the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital we are helping to strengthen the economy right here in Mitchell County,” said Crosby. “Our pledge recognizes the growth of the hospital, which now has all of the high-tech equipment usually available only at larger healthcare institutions. It’s nice to know that we have an award-winning hospital right in our back door.”

“Our foundation is thrilled to receive Rotary’s generous pledge,” said BRRH Foundation Chair Pat Ross. “Rotary joins a growing list of individuals, businesses and other service organizations that have contributed over \$4.1 million thus far toward this project, which is designed to meet the healthcare needs of our community for the next 25 years.”

When completed, the expansion and renovation of the 52-year old hospital will include 46 new, private patient rooms – 30 medical/surgical rooms, eight high acuity rooms, four labor and delivery rooms and four observation rooms, an expanded 12-bed emergency department, expanded radiology and chemotherapy departments, a new registration area, chapel, gift shop and coffee shop.

The price tag for the construction and renovation project is now \$22.9 million. The Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Foundation has surpassed its fundraising goal of \$4 million, but with the cost of the project escalating from \$14 million to nearly \$23 million, help is still needed. Members of the community are invited to purchase bricks for the new garden/patio area, which will be located in front of the new clinical wing. Each brick costs \$100 and can be engraved with the name of a business or loved one. Those interested in purchasing a brick or making a contribution should contact the BRRH Foundation at 766-1752.

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