

## The Need

A prefab modular shell from 1998, the current station is seriously outdated and much too small to accommodate the growing EMS department. The EMS crew call the building the “barn,” and there are no sleeping quarters so after-hours paramedics must respond from off-site GVH housing, dangerously delaying response time.

The problem is worse in the winter when paramedics must race to the barn across snow and ice. Crew members have slipped and been injured trying to respond quickly to a 911 page. In addition, there are six ambulances and only three garage bays. Ungaraged ambulances can be impossible to start and rehab after being frozen for extended periods.

A new station with sleeping quarters where all ambulances and apparatus can be properly garaged and maintained will greatly and positively impact patient response time – **saving lives!**

## Your Support

**Gunnison Valley Health Paramedics are not tax-funded like fire and police departments.** For over 20 years, GVH has subsidized the EMS department. GVH operational funding and minimal insurance reimbursements are simply not enough to fund the capital expense of a new station.

Most people don’t think of paramedics until they need to call 911. It’s easy to assume EMS is available to us 24/7. The reality is that **rural EMS districts are increasingly vulnerable to scaling back, or, in some cases, even eliminating service.** While hoping you never need them, rest assured that a new station will help GVH Paramedics provide you, your family, and our community with the best critical care medicine and rescue services available.

## New Station Renderings



*The new station will be located on Highway 135 at Van Tuyl Circle. This centrally located site on a main thoroughfare will help facilitate rapid response and provide strategic access to the north and south areas of the GVH Paramedics' response zone.*

# donate today!

There are multiple spaces in the new station available for naming rights, and individuals and businesses will be publicly recognized on a donor thank you wall.

The Seconds Save Lives capital campaign meets one of the most fundamental needs in any community – quick, reliable and expert critical care and rescue services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**The next life they save could be yours.**



GUNNISON VALLEY HEALTH  
FOUNDATION



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*The Gunnison Valley Health Foundation is an IRS designated nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with state and federal regulations. In addition, individuals who pay Colorado State Income Tax are eligible for an Enterprise Zone tax credit on their Colorado return. Donations of \$100 or more earn a 25% tax credit.*

# seconds



Help us to break ground on the new EMS station this spring! Gunnison Valley Health Foundation has issued **a new community challenge and will match all donations \$1 for \$1 up to \$500,000.** Your tax-deductible contribution will help save lives. **Donate today!**

Thanks to incredible community support, we have successfully matched **the generous challenge donation of \$1 million contributed by the Weekley family!** \$8.5 million has been raised of the \$10 million needed for a new station for Gunnison Valley Health Paramedics.



**Hunter Lear, EMT**



**What motivated you to pursue a career in EMS?**

In 2016, an organization I was involved in offered to pay for me to become a Wilderness First Responder. It was my entrance into anything “medical,” and, to my surprise, I loved it. A friend mentioned that I could volunteer under the supervision of an EMT with Hinsdale County EMS, and I thought that sounded fun. The rest is history; I’ve been hooked since my first call on the back of an ambulance. It’s safe to say that EMS found me more than I pursued a career in this field.

**When and why did you decide to join GVH-EMS?**

In 2021, I had been volunteering with Hinsdale County EMS for about five years when I saw an advertisement for an EMT position with GVH-EMS. Unsure if I was ready for a career change or a career in EMS at all, a friend (who had worked for GVH-EMS in the past) all but forced me to apply.

Shortly after accepting a PRN (pro re nata/as needed) position, I couldn’t imagine anything in this world I wanted to do more. I have now been full-time with GVH-EMS for a year, and I still get excited for every shift.

**GVH-EMS is an extremely progressive EMS agency, and our patient care is known, respected and admired worldwide. Achieving this status with our current station is like winning the Indianapolis 500 with a 1997 Toyota Corolla.**

**How will the new station help you do your job better?**

We all have responsibilities on this team outside of running calls. No matter what your job is here at the station, you don’t have the room you need. Everyone and everything is living on top of something else. There are many aspects of my job that I cannot do at all given our current station. A new station will truly make all aspects of my job better. I will have better tools and space to work on ambulances; we will have room for medical equipment to not have to be stored in my locker; and our training won’t be contingent on the temperature outside.

**Why do you think people should give to the EMS campaign?**

GVH-EMS is an extremely progressive EMS agency, and our patient care is known, respected and admired worldwide. Achieving this status with our current station is like winning the Indianapolis 500 with a 1997 Toyota Corolla.

A new station will only make us better. By giving to the EMS campaign, you’re investing in the future of the care given by GVH-EMS.

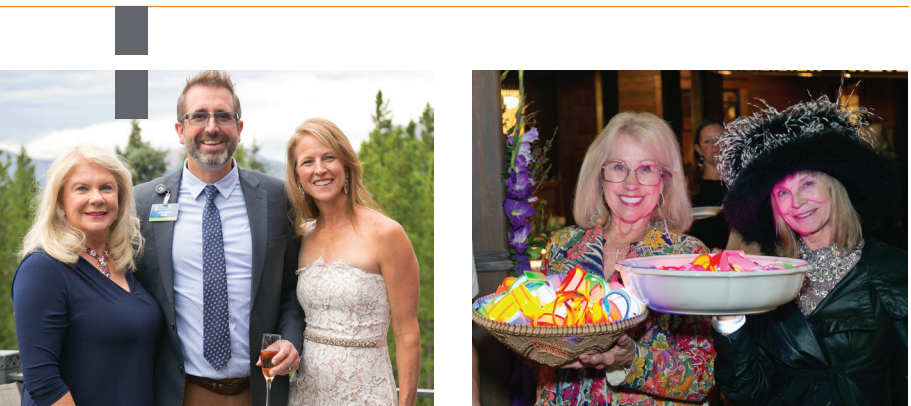
**What do you like to do on your days off?**

I’m a dad on my days off, and trust me, my days off are way busier than my time on shift. I have a 7-month-old and a 3-year-old at home; they’re awesome. Sometimes I miss being able to snowboard more than once every other year, but then I get really excited about them being old enough to take snowboarding with me.



The Gunnison Valley Health Foundation’s second annual gala last August was a smashing success! **This success was made possible thanks to the vision, leadership and commitment of our event chairs, Carol Ann May and Jim Saindon with Doris and Bill Altman.** Thank you so much for your valuable volunteer contributions and generous financial support.

We also extend our gratitude to Joel Benisch and Elisabeth Laux for hosting the gala in their beautiful home featuring the incredible Sweet Reunion performance venue. Finally, our sincere appreciation to everyone who attended, donated to and volunteered at the gala!



*All proceeds benefited the Seconds Save Lives campaign.*