



# Critical Access Hospital Profile Spotlight on: Watford City, North Dakota

# McKenzie Health

**Administrator/CEO:** Peter Edis

**Chief of Medical Staff:**  
Dr. Gary Ramage

**Board Chair:**  
Gary Brown

**City Population:**  
5,885 (2020 Decennial Census)<sup>1</sup>

**County Population:**  
14,252 (2020 Decennial Census)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Household Income:**  
\$83,813 (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Age:**  
31.5 (2020 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates)<sup>1</sup>

**Service Area Population:**  
25,000

**Owned by:** Nonprofit

**Hospital Beds:** 24

**Skilled Nursing Facility Beds:** 36

**Trauma Level:** V

**Critical Access Hospital Designation:** 1999

**Economic Impact on the Community**<sup>2</sup>

**Employment Impact:**  
Direct – 310  
Secondary – 62  
Total – 372

**Financial Impact:**  
Primary – \$17.5 million  
Secondary – \$3.57 million  
Total – \$21 million

## Mission:

Our commitment is to the patients and their families, whatever their needs may be. Our goal is to achieve the highest level of healthcare for these patients and their families. We are rural USA, therefore, we provide hometown values committed to quality services, continuity of care, assurance of qualified staff, and family involvement for individual patients and clients.

**County:** McKenzie

**Address:** 709 4th Ave NE, Watford City, ND 58854

**Phone:** (701) 842-3000

**Fax:** (701) 842-6248

**Web:** [www.mckenziehealth.com](http://www.mckenziehealth.com)

McKenzie Health, supported by the Christian churches in our community, is a 24-bed Medicare certified hospital, offering swing bed program services. Dedicated to a healing ministry, we are committed to excellence and service in a person-centered environment that respects the human life of all, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, disability, pregnancy, sex, and/or marital status.

McKenzie Health supports a team approach to effectively and efficiently meeting the needs of our patients and their families. Evidence-based nursing practice is an important element of quality care at McKenzie Health. The nursing staff incorporates evidence-based decision making to optimize outcomes for patients, improve clinical practice, achieve cost-effective nursing care, and ensure accountability in decision making.

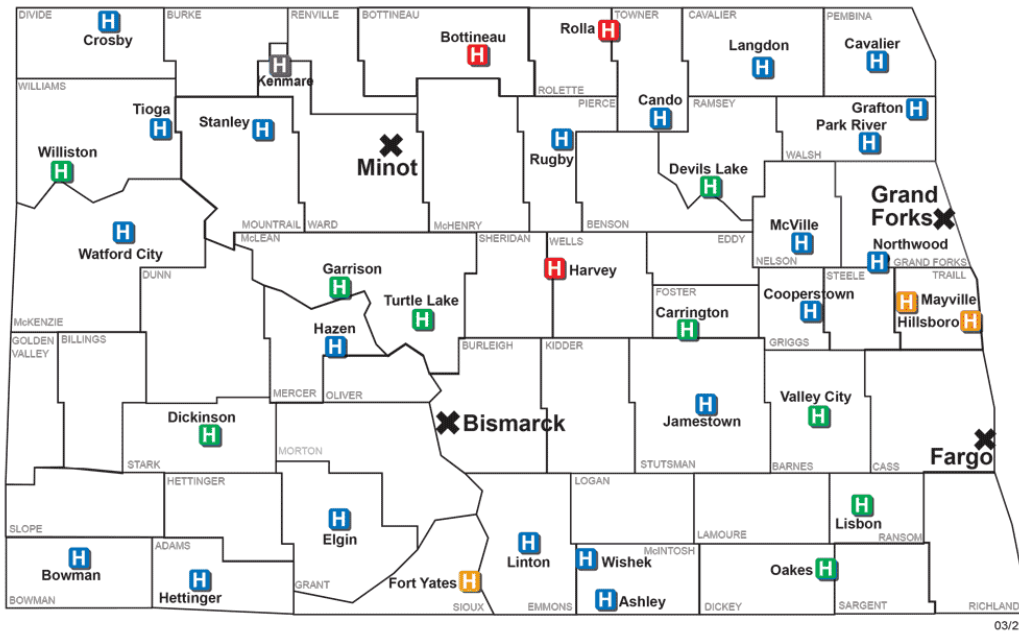
**Services:** McKenzie Health provides the following services directly:

- Assisted living
- Pediatrics
- Cardiac rehab
- Physical therapy
- Echocardiography
- Pulmonary rehab
- Emergency services
- Gynecology
- Radiology (MRI, CT, X-ray, US, Dexa)
- General surgery
- Hospitalist services
- Respiratory therapy
- Inpatient pharmacy
- Respite care
- Laboratory services
- Rural Health Clinic
- Nursing
- Nursing home
- Specialty clinics: orthopedics, general surgery, urology, otolaryngology, sports medicine
- Nutrition services
- Surgery department
- Obstetrics
- Occupational therapy
- Swing bed program
- Speech therapy
- Orthopedic surgery
- Pain management
- Pelvic floor physical therapy
- Prostate fusion biopsies
- Wellness center

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems provides the following services through contract or agreement:

- Telecardiology
- Telepsych

# North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



**Hospital Ownership**

Independently owned	Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System
CommonSpirit Health	Trinity
Sanford Health	Indian Health Services

## History

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. was born on July 1, 2004, with the merger of the Good Shepherd Home Corporation and the McKenzie County Memorial Hospital Corporation. This resulted in the consolidation of all healthcare services in McKenzie County. McKenzie County Healthcare Systems (MCHS) consists of a 24-bed CAH, emergency department, Rural Health Clinic, specialty clinics, urgent care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Connie Wold Wellness Center, Good Shepherd Home Nursing Home, and Horizon Assisted Living.

McKenzie County Memorial Hospital officially opened its doors on March 10, 1952. Dr. A.H. Lamal was the first physician, with Mrs. Royce Gravert, R.N. as the administrator. New building additions were added in 1963 and 1977. In 1986, the McKenzie County Clinic opened across the street from the hospital, under the experienced eye of Dr. G.D. Ebel. The Healthy Hearts Wellness Center was opened in 1992 to provide the community with a workout center.

The Good Shepherd Home was opened on January 8, 1964. The Lutheran churches of McKenzie County, in conjunction with the Arnegard Old Folks Home, had a vision of providing Christian care to the aging residents of their community. The first board of directors included Lee Stenehjelm, Murphy Ecklund, Ivan Omlid, Sidney Swenson, and Paul Berge. In 1994, the Basic Care Addition was added. In 1986, the Heritage Senior Apartments were added, and in 2002 the Horizon Assisted Living Facility opened their doors. In late 2017, the nursing home the nursing home moved, and in July 2018, MCHS moved into their newly constructed building.

## Recreation

Watford City is in west central North Dakota, just 40 miles from the Montana border. The economic base of the area relies primarily on farming, ranching, and oil and gas related industries. Two elementary schools and a high school provide educational services to the community. Within 50 to 125 miles of the city, post-secondary opportunities are available from four state-affiliated universities. The city park system includes several parks, a swimming pool, hockey rink, tennis courts and softball complex. An 18-hole golf course is only two miles east of town. Lake Sakakawea, the world's 3rd largest man-made lake, is 25 miles north, with outstanding opportunities for fishing, sailing, and other water sports. The North Dakota Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park's North Unit are 15 miles south, offering spectacular scenery, hiking, camping, and canoeing on the Little Missouri River.

## Staff

- Physicians: 29
- PAs: 3
- DNP: 21
- Nurse Practitioners: 9
- RNs: 76
- LPNs: 10
- Total Employees: 372

## Sources

- 1 -US Census Bureau; American Factfinder, Community Facts
- 2 -Economic Impact 2020 Center for Rural Health Oklahoma State University and Center for Rural Health University of North Dakota



This project is supported by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program at the Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences located in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

[ruralhealth.und.edu](http://ruralhealth.und.edu)