



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT

Fernando Hernandez-Garza

Fernando.hernandezgarza@umcelpaso.org

915-330-4675

UMC Foundation Receives \$1.1 Million From Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation to Optimize Patient Experience in Emergency Department

Gift funds will enhance patient beds and provide critical upgrades to build upon UMC's commitment to exceptional care and safety.

EL PASO, Texas – Today, the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation announced a transformative \$1.1 million gift to the University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) Foundation, continuing its longstanding support of UMC and its commitment to strengthening healthcare across the Borderplex region. Building on their previous investments in UMC, the gift will advance the longstanding excellence of UMC's Main Campus Emergency Department and expand its capacity to serve the region's growing healthcare needs.

The investment targets two high-impact upgrades: advanced hybrid patient beds and the installation of rolling locker door systems in emergency care rooms. Together, these improvements will build on the emergency department's existing strengths and capabilities, while helping UMC continue elevating care as demand for emergency services grows across the region.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation for its continued partnership and generous support," **said Jacob Cintron, President and CEO of the El Paso County Hospital District.** "This support will help strengthen UMC's Emergency Department by enhancing treatment spaces and introducing advanced technologies that complement the exceptional care already being delivered by our dedicated team. It reflects a shared commitment to ensuring our community continues to receive timely, safe, and effective emergency care."

UMC's Emergency Department treats more than 150,000 patients annually and is expected to see even higher volumes with the addition of two new satellite emergency department locations that will be built as part of the voter-approved 2024 bond initiative.

"We are honored by the generosity of the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation's investment in the people and programs that make UMC a trusted healthcare leader," **said Maria M. Zampini, CEO of the University of Medical Center.** "This donation strengthens a team that has repeatedly answered the call during some of the most challenging moments in our

community's history, from the lifesaving care provided to victims on August 3, 2019, to standing on the front lines throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud to be home to the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center and to offer an emergency department that has also earned national recognition through Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA)."

The Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation's donation will secure state-of-the-art beds designed for both comfort and clinical functionality. They incorporate advanced technology that supports better patient positioning, reduces the risk of pressure injuries and sores, and improves overall patient experience during extended stays in the emergency department. The updated rolling locker door systems will be installed in treatment rooms, keeping critical equipment secure, accessible, and ready when needed.

"Our mission is to build a globally competitive Borderplex region, and that starts with strong, accessible healthcare," **said Woody L. Hunt of the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation.** "As our community grows, UMC must have the infrastructure to meet rising demand. This partnership strengthens the region's healthcare backbone – improving care today while building a more resilient system for the future."

This investment will help strengthen an already exceptional emergency care environment by providing advanced equipment and modernized treatment spaces that support patients, families, and healthcare professionals during critical moments. For more information about UMC's expansion and care services, visit www.umccares.org.

###

About UMC

For 110 years, University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) has provided exceptional, high-quality care to the entire El Paso region. UMC is home to the region's only Level I Trauma Center, the only Comprehensive Level I Stroke Center, and the region's first Level IV Maternal Critical Care Center. For more information, visit www.umcelpaso.org.

About UMC Foundation

The University Medical Center Foundation of El Paso provides funding, direct services, and fiscal management for a variety of programs that benefit the people of the Paso del Norte region. With the help of generous donors, we continue to provide a high-level of medical care, economic development, and quality of life for those who live in our community. For more information, go to: <https://umcfoundationelpaso.org/>.

About the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation

The Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation is one of the Borderplex region's private family foundations focused on building a globally competitive region. Since 1987, the Foundation has made grants and commitments of over \$176.9 million to institutions working to transform education, improve healthcare, advance regional economic and cultural development, and enhance quality of life for all Borderplex residents. More than 90% of the Foundation's total giving has supported organizations and initiatives in the Borderplex region.