

April 25, 2019. The San Luis Valley Health Foundation recently donated \$100,000 and pledged continued fundraising support toward the new 3-D mammography unit in the Stephanie L. Miner Imaging Center in the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

The mammography unit, estimated to cost approximately \$365,000, will allow residents of the San Luis Valley the ability to receive both 2-D and 3-D mammography images without having to leave the valley.

“It’s a great step forward to detect breast cancer for the women of the valley,” said Dr. Matt Lowery, RIC radiologist for the hospital.

According to the manufacturing company Hologic, “Compared to standard 2-D digital mammography, 3-D detects more breast cancers as well as earlier detection of breast cancer, resulting in reduced false positives and callbacks by 40 percent. And less anxiety.”

The technology allows for better visualization of abnormalities and normal tissue, especially dense tissue. Since its installation in March of 2019, it has received an overwhelming amount of positive response from the community. “So far, about 90 percent of the patients are choosing the 3-D imaging,” said Imaging Services Director Janet McGinnis. “I think this is a great benefit for the Valley.”



Members of the SLV Health Foundation Board of Directors stand next to the new 3-D mammography unit and the SLV Health Women’s Imaging staff at the Stephanie L. Miner Women’s Imaging Center. From left, directors, Jeff Motz, Rosalie Martinez and Jacki Kennedy; treasurer, Duane Bussey; secretary, Mary Motz; imaging supervisor, Robyn William; mammography technologist, Barbara Carlsen; Dr. Matt Lowery; and imaging services director, Janet McGinnis