

HEALTHCARE CENTER

2025 Quarter 4



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A Note to Our Community

As we head into the new year, this issue reflects steady progress toward one goal: making it easier to access care, supports, and practical resources here in Wyoming County. You'll see updates on new and expanding services inside WCHC, continued renovations that prepare space for future growth, and the partnerships helping move this work forward.

Featured Upcoming Event

Community Blood Drive at WCHC

Thursday, January 8 | 1:00–6:00 PM

Details + scheduling info: page 14

If you take one thing from this newsletter, let it be this: your participation matters. Consider scheduling an appointment with a provider at WCHC, sharing this newsletter with a neighbor, or joining an upcoming community event. If you're a business owner, the Neighborhood Assistance Program is one of the most direct ways to turn state tax dollars into local improvements.

Thank you for staying engaged as this model continues to take shape.

How WCHC Fits Into PA's Rural Health Future

On November 12, WCHC joined partners from seven counties at the Northern Tier Rural Regional Health Summit — a working session focused on the biggest challenges shaping rural healthcare today. Instead of a day of presentations, the summit pushed participants to tackle issues that matter in real life: access to care, maternal health, workforce shortages, and the future of EMS.

From state leaders to regional partners, the message was consistent: rural healthcare is shifting toward collaborative models, shared resources, and strong local hubs that can coordinate services across sectors. For Wyoming County, that direction isn't new — it's the framework WCHC has already been building.

A Strong Match With State Priorities

Pennsylvania's Rural Health Plan outlines several priorities for keeping care accessible across rural communities. What stood out during the summit was how closely those goals match WCHC's current direction.

While other regions are beginning conversations about building partnerships and workforce pipelines, Wyoming County has already been laying that groundwork.

Local Progress With Regional Impact

WCHC's multi-tenant health hub mirrors what Pennsylvania calls a "community wellness hub," bringing clinical care, behavioral health, rehabilitation, social services, and community programs together in one accessible location.

Our EMS leadership reflects the state's call for regional coordination. Our work on women's health responds to Wyoming County's maternity desert status. And our hands-on training efforts support the next generation of rural healthcare workers.

These aren't abstract goals — they're practical steps



Community Wellness Hub

WCHC already operates as a multi-service wellness hub highlighted in Pennsylvania's Rural Health Plan.



Regional EMS Alignment

Our EMS collaboration and county-wide planning mirror the state's push for shared regional solutions.



Maternal Health Readiness

As a maternity desert, Wyoming County is a priority—WCHC's partnerships position us for upcoming maternal health initiatives.



Rural Workforce Pipeline

WCHC's student training and hands-on learning efforts mirror the state's strategy for growing the rural healthcare workforce.

that strengthen access now while positioning our county for future investment.

Why This Matters

The summit made one thing clear: rural communities with strong local infrastructure and active partnerships will move forward faster as new programs and funding become available. Those conversations closely reflected priorities already outlined at the state level.

WCHC will continue representing our community in these regional conversations and ensuring Wyoming County has a voice in shaping the future of rural health.

By building the right foundation now, Wyoming County is better prepared for what comes next in rural healthcare.



U.S. Senator McCormick and members of his staff toured the Wyoming County Healthcare Center alongside local and county leaders to discuss rural healthcare access.

WCHC Hosts Senator McCormick

Wyoming County Healthcare Center (WCHC) welcomed U.S. Senator McCormick and members of his staff on Friday for a campus visit focused on the challenges and opportunities facing rural healthcare in the Northern Tier. The visit brought together WCHC leadership and county officials for a discussion centered on local healthcare needs and long-term strategies to improve access to care.

A major focus of the conversation was WCHC's goal of establishing a hybrid microhospital or 24-hour care site to restore timely medical evaluation and stabilization services for county residents. Participants also discussed the broader system impacts created by the loss of inpatient and 24-hour services.

Without a local hospital, EMS

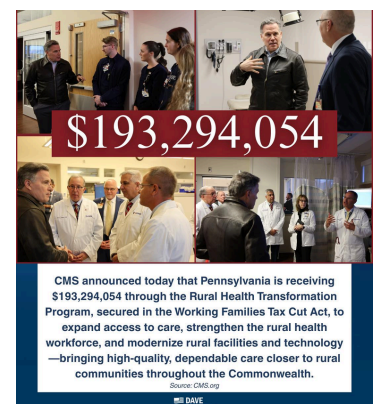
crews must transport every patient out of the county, increasing travel times and limiting ambulance availability for new emergencies. Law enforcement agencies face similar challenges, including extended transport for medical clearance, detainee evaluation, and DUI blood-draw procedures — placing additional strain on already limited rural resources.

The discussion also addressed the financial realities of rural healthcare delivery, including the need for Medicare reimbursement rates that better reflect the true cost of providing services in low-volume, geographically dispersed regions.

During the tour, Senator McCormick and his staff saw how WCHC's integrated campus brings together medical care, behavioral health, maternal services, rehabilitation, transportation

access, and community supports in one location. This coordinated approach is designed to better connect residents with essential services while strengthening local healthcare capacity.

WCHC appreciates the Senator's time and engagement during the visit and the opportunity to share how this model is taking shape in Wyoming County. We look forward to continuing this dialogue as efforts move forward to build a more resilient rural healthcare system for our community.



Federal Reserve Representative Tours WCHC's Rural Health Model



Left to right: John Cosgrove (AllOne Charities), Lindsay Shalata (Wyoming County Healthcare Center), Philip Jones (Federal Reserve), Debbie Johnson (Wyoming County Healthcare Center), and Jesse Ergott (AllOne Charities).

Philip Jones, Community Engagement Associate at the Federal Reserve, visited the Wyoming County Healthcare Center to learn how rural communities are responding to healthcare access challenges and building sustainable models of care. The visit focused on understanding how local healthcare infrastructure affects not only health outcomes but also workforce stability and long-term economic resilience.

During the tour, WCHC shared how its “one-roof” model brings together primary care, behavioral health, maternal services, rehabilitation, transportation access, and community supports in a single location. This coordinated approach reduces barriers for residents while strengthening the systems that support families, employers, and local economies.

The discussion also explored how limited access to healthcare can affect workforce participation, particularly for families caring for children, older adults, or

individuals with complex medical needs. When residents must travel long distances for care, the impact extends beyond health—affecting employment, productivity, and business retention.

While the visit was focused on learning and information-sharing, it reflects growing interest in Wyoming County’s approach to rebuilding healthcare access following the loss of its hospital and emergency department. WCHC’s model highlights how rural communities can align healthcare delivery with broader economic and community development goals.

WCHC appreciated the opportunity to share its work and contribute to a broader conversation about rural health innovation. These exchanges help position Wyoming County as a community actively shaping solutions that support both health and economic stability.

“There is real momentum building in Wyoming County, and WCHC’s leadership is at the heart of it. Their efforts are creating a model that other rural communities can learn from.”

JESSE ERGOTT, ALLONE CHARITIES

Why This Visit Matters

The Federal Reserve studies how local systems influence the overall strength of regional economies — and healthcare access is a major part of that. In rural communities, the loss of a hospital or emergency services can affect workforce participation, transportation needs, family stability, and a region’s ability to attract and retain employers.

By visiting WCHC, Federal Reserve representatives are looking at how Wyoming County is rebuilding healthcare after the hospital closure and how a coordinated, “one-roof” model can support both health and economic resilience. They are especially interested in how improved access to care, stronger EMS coordination, and expanded maternal and behavioral health supports help residents stay healthy, remain employed, and continue to live and work in the county.

Their visit reflects a growing national focus on rural health as a foundation for long-term community stability.

Direct Your Tax Dollars

Investing in Wyoming County's Healthcare Future

2026 Neighborhood Assistance Program

As we prepare for the 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) cycle, many business owners have asked how the program works — and why so many companies participate once they understand it.

Here's the straightforward version:

NAP allows Pennsylvania businesses to redirect part of their state tax liability to support approved community projects. WCHC's application qualifies under the Special Program Priorities (SPP) category, which offers a 90% state tax credit back to participating businesses.

How it works

- A business makes a contribution to WCHC's approved project.
- The state returns 90% of that amount as a credit against the business's PA tax bill.
- The remaining 10% may be eligible as a federal tax deduction.

What that means in real terms

A \$10,000 contribution results in a \$9,000 state tax credit — making the true cost only \$1,000, while the full \$10,000 supports a community project that strengthens local healthcare access.

Why NAP is considered a win-win

- Businesses keep more control over where their state tax dollars go.
- Communities benefit directly from improved services and infrastructure.
- WCHC can complete critical facility upgrades that help bring more healthcare providers and programs under one roof.
- Any Pennsylvania business with state tax liability — large or small — can participate.

NAP tax credits can be used over a five-year period, giving businesses added flexibility in how they apply the benefit. Many businesses choose to talk with their accountant or financial advisor to determine whether NAP participation is a good fit for their tax planning.

WCHC's 2025 Neighborhood Assistance Program application has been approved, allowing eligible businesses to participate in the upcoming cycle. To learn more or explore eligibility, contact Debbie at 570-604-1930.

BUSINESS

Businesses use NAP to turn required state tax payments into direct local impact. A 90% tax credit means companies can support meaningful community improvements at a fraction of the cost—while strengthening the regions where their employees live and work.

WCHC

NAP investments allow WCHC to complete facility upgrades that expand healthcare access and bring more services under one roof.

These improvements strengthen Wyoming County's long-term health and resilience.

Access to New Services

Guthrie Expands Services

Access to local care continues to grow inside the Wyoming County Healthcare Center. Since our last newsletter, Guthrie has added three important services at WCHC: OB-GYN, orthopedics, and virtual cardiology.

OB-GYN

With Wyoming County designated a maternity desert, having OB-GYN services available locally is an important step forward. Guthrie's team provides care that supports women through pregnancy, postpartum recovery, and ongoing women's health needs.

Orthopedics

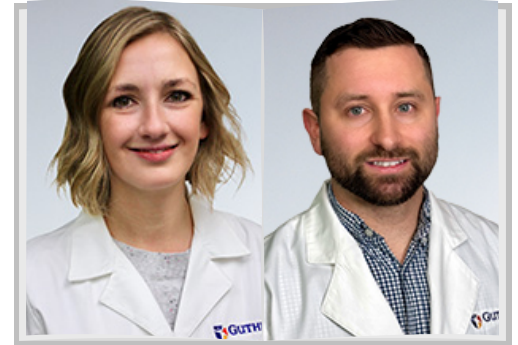
Orthopedic care is now available onsite for residents recovering from surgery, managing chronic conditions, or addressing joint and mobility concerns – reducing the need to travel out of the county for follow-up care.

Virtual Cardiology

Guthrie's virtual cardiology services connect patients with specialists through advanced remote technology, bringing expert heart care closer to home while eliminating long-distance travel.

Each new service helps rebuild the local healthcare infrastructure required to support advanced care models, including expanded or 24-hour services, in the future.

WCHC will continue to work with Guthrie and other partners to expand services, reduce travel burdens, and bring essential healthcare closer to home for Wyoming County.



Jessica M Miller
MSN, CNM, RN

Joshua D Wilbur
PA-C

Good Grief Counseling Joins WCHC

We're pleased to welcome Good Grief Counseling to the Wyoming County Healthcare Center. **Their work brings an important layer of support to children and families who are coping with loss, difficult transitions, or emotionally challenging experiences.**

Good Grief Counseling partners closely with the Children's Advocacy Center, offering a compassionate, steady presence for young people who have experienced trauma or significant change in their lives. Their goal is to help children and families process complex emotions, build healthy coping tools, and regain a sense of stability during times that can feel overwhelming or confusing.

By joining WCHC, Good Grief Counseling becomes part of a growing network of emotional and behavioral health supports available under one roof. Their work complements partners such as The Wright Center, Pathway to Peace & Wellness, OB-GYN services, and Healthy Family Partnership, strengthening the continuum of care available to residents across Wyoming County.

We are proud to welcome Good Grief Counseling to WCHC and look forward to the comfort, understanding, and guidance they will bring to children and families in our community.

The Wright Center to Add Dentistry Services

This spring, The Wright Center for Community Health has plans to open a new dental clinic on the fourth floor, bringing preventive and restorative oral health services closer to home for residents who currently travel outside the county for care.

Oral health has been a longstanding gap in Wyoming County, especially for families facing transportation hurdles or long waits for appointments elsewhere. Dentistry is a natural addition to WCHC's growing network of services, expanding the ability for residents to receive primary care, behavioral health, and oral health support in one trusted location. This type of coordinated, community-based access is a central goal of Pennsylvania's Rural Health Plan and reflects the model WCHC is working to build.

The project is supported by AllOne Charities and strengthened by an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant, which is helping WCHC build capacity and improve the facility in ways that support local access to care. These investments allow WCHC and The Wright Center to move quickly to fill a gap that has existed in the community for years.

The addition of dental services marks another meaningful step in restoring essential healthcare options in Wyoming County and strengthening the "one-roof" model that makes care more accessible for local families. Scheduling information will be shared as the opening approaches.

Welcome CIP Rehabilitation

We're excited to announce that CIP Rehabilitation will be joining the Wyoming County Healthcare Center this February. **Once our third-floor renovations are complete, residents will have convenient access to physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech therapy (ST).**

CIP Rehabilitation provides personalized therapy for a wide range of needs, including post-surgical recovery, chronic pain, neurological conditions, and mobility challenges.



They will also offer pelvic floor therapy, expanding local options for women's health and creating meaningful opportunities for collaboration with the Healthy Family Partnership and Guthrie's OB-GYN program. In addition to on-site appointments, **CIP Rehabilitation also provides in-home therapy**, allowing patients to receive care in their homes or living facilities when travel is difficult.

Having CIP Rehabilitation and Guthrie's orthopedic providers in the same building creates natural opportunities for coordinated follow-up and post-surgical care.

This addition strengthens WCHC's "one-roof" approach to accessible care, reducing barriers and helping residents receive the services they need close to home. It also aligns with Pennsylvania's Rural Health Plan, which emphasizes integrated, community-based care models that serve multiple needs in one place. CIP Rehabilitation will open on the third floor in February. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting ciprehab.com or calling 570-255-4578.

We're pleased to welcome CIP Rehabilitation to WCHC and look forward to the improved access their services will bring to our community.

Children's Advocacy Center Expands Services

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) has expanded its presence within the Wyoming County Healthcare Center, moving into additional space on the second floor to better support children and families in need of specialized services. This expansion reflects the CAC's growing role in the county and the increasing demand for coordinated, trauma-informed care close to home.

The new space allows the CAC to strengthen its multidisciplinary approach, offering a private, child-centered environment where interviews, evaluations, and support services can take place with dignity and care. The expansion also gives staff room for improved collaboration with law enforcement, child protective services, healthcare providers, and victim advocates—all under one roof. By increasing their footprint, the CAC can serve more families, reduce wait times, and ensure that children receive timely, compassionate assistance during some of the most difficult moments in their lives.

Having the CAC located within WCHC reinforces our shared commitment to supporting the safety, well-being, and healing of children in Wyoming County. Their work complements many of the services already available in the building, creating a stronger, more connected support system for families navigating complex situations.

WCHC is grateful for the CAC's partnership and proud to provide space that supports their essential work. Their expansion marks another step toward building a community hub where children and families can access the resources, care, and protection they deserve.

Safe Support

The Children's Advocacy Center provides a coordinated, child-focused response for children who may have experienced abuse or trauma. Their team brings together trained interviewers, medical professionals, law enforcement, child protective services, and victim advocates to ensure children receive support in a safe and private environment.

By offering these services in one location, the CAC reduces stress for families and helps streamline the path toward healing and protection.

Cancer and Healing

For individuals and families touched by cancer, the Cancer & Healing Support Group at the Wyoming County Healthcare Center offers a steady source of connection, understanding, and hope. Meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m., the group provides a welcoming space for anyone navigating a diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, or the challenges of caregiving.

Led by certified facilitators Sybilla Lenz and Pathway to Diane Ogin, RN, NC-BC, each session focuses on practices that support emotional and physical well-being. Topics range from nutrition and mindfulness to movement, creative expression, and stress management—giving participants practical tools they can use in daily life.

This program is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Guthrie, whose support helps ensure the group remains free and accessible to the community. Their involvement reflects a shared commitment to strengthening local resources for residents facing cancer.

The Cancer & Healing Support Group is open to all, and new participants are welcome at any time. To register, visit bit.ly/CancerandHealing.

Upcoming Topics

- January 14 – Holistic self-care with Diane Ogin
- February 11 – Healing through nutrition with Donna LaBar
- March 11 – Art as a path to healing with Sarrah Camburn
- April 8 – Creative movement for self-care with Bobby Jo Kelsey
- May 13 – De-stress with sound with Sybilla Lenz

Speaker Series Brings Experts to the Community

This fall, the WCHC Speaker Series brought residents together for practical, easy-to-apply workshops focused on everyday health and wellness. October's session helped attendees navigate Medicare with greater confidence, while November highlighted veteran resources—connecting local veterans and families with benefits and supports they may not have known were available. In December, Diane Ogin closed out the year with self-relaxation techniques designed to reduce stress and support emotional well-being.

The Speaker Series continues in 2025, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 PM. Upcoming topics reflect community needs and interests, including gambling addiction (January), addiction and recovery services (February), fall risk reduction (March), dementia strategies and support (April), and human trafficking awareness (May).

Each session is free, open to the public, and focused on practical information residents can use right away. Registration is encouraged at bit.ly/WCHCSpeakers.

WCHC is grateful to our presenters and participants for helping build a community space for learning, connection, and shared experience.

Speaker Series funding is provided in part by the Wyoming County Community Health Foundation.



COMMUNITY

Supporting Young Learners

With funding from AllOne Charities, secured through the Wyoming County Healthcare Center, Elk Lake School District introduced Calm Down Corners in K-2 classrooms this fall. Early feedback from teachers and counselors shows the initiative is already helping students manage feelings, reset after conflicts, and return to learning more quickly.

Most classrooms report three to five students using the space each day, often during transitions or moments of frustration. Counselors note strong participation as well, with more than 50 students using the spaces since the start of the school year. Staff have also observed students beginning to use calming strategies independently and at earlier ages.

The initiative aligns naturally with Elk Lake's social-emotional learning lessons and has contributed to a promising trend—discipline referrals have decreased by more than 75% compared to the same period last fall.

To support families, WCHC offers free Emotional Regulation Workshops for parents of K-2 students, led by Diane Ogin, RN, NC-BC from Pathway to Peace & Wellness. Parents learn practical strategies for helping children name emotions, calm their bodies, and build healthy coping skills at home.

Together, these efforts are strengthening emotional well-being in the classroom, supporting families beyond school walls, and reinforcing a healthier foundation for young learners.

Trunk-or-Treat

On Sunday, October 26, the Wyoming County Healthcare Center welcomed families from across the county for a festive Trunk-or-Treat celebration in our main parking lot. The event brought together local organizations, partners, and volunteers who transformed their trunks into creative, kid-friendly displays and handed out treats to hundreds of children.

The afternoon offered a safe, accessible space for families to enjoy Halloween activities without navigating busy roads or traveling far from home. Many community partners participated, including local healthcare providers, EMS agencies, and nonprofit organizations, each adding their own spin to the event. Children enjoyed costumes, music, and interactive displays, while parents had a chance to

connect with staff and learn more about the services available inside WCHC.

Events like Trunk-or-Treat reflect our commitment to being more than a building — we aim to serve as a welcoming gathering place for families and a connector for the organizations working to support health, wellness, and safety in Wyoming County. We are grateful to everyone who donated candy, decorated a trunk, volunteered time, or helped spread the word. Your involvement allowed us to create a fun, safe afternoon for local families.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and building even more opportunities for community connection throughout the coming year.

COMMUNITY

Santa's Visits the Center

On Sunday, December 7, the Wyoming County Healthcare Center hosted its annual Santa's Workshop, bringing families together for an afternoon of holiday activities, creativity, and community connection. Children enjoyed hands-on crafts, a magic show, and festive stations throughout the first floor, while parents had a chance to meet staff and learn about the programs and services available inside the building.

Several community partners joined us to make the event meaningful, offering activities, resources, and a welcoming environment for families. We were also grateful for the generous support of those who brought unwrapped gifts for the Children's Service Center; these donations will brighten the holidays for local children receiving support through their programs.

Events like Santa's Workshop reflect WCHC's commitment to providing safe, local spaces where families can gather, connect, and feel supported. We are thankful to all the volunteers, partners, and community members who contributed supplies, staffed activity stations, or helped spread the word. Your involvement brought warmth and energy to a day that meant a great deal to the children who attended.

We look forward to continuing these family-friendly events in the year ahead as we expand our outreach and deepen our connections across Wyoming County.



Holiday Gift Drive

This season, the Wyoming County Healthcare Center coordinated a building-wide effort to support the Children's Service Center through its annual holiday gift program. Individuals connected to organizations housed at WCHC, along with their family members and members of the public, volunteered to take gift tags and purchase items from children's wish lists—helping ensure local youth felt remembered and supported during the holidays.



Each tag represented a child or teen in need, and gifts ranged from clothing and winter items to books, toys, and other requested essentials. Once wrapped, the gifts were collected at WCHC and delivered to Children's Service Center for distribution.

In total, gifts were provided for 58 children in our community.

This effort reflects the strength of collaboration across Wyoming County. By opening participation beyond the building, individuals and organizations were able to respond together when a need was identified. We are grateful to everyone who took a tag, purchased gifts, wrapped donations, or helped coordinate this effort. Your generosity made a tangible difference for children and families this holiday season.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WCHC FOOD PANTRY

This summer, WCHC partnered with Chop Out Hunger to establish a small, onsite food pantry to support patients and visitors experiencing food insecurity. The goal was simple: make sure individuals facing immediate need have access to basic items without barriers or stigma.

But when the recent government shutdown strained food assistance programs, the pantry saw a sharp increase in use. Supplies went out faster than anticipated — and that's when the community stepped in.

Students from the Tunkhannock Area Intermediate Center Student Council organized a building-wide food drive, collecting nonperishable items to help restock the shelves. Their effort was followed by generous contributions from the Lake Carey Chapel and Scranton Preparatory School food drives, whose members gathered and delivered boxes of canned goods and pantry staples. Staff from several organizations within the WCHC building also contributed, bringing in items week after week to help close the gap during a challenging period.

This collaboration reflects what makes Wyoming County unique: when a need arises, people respond. The pantry remains stocked because students, faith-based groups, volunteers, and healthcare partners all chose to get involved.

WCHC is grateful to Chop Out Hunger for launching this effort with us — and to every individual and organization that helped keep the pantry full at a time when local families needed it most. This shared commitment ensures that no one who walks through our doors has to go home empty-handed.

Health Matters: A New Podcast from WCHC

The Wyoming County Healthcare Center is launching a new podcast series, Health Matters, designed to help residents learn more about the expanding services and partnerships within our building. The series will spotlight providers, programs, and community initiatives that support health and wellness throughout the county.

The project also creates a meaningful opportunity for Aidan Holden, a visually impaired local student who volunteers as a weekly greeter at WCHC and is interested in a future career in broadcasting. Through Health Matters, Aidan will interview healthcare partners, staff members, and community leaders to help share their work in a conversational, accessible way.

In addition to highlighting current services, the podcast will continue WCHC's popular History of the Hallway series, capturing stories and memories from former employees of the old Tyler Memorial Hospital. This mix of community history and present-day development reflects WCHC's mission to honor the past while building a stronger, more connected model of care for the future.

Episodes will be released throughout the year on the WCHC website, social media channels, and the Elk Lake "The OG Connection" Podcast. We look forward to sharing Aidan's work — and the easy, genuine way he connects with people — as we use this platform to highlight the resources available right here at home.

COMMUNITY

Community Care in Action

This holiday season, an act of quiet generosity helped ensure local families could gather around a warm Thanksgiving meal. Anonymous donors partnered with Greenley's BBQ, located inside the Wyoming County Healthcare Center, to sponsor full Thanksgiving dinners for families experiencing food insecurity.



Through this effort, families impacted by the recent shutdown and relying on SNAP benefits were able to receive a complete, traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by Greenley's BBQ. Each meal included all the essentials—along with drinks and paper products—ready for pickup Thanksgiving morning at WCHC.

This gesture reflects the heart of our community. Without recognition or expectation, individuals stepped forward to help neighbors in need, working through a local business that knows the community well. WCHC is grateful to Greenley's BBQ for coordinating this effort with care and compassion, and to the anonymous donors whose generosity made it possible.

Moments like this remind us that community support often happens quietly—but its impact is lasting. When people look out for one another, families are strengthened, dignity is preserved, and no one is left to face the holidays alone.

Momentum for Wyoming County Healthcare

AllOne Charities Giving Tuesday

This December, the Wyoming County Healthcare Center took part in Giving Tuesday for the first time through a partnership with AllOne Charities, joining dozens of regional nonprofits working to strengthen health and wellness across northeastern Pennsylvania. The one-day campaign on December 2 offered WCHC an opportunity to share its mission with a wider audience and invite community investment in expanding local access to care.

By participating through AllOne Charities, every contribution made to WCHC was amplified through additional support from the foundation. These combined gifts help advance the next phase of WCHC's work—strengthening healthcare partnerships, supporting community outreach programs, and continuing renovations that make it possible to bring more services under one roof.

What stood out throughout the day was the level of community engagement. Through giving, sharing, and helping spread the word, residents played a direct role in strengthening the foundation for expanded healthcare access in Wyoming County. Whether giving directly, sharing the campaign online, or encouraging others to learn more, the community played an active role in moving this emerging model of care forward.

WCHC plans to participate again next year as part of its ongoing effort to involve residents and partners in the long-term vision for restoring and expanding services in the county. If you'd like to support WCHC's work, contributions can be made at any time and will continue to strengthen the services and programs being built for our community.

Federal Funding Award Announced

Congressman Dan Meuser announced that \$2,346,849 in federal funding has been secured for Wyoming County Healthcare Center improvements through the FY 2026 Agriculture Appropriations legislation. The funding will support renovations to modernize the facility and strengthen healthcare access for residents of Tunkhannock and surrounding communities.

This investment advances the “behind-the-scenes” building improvements that make it possible for healthcare and human service partners to operate, grow, and add services locally. By strengthening the facility's capacity, WCHC can remain positioned to attract additional providers, improve how services are delivered within the building, and expand community access over time.

WCHC appreciates Congressman Meuser's engagement and the collaboration among local officials and community partners that helped elevate Wyoming County's needs through the federal funding process. His continued involvement reflects an understanding of the challenge rural communities face in rebuilding access to care following the loss of a hospital and emergency department—and the importance of stabilizing the infrastructure required for long-term solutions.

With the legislation now enacted, the project will move into the next phase of federal implementation and coordination. WCHC will share updates as timelines and project details are finalized and will continue working with local, state, and federal partners to strengthen access to services close to home.



January 8
1:00–6:00 PM

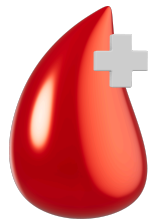
Community Blood Drive at WCHC

In partnership with Miller-Keystone Blood Center, WCHC will host a community blood drive on January 8 to help ensure lifesaving blood products remain available close to home.

**WYOMING COUNTY
HEALTHCARE CENTER
5950 US 6
TUNKHANNOCK PA
18657**

Save A Life

Please bring a valid ID with first & last name, photo and/or signature.



Appointment Required



Scan the QR code or call 800-223-6667 - ext 2 and use sponsor code E405

Before you donate, remember to drink plenty of fluids & eat within 2-3 hours of donation.

All donors will receive a free sandwich from Greenley's BBQ sponsored by the law firm Mey & Sulla, LLP.

EMS Feasibility Study Findings Shared With County and State Officials

On December 16, county commissioners, state legislators, EMS chiefs, and municipal supervisors met at the Wyoming County 911 Communications Center to review the findings of the DCED-funded EMS Feasibility Study. The results, presented by Chief Ken Hellendall, confirmed what local providers have been signaling for years: **Wyoming County's EMS system is under increasing strain and requires structural change to remain viable.**

A System Under Significant Strain

Several ambulance companies are working to maintain 24/7 coverage within a system that is increasingly strained by limited resources and growing demand. Unlike police and fire services, EMS agencies are not fully funded through tax dollars and must rely heavily on low reimbursement rates and local support to operate. When an ambulance transports a patient out of the county — which now happens for every call requiring hospital care — that unit is unavailable for the next emergency, sometimes for hours.

Wyoming County has one of the oldest populations in the region, increasing call volume and placing added strain on limited EMS staffing.

Law enforcement agencies face added strain as well. Medical clearances, detainee evaluations, and DUI blood-draw procedures now require long-distance transport, increasing demands on limited personnel and resources.

Financial Pressures That No Longer Add Up

The study showed that the EMS system is fundamentally misaligned with its funding model. Since 2002, the cost of running EMS agencies has increased by roughly 70%, while reimbursement rates have risen only about 27%. Even agencies with strong billing practices cannot cover the true cost of staffing, equipment, fuel, training, and readiness through billing revenue alone.

Recommendations for a Sustainable Future

To stabilize EMS services in Wyoming County, the study recommends:

- A countywide EMS planning team to guide restructuring efforts
- Shared operations, such as coordinated staffing and pooled resources
- Long-term funding strategies, including municipal contributions or shared-service agreements
- Short-term staffing supports paired with longer-term system planning
- Exploration of a County EMS System to create a coordinated, fiscally stable and/or operational model

The Path Forward for Wyoming County EMS

The findings made clear that Wyoming County cannot afford to wait. For the first time, local officials and EMS leaders now have a data-driven roadmap that outlines both the challenges and the steps needed to address them. **These recommendations are not about placing blame — they are about ensuring residents can rely on timely emergency response when it matters most and those providing the services are properly supported.**

Wyoming County Healthcare Center will continue supporting this work through coordination and public education. As EMS leaders and municipal officials determine next steps, WCHC will help keep residents informed and engaged.