

Hilltop

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Our Mission

We create **connection**
to build a **community**
where everyone **belongs**

Our Values

Relationship
Courage
Integrity
Inclusivity
Growth
Fun



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A View From the Top

40 years of connection, community, and belonging

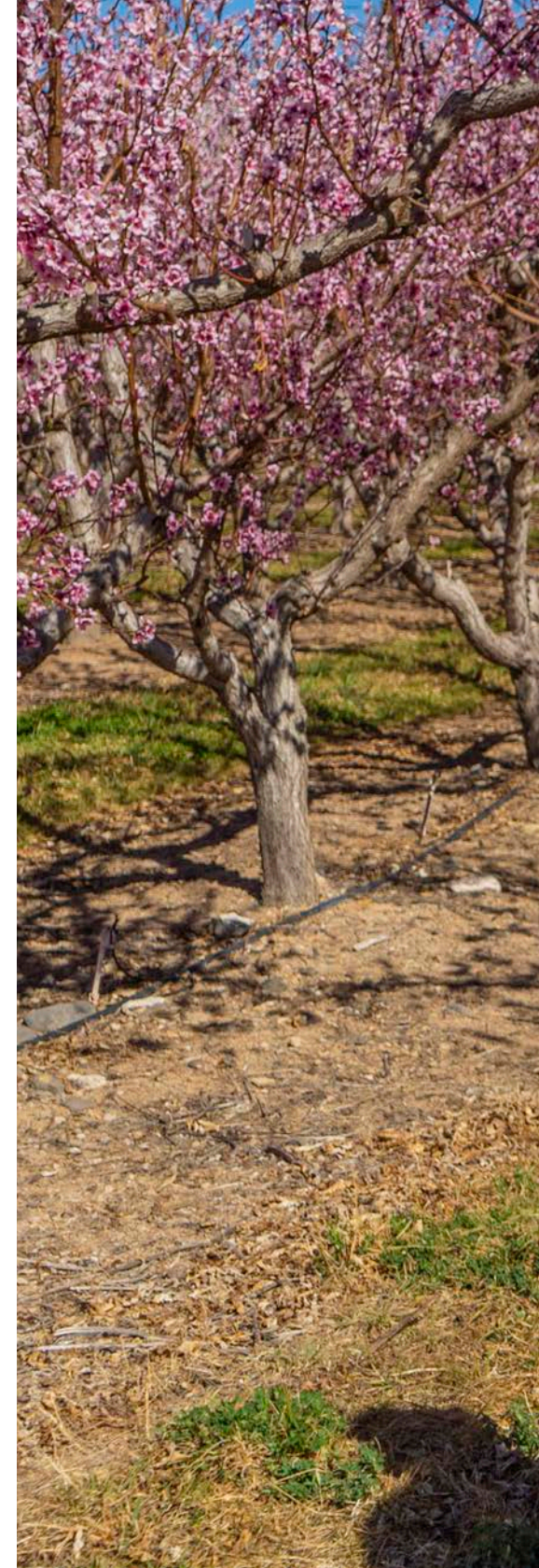
The “View from the Top” is usually about what’s next for Hilltop. This year, it feels right to pause and look back.

In 2025, I announced my intention to retire at the end of 2026, bringing a 40-year career at Hilltop to a close. It’s been a remarkable journey filled with important work, multiple roles, incredible colleagues, and countless lives touched along the way. I’ve loved nearly every minute of it—with the clear exception of the COVID years, which I would have happily skipped.

My Hilltop story began in high school, when I took a maintenance job to earn some spending money. That experience led to an exploration of physical therapy during my college years, and eventually to the official start of my career as a Program Director overseeing the opening of Hilltop’s Residential Youth Services continuum. From there, the narrative unfolded in ways I never could have predicted.

Over the decades, Hilltop has changed in profound ways. We sold the rehabilitation hospital to St. Mary’s, opened The Fountains and The Commons, and witnessed the rise and eventual closure of residential youth programs as community priorities shifted. We expanded the Life Adjustment Program and moved beyond Grand Junction with a regional office serving Montrose and Delta, developed Cottages for seniors, launched Senior Daybreak, and expanded our community-based programs, including a new safe house through Latimer House. We built comprehensive housing and property management services and acquired a remarkable housing continuum through Karis. Most recently, we took the bold step of moving Hilltop’s headquarters onto Main Street, both symbolizing and facilitating Hilltop’s next chapter.

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Mike Stahl, CEO



Through all of this, what has mattered most has stayed the same: Connection, Community, and Belonging.

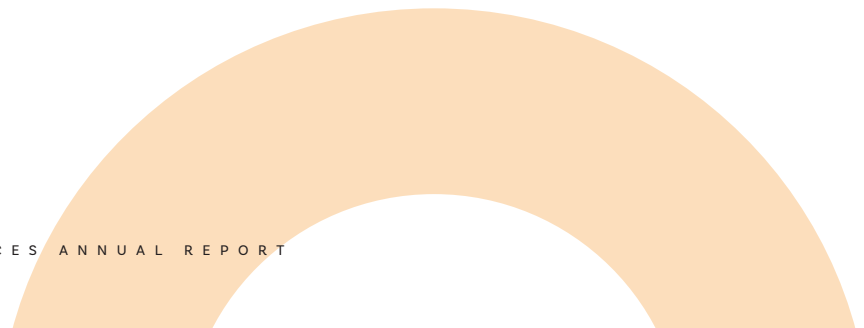
Connection. I have had the privilege of working with youth searching for direction, seniors navigate life's final chapters, and helping individuals and families connect to opportunities to live their best lives. Just as meaningful to me has been working alongside Hilltoppers—past and present—who bring compassion, humanity, and commitment to this work every day, and with community partners united by a shared purpose. These connections are the foundation of our mission.

Community. My belief is that our individual responsibilities extend beyond our own organization. Serving on boards, committees, and volunteer efforts—locally, regionally, and statewide, has deepened my understanding of our community and strengthened my leadership. Each experience reinforced the truth that we are all interconnected, and our collective success depends on how well we work together to build a community.

Belonging. Connection and community ultimately lead to belonging, a vision where every person is seen, valued, and empowered, and where dignity and humanity are recognized and celebrated. Hilltop reflects this vision. We have always been more than buildings and services. Hilltop represents visibility, accessibility, and a deeper sense of connection and belonging within our community.

Like many nonprofits, Hilltop faces real challenges, including funding pressures and growing community needs. Yet we are grounded in powerful strengths: strong financial stewardship, exceptional leadership, a mission-driven culture rooted in compassion, and facilities that support innovation and effective service delivery.

As I look back and ahead, I feel deep gratitude—gratitude for the people, the purpose, and the privilege of being part of Hilltop's story. The view from the top isn't only about what's next; it's about honoring how far we have come and trusting the people who will carry this work forward.





In 2025, Hilltop Community Resources reached several important milestones. As we unveiled new branding, prepared for our move to downtown Grand Junction, and celebrated 75 years of service, we saw a clear opportunity to strengthen community awareness about Hilltop and the work we do.

From there, the “Who Is Hilltop?” awareness campaign was launched in mid-2025. We recognized that when people hear the name Hilltop, one of the first questions they often ask is, “Who is Hilltop?” Our goal was to provide a clear and simple answer:

Hilltop Community Resources is a local nonprofit organization that creates connections to build a community where everyone belongs.

While Hilltop provides a wide range of services supporting individuals and families at many stages of life, the campaign intentionally focused on keeping the message straightforward and easy to understand. Rather than overwhelming the community with the full breadth of our work, we introduced Hilltop through three primary areas of service:

- Community Programs**
- Senior Living**
- Brain Injury Services**

Each category offers a simple introduction to the ways Hilltop supports people across our community.

You may have seen the “Who Is Hilltop?” campaign in a variety of places—on local bus advertising, in the newspaper, or on the windows of our new Main Street office. Through this effort, we hope more people in our region come to recognize Hilltop as a trusted partner dedicated to building a stronger, more connected community.

Who is Hilltop?
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
WE SERVE WESTERN COLORADO IN THESE AREAS:

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
Connection to vital services and support with:

- housing, health insurance, aging and disability resources
- education for parents and expecting parents
- violence in relationships, sexual assault, sex trafficking
- counseling, group support, peer support

Who is Hilltop?
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
WE SERVE WESTERN COLORADO IN THESE AREAS:

SENIOR LIVING

RESIDENCES:
The Commons
The Fountains
The Cottages

DAY PROGRAM:
Senior Day Break

Who is Hilltop?
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
WE SERVE WESTERN COLORADO IN THESE AREAS:

Supported living for adults with brain injuries

BRAIN INJURY SERVICES



A Safety Net for Young Adults

Connections program offers practical support on the journey to stable housing



Last year, nearly 200 young people experiencing homelessness found support, stability, and a sense of belonging through the Connections program, which serves individuals ages 18 to 24. Formerly operated by the nonprofit Karis, Inc., the program entered a new chapter in 2025 becoming part of Hilltop, expanding its ability to walk alongside young people as they build more secure futures.

With Connections, unhoused young people find practical support and a caring team dedicated to guiding them, step by step, into stable housing.

“There’s a gap for young adults,” says Margery Brennan, Hilltop’s Director of Community Programs. “Nothing magical happens on the eve of your eighteenth birthday and suddenly you can live independently.”

“We can help fill the gap between turning 18 and achieving sustainable independence.”

The journey begins

Most Connections participants enter the program through its Drop-In Center across the street from Hilltop’s headquarters on Main Street.

There, a young person can get off the street, take a shower, do laundry, and access water, food, clothing, and hygiene items. They can also find help obtaining basic identification

documents—a key step to unlocking access to medical care, education, and employment.

“We really focus on healing-centered engagement and trauma-informed care,” says Brennan. “There’s no judgment. The Drop-In Center is a safe place that is welcoming to everyone.”

From there, eligible Connections participants may move to a short-term emergency shelter. Formerly known as The House, it will expand from five to 10 beds in 2026.

For some of the young people who land there, the shelter is their first taste of stability.

“Many of the people we serve are generationally unhoused,” says Brennan. We can offer the support along the way that they’ve maybe never had their entire life.”

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“We can help fill the gap between turning 18 and achieving sustainable independence.”

*-Margery Brennan,
Hilltop’s Director of Community Programs*



Life skills on the road to independence

As Connections participants gain greater stability through employment or education, they may take the next step on the journey: transitional living. Two programs offer temporary housing and intensive case management to help young people build the life skills essential to independent living.

Participants are invited into peer support groups that address everything from employment issues to mental health coping skills. They also complete a life skills curriculum covering financial literacy, resource navigation, and conflict resolution, among other practical topics.

After up to 18 months in transitional living, successful participants who are ready may move on to stable housing that they maintain on their own.

Connections also offers two permanent supportive housing programs, where on-site staff continue providing resource navigation to support independent living.

“We focus on helping each person develop and access their own agency,” said Brennan. “This is their journey. We meet them where they are and help them get where they choose to go.”

“We want to see them achieve sustainability and happiness—and fully develop the potential we know they have.”

Pictured in story: Margery Brennan, Sterling Gray, Mercedes Castro, McKenna de la Garza, Indie Swensen, Morgan Hurshman, Ryder Sutton, and Ashley Merino



Left to right: Michael Yarber • Shelby Laird • Calla Carney
Tabby Wiest • Morgan Agajanian • Joanne (Jo) Connolly

A Place of Care, A Community of Support | Senior Daybreak



Across our community, many of us know someone—or may one day be someone—living with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. When a diagnosis arrives, families often find themselves navigating a new and unfamiliar landscape. Searching for meaningful support, trusted care, and helpful resources can quickly become overwhelming.

That is why the Grand Valley is fortunate to have Hilltop’s Senior Daybreak, a true gem in our community.

Senior Daybreak began in 1992 in a church basement with about 20 participants. The program started as an adult day program where older adults experiencing frailty could spend the day while their caregivers received much-needed respite.

In 2009, Hilltop took over the program. Recognizing the growing need in our community, Hilltop embraced the opportunity and

remodeled two existing Cottages to create the Senior Daybreak program that serves families today.

Senior Daybreak now provides daytime support through a vibrant mix of activities, social connection, outings, and compassionate care for individuals experiencing memory loss, dementia, and related conditions. Just as importantly, the program extends its support to caregivers and loved ones through a dedicated support group that offers education, training, and a space to connect with others navigating similar experiences.

For caregivers and families, this combination of compassionate care and community support offers something invaluable: reassurance. They know their loved one is spending the day in a warm, engaging, and safe environment—surrounded by caring staff and opportunities for connection and joy.





Powered by People!

Volunteers bring time, talent, and connection to Hilltop programs across the community

Volunteers play a vital role in bringing Hilltop’s mission to life.

In 2025, more than 100 volunteers contributed over 12,000 hours of service, a 9% increase from the previous year. Across programs, they offer not just time, but connection, compassion, and consistency.

Behind this growth is a renewed focus on strengthening volunteer engagement across the organization.

Led by Volunteer Program Manager Mary Mlot, and working alongside Rachelle Horner and Teresha Taylor, the team has focused on building meaningful connections between volunteers and programs.

“We work to build relationships and identify where support is needed most,” says Mlot. “From there, we connect volunteers’ time, talent, and kindness with meaningful opportunities.”

Many volunteers serve in Hilltop’s senior living communities and the Life Adjustment Program for individuals living with brain injuries.

Volunteers are also essential to Hilltop’s Supporting Our Seniors program, which provides transportation for homebound individuals,

helping them access medical appointments, groceries, and daily essentials.

“It’s so much more than the number of hours or rides,” Mlot says. “Those connections are just as meaningful for our volunteers as they are for the people they serve.”

All Hilltop volunteers complete a thorough onboarding process to ensure they are prepared for their roles. Some positions require additional training—for example, volunteers supporting the 24-hour Latimer House crisis line complete 45 hours of preparation before assisting individuals experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

This growing network of volunteers reflects something larger: a community showing up for one another.

While Mlot was recognized as a Mission Champion last year, she sees it as a shared accomplishment.

“It was incredibly meaningful,” she says, “but it reflects what we’ve built together as a team—and with our volunteers.”

Pictured in story: Mary Bruno-Mlot, Rachelle Horner, and Jane Lostumbo

“We work to build relationships and identify where support is needed most.”

*-Mary Mlot,
Hilltop’s Volunteer Program Manager*

A CEO Who Leads Through Possibility

Celebrating CEO Mike Stahl

For the past 16 years as Hilltop’s CEO, Mike Stahl has shaped the organization with steadiness, humility, and an unwavering belief in what’s possible. As he prepares for retirement at the end of 2026, colleagues and community partners describe a leader whose deepest impact is measured by the people he has lifted, the trust he has earned, and the resilience he has helped cultivate across western Colorado.

Courage Through Change

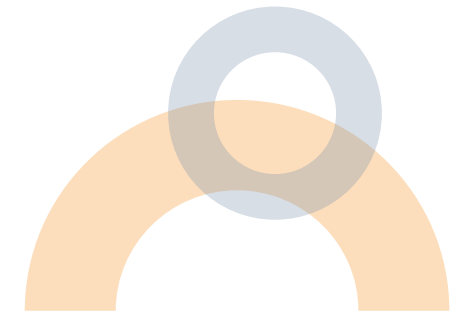
Mike is the first to say he isn’t a long-range visionary; he prefers to move toward opportunities as they arise. But to those around him, that openness is part of what makes him exceptional. “Our partnership has always centered on one unifying question: Why not?” says President, Will Hays, who has worked with Mike for more than 30 years. “We share a commitment to doing what we think is right, even when it’s hard.”

That willingness to step into complexity has defined his tenure, from expanding housing and strengthening essential programs, to championing the use of innovative financing

tools like New Market Tax Credits, and making the bold decision to purchase and renovate Hilltop on Main. “Having space with room to grow will allow Hilltop to step into a whole next level of collaboration in delivering services under one roof,” says Western Colorado Community Foundation CEO Anne Wenzel.

Mike’s instinct to move toward difficult challenges also guided Hilltop’s acquisition of Karis—now Connections—a high-stakes effort to preserve critical services for vulnerable young adults. “This wasn’t just absorbing a small struggling program,” says Grand Junction Housing Authority CEO Scott Aker. “This was a major decision. Mike’s willingness to step into the messy places at times has helped keep our community’s continuum of services strong.”

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“Our partnership has always centered on one unifying question: Why not?”

*-Will Hays,
Hilltop’s President*





“Mike’s legacy will live on in the lives he has touched...”

*-Matt Lewis,
Past Hilltop Board Chair*

Commitment to Community

His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic stands as another defining chapter. Known for valuing personal freedom, Mike faced one of the most difficult decisions of his career when Hilltop implemented a vaccine mandate. Director of Administration Kellee Echave reflects, “He handled the pandemic with grace and humanity. Hard decisions were made to keep employees and our most vulnerable safe.” Will adds, “It brought us together in a way that changed our course. We are more committed to each other and our mission.”

Beyond Hilltop’s walls, regional partners consistently describe him as approachable, generous, and collaborative. “Mike is friendly, collegial, and open to exploring collaborations that are win-win for the community,” Anne says. “Hilltop is always at the table to provide resources and support to other nonprofit organizations.” Scott adds, “He doesn’t make it about him. He makes it about the community.”

Former Hilltop Board Chair Matt Lewis echoes that sentiment: “From leading and connecting other nonprofits to investing in future leaders, Mike sincerely gives so much of himself to others.”

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Inside Hilltop, Mike is known for his attention to detail and commitment to empowering others. He asks thoughtful questions that strengthen ideas and is equally committed to giving leaders the freedom to grow. “He taught me to create guardrails—our mission and values—while leaving room for directors to lead their parts of the organization,” Will says. Kellee adds, “He has become even more intentional about empowering the strong leadership team that will guide Hilltop when he is no longer running the show.”

Matt Lewis captures his legacy well: “Programs will shift and buildings will outlive their usefulness after being rebuilt or replaced. Mike’s legacy will live on in the lives he has touched and the future leaders who were lucky enough to spend time growing alongside him.”

As Hilltop looks toward its next chapter, Mike leaves behind a culture rooted in compassion, courage, authenticity, and optimism—and a community made stronger by his belief in its potential.

A Stronger Circle of Support

As funding shifts, Hilltop’s philanthropy team is helping ensure programs like Fatherhood continue to serve families



For two decades, men from three Western Colorado counties have gathered at Hilltop to learn how to be better fathers.

Darnell Anthony, a Navigator with Hilltop’s Fatherhood Program expressed the importance of the program at a local level. “By fostering positive parenting and healthy relationship skills, Fatherhood empowers dads to show up fully for their children and that creates stronger families and a stronger community.”

Last year, the Fatherhood program—supported by federal grants totaling around \$100,000—lost all of its funding.

“It’s a heartbreaking and all-too-familiar story since January 2025,” says Hilltop’s Vice President of Community Programs, Hollie VanRoosendaal. “There is a concerted effort at the federal level to pare back human service programs run by nonprofits.”

In response, Hilltop made a significant shift: investing, for the first time in its history, in a dedicated development department to help sustain Fatherhood and other vital programs.

But this four-person philanthropy team is doing more than raising funds.

“A culture of philanthropy at Hilltop means everyone—from the receptionist to the board chair—embraces

fundraising as part of advancing the mission,” says Director of Philanthropy Tracy Louis-Marie. “It becomes about partnership, community, and shared values, not just dollars.”

Since joining Hilltop in 2023, Louis-Marie has hit the ground running.

Alongside efforts to support programs like Fatherhood, she launched Hilltop’s first large-scale fundraising event last fall and implemented a donor database to strengthen relationships with supporters: learning what matters to them and how they want to be involved.

“Cultivating relationships with donors takes time, and we’re in that phase,” she says. “How can we be the nonprofit our community truly wants to be part of?”

At the same time, her team is leading an ambitious three-year capital campaign to raise \$7.8 million for Hilltop’s new headquarters.

Together, these efforts are expanding Hilltop’s circle of support.

“We’re stable, we’re reliable, we’ve been around a long time,” Louis-Marie says. “Now we want to bring people in with us.”

Pictured in story: Darnell Anthony, Fatherhood Navigator







Building a Place for What Matters—Hilltop on Main

Raising \$7.8M to transform a former bank into a modern hub for community services

How do you turn a 50-year-old bank building into a space designed for dignity, privacy, and connection?

With the support of a committed community.

Hilltop’s new downtown Grand Junction location is already enhancing the experience for participants in Community Programs.

“It provides a more professional environment, with much greater privacy and dignity,” says CEO Mike Stahl. “It elevates our services to the level our participants deserve.”

The opportunity to purchase the 52,000-square-foot building arose over Thanksgiving weekend in 2024. Thanks to Hilltop’s strong financial foundation, Hilltop secured financing quickly and the board moved forward with the acquisition.

What followed was a year of significant renovations—HVAC upgrades, ADA-accessible restrooms, plumbing improvements, fire suppression systems, and full interior updates.

While extensive, the project was far more cost-effective than building new, Stahl notes. To support the effort, Hilltop launched the Hilltop on Main Capital Campaign, led by Director of Philanthropy Tracy Louis-Marie and her team.

The three-year campaign aims to raise \$7.8 million to support both the building and the future of Hilltop’s services. In 2025, community supporters contributed \$2.3 million toward that goal.

“We’re very pleased with the level of support,” says Stahl. “As government funding declines, philanthropy is more important than ever. It will take a broader circle of support to continue delivering services at the level our community deserves.”



The NextGen Board

In 2021, Hilltop created the NextGen Board, consisting of employees under 35 representing the broad range of programs and services within the organization. NextGen hosts monthly meetings with senior-level leadership to discuss concerns, ideas, and solutions; foster open dialogue; and give a voice to the next generation of Hilltop leaders.

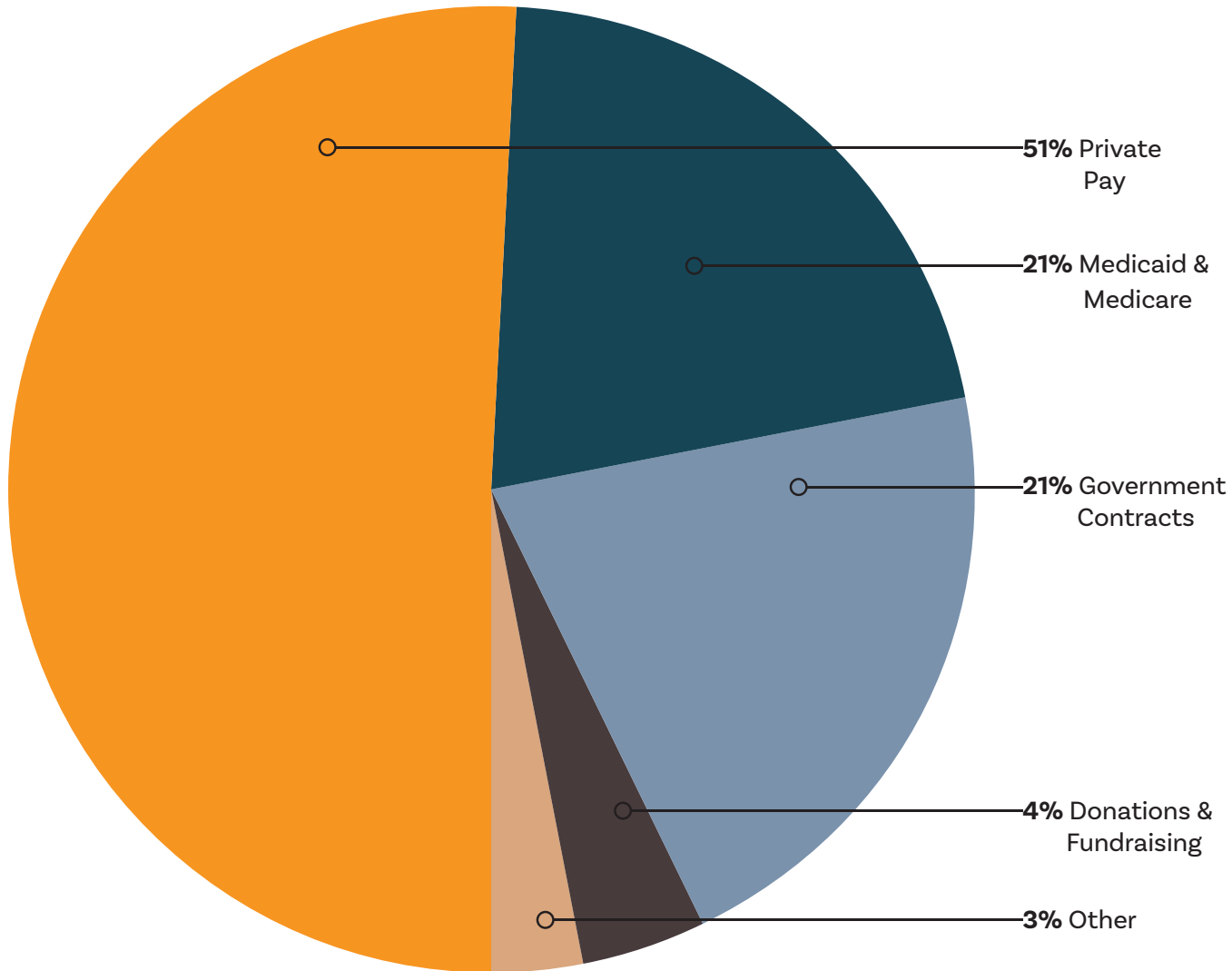


Front to back: Diana Flores Martinez • Maddii Pink • Alyssa Mackey • Brian Oliver
Julianne Glotfelty • Mike Stahl • Laura Bloom Neilsen • Timarie Garrick • Rebecca Weitzel
Evan Linko • Stephanie Roman • MK Hooley-Underwood • Daryl Martinez • Geneva Smith

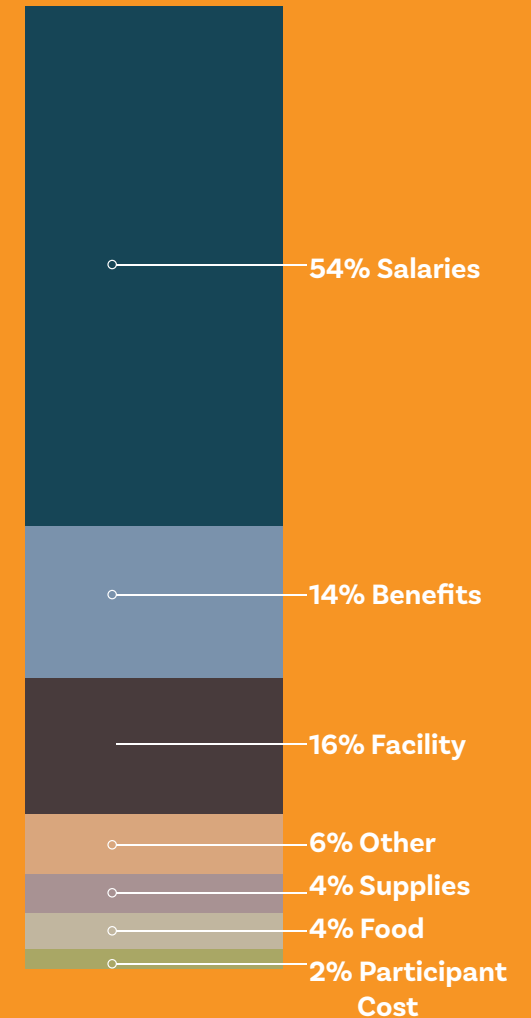
Hilltop Financials

Fiscal Year Ending 7/31/2025

SUMMARY OF REVENUE \$49,087,447



SUMMARY OF EXPENSES \$46,591,342





Thank You to Our 2025 Capital Campaign Donors!

Through your generous support, Hilltop's new location at 359 Main Street is a place of opportunity and connection for our community. Your commitment to this campaign ensures that Hilltop can continue expanding programs and meeting the growing needs of those we serve.

Alpine Bank (GJ)
Bechtel & Santo LLP
Blythe Group + Co.
Boettcher Foundation
Capital Business Systems
Carter & Sara Bair
Chamberlin Architects
Charles & Karen Moore
Community Hospital
David's Overall Painting Drywall
and More, LLC

Enstrom Candies
Eric Toth
Family Health West
FCI Constructors, Inc.
Gates Family Fdn.
Home Loan & Investment Co.
Hoskin, Farina, and Kampf
IMA of Colorado
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The Commerce Bancshares Fdn.
The Standard
The Women's Giving Club
Timberline Bank
UMR United HealthCare Services
Walmart Supercenter
Western Colorado Community Fdn.
White Star Electric
Whitewater Building Materials

Capital Campaign Community Champions Donors

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Ashley Guggemos • Shane & Lisa Haas • Will Hays & Shawn Carstensen Hays
Joe & Fran Higgins • Don & Patti Kendall • Tena Quillin • Christi Reece • Michaelle Smith
Mike & Katrina Stahl • Rebecca & Barry Weitzel • Anne Wenzel & David Miller

2025/2026 Hilltop Leadership Team

Mike Stahl, CEO
Will Hays, President
Ashley Guggemos, CFO
Jed Balestrieri, COO
Rebecca Weitzel, CPO
Hollie VanRoosendaal, VP Community Programs
Angie Wickersham, VP Assisted Living Communities
Debbie Aull, Director | Information Technology
Timindra Boyer, Director | The Commons
Margery Brennan, Director | Community Programs
Lincoln Early, Director | The Fountains
Kellee Echave, Director | Corporate Administration
Joy Hamilton, Director | Community Programs
Brian Hollingsworth, Director | Finance
Don Kendall, Director | Property Services
Tracy Louis-Marie, Director | Development
Tena Quillin, Director | Brain Injury Services
TJ VanRoosendaal, Director | Community Programs
Ali Weatherby, Director | People Operations



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scanning
and make an
impact today

2025/2026 Hilltop Board of Directors

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