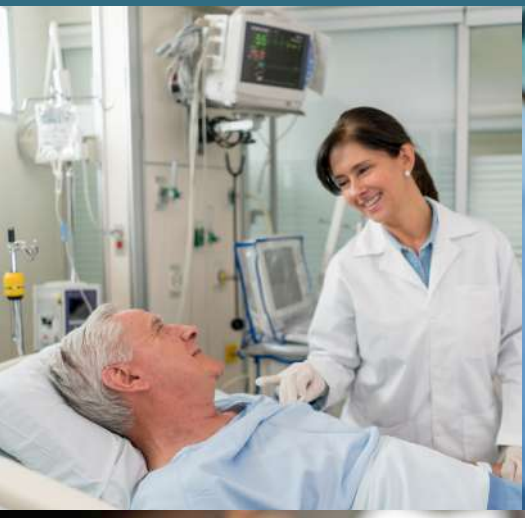




Chippewa Valley
Health Cooperative







Transforming The Healthcare Landscape In The Chippewa Valley To Help Our Community THRIVE

THERE IS ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

JOIN US IN TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

From Crisis to Opportunity - We Must Act Now

Since January 2024, healthcare in the Chippewa Valley has shifted from strained to critical. What once were rare inconveniences — long ER waits, patients treated in hallways and parking lots, postponed surgeries, or 2-hour drives for cancer care — are now everyday realities. New mothers deliver far from home, critical care is often delayed, and even routine medical appointments and preventative screenings are harder to secure.

This is not sustainable. And it's not acceptable.

The closure of Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire left more than 70,000 people without local care — and our remaining systems are overwhelmed. Wait times are skyrocketing, costs are soaring, and services like labor & delivery, cardiology, surgery, and cancer treatment are stretched beyond capacity.



"The situation has gone from concerning to dire for the entire community. Physicians and medical professionals throughout the Chippewa Valley are struggling to provide the care our community needs because we simply don't have enough hospital capacity."

Dr. Erik Dickson

Healthcare isn't just a convenience. It's the foundation of a thriving community. And right now, that foundation is crumbling beneath us.

We're not just building a hospital. We're building a healthier, more resilient Chippewa Valley.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY, AND IT STARTS WITH US

We believe in a stronger future. We believe that *building a new, modern hospital — designed for the future and powered by our community — is the key to turning this crisis into a catalyst for long-term change.*

This isn't about replacing what we lost. It's about reimagining what's possible.

The Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative was born just six weeks after the HSHS closure announcement. A grassroots solution powered by local medical professionals and committed citizens, the Cooperative's mission is bold yet simple:

Our mission is to build a new model of high-quality, lower-cost health care – governed by our community, for our community.

To bring exceptional, accessible, and affordable healthcare back home.

We envision a state-of-the-art hospital where:

- Care is close, not 100+ miles away.
- Patients are treated with compassion, not corporate quotas.
- Local doctors have the freedom to practice medicine, not follow cookie-cutter checklists.
- Our neighbors receive treatment from providers they know and trust — from birth to end-of-life care.

Together, We Can Lead the Way.

This campaign is more than a call for funds — it's a call to action.

The Chippewa Valley is known for its grit, its heart, and its ability to come together when it matters most. That moment is now. With your support, we can pioneer a new healthcare model — right here, in our backyard.

Help us shape the future of healthcare in our region. Help us ensure that no one in our community has to leave town — or wait too long — for the care they need.

Let's build a hospital that reflects the strength, the values, and the spirit of the Chippewa Valley.

Join us. Invest in hope. Create a legacy of care.

Robert Krause, *Chair* Patti Darley, *Vice Chair*

Board of Directors

THE NEED IS URGENT — AND GROWING BY THE DAY

When HSHS closed its hospitals, cancer center, and Prevea clinics, it didn't just leave buildings empty — it left tens of thousands of Chippewa Valley residents without care. In the aftermath, local physicians, providers, and clinics have done everything in their power to fill the gap. But the gap is simply too wide.

Our two remaining hospitals are doing their best. But even their best efforts can't overcome the reality: they lack the beds, the staff, and the capacity to care for the massive influx of patients once served by St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart, and Prevea's specialty practices.

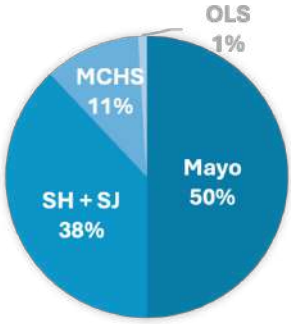
The result is overburdened facilities and exhausted professionals. Patients waiting longer, traveling farther, and struggling to access even the most basic care.

This is not a temporary inconvenience. This is a breaking point.

Without bold action, this situation will only worsen. Our community deserves better.

We must build a new path forward—before it's too late.

2023

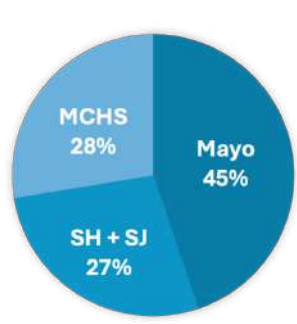


Avg Hospital Inpatient Census

SH + SJ

Avg 112 daily inpatients

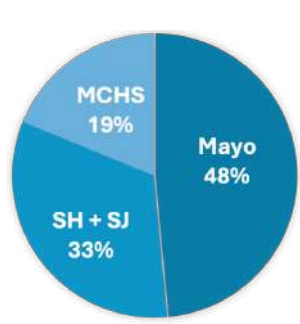
40,880 hospital night stays per year



Emergency Room Visits

SH + SJ

22,875 visits



Newborn Deliveries

SH

763 newborns

* Source, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Information Center, FY 2023

THE PILLARS OF SUCCESS: A NEW MODEL, ROOTED IN PHYSICIANS

At the heart of every great hospital are its physicians.

At the core of our hospital is **a time-tested philosophy and practice — revived for a new era.**

We're not reinventing the wheel.

We're bringing back what's always worked: trusted, physician-led care that puts people first. It's the way healthcare used to be — before it became corporate, distant, and impersonal.

Unlike traditional systems forced to recruit from afar, **our strength is already here**. The Chippewa Valley is home to an extraordinary network of independent, community-rooted medical professionals — over 100 of whom have already committed to serve at our new hospital. These are the same doctors and medical staff who staffed Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's, who have built decades-long relationships with families across the region, and who today serve over **60,000 patients** right here in our community.

They're not outsiders. **They are here — ready to lead, ready to care.**

This isn't about disrupting healthcare. **It's about restoring it — thoughtfully, powerfully, and locally.**

Our Commitments:

Exceptional, Accessible Care. We will create a patient-centered environment where quality and compassion come first.

Outstanding Medical Staff, Already in Place. Our hospital will open with a dedicated team of experienced, committed physicians—no lengthy recruitment process, no delay.

Local Control, Always. Our Cooperative structure ensures that decisions are made here, by and for the people of the Chippewa Valley.

Built for the Future. With no outdated infrastructure to hold us back, we'll design a flexible, efficient facility tailored to evolving best practices and technologies.

Financially Sustainable by Design. Our operational model emphasizes long-term fiscal strength—ensuring high-quality care for generations to come.

The Better Way Starts Here. Our model and approach isn't just new. It's smarter, leaner, and community-driven.

Cooperative For All. All residents in the 18-county Chippewa Valley region can be voting members in our Cooperative. Our members know the community and prioritize its health.

Every Dollar Stays Home. Reinvestment happens here. Infrastructure, services, and innovations benefit our region - not systems with facilities in other regions.

Local Partners, Local Power. We buy local. We hire local. From equipment to services, we choose what's best for our community.

Agile, Independent, Effective. F ree from corporate bureaucracy, we act quickly, make smart decisions, and focus on delivering innovative, high-quality care without delay.

PILLAR:
THE COOPERATIVE MODEL

This is the Better Way.

This is how we rebuild trust, restore access, and revolutionize healthcare in the Chippewa Valley.

And it's already happening—because the people who know how to care for this community are leading the way.

A BETTER WAY

The Chippewa Valley Cooperative Hospital will stand as a beacon of exceptional healthcare, dedicated to elevating the health and well-being of our community through unparalleled quality, patient-centered care, and innovative hospital practices.

Our nonprofit hospital is committed to achieving the highest standards of excellence and setting a new benchmark for healthcare in the region.

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



A Major Milestone—And a Bold Step Forward

We're proud to announce that on June 30, 2025, the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative officially acquired the former St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls. This moment marks more than a property transfer—it marks a powerful leap toward restoring reliable, local healthcare for the tens of thousands of residents left behind by the HSHS system closure.

This facility, now named **Chippewa Valley Cooperative Hospital**, is our bridge to the future: an interim solution that delivers critical care now, while we build the permanent, state-of-the-art hospital in Lake Hallie.

Why Not Just Keep the Old St. Joseph's?

It's a fair question—and here's the answer: it would cost more to retrofit the 50-year-old building than to build a modern hospital designed for tomorrow.

But this interim hospital lets us serve more people, sooner—without compromising our long-term vision. We have already launched select services at the Chippewa Falls campus, and will follow with full hospital operations, pending licensing and certifications which are now underway.

The Chippewa Valley Cooperative Hospital Serves The Community (no membership required).

A CRITICAL NEED—AND PROGRESS ALREADY MADE

The loss of local hospital and specialty services created immediate healthcare access challenges across the Chippewa Valley. When Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals closed, 300 cancer patients were moved from Eau Claire to other facilities in Wisconsin and Minnesota in March 2024.

The Cooperative responded by opening local medical oncology, infusion therapy, advanced wound care, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy at the Chippewa Falls campus. These services demonstrate what community-supported, locally led healthcare can accomplish.



But important gaps remain including hospital-based emergency, inpatient, surgical, diagnostic, and radiation oncology services. Restoring these services is the next step toward building a complete, sustainable healthcare system for our region.

Chippewa Valley Cooperative Hospital

ROLLING OUT SERVICES

Fall 2025 Launch:

- Cancer & Infusion Center (medical oncology + infusion therapy)

Spring 2026 Launch:

- Advanced Wound Care (with hyperbaric oxygen therapy)



Once full facility is open Chippewa Falls campus will offer:

- 24/7 Emergency Department
- 31-bed hospital
- Medical-Surgical Services
- Critical Care
- Labor & Delivery
- Cancer Center
- Wound Care
- Advanced Diagnostics
- Additional hospital services

Employment Impact: Over 300 full-time staff will be employed at the Chippewa Falls facility.

NEW INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



Concept Rendering

The new nonprofit hospital will be approximately 144,000 square feet and employ over 410 full-time employees, not including the medical staff.

Inpatient Care:

- 48 total beds, including a 12-bed ICU
- Average daily census: 33 patients
- Medical-surgical, labor and delivery, and critical care units
- Emergency Department: will handle more than 10,400 visits annually

Cancer Care:

- Comprehensive Cancer Center with radiation therapy and chemotherapy to serve oncology patients in the community

Surgical & Procedural Services:

- 4 operating rooms, 2 GI rooms
- Projected volume of 1,750 surgeries and 1,800 GI scopes per year
- Full pre and post surgical care

Therapy Services:

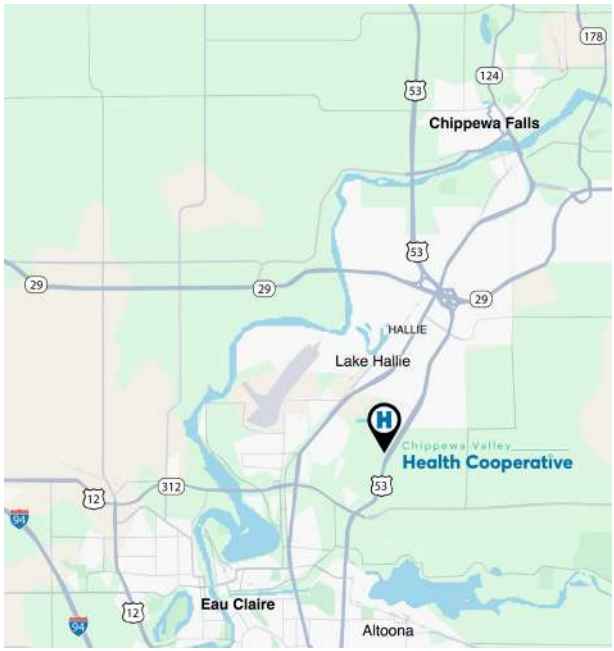
- Physical Therapy: 19,000 procedures annually
- Occupational Therapy: 2,300 visits annually
- Speech Therapy: 650 visits annually

Diagnostic Services:

- Comprehensive Laboratory and Radiology facilities
- Cardiology services for advanced heart care

Strategically Located For Growth and Access:

Strategically located, the Lake Hallie site ensures easy regional access, especially for emergency services. It's the ideal hub to serve our entire Chippewa Valley community—with room to grow for the future.





"Building a new, modern, independent hospital will help ensure that the Chippewa Valley is a desirable location for exceptional physicians and healthcare providers to come, build fulfilling careers, and become strong members of our communities."

Kyle Dettbarn, MD

YOUR MOMENT TO MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

We are building more than a hospital — we are building the future of healthcare in the Chippewa Valley.

Our mission is clear: to create a locally led, physician-centered healthcare service that delivers exceptional, affordable care — right here at home. A hospital rooted in accountability to our own people, not distant corporate boards. A hospital designed to close the gaps our community faces now, and to grow with us into the future.

As a Cooperative, we are owned by and answer to the people of the 18-county Chippewa Valley region. Every decision we make centers on what's best for this community. Every dollar we raise stays here, working hard for our friends, our families, and our neighbors.

TODAY, WE INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF SOMETHING TRANSFORMATIONAL.

Your gift to the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative will go directly toward delivering critical services our region urgently needs and building a state-of-the-art hospital that will serve generations to come. It's not just an investment in infrastructure, it's an investment in people, in access, in dignity, and in the promise of a healthier future.

This is your opportunity to leave a legacy.

One that ensures that no one in our region has to travel hours for care.

One that reflects your values, your vision, and your belief in this community.

Join us. Lead with us. Help build the healthcare future the Chippewa Valley deserves.

Board of Directors

Robert Krause, Chair
Patti Darley, Vice Chair
Kyle Dettbarn, MD
Erik Dickson, MD
Peter Hoeft
Mickey Judkins
Dave Nelson
Eric Rygg
Kamal Thapar, MD



Robert Krause
Chair



Patti Darley
Vice Chair



Kyle Dettbarn, MD



Erik Dickson, MD



Peter Hoeft



Mickey Judkins



Dave Nelson



Eric Rygg



Kamal Thapar, MD

Chippewa Valley

Health Cooperative

**Rooted in resilience. Driven by community.
Powered by bold solutions.**

The Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative was born from this spirit, because we believe there's a Better Way to deliver healthcare: excellent, accessible, and affordable for all.

With your help, we're breaking the mold and building a future where our region not only survives but thrives.

If anyone can lead this transformation, it's the Chippewa Valley.

Transforming Healthcare TOGETHER



For More Information, Please Contact:
Andrea Blaeser, *Development Director*
andrea.blaeser@cvhealthcoop.org

chippewavalleyhealthcooperative.org