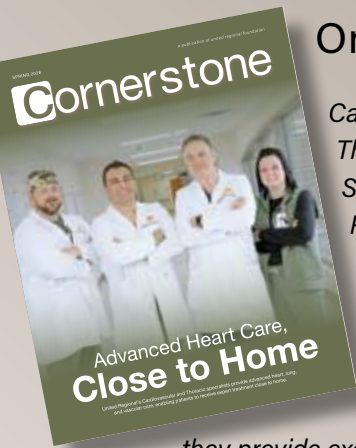


# Cornerstone



## Advanced Heart Care, **Close to Home**

United Regional's Cardiovascular and Thoracic specialists provide advanced heart, lung, and vascular care, enabling patients to receive expert treatment close to home.



## On Our Cover

Cardiovascular and Thoracic surgeons Dr. Shahab Akvan and Dr. Patrick Roughneen (center of photo) are pictured with team members Brad Pettit, CSFA, and Jessi Berrett, NP. Together,

they provide exceptional patient care by performing heart, lung, and vascular surgeries. The team collaborates closely with cardiologists and the trauma team. Scan the QR code on page four for more information.

# On Our Pages



4-5 Heart of the Community 2026



6-7 NICU Designation Progress



9 Donor Spotlight



10-11 Support for Children's Miracle Network



# Save the Date!

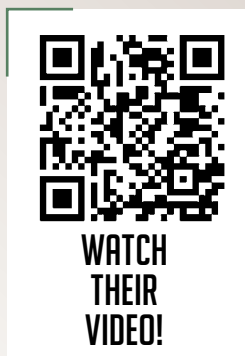
# SEPTEMBER

# 24 & 25

### SEPTEMBER 24:

Dinner by the Mavericks at the Warehouse and live concert featuring the band, Intensity.

Intensity is more than a band; it's a party experience. From lighting and visuals to the high-energy performers on the stage, this eight-member band bridges generational gaps, transcends stylistic preferences, and gets guests excited about leaving their seat to head for the dance floor. Intensity's music selection is engaging and downright FUN!



### SEPTEMBER 25:

Lunch and Golf Scramble at Champions Golf Course

For more information:  
<https://unitedregional.org/potg>

Or contact:  
Melissa Walker at 940-764-8429  
[mzwalker@unitedregional.org](mailto:mzwalker@unitedregional.org)

# Forever in Our Hearts: A Tribute to Dad, Papa/Big Papa

On January 29, I received the phone call no one wants—my beloved Dad had suddenly passed away. Although he was 88 and I knew this day would come, I never expected it to be that day. We had just spoken hours earlier, postponing a trip to pick up his new hearing aids because of icy weather. Being the eternal optimist, Dad purchased hearing aids with a four-year warranty.

Even though Dad had suffered a broken hip a few months earlier, it was no surprise that he wanted the longest warranty. He lived life to the fullest and wanted to hear, laugh, and love all those around him.

Dad's strength began as a boy on the farm, one of seven children. Everyone pitched in and worked hard to help the family prosper—raising crops and livestock, driving tractors, going to school, and ending each night with family prayer. After prayer time, they would get an apple as a treat. Dad remembers his father would take surplus eggs and produce into town to barter for other foods the family needed. As a youth, Dad picked cotton by hand one summer, carrying 100-pound sacks before grabbing another.

Dad spent a couple of years in the U.S. Army and enjoyed telling the story of serving with Elvis. While he may have envied the attention Elvis received, Dad got the better deal—at 23, he met and married a beautiful redheaded nurse, Lucille. They were married for 57 years until the Lord called her home.



Their union produced much fruit. I am the second of five children. From the beginning, Dad loved, guided, and encouraged each of us unconditionally. He and Mom provided a spiritual foundation for our family that continues to strengthen us.



Dad opened and operated a business for 40 years. His work ethic was second to none. He modeled persistence, honesty, and genuine respect for people of all walks of life.

Becoming a grandpa and great grandpa may have been his greatest joy. Hearing “Papa” or “Big Papa” made his face light up. He wasn't afraid to show his emotions and was deeply loved by his entire family.



Dad was humble, kind and generous, always helping those in need. He lived by the Golden Rule and showed us all how to bear life's joys and sufferings with grace. He truly lived 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

I will love you forever, Dad.

*Noel*  
Noel Filer, Director



# heart *of the* community

The United Regional Foundation hosted the Heart of the Community event on February 7, in the Delta Ballroom, raising more than \$147,000 in support of cardiovascular services at United Regional.

Guests enjoyed breakfast and a welcome from Cory Edmondson, President & CEO. Dr. Chukwudi Obiagwu, cardiologist with United Regional Physician Group, highlighted the advanced capabilities of United Regional's four cardiac catheterization laboratories. He shared the breadth of services offered — including electrophysiology, STEMI and heart procedures, hybrid interventions, and peripheral vascular treatments — and recognized the strong collaboration and expertise of the cardiologists and Cath Lab team. Keynote speaker Rick Lewis delivered an engaging message centered on the power of storytelling and what he calls “intelligent misbehavior,” encouraging attendees to embrace creativity and curiosity as catalysts for growth.

The event also featured a video showcasing United Regional's cardiothoracic services, underscoring the highly specialized heart, lung, and vascular care available close to home. In it, URPG cardiothoracic surgeons Dr. Patrick Roughneen and Dr. Shahab Akvan, share how collaboration among cardiothoracic surgery, cardiology, and trauma teams, along with ongoing investments in leading technologies — including robotic procedures and advanced cardiac support — continue to enhance the level of care United Regional provides.



Scan the QR code to watch United Regional's cardiothoracic services video.





*Special thanks to our generous sponsors*

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BEHIND THE SCENES:

# Progress in Neonatal Care at United Regional

By Amanda Quezada, Nursery Manager

As we advance to a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and expand by an additional 3,000 square feet, our dedicated team remains unwavering in its commitment to delivering exceptional care to mothers and newborns. Construction in an active hospital environment naturally presents challenges, but our staff has responded with outstanding teamwork, flexibility, and professionalism.

Through thoughtful planning, open communication, and strong collaboration across departments, we have successfully continued our delivery services without interruption. Our nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, and support staff have efficiently adjusted workflows and navigated temporary space changes—all while staying focused on what matters most: providing compassionate, expert care to every mother and infant. Even during construction activity, our team continues to create a reassuring environment where families feel supported during one of the most important times of their lives.

One of the most meaningful milestones during this transition has been our ability to begin caring for infants born before 30

weeks gestation here at United Regional. This achievement has brought immense pride and joy to our staff, highlighting both the growth of our program and the unwavering dedication of our clinicians to these vulnerable newborns.



Keeping mothers and their babies close to home has profoundly benefited families. Previously, many would have had to travel for hours for specialized care, often separating them from their support systems at an already stressful time. Now, families can remain together within their community, surrounded by loved ones, while their babies receive advanced neonatal care.

We have already witnessed several inspiring successes since beginning this new chapter. Caring for our early preterm infants locally has allowed us to strengthen maternal-infant bonding, engage families more deeply in the care process, and ensure continuity of care from delivery through the entire stay. Watching these tiny patients grow stronger each day, with their parents close by, has been an incredibly rewarding experience for our entire team.



*A'naeyah (pictured above) was born 10 weeks early and weighed just three pounds at birth. She spent two months in United Regional's nursery. Nurses celebrate her growth and graduation to home (left photo). A'naeyah is now a thriving 6 month old who weighs 15 pounds!*



# PHASE TWO UNDERWAY

## Jeremiah 29:11 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

By Noel Filer

We are delighted to provide an update on our Level III NICU project and to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of our generous donors. Your support has been instrumental in our progress across this important four-phase initiative.

**Phase One** was completed on schedule in February, successfully delivering a full-term nursery (pictured below), an exam room, an isolation room, and the installation of medical gas valves. Currently, we are moving forward with Phase Two, which includes demolishing and building new spaces to accommodate two of the eight planned patient rooms, a second isolation room, and additional enhancements. This phase is expected to wrap up in August.

Our United Regional construction team is doing an outstanding job leading the project, demonstrating thoughtful accommodation for the nursery staff as they continue to deliver babies daily.

Nan Johnson earned naming rights for the NICU with her lead gift. Mrs. Johnson graciously collaborated with Vicki McCoy, who made the second major gift to the project, and together

they joyfully agreed to name the NICU the **Jeremiah 29:11 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**.

Both felt that the scripture – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - would provide hope to many who find themselves in the NICU.

**Fundraising for the Tiny Treasures NICU project is progressing well, with over \$3,000,000 of the \$5,000,000 project goal raised.** Construction is on track to be completed by June 2027. We are working to secure full funding for the project by the end of 2026. We deeply appreciate all who have partnered with us to help make miracles happen—giving even our tiniest one-, two-, and three-pound babies the best opportunity to grow and thrive!



If you would like to help us complete this project, please scan the QR code or visit [unitedregional.org/donate-form](https://unitedregional.org/donate-form)



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HONOR YOUR FAVORITE PHYSICIAN!

## WHO IS THAT SPECIAL DOCTOR IN YOUR LIFE?

**A great doctor is more than a provider of care** — doctors are your lifeline. In moments when you feel most vulnerable, when your health feels uncertain and the path forward isn't clear, a good doctor shows up. They listen, they guide, they encourage, and they restore you.



**Who is that special doctor in your life whom you would like to thank?** In exchange for a donation to the United Regional Foundation in any amount, we will send your favorite doctor(s) a cheerful acknowledgment card of your gift (without mention of the amount) along with any words of gratitude you'd like to include.

Great doctors don't just help you feel better today; they give you the knowledge, support, and confidence to grow—nurturing healthier habits, stronger bodies, and deeper roots that sustain vitality for years to come.

Let your doctor know that his or her care has made a difference in your life. To donate, please scan the QR code and indicate who you want to honor, including your words of gratitude in the comment section.

This **Spring**, we celebrate **Doctors' Day**—a moment to pause and offer heartfelt thanks to the physicians who care for us when it matters most. This is our opportunity to honor the doctors who help us heal, grow, and thrive. We are blessed with many outstanding physicians in our community! Their expertise would allow them to live anywhere in the country, yet they choose to serve here, helping us to prosper.

### ***Thank you for your support.***

For more information, please call the United Regional Foundation office at 940-764-8205 and ask for Cindy.



## YOUR GIFT CAN BE DESIGNATED TO THE AREA OF YOUR CHOICE:

- **Community Care Fund** – Helps some of the most vulnerable in our community with medications, food, diabetic supplies, transportation to medical appointments, and more.
- **Children's Miracle Network** – Provides our tiniest babies and pediatric patients the equipment and technology they need to grow and thrive!
- **Area of Greatest Need** – Provides funding for resources most needed!
- **Future in the Falls** – Provides assistance to local medical students who will possibly return to Wichita Falls to practice.



# DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

For the past four years, Four Stars Auto Group has served as the lead sponsor of United Regional’s Children’s Miracle Network signature fundraiser, Party on the Green, and they are proudly returning in 2026. Their remarkable generosity—contributing over \$100,000—directly benefits local pediatric patients, ensuring access to the highest quality care.

Four Stars’ generosity can be felt throughout their organization. Owner Kelly Strausser leads by example and shares, “It is my belief that we should support the communities that show up for us every day. Connecting with and playing a meaningful part in the community is dear to my heart, frankly. It is an honor to play a small part in the great work being done at United Regional to assist families during their time of need.”

The United Regional Foundation is deeply grateful for Four Stars’ ongoing commitment. Foundation Director Noel Filer remarks, “Four Stars is an organization of action. Every day, they demonstrate their values of honesty, integrity, and community service. We are deeply grateful for their support.”

Kevin Braziel, Project Executive at McGough Construction and a Wichita County native, is committed to connecting with the community and giving back. Inspired after meeting with members of the United Regional Foundation in late 2025, Kevin felt compelled to support United Regional’s new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) project. With approval from Brad Wood, McGough’s Chief Operations Officer, the company recently made a generous \$25,000 donation.

The contribution was presented by enthusiastic young professionals from McGough’s Emerging Professionals Program—a group Kevin encourages to engage with local businesses and build meaningful relationships within the community.

We are sincerely grateful to welcome McGough as a valued new supporter of United Regional. McGough is a general contractor that recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. They are constructing the new Wichita Falls State Hospital. Their generosity and commitment truly are making a difference in our community.





When our community comes together, incredible things happen for our tiniest patients.



Postel Family Credit Union



Texoma Community Credit Union



Union Square Credit Union



Wichita Falls Teachers Federal Credit Union





Hunter's Crossing



Our Blood Institute



Wichita Falls Federal Credit Union

We are deeply grateful for the amazing support from our community in helping care for our tiny babies, kids, and families.

Because of your huge hearts, important advancements in healthcare for our smallest patients are possible.

Thank you for being such a vital part of our mission!



# Make Big Change for All Kids



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*We make a living by what we get, but  
we make a life by what we give.*  
– Winston Churchill

## LEADERSHIP

The work of United Regional Foundation is overseen by a board of volunteer professionals committed to community leadership and the betterment of United Regional health care endeavors.

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Please contact us if you do not wish to receive future mailings or fundraising requests from United Regional Foundation/Children's Miracle Network.