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Nicolet's \$100,000 donation supports Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital's Phase 2 expansion

By editor@pioneertribune.com
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Nicolet National Bank pledged \$100,000 toward Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital's expansion project which began in 2021. Pictured are Nicolet staff and staff from Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital. Courtesy photo

MANISTIQUE – Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital (SMH) is pleased to announce the completion of a generous \$100,000 pledge from Nicolet National Bank, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to the community and the healthcare needs of the Central Upper Peninsula. This significant contribution was part of the Capital Campaign for the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital's Phase 2 Building Expansion and Renovation project, completed in 2022.

Nicolet National Bank's donation was one of two initial pledges of \$100,000 toward the \$12.6 million expansion, which began in 2021. The project has significantly enhanced the hospital's infrastructure, equipment, and services, ensuring that Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital remains a major healthcare provider for Schoolcraft County and four surrounding counties.

"We are grateful for Nicolet National Bank's vision and generosity. Their support has been instrumental in helping us grow and thrive as a leading healthcare provider in the region," said Andy Bertapelle, CEO of Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital. "Their commitment to the community is truly commendable."

As part of their pledge, Nicolet National Bank supported the naming opportunity for the new HomeCare and Hospice Suite in the recently completed Cornerstone Administrative Building. Having the HomeCare and Hospice staff on campus allows for better coordination with physicians and timely service for patients. The new suite ensures that SMH can provide comprehensive care and support to those in need.

In addition to their substantial financial contribution, Nicolet National Bank continues to support the mission through active participation in the annual Festival of Trees and the Gala fundraisers, Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital's two primary fundraising events. Their involvement in these events underscores their dedication to the life and well-being of the communities they serve.

Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, an independent, state-of-the-art 12-bed critical access facility, has been a cornerstone of healthcare in the Manistique area since 1950. The recent \$12.8 million expansion project has added 20,660 square feet of new space and renovated 8,432 square feet of existing space, creating a new Specialty Clinic and expanding the Alan W. Ott Rural Health Clinic. This expansion ensures that most patient services are located on one campus, providing easier access and enhanced care for the community.

With a payroll of over \$1 million per pay period, Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital is the largest employer in Schoolcraft County, significantly impacting the local economy. The hospital continues to invest in state-of-the-art equipment and recruit specialists to keep care close to home.

"As a cornerstone of our community, we are dedicated to positively impacting those we serve," added Bertapelle. "By continuously enhancing our services and facilities, we make it easier and safer for people to access the care they need. We are deeply grateful to Nicolet National Bank for their unwavering support and generosity."

For more information about Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital and its services, please visit www.scmh.org.

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