

# FMC Foundation makes lead gift to North Country

By RICK SWANSON

## NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH

The Flagstaff Medical Center Foundation has committed a lead gift to help North Country HealthCare meet a challenge grant from the prestigious Kresge Foundation. The Kresge Foundation recently offered \$250,000 to North Country for its new clinic on Fourth Street if and when North Country is able to raise the remaining funds to reach its \$3 million capital campaign goal. The deadline for the challenge grant is Oct. 1.

Rick Smith, Flagstaff Medical Center's vice president of development, announced that the FMC Foundation would contribute towards the match for the Kresge grant. Dr. Steven Lewis, the vice president of medical affairs, said, "North Country HealthCare is one of Flagstaff Medical Center's key partners in improving the health of the community. It is very important for

us to help them complete their capital campaign."

North Country HealthCare's President and CEO, Ann Roggenbuck, said, "We have been focused on this capital building project for the past three years, and the Kresge challenge grant puts us within sight of the finish line. Our ability to pay for the new clinic is not assured until we reach our \$3 million goal."

Since the Kresge Foundation informed North Country of the challenge grant on March 13, the capital campaign has received matching gifts totaling \$243,000 from businesses and individuals. This means North Country still needs to raise about \$65,000 to meet the Kresge challenge. Between now and Oct. 1, each dollar contributed will be worth two dollars. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online

at [northcountryhealthcare.org](http://northcountryhealthcare.org).

Margo Pernick, program officer at the Kresge Foundation, noted that it was a very competitive process to receive the challenge grant. "We expect grant seekers to be experienced in delivering effective programs, have talented and motivated leadership and possess the ability to mobilize resources to achieve sustainable transformation," Pernick said.

In recognition of Flagstaff Medical Center's support, North Country plans to name its new learning center after Flagstaff Medical Center. Beginning in September 2008, the learning center will house distance learning classrooms for medical students from A.T. Still University's School of Osteopathic Medicine. The learning center will also provide training through a grant from Yavapai College for allied health profes-

sions such as medical assistants, radiology techs, and respiratory therapists. In addition, it will be used for community health education such as birthing classes.

It is fitting that Flagstaff Medical Center will be associated with a learning center that will train the next generation of doctors. Since 2002 our region has seen a net loss of about 15 primary care physicians. Across the United States, the number of medical graduates entering family medicine residencies has fallen by about 50 percent in the past 10 years. Evidence shows that health professionals are more likely to practice in the communities where they were trained, and North Country's partnership with A.T. Still University promises to help Flagstaff "grow its own" doctors.

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