



2025-26 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Quality comprehensive
healthcare for all
in Big Sur.



*“This place is what
healthcare can and
should look like.”*
— Big Sur Health Center patient

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

A year of shared commitment

A note from Kathie



For the past year, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible team and witnessing the generosity of a community that believes everyone deserves access to quality healthcare. This first Annual Impact Report reflects that shared commitment.

The pages that follow highlight numbers and accomplishments, but they also tell a much bigger story. They represent neighbors helping neighbors, patients placing their trust in us, and dedicated staff showing up each day to provide care, support, and compassion. Their resilience, dedication, and genuine care for our patients are at the heart of everything we do. This year, we welcomed new team members and invested in technology and infrastructure to better meet the healthcare needs of everyone who lives, works, and visits the Big Sur coast.

Each year, we will take time to reflect on our progress, celebrate successes, and share the impact made possible by our patients, donors, volunteers, community partners, and supporters. Like many rural healthcare organizations, we face challenges. Yet, with a strong team, a supportive community, and a clear mission, we remain committed to providing quality, comprehensive healthcare for all in Big Sur.

Thank you for being part of our story.

With gratitude,

Kathie Lester
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A note from Derric



For more than four decades, Big Sur Health Center has remained committed to providing quality comprehensive healthcare to all in Big Sur, regardless of ability to pay. This year brought real progress toward that mission — most notably the addition of the Health Center’s first full-time physician,

which expands access to care and improves continuity for patients across the region.

We also invested in technology and equipment upgrades that improve efficiency, strengthen security, and support long-term operational sustainability. And this edition of ¡Salud! marks an exciting transition from our biannual newsletter to our first Annual Impact Report — a format built around measurable outcomes, transparency, and accountability.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners, who help ensure essential healthcare remains available in one of California’s most geographically isolated communities. Thank you for being part of this important work.

With gratitude,

Derric Oliver
BOARD PRESIDENT

Expanding Access, Strengthening Care

Mission

The Big Sur Health Center is a nonprofit that exists to serve the health and wellness needs of the Big Sur community. We provide quality healthcare through traditional and complementary approaches that are culturally sensitive and center on patient needs. It is our quest to be a life-long healthcare partner for all in Big Sur, regardless of need or ability to pay.



Impact



Big Sur Health Center provides comprehensive preventive services, which include:

- Adult Health Exams for Men and Women
- Children’s Health Services
- Women’s Healthcare
- On-site Cholesterol Testing and Management
- Basic Laboratory Services
- Minor Skin Surgery
- Immunizations
- Preventive Care
- Integration of Traditional & Complementary Medical Practices

DENTAL CARE

Big Sur Health Center is proud to support a fully equipped dental suite that brings accessible, high-quality oral healthcare services directly to the community. Through Big Sur Dental, local residents receive comprehensive dental care from a trusted provider in a familiar and convenient setting. To ensure that cost is not a barrier to care, discounted fees are available for uninsured and underinsured patients. This commitment helps ensure that individuals and families can access preventive and restorative dental services regardless of financial circumstances.

Patient Feedback

“Professional, thorough, clean, efficient, friendly, and I learned a lot! They are good listeners.”

“I love to come to this clinic. They are all professional, compassionate, and very empathetic. Thank you all for this great service.”

“I come from Salinas to Big Sur Health Center due to exceptional care.”

“Fantastic care!”

Benchmarks

Behind every patient visit is a set of investments most people never see. In early 2026, the Health Center welcomed its first full-time physician — a milestone more than four decades in the making that brings greater continuity and easier access to care. We also upgraded core technology systems, installed new security infrastructure, earned compliance accreditation, and completed facility maintenance.

Individually, these are quiet accomplishments. Together, they add up to a health center that is safer, more efficient, and built to serve Big Sur for the long haul.



Events

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR



The October 2025 Health Fair was a success — even when Mother Nature had other plans. Rain moved the day indoors to the Big Sur Grange, where the community gathered for free preventive screenings, including blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, BMI, and dental evaluations, with education and referrals for anyone needing follow-up care.

The day was filled with community spirit: live music from local favorites, a healthy lunch generously provided by Esalen, and dessert donated by Nepenthe. Attendees enjoyed wellness resources from partners including MEarth, Montage Health, Ohana and the Narcan Saves Lives club from Carmel High School, Big Sur CERT, flu vaccinations, nutrition counseling, chair yoga with Yvonne, and acupuncture with Sue Malinowski. Each year, the Health Fair connects neighbors with valuable health resources and strengthens prevention, awareness, and access to care across the region.

SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Join Big Sur Health Center for this year’s free Community Health Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 13, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Big Sur Grange. Come connect with neighbors, learn about valuable health resources, and celebrate a healthier Big Sur community together.



2025 BIG SUR FORAGERS FESTIVAL



The Big Sur Foragers Festival once again brought together chefs, wineries, foraging experts, and volunteers for a day of connection and purpose - raising more than \$30,000 for the Health Center. The sold out Fungus Face-Off featured local chefs serving inventive foraged dishes beneath the redwoods. The walk & talk hikes offered hands-on learning about the coast’s fungi and plant life. This event is a celebration built on a simple truth - caring for the land and caring for people are deeply connected.



Businesses & Community Partners

Big Sur Health Center is grateful for the generous support, collaboration, and shared commitment of our community partners. Their contributions help strengthen healthcare access, promote community wellness, and ensure that essential services remain available throughout the Big Sur region. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following organizations:

BUSINESSES

- Big Sur Lodge
- Fenton & Keller
- Big Sur River Inn
- Hawthorne Gallery
- Blacktail Engineering
- Nepenthe
- Blaze Engineering
- Post Ranch Inn
- Buzz PR
- Ripplewood Resort
- Esalen Institute
- Tree Bones

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & FOUNDATIONS

- All Saints Episcopal Church of Carmel-by-the-Sea
- Give Back Brands Foundation
- Big Sur Food & Wine
- Harden Foundation
- Big Sur Grange
- MEarth
- Big Sur Marathon Foundation
- Montage Health
- Big Sur River Run
- Monterey Peninsula Foundation
- Carmel Gives
- Pebble Beach Company
- CERT
- Resonance Philanthropies
- Community Foundation for Monterey County

Thank you for helping us build a healthier, stronger, and more resilient Big Sur community.

Volunteers

Big Sur Health Center is grateful to the many volunteers who generously share their time, talents, and energy in support of our mission. Whether assisting with events, outreach efforts, fundraising activities, administrative projects, or community programs, volunteers play an important role in helping us serve the Big Sur community.

Their dedication, compassion, and willingness to give back strengthen and expand our ability to provide quality healthcare and wellness services to those who live, work, and visit Big Sur.

To all of our volunteers, thank you for your commitment, generosity, and service. Your contributions make a meaningful difference every day.



In-Kind Contributors

Big Sur Health Center extends its heartfelt appreciation to the individuals and organizations whose in-kind contributions support our mission and help us maximize resources for patient care and community health programs. Their generosity strengthens our ability to serve the Big Sur community and respond to its evolving healthcare needs.

All Saints Episcopal Church of Carmel-by-the-Sea	Jim Pickney	Ray Sanborn
Dr. Brita Bruemmer	Melina Mara	Vee-R Creative Ventures
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We are grateful for your partnership, generosity, and commitment to the health and well-being of our community.

Donors

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MEET THE TEAM

The people behind the care

Sundeep Gupta, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR / FAMILY PHYSICIAN



Sundeep grew up in Springfield, Illinois, before moving out to Salinas for his Family Medicine Residency in 1995, after completing his MD and MPH from Northwestern University. Since then, he has completed a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Travelers Health from Tulane University and Applied Epidemiology training through CDC’s two-year “Disease Detective” Epidemic Intelligence Service Program.

He subsequently had a global healthcareer leading CDC and then UCLA country programs for 14 years, fighting HIV, tuberculosis, Ebola and other disease outbreaks in Central America and across sub-Saharan Africa, before returning to Monterey County in 2020 to be closer to family. Sundeep is very at home in Monterey County, having worked in Monterey County Health Department and Natividad Medical Center primary care and HIV clinics in Salinas, Marina and Seaside for a total of 13 years.

As a physician, Sundeep does full-spectrum outpatient primary care, and his primary interest is in going where conversations with his patients take him, to support individual, family and community health and dignity. Sundeep is fluent in Spanish.

Jessica de Jarnette, MD
FAMILY PHYSICIAN



Dr. Jess brings over 15 years of experience spanning clinical medicine, public health, and leadership across startups, government agencies, NGOs, and academic settings. A Georgia native, she earned her BS in Microbiology from the University of Georgia before completing her MD at the Medical College of Georgia and a Master of Science in Global Health at University of California, San Francisco.

Her path has taken her from a career start in Emergency Medicine in Washington D.C. to remote clinics and hospitals in Madagascar, India, Ethiopia, and Bolivia to name a few — always guided by a deep commitment to health equity and whole-person care. She completed her Family Medicine residency at Kaiser Permanente Napa-Solano, where her focus on integrative medicine and community health took root.

Jessica has served as a primary care physician for underserved communities in San Francisco, a Public Health Medical Officer for the California Department of Public Health during the COVID-19 and MPox responses, and a published researcher on topics ranging from climate-related mental health to tropical disease. She holds certifications in Somatic Attachment Therapy, Spiritual Life Coaching, Forest Bathing, and Integrative Medicine.

She is thrilled to move to Big Sur where she can not only work with this amazing team, but has ample time to pursue her passions around hiking, gardening, surfing, dancing, and writing. She is deeply passionate about reimagining a future where healthcare is focused on healing not just the body, but communities and the planet as a whole.



Danielle Glazer, FNP-C
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER



Alison Greenberg, FNP-C
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER



Janyce Brumsey, RN
STAFF NURSE



Rachel Slade, RN
STAFF NURSE



Fatima Ortiz, CMA
MEDICAL ASSISTANT



Felicitas “Fela” Tejeda
SENIOR OFFICE MANAGER



Marlen Perez
FRONT OFFICE MANAGER



Carmen Garcia
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BILLING
MANAGER



Sharen Carey, PA-C
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITA



Kathie Lester
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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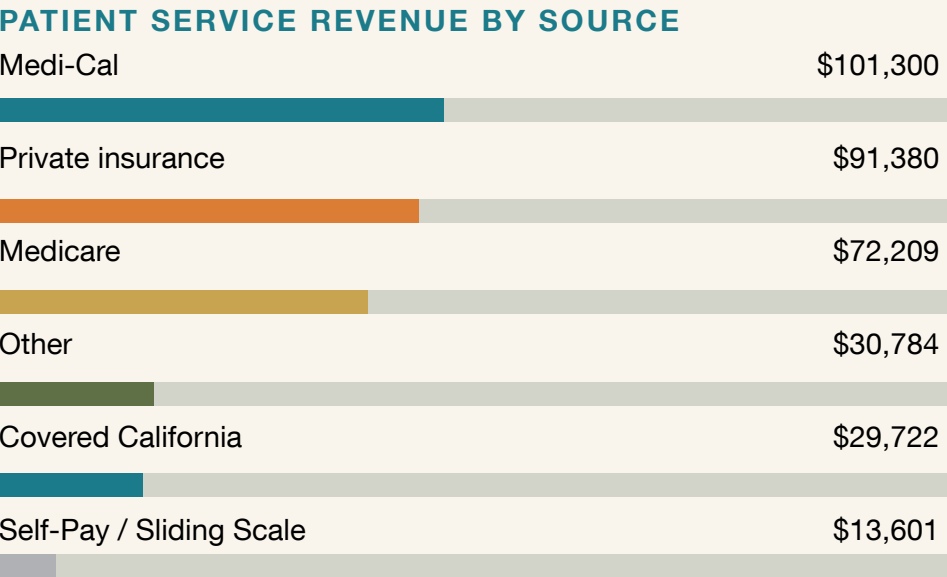
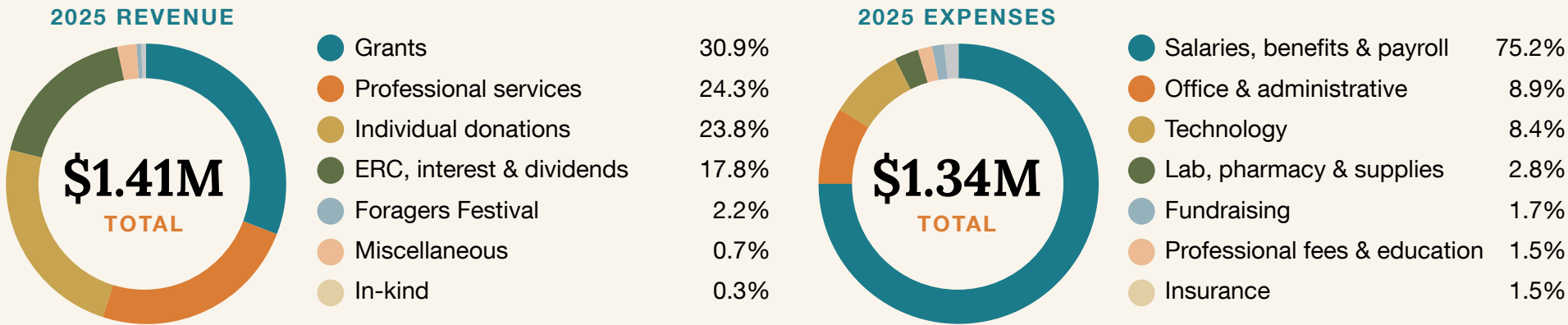
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Big Sur Health Center is grateful for the generosity of All Saints Episcopal Church of Carmel-by-the-Sea, which has made our home on the Santa Lucia Chapel and Campground property possible. Their continued support helps ensure that essential healthcare services remain available to the Big Sur community.

Every dollar, working for Big Sur



NET OPERATING RESULT

+\$67,311

A modest surplus reinvested in clinical capacity, technology, and the long-term sustainability of care.

Financial Snapshot

Big Sur Health Center is committed to responsible financial stewardship and the long-term sustainability of healthcare services in Big Sur. As an independent nonprofit health center, we carefully manage resources to ensure that the greatest possible investment is directed toward patient care, clinical services, and community health needs.

Our financial stability is supported by a diverse funding model that includes patient service revenue, foundation and grant support, individual donations, community partnerships, and other charitable contributions. This diversified approach allows us to provide high-quality care while maintaining access for all patients, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

In the past year, the Health Center has continued to strengthen its operational foundation through thoughtful investments in clinical capacity, technology, infrastructure, and resources that support long-term growth. Our commitment to financial responsibility ensures that every contribution plays an important role in sustaining essential healthcare services for the Big Sur community.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, grant partners, volunteers, and community supporters whose generosity helps bridge the gap between the cost of providing rural healthcare and the resources available to sustain it. Together, we are investing in a healthier and more resilient future for Big Sur.



