

For the TECH of it!

Early in September our Foundation began a conversation with Douglas County Health Center employees asking what they felt the focus of our year-end appeal should be. Innovative concepts and novel suggestions were brought up and a theme quickly emerged: technology. Yes, tech! Maybe it isn't something at the forefront of your considerations when you think about our residents. Note, however, that the Health Center's Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator said, "More and more of our residents are coming in that are tech savvy and want access to all things technical." In response to one suggestion a nurse manager wrote, "The idea of headphones for televisions is awesome. We have so many residents wanting to watch something and being unable to hear. Awesome idea."

Not limiting the tech to purely recreational use, we also learned that white-noise and noise-cancelling headphones can be soothing for residents who live with delusions, hallucinations and constant verbalizations. Another nurse manager commented, "I would love to try these out for a few of my residents."

Here is where you, our donors, come in. **This year we are asking you for donations to purchase technology items such as white-noise and noise-cancelling headphones, 8" computer tablets, cordless headphones for TV viewing, and more. It's a HUGE ask but we've done the math: Our goal is to raise \$12,323.00! That's two \$200 tablets per neighborhood plus 150 sets of headphones at approximately \$50 per set.**

Douglas County Commissioners, who are Douglas County Health Center's Board of Trustees, and DOTComm, Douglas County's technology provider, are also committed to advancing resident accessibility to technology by upgrading the existing wireless at the Health Center to address resident-specific requirements. This would mean that residents would no longer have to log in daily when they use Health Center WiFi, which can be confusing and is a barrier for some residents. For Douglas County Health Center's future, the Foundation appreciates that everyone is working together to improve long-term care residents' quality of life. It is exciting to see technology increasingly become an important part of residents' experience at DCHC and we hope you think so too!

Please consider giving a tax-deductible financial gift this year contributing securely online at www.dchcfoundation.org. We always appreciate your support of our residents!

Enjoy your holiday season and here's to a wonderful New Year!