



Compassionate care for underprivileged communities

Returning Hope and Healing to Lalitpur

Harriet Benson Memorial Hospital (HBMH) began in Lalitpur as a mission station in 1890, and by 1934 a hospital offering regular medical work was in place. **People in the surrounding area are very familiar with the hospital because many of them were born there!**



Staff at Harriet Benson Memorial Hospital

Over the last few years, difficulty in recruiting and retaining doctors has severely limited the services offered, and therefore the income. Yet the nurses and support staff have faithfully continued to work, often with no pay. In 2025, the hospital's outpatient department was closed for two months, and the inpatient department was closed for eight months. But also in 2025, **a new general medicine physician, Dr. Sumeir, joined their team** of seven nurses and has opened up new possibilities for more hospital services.

In India, only OB/GYNs are allowed to deliver babies, so the hospital staff have brought in a local consultant almost daily to provide this key service. Likewise, HBMH has an ophthalmology department but no specialist, so a visiting

ophthalmologist has been coming in to operate during their eye camps twice a month.

The Palliative Care program at Harriet Benson is the oldest in EHA, and their small teams care for about 170 patients each month! The hospital also runs a Disability and Rehabilitation program in nearby communities, and this service is essential for many. The strength of these two programs is significant.

The immediate goals for the team at HBMH are to re-establish reliable inpatient services, increase outpatient and inpatient traffic, strengthen referral networks, and **rebuild the hospital's reputation as a trusted healthcare provider.**

Harriet Benson Memorial Hospital remains committed to its mission of bringing hope, healing, and love to the people of Lalitpur. **By God's grace and through partners like you, we believe HBMH can once again become a thriving center of excellence** that transforms lives and communities through compassionate healthcare.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Renewing Hope!



If you have not made a donation to EHA for more than two years (or ever) your gift will be doubled if you give between now and December 31!

Passing in Peace

Palliative Care Team
Enables a Good Death

Singh was a 60-year-old farmer in excruciating pain. Like many men in his community, Singh had spent decades chewing tobacco and smoking bidis. What began as a habit eventually led to a devastating illness—advanced oral cancer.

For months, he traveled to clinics and hospitals, seeking help for his condition. Eventually he was told he was not a candidate for surgery, and he retreated to his home, his money gone. **As the cancer progressed, Singh's suffering became unimaginable.** A large wound developed in his mouth. Pain made eating and speaking nearly impossible. The wound became infected, and maggots appeared. His family, already emotionally exhausted, did not know how to care for him.

It was at this critical stage that someone recommended Harriet Benson Memorial Hospital. When Singh arrived, he was immediately received by Dr. Sumeir. She saw a man who deserved comfort, dignity, and compassionate care. The team cleaned his wound, removed the maggots, and addressed his immediate suffering.

That moment changed everything. The Palliative Care nurses provided regular wound care and managed his pain at home so that he could rest comfortably and communicate with his family. In addition, the counsellors and nurses spent hours listening to the family's concerns, explaining the disease process, teaching caregiving skills, and helping the family prepare for the future.



They transformed fear into understanding and confusion into confidence.

With the family's permission, members of their team also prayed with them during a time of deep uncertainty. The family later described these moments as a source of peace and strength when they needed it most.

Because of this comprehensive care, Singh's final days were not defined by pain, fear, or isolation. They were defined by comfort. He was able to spend meaningful time with his loved ones. His family learned how to care for him with confidence and compassion. Difficult conversations were approached with honesty and support. And when the time came, Singh passed away peacefully, surrounded by those who loved him.

Following his death, the team continued to walk alongside the family through bereavement visits and emotional support.

“You stood with us when we did not know what to do. We will tell others who are suffering without care that palliative support can truly make a difference.”

Compassionate, Caring Childbirth

*One Young Mom Comes to
Harriet Benson for Help*

At Harriet Benson, every expectant mother is welcomed with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Rani, a first-time mother, had not received care at HBMH during her pregnancy. But when she arrived in labor at 37 weeks pregnant, she was promptly assessed and supported by our skilled healthcare professionals. Through the coordinated efforts of our visiting OB/GYN, our general physician, and our nursing team, she received comprehensive care and close monitoring throughout her labor. Everyone was thankful when Rani safely delivered a healthy baby girl through a normal delivery.

What began as an unexpected hospital visit ended in a joyful and memorable experience for the family.



Today, both mother and daughter are healthy, thriving, and enjoying this precious new chapter of life together. This successful outcome reflects the good maternity care provided at Harriet Benson. **The doctors, nurses, and support staff work tirelessly to ensure that every mother receives safe, respectful, and evidence-based care,** regardless of her circumstances. Such dedication continues to earn the trust, appreciation, and recognition of the many patients and families HBMH serves.

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Thank you for helping us welcome our precious daughter safely into the world. Your kindness gave us confidence and peace during this important moment in our lives.

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HARRIET BENSON

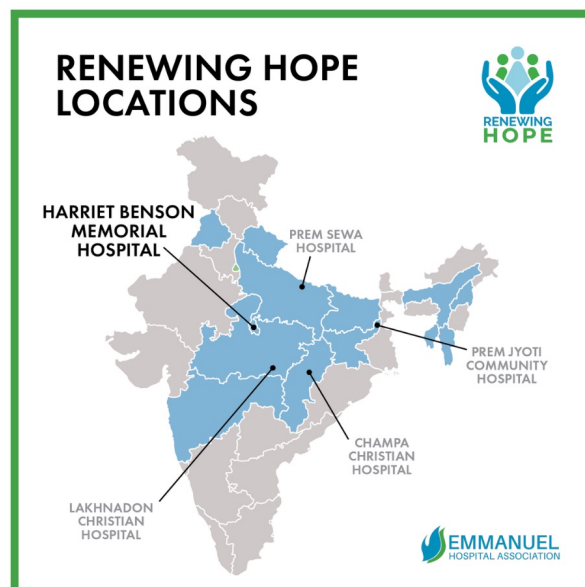
BY THE NUMBERS

- Medical Staff: 1 doctor, 7 nurses
- Specialties: none (only general medicine)
- Outpatients: 3,200
- Inpatients: 230

- Eye Surgeries: 105
- Deliveries: 50
- Palliative patients: 170/mo.

Areas of Focus to Renew Hope

- Recruitment and retention of qualified healthcare professionals
- Increased patient trust and use of medical services
- Strength and encouragement for staff serving in challenging circumstances
- Financial provision for hospital sustainability



NEEDS AT A GLANCE

- A modern ultrasound machine to improve maternal and baby health as well as strengthen diagnostic capabilities across hospital departments. This will also bring in patients as there are no ultrasound services nearby.
- Finances to get caught up on staff salaries.
- Replacement of two old vehicles used for Palliative Care services in conducting home visits.
- A mammogram machine to bring this service to the surrounding area. This will bring in new patients who need this care.
- Renovation of the Bacon Bungalow, the original 137-year-old building at HBMH; now used for training sessions and housing visitors. HBMH's land lease is contingent upon keeping this building in good shape.

