

Twin Falls Times News, Wednesday, June 1, 2011 – Staff report

Twin Falls hospital receives \$1 million rehab grant

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center has received a \$1 million grant that will go toward furthering services at the Twin Falls hospital's new rehabilitation center.

The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, a private paralysis research foundation named for the longtime Ameristar Casinos Inc. chairman and CEO, donated the money to the hospital's Gwen Neilsen Anderson Rehabilitation Center, which offers physical, speech and occupational therapy services.

"This is an incredibly generous donation and is the largest contribution ever given to enhance health care in the Magic Valley," St. Luke's Magic Valley Health Foundation Executive Director Larry Baxter said in a written statement. "This gift will truly transform the lives of those in need of rehabilitation."

The donation will help local patients particularly, allowing them to remain in the area when receiving treatment instead of forcing them to travel, said Dr. Jonathan Myers, the medical director for rehabilitation services at St. Luke's Magic Valley.

"This donation will support a new state-of-the-art rehabilitation center and will be life-changing for patients recovering from spinal cord injuries, strokes, brain injury and other physical impairments," Myers said.

The new rehab center includes a therapeutic gym, a private assisted-dining area for speech and swallow therapy patients, 14 patient rooms, and a full scale "simulated apartment" for patients practicing everyday activities before they return home.

The center is named after Craig Neilsen's mother, Gwen, a longtime Twin Falls resident.