Providence Foundations of Oregon
2020 Gratitude Report

Your support truly makes a difference.
Our donors help fund programs and services that otherwise would not exist. With your help, we provide support for families who need financial assistance, create and sustain essential programs not covered by insurance, and fund research to explore new ways to treat—and even cure—our patients.

10 Foundations. 1 Mission.
Providence Benedictine Nursing Center Foundation
Providence Community Health Foundation – Southern Oregon
Providence Children’s Health Foundation
Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Foundation
Providence Milwaukie Foundation
Providence Newberg Health Foundation
Providence Portland Medical Foundation
Providence St. Vincent Medical Foundation
Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation
Providence Willamette Falls Medical Foundation
Dear Providence supporters and friends,

Sharing our annual Gratitude Report with you is an honor because it provides a humbling, inspiring snapshot of everything you made possible. The 2020 Gratitude Report is especially meaningful. During an extremely challenging year, you brought light and hope through your gifts and support.

Thanks to your generosity, Providence Foundations of Oregon raised more than $38 million in 2020. This includes gifts to our ministries throughout Oregon – all 10 foundations, which represent our hospital campuses and statewide centers of excellence, such as cancer, heart, brain and spine, women and children’s, health care ethics and more.

Examples of what you made possible in 2020 include:

- The purchase of electronic tablets to keep seniors and their families connected during COVID
- Housing and household items for those displaced by fires in southern Oregon
- COVID response efforts throughout all 10 ministries
- A new ICU to support the needs of a growing community
- A growing heart failure and heart transplant program to treat patients close to home
- Services to help our clinical teams deal with complex medical ethics cases

Because of you, our scientists are discovering new cures and treatments, our programs are expanding outreach to vulnerable communities, our services to care for you and your family are growing, and our communities are becoming stronger and healthier even in the face of an unprecedented pandemic.

We are eternally grateful for your support and friendship. You are an important partner in caring for our communities, and we are deeply appreciative.

Gratefully yours,

Kelly S. Buechler
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Providence Foundations of Oregon
More Providence patients with severe breathing conditions, including COVID-19, received care from additional ECMO machines that helped them breathe.

Providence lab workers processed nearly 700 COVID-19 tests every day, thanks to new analyzing equipment in Portland and Medford.

Providence began COVID-19 research to better understand the virus and to learn how it affects different groups of people.

Pregnant women received home blood pressure monitoring equipment, reducing the need to visit a clinic in person. Children with special needs and their families received help virtually through online appointments, workshops and webinars.

Improved telehealth technology enabled Providence doctors and nurses to visit thousands of patients virtually, from the safety of their own homes.

Behavioral health care is more accessible for Providence patients than ever before.

More than 280 caregivers received one-time financial assistance from the Helping Hand fund. The fund helps Providence caregivers who are facing financial hardship by assisting with rent or mortgage payments, utility expenses and transportation costs.
Providence Foundations of Oregon
2020 total dollars raised statewide by fund

In a year unlike any other, you gave generously to support the people and programs of Providence. Your gifts in 2020 provided care for the most vulnerable people in your community, helped us respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, advanced research and funded programs that rely on donor investment.

Total amount raised: $38,605,838

- Area of Greatest Need | 13%
  $5,015,340
- Behavioral Health | 2%
  $861,584
- Brain and Spine | 1%
  $208,167
- Cancer Research | 15%
  $5,959,681
- Cancer Support and Services | 10%
  $3,980,991
- Center for Medically Fragile Children | 1%
  $452,132
- COVID-19 Response | 9%
  $3,241,198
- Heart | 28%
  $10,856,322
- Hospice and Palliative Care | 1%
  $208,128
- Women and Children’s | 2%
  $752,720
- Other Funds | 18%
  $7,069,575
Betzy Loza helps Sharon use a tablet to connect with her son.
In March 2020, COVID-19 created chaos. State mandates allowed only essential caregivers to enter Providence Benedictine Nursing Center and Orchard House Assisted Living. Residents of both facilities were suddenly isolated from their families and were asked to minimize contact with one another as well. This change was devastating to the well-being of our residents.

In addition to the sudden separation from families and friends, many medical appointments were cancelled.

Thanks to your generosity, the Providence Benedictine team purchased electronic tablets to connect patients and residents with their families and friends. The tablets allowed virtual medical appointments that otherwise would have been cancelled. Primary care physicians could visit patients without entering the building, and patients and residents had some contact with the outside world.

Examples of some ways the tablets have been used:

- A long-term resident whose husband visited regularly before the pandemic was able to connect with him weekly, as well as with her sister who lives in Germany.
- A long-term resident with cognitive impairment became isolated and disengaged. The tablet enabled her to have virtual visits with a brother in California. She was so excited about the first call that she introduced him to Providence caregivers during the visit.
- A mom at Orchard House was able to talk with her out-of-state daughter who took her mom on a virtual tour of her own garden.

“Families have engaged in a mix of window visits, outdoor visits and virtual visits to stay engaged,” said Emily Dazey, Providence Benedictine Nursing Center director. “The tablets helped make this incredibly difficult year more bearable.”

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2020 Highlights

Therapy garden offers safe place

The therapy garden at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center is a showpiece enjoyed by our patients, residents, visiting families and Providence caregivers. “During the pandemic, the gardens have been such a blessing. With all the budding and blooming plants, we are reminded of new life and hope,” said David Horn, chaplain. “The gardens have also become safe places for families to visit with residents, giving them a chance to interact in a beautiful setting.” Thank you for your support of the gardens and for providing this safe, peaceful place for everyone.

Caring for all

Thanks to your generous support of our charity care fund, we can assist our community’s elderly, including those who cannot afford to pay the full costs of their care when expenses are not covered by private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. Each year, Providence Benedictine provides an average of $400,000 in charity care. Your support covers more than a quarter of those costs and because of you, patients receive the best care and the therapies they need, regardless of ability to pay.
Providence Children’s Health Foundation

Shelly and her son have stable housing thanks to your support of the Safety Net for Families fund.
A place to call home

Thanks to your support of the Safety Net Fund for Families, Shelly and her two children have a safe place to live.

Shelly was pregnant with her second child and living in her car when she was referred to Project Nurture at Providence Milwaukie Family Medicine Primary Care Clinic. Project Nurture provides prenatal care, inpatient maternity care and postpartum care for women who struggle with addictions as well as pediatric care for their infants. Providence Beginnings social workers also work with the women to help them have the healthiest pregnancy possible.

The Safety Net Fund for Families addresses unmet needs of families receiving care in our women’s clinics and family practices. Providence Beginnings social workers use the fund as a “last resort” after other community resources are accessed.

Providence Beginnings social worker Maria Wunderbro helped Shelly secure a Section 8 housing voucher. Unfortunately, though, the voucher couldn’t be used for to cover the last month’s rent, which is typically required by landlords.

“Without these funds, Shelly would have faced insurmountable barriers in accessing a long-term solution to her housing dilemma,” said Maria. “We are able to help women get to the next step in their journey towards independence.”

A grant from the Family Safety Net Fund for the last month’s rent was awarded just in time, enabling Shelly to secure the apartment. Shelly says that without help, her children might be in foster care and she would be on the street. Getting an apartment “gave me the ability to get to where I needed to be.”

Shelly is now the Latinx community coordinator at Ant Farm Youth Services. “When I started at my job, I was just a janitor. They saw how hard I worked, and in a few months I was promoted twice.” Without your help, Shelly’s story could have ended differently. Thank you for supporting essential resources for mothers in need.

2020 Highlights

Pediatric Neurology

Providence Pediatric Neurology Department, led by Alison Christy, M.D., Ph.D., is building the Pacific Northwest’s first Center for Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology. The center offers clinical and diagnostic support for pediatric patients and is researching new approaches to these rare diseases. Because of donor support, “we will be able to offer novel therapeutic options and improved care to children in the Pacific Northwest, while working to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of these devastating illnesses,” said Dr. Christy.

Swindells moves online

Swindells Resource Center caregivers worked with Help Me Grow Oregon, a free and confidential resource line for families, to create a seven-point plan to support families during the coronavirus crisis and beyond. Tip sheets, video vignettes, recorded trainings, virtual support groups, virtual family conversations and learning care packages were created to help families of children with special health care needs. The Swindells team focused on helping families increase resilience and decrease isolation. Thanks to your support of Swindells, families continued to receive the information and care they needed.
Amy Fisk relaxes on the steps of a trailer provided through your generosity after her home was destroyed in the wildfires.
When Amy Fisk, a medical assistant at Providence Medical Group-Medford Neurology, left her apartment on Sept. 8, 2020, she thought she would be back in a few days.

That was before the Almeda fire destroyed over 2,400 residential structures, including houses, apartment buildings, mobile and manufactured homes. More than 160 Providence caregivers were displaced, and 28 – including Amy – lost their homes.

Amy and her fiancé, Jeff, slept in their car in parking lots those first nights. Amy had sent her teenage daughter to stay with her grandmother. Providence arranged for a one-month hotel stay, but finding a permanent place to live was next to impossible.

Providence Foundations of Oregon purchased RVs for caregivers to live in while they get back on their feet. Construction firm S&B James built two temporary RV parks on land near the Providence Central Point Medical Plaza and Providence Medford Medical Center to house 16 families. The Providence Guild purchased basic items, including cookware and bedding, for the families.

In October, Amy and Jeff along with their two dogs and a cat moved into a trailer next to the Central Point clinic. Amy’s daughter was able to rejoin them.

Jeff was a World Trade Center volunteer after 9/11 and now has COPD and other health issues as a result. The smoke from the wildfires made it even harder for him to breathe. Having a safe and stable home helped ease his symptoms.

“I don’t know where we would be right now without Providence,” Amy said. “We lost a lot a lot, but we’ve got each other.”

2020 Highlights

**YMCA emergency child care keeps kids safe**

Thanks to your generosity, when schools in southern Oregon closed due to the pandemic, Providence was able to partner with Rogue Valley Family YMCA, to fund emergency child care so caregivers could continue to work. “Being able to send my kids somewhere safe allowed me to care for my patients and give them the care they needed while being fully engaged at work,” said Nicole McPheeters, Providence Breast Center supervisor. The YMCA also provided support for school-aged children to assist them with classwork.

**Festival of Trees goes virtual in 2020**

Providence Festival of Trees in southern Oregon celebrated its 29th anniversary with a virtual gala and a TV Christmas special. Because of you, both events were a success, raising funds to support caregivers and critical services at Providence Medford Medical Center. Highlights included an online auction with large trees, a sidewalk window display in downtown Medford, and interviews with tree designers.

2020 total dollars raised by fund

- **Area of Greatest Need** | 23%
- **Birthplace** | 1%
- **Cancer Care** | 9%
- **Festival of Trees** | 34%
- **Hospice/Palliative Care** | 6%
- **Leila J. Eisenstein Breast Center** | 5%
- **Nursing Education** | 5%
- **Other Funds** | 17%

**Total amount raised:** $753,636
Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Foundation

Madeline Bierle, M.D., checks a patient's record.
**Training for doctors working in rural areas**

This is a collaborative program between Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, One Community Health and Providence Milwaukie Family Medicine Residency. Your support funds equipment, training and seminars for the residency program each year.

Growing up in a small town in southern New Mexico, Madeline Bierle, M.D., understands how important access to health care is for rural populations. “People in those communities don’t always have as much access to care as those in larger communities. I like the community aspect of small towns, so it just made sense to do a Rural Track residency,” she said.

Physicians taking the three-year Rural Track residency live in Portland the first year and train alongside residents from Providence Milwaukee. In the second and third years, they live in Hood River and return to Portland occasionally for higher volume rotations in obstetrics, adult medicine and electives. Throughout all three years, the residents practice family medicine at One Community Health in Hood River.

“We get to practice care in all types of settings – from emergency care to outpatient care,” said Madeline. “That helps us feel more comfortable when we’re on our own. We’re better equipped to handle critical situations in any setting.”

Madeline learned Spanish in both Mexico and Guatemala and gained the skills and cultural knowledge to provide quality health care to Latinos by taking a Spanish language immersion program designed for health care professionals. “I was drawn to Hood River because of the patient population. We serve a large Spanish-speaking population and it helps to communicate with them in their language.”

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**2020 Highlights**

**Radio Tierra Diabetes Prevention Program**

Nurse and community health worker Silvia Maciel was concerned about the high incidence of diabetes in the Latino community she serves. In May 2020, she launched a diabetes prevention program on Radio Tierra in Hood River.

Twice a month, Silvia shares tips to help manage diabetes. “Small changes in your lifestyle can improve your health in big ways,” she said. Listeners have the chance to win a $10 grocery gift card by answering a health-related question during the broadcast. The program has been well received in the Latino community and was made possible through your gifts to the foundation.

**New van makes transporting residents easier**

Thanks to your generosity, Down Manor and Brookside Manor residents are getting around Hood River more comfortably. The old bus had high mileage and required frequent repairs. The new van makes it easier to transport residents who need a wheelchair lift to appointments, events or home from the hospital. “The van has eased the way for the staff and the residents by allowing easy access to tight locations, less transferring, and a comfortable ride to appointments. We are very grateful,” said Jamie Hanshaw, director, Senior Village.

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**2020 total dollars raised by fund**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cancer Support Services</td>
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<td>Heart</td>
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<td>Hospice/Palliative Care</td>
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<td>Other Funds</td>
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Total amount raised: **$526,967**
Donors to the Mother and Baby Clinic at Providence Milwaukie Hospital helped Gabriel Dwyer and his mother, Julia, overcome challenges learning to breastfeed.
Mother and Baby Clinic provides support

Born into a once-in-a-hundred-year pandemic, 7-month-old Gabriel is off to a fast start. “He’s moving quicker through babyhood than we would like him to,” said his mother Julia Dwyer.

Gabriel’s progress did not always come smoothly. “He had a tough time when he was born,” said Julia. “I didn’t even get to meet him for 24 hours after giving birth. Then he went to the hospital for jaundice. We didn’t get a good start on breastfeeding.”

To overcome that rough start, Julia turned to the Mother and Baby Clinic at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. Thanks to your generosity, the clinic helps ensure that newborns benefit from breastfeeding and overcome issues like jaundice and weight loss. For moms, the clinic cares for high blood pressure, breast issues, and postpartum depression. The clinic has remained open every day during the pandemic, even creating a no-contact site for families uncomfortable entering the hospital.

Clinic nurses helped Gabriel and Julia learn to breastfeed. They also diagnosed and ensured Gabriel received treatment for a condition that can lead to difficulty breastfeeding and eating solid foods.

“They helped with so many issues. Without those visits, I think I would have stopped breastfeeding,” said Julia.

Donor support is critical to helping moms and babies like Julia and Gabriel. “It allows us to make care available to families close to home,” said Jill Christensen M.D., clinic medical director. “Evening hours, weekend hours, everything we can to make it convenient for moms and babies to get the care they need.”

Julia is grateful for the clinic’s support during the pandemic. “Especially now that I’m vaccinated, it’s great being able to provide him with my own antibodies,” she said. “I know he’s getting them. My milk is tailored right for him.”

2020 Highlights

Birth simulation model

Thanks to your support, the doctors in the Family Medicine Residency Program have a new training model that simulates the birth process, including complications for the mother and baby. “ Delivering babies is an exciting part of doing full spectrum family medicine,” said Justin Osborn, M.D. “It can also be a high-risk emergency setting, and being well trained on handling these emergencies is critical for the safety of the mother and infant.” Having the ability to run hands-on simulation drills gives the residents the confidence to handle emergency situations that may occur.

Community Teaching Kitchen adapts programs to COVID-19

When COVID-19 hit, classes at the Community Teaching Kitchen were canceled. Registered dietitians conducted nutrition visits by phone, and the Family Market (healthy food pantry) remained open with access expanded to include patients, volunteers and Providence employees in need. “In April, we began taking phone orders for pre-packed food boxes with curbside pick-up,” said Heidi Davis, MSW, Community Teaching Kitchen manager. “We also partnered with Ride Connection to do home deliveries of food boxes.” Because of you, the Community Teaching Kitchen distributed more than 75,500 pounds of food, and 488 people had food delivered to their door.

2020 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 5%
- Behavioral Health | 2%
- Cancer Care | 2%
- Community Teaching Kitchen | 59%
- Family Medicine Residency | 28%
- Other Funds | 4%

Total amount raised: $450,297
Registered dietitian Grace Laman works with cancer patients to ensure they are getting the right nutrition to improve their quality of life.
Cancer patients receive nutrition help

The side effects of cancer treatment can wreak havoc on a person’s diet. Side effects, such as loss of appetite, sore mouth or throat, dry mouth, nausea, abdominal pain, etc., can impair a patient’s nutritional intake.

Thanks to generous donors, cancer patients at Providence Newberg Medical Center have help navigating this part of their treatment. Grace Laman, RD, meets with cancer patients at Newberg once a week. She helps patients based on the type of cancer they have and the problems they are experiencing.

Each patient receives a nutritional screening prior to treatment to identify those most at risk for malnutrition. After the initial screening, the test is done again every few weeks so risk can be identified at any point during treatment.

Working with each person, Grace focuses on maximizing a patient’s ability to get nutrients. “By improving nutrition, we prevent hospitalizations for things like dehydration and malnutrition,” she said. “We prevent delays in treatment, and overall quality of life outcomes are improved.”

After treatment, Grace may refer a patient to an outpatient dietitian to help with any lingering nutritional concerns. Many patients have long-term recoveries after their cancer care.

Grace didn’t plan to become a nutritionist. She was going to be high school biology teacher, but when she took a class in women’s nutrition, she was hooked. She received her master’s degree in nutrition and has focused on oncology nutrition for the past three years.

Nutrition appointments are not covered by most insurance, so your support means we can offer them at no charge to cancer patients.

2020 Highlights

Top-notch cancer care

In 2020, Mike was diagnosed with a rare, aggressive form of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. He said his experience at Providence Newberg has been top-notch. “The new cancer center is super clean, and I have nothing but great things to say about all the people there.” Mike is also thankful for the financial assistance he’s received. He was hesitant to apply for help at first, “but everyone was overly kind and made the whole process very easy. The assistance has relieved a lot of stress and helped with my healing.”

BOB adapts outreach

Donor generosity fueled many programs for Better Outcomes thru Bridges in Newberg. When in-person appointments were suspended due to COVID, BOB adapted to continue to offer services. BOB outreach specialists made calls to senior patients to offer support and resources. Patients, their families and caregivers expressed gratitude for taking the time to call and making them feel cared for. BOB school outreach provided donated supplies, such as diapers, food and toilet paper, from NW Christian Church and other organizations to families in need. Cold weather and hygiene supplies were delivered to people living outdoors in Yamhill County. These would not be possible without your support along with Austin Family Foundation, Albertsons/Safeway Foundation, and Yamhill Community Care.

2020 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need: 20%
- Behavioral Health: 58%
- Cancer Care: 5%
- Faith in Action: 2%
- Heart: 1%
- Hospice: 1%
- Women and Children’s: 9%
- Other Funds: 4%

Total amount raised: $437,527
Nancy Lematta challenged other donors to support Providence during COVID-19.
Nancy’s gifts

Longtime board member and friend of Providence, Nancy Lematta, stepped up early in the pandemic to aid in the fight against COVID-19. She also challenged other donors to match her gift – and you did, donating the funds needed to support COVID-19 research, purchase specialized equipment, and help keep Providence caregivers, patients and their families safe.

Thanks to your support, two ECMO machines were purchased to help extremely sick patients. The ECMO temporarily takes over the work of the heart and lungs so those organs can rest and heal. Two analyzers for COVID-19 testing were purchased, allowing more essential services personnel to be tested faster. Alaris infusion pumps were purchased for every Providence hospital in Oregon to help deliver fluids, medications or blood to patients. These pieces of equipment will be invaluable long after the threat of COVID is over.

Nancy was moved to make her donation when she heard and saw how COVID was quickly beginning to overwhelm our health care system. “I kept thinking what can I do to help? And I thought: I can give money. I hope it can make a difference.”

Then in December, Nancy was moved once again to help other programs in need of support. “I trust Providence wholeheartedly. I’ve been cared for here, my late husband received his cancer treatment here, and I am proud to serve on the board,” said Nancy. “I am blessed with the ability to give, and I know Providence will use my gift to help advance care throughout Oregon.”

Nancy’s second gift was divided among many programs that will help all Oregonians, including children’s health, cancer research, senior health, heart services, behavioral health and health care ethics.

2020 Highlights

Ready for a patient surge

With your generous support, we opened a new surge unit on the 9th floor of the cancer building at Providence Portland Medical Center in December 2020. The floor was not being used for patient care, which made it perfect for this surge unit. When it opened, 48 beds were fully equipped to provide patient care with 33 semi-private beds and 15 ward beds. Once complete, the unit will have 96 total beds to accommodate low-acuity patients, enough for surges not just from the current pandemic but possibly from flu season or a natural or man-made disaster.

GrandPads for ElderPlace residents

When the pandemic hit, many of our ElderPlace enrollees lost contact with their family and friends and could not have regular health care visits. Thanks to your support, 25 GrandPad tablets were purchased to help with early detection of health status changes and to reduce emergency department visits. Additionally, the GrandPads provide access to email, photos, news and video calling. “The GrandPads are wonderful and have already enriched the lives of our participants who have them,” said Lori Frank, director, PACE Services, Providence ElderPlace. “We’ve seen increased access to socialization activities, spiritual support, behavioral health and other clinicians.”
Before retiring from her position as chief operating officer, Nancy Roberts was instrumental in developing the new intensive care unit. Donors like you helped bring 16 more beds to care for the sickest patients at Providence St. Vincent.
ICU expands to care for more patients in crisis

The COVID-19 outbreak accelerated the need for expanded critical care space at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center. Thanks to generous donors, a brand new intensive care unit on the lower level of the hospital opened in December. This timely addition increases our critical care capacity by 16 beds.

Typically patients in our critical care unit have needed expert, intensive care for heart attacks, heart failure, strokes and respiratory or renal failure. The recent pandemic, our increasing provision of acute heart services as well as population growth in our community heightened the need for critical care space.

Caregivers were involved in development of the new space to ensure it worked well for their needs as well as for patients. “Caregivers are feeling really confident about their ability to provide the best possible care,” said Laura Lightner, RN, ICU operations manager. A new cardiovascular monitoring system lets caregivers know what is going on in a patient’s room, and at every nursing station caregivers can monitor all patients at once.

“If we do see a surge in COVID patients, we now have an intensive care bed for them,” said Nancy Roberts, who retired in June 2021 as chief operating officer. “We could not have done this without donor support.”

Each spacious room provides state-of-the-art monitoring equipment and features a movable console that improves the patient’s ability to engage directly with family or other visitors. In addition to housing standard equipment, such as IV, suction and oxygen, the 360-degree console holds patient comfort items, including the call light and telephone.

2020 Highlights

Incubators better for families and doctors

Thanks to your support, 10 new Giraffe Incubators were added to the neonatal intensive care unit. Designed to nurture a close connection between babies and their parents, the incubators allow comfortable, close access. Built-in screens display information about their baby’s progress that is easy for families to see and understand, while clinicians can closely monitor their newborn patients. In 2020, the NICU at Providence St. Vincent cared for more than 530 babies and families.

Fund helps cancer patients in need

The Dwight and Patricia Parr Cancer Treatment Fund assists patients with cancer who are experiencing financial hardship. The fund helps with expenses such as rent, utilities, child care and car repairs. Last year the fund supported 16 patients, including June,* the sole support for her three grandchildren. In 2020 she faced a recurrence of lymphoma, leaving her unable to work. Thanks to your generosity, June received funds to assist with rent for one month. Her goal is to return to work, but she cannot plan for this until she completes chemotherapy, has a stem-cell transplant and recovers.

*Name changed for privacy

2020 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 8%
- Behavioral Health | 1%
- Brain and Spine | 1%
- Cancer Support and Services | 2%
- Ethics Center | 7%
- Heart | 63%
- Hospice | 1%
- Long Term Care | 1%
- Women and Children’s | 1%
- Other Funds | 15%

Total amount raised: $15,206,928
Sherrie Chojnacki, mammography technician, ensures the mammography machine is properly adjusted before performing a biopsy.
Breast biopsies can now be done in Seaside

Thanks to your generosity, in 2017 we brought Tomosynthesis (Tomo) or 3D mammography to Providence Seaside Hospital.

The quality of the image in Tomo is very detailed, which can help improve cancer detection rates and decrease callback rates, giving patients more peace of mind. Radiologists are able to detect small cancers earlier with greater accuracy in identifying the size, shape and location of any abnormalities.

Fewer biopsies and tests are required with Tomo. And in 2020, we added new, minimally invasive breast biopsy capabilities for north coast patients. This technology will be used for patients that have an abnormality seen on their mammogram or breast ultrasound.

With this new specialized equipment, patients who need to have a suspicious area examined in more detail can have it done close to home.

Historically, if a biopsy was needed, the patient had to travel to Portland or one of our other hospitals. “This is really significant for our community,” said Tim Hardin, diagnostic imaging manager, Providence Seaside Hospital. “We are now able to provide biopsies locally without having to send patients to Portland or elsewhere. And we use the same team of radiologists who perform these specialized biopsy procedures at Providence St. Vincent to provide patients with the same high caliber of care.”

Since the installation of the Tomosynthesis machine, we have increased the number of mammograms done at Providence Seaside. The new biopsy equipment will help continue this trend by allowing patients to have the test performed locally without hours of travel.

2020 Highlights

Helping patients breathe easier

Because of you, a new body plethysmograph machine (or pulmonary function tester) was installed at Providence Seaside Hospital. The machine measures lung capacity and volume, rates of flow, and how well blood is carrying oxygen to the rest of the body. It is used for patients with asthma, COPD, after lung cancer surgery and more. This machine replaced an older model that had stopped working. “Patients are happy they can have the test done here,” said Lisa Bertin, respiratory therapist. “And, they are more likely to get the test done because they don’t have to go to Astoria or Portland.”

New car keeps Community Connections rolling

Community Connections offers rides at no cost to county residents who have limited options for transportation. Besides local trips, the program also provides transportation to and from clinics in the Portland area. All that driving takes a toll on the vehicles we use. It became crucial to replace the current vehicle. “There was always the worry - is this the trip where the car breaks down?” said Mark Squire, volunteer coordinator. “We can now use the older car locally, and our driver Jodi can transport clients to Portland in the new Toyota Rav4 with no worries.”

2020 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 3%
- Dental | 4%
- Festival of Trees | 6%
- Heart | 83%
- Pet Therapy | 2%
- Other Funds | 2%

Total amount raised: $1,140,564
Gail Johnston and her husband Eric gave generously to create a new cancer treatment center at Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center because of the treatment her mother received from Providence Cancer Institute. Gail is pictured with a collage her mother created after her treatment at age 85.
Until cancer took her in 2007, Andrean Gerber lived life to its fullest. A lifelong artist, after receiving her diagnosis in 2000, she spent the next seven years creating colorful collages using images cut from magazines. She held her first public exhibit in 2005 at age 85 and had four more exhibits before she passed.

Throughout her treatment, Andrean was insatiably curious. “Mom loved going to see Dr. Urba,” said her daughter Gail Johnston. “She just reveled in talking with him about the science, and he would delve into it with her and, ease her way, is how I would describe it.”

Walter J. Urba, M.D., Ph.D., director of Cancer Research at the Earle A. Chiles Research Institute at Providence Cancer Institute, was equally passionate about Andrean’s care. “A famous clinic back east said mom’s tumor was untreatable,” said Gail. “But, Dr. Urba didn’t accept that.”

Gail credits Dr. Urba’s creativity for giving her mother seven more years of life. So when Providence Willamette Falls Medical Foundation launched a campaign to create a new cancer treatment center at Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center, it was an easy decision for Gail and her husband, Eric, to give in Andrean’s honor.

“We would have loved to have this center at Willamette Falls,” said Gail. “This campaign will allow people in Clackamas County to have a treatment team like Mom’s right at Willamette Falls, close to home.”

2020 Highlights

Therapy dog program restarts

The young patient didn’t speak for days. But when Maggie, a visiting Golden Retriever, greeted the stuffed dog clutched in the patient’s arms, she burst out laughing, and healing began. Providence Willamette Falls had a thriving therapy dog program until COVID-19 made it impossible for volunteers to enter the facility. Now, with a grant from the Chamberlain Foundation, two volunteers, Pam and Tony Helbling are helping to rebuild it. The grant will pay for training, tests and supplies for new dogs and their handlers. “It’s a simple way to give back,” said Pam. “Whether it’s a teenager who’s having challenges or someone who’s been through a tough surgery, it’s so rewarding to see the dogs help them.”

New knees lead to gift

Gerry Tyson will tell you: recovering from knee surgery is no walk in the park. The recipient of two knee replacements, Gerry knows that rehabilitation is key to calming tender tissues, limbering stiff joints and regaining movement. That’s why he and his wife, Carolyn, decided to make gifts to purchase equipment for the Providence Willamette Falls rehabilitation clinic. “It means a lot to get this service without having to go downtown for it,” he said. "The therapists helped me conquer my situation. It feels good to help them get new machines.”
As we look back at all the challenges presented by 2020, one thing is certain – our patients and community are fortunate and blessed to have your support.

Whether making direct or in-kind gifts, you helped lead the fight against COVID with compassion and generosity.

And as terrible wildfires spread across Oregon, you once again rose to the challenge, giving generously to help those who were left with nothing.

Through it all, you continued supporting our life-saving and leading-edge work in cancer research and treatment, cardiac care, behavioral health, and so much more.

Thank you for your heartfelt gifts.
It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go.

– Nigerian proverb
Renee Tolleshaug received life-saving treatment at Providence Cancer Institute for her rare form of lymphoma.
Renee Tolleshaug knew she needed to have a glossy red patch that suddenly appeared on her shin looked at. A biopsy of the spot returned a diagnosis of a rare and aggressive form of lymphoma.

Traditional cancer treatment worked for 18 months. Then a PET scan showed the lymphoma had returned and had spread. “It’s like it had a life of its own,” said Renee.

When her oncologist suggested hospice, Renee sprang into action. She had seen a news story about a clinical trial offered at Providence called CAR T-cell therapy. The patient in the story had the same type of lymphoma she did. John Godwin, M.D., was leading the trial at Providence.

Renee called Providence and within two weeks was accepted into the trial. Her T cells were extracted so they could be modified to attack the blood cancer cells, a process that takes about three weeks.

While waiting for the modified cells, Renee became sick, and Dr. Godwin did not want to infuse the new cells until she recovered. In the interim, to keep her cancer at bay, Renee received a therapy that worked for six months until her lymphoma returned. Then she received the re-engineered cells.

Renee felt more energetic, positive and hopeful within two weeks of the CAR T treatment. “It’s not like it just saved my life; it gave me a new one,” she said. “I can’t describe how much better I feel.”

Then in December 2020, Renee was diagnosed with COVID-19. She was admitted to Providence Portland Medical Center two separate times. “The nursing staff was supportive, accommodating and helpful. The care team of infectious disease doctors worked hard to come up with a way to compensate for my lack of an immune system. I was provided with respiratory therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. I can’t thank Providence staff enough for what they have done.”

2020 Highlights

MR-Linac provides safer cancer treatment

The MR-Linac machine, which was funded through philanthropy, is now being used by our radiation oncology team, led by Kristina Young, M.D., Ph.D., to treat patients with a variety of malignancies more safely. Don Smith became the first patient to receive treatment for his cancer using the new MR-Linac. The MR-Linac delivers MRI-guided high dose radiation to kill tumors. Because tumors and organs move and shift, the MR-Linac allows doctors to more precisely target the tumor, which saves surrounding tissues and organs. Providence Portland is the first medical center in the Pacific Northwest to have this technology.

Researcher receives prestigious fellowship

Eric Tran, Ph.D., assistant member, Antitumor T-Cell Response Laboratory, is the inaugural recipient of the Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Scholars Award. The two-year fellowship award was granted by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer to support Dr. Tran’s important work to advance the field of cancer immunotherapy and continue Dr. Rosenberg’s legacy. Our institute was presented with the SITC Team Science Award for fostering success in the field of cancer immunotherapy through long-standing and continued collaborative contributions of energy, activity and intellect by team members. The work of Providence Cancer Institute would not be possible without your generous support.
Howard H. White, here with his cardiologist Jacob Abraham, M.D., received a new heart at Providence in December. The generosity of Phil and Penny Knight ensured Howard could have the transplant close to home.
2020 Highlights

Donors accelerate worldwide innovations in care

For years donor support for the Ronald and Patricia Peterson Heart Valve Center at Providence Heart Institute has accelerated progress in non-surgical treatment of failing heart valves. Donors helped create facilities for the procedures and provided support for clinical trials, paving the way for innovations in treating faulty aortic and mitral valves. Now the center is testing new technology to repair a third valve, the tricuspid. “We’re very grateful for longstanding donor support, which has helped bring innovative treatments to heart patients around the world,” said Ethan Korngold, M.D., medical director of the Peterson Valve Center.

Fundamentos FIT makes a difference for Montez family

Silvia Montez understands teamwork. “The main reason we are hitting our goals is that we are all going in the same direction,” she said. Silvia’s family is part of Fundamentos FIT, a donor-supported program to help Spanish-speaking families improve their heart health. After helping plan the program, Silvia and her family are in the first group testing it out. In just a month she saw improvement in her blood pressure and cholesterol. “Working with my family means a lot. I take care of my own health and share that with them.”
After 3½ years of development, the National African Americans with Multiple Sclerosis Registry opened in September. The registry is the first of its kind in the world and is meant to address some of the disparities in care of Black patients with MS.

Stanley Cohan, M.D., Ph.D., medical director, Providence Multiple Sclerosis Center, developed the registry. He works with three highly regarded MS neurologists – Annette Howard, M.D., Houston, Texas; Annette Okai, M.D., Dallas, Texas; and Mitzi Williams, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia – to direct the registry’s activity.

Multiple sclerosis is an autoimmune disease that can damage the brain, optic nerves and spinal cord. The registry will be used to estimate the number and geographic distribution of Black patients with MS. This will provide important clinical and demographic information to neurologists as they work to improve care for these patients.

MS in Black people has not been studied. The registry will help determine if there is a difference in how the disease affects Black patients and if it progresses the same way as in white patients.

Anita Wells, a Black woman who has had MS for 20 years, said her experience is different. Most of the people with MS that Anita knows are white. “They have issues that are not similar to mine,” she said. “I’d like to know that, whoever you are, you have access to all the information and all the medication that you need. This [registry] is a step forward in trying to make it better.”

“The real purpose of this registry is to improve the care and access to care for African Americans with MS,” said Dr. Cohan.
Reach Out and Read

Thanks to your generosity, children at two Providence Medical Group clinics in Portland happily leave their medical appointments clutching new books. Naree Reiss, clinic manager at PMG-Southwest Pediatrics and PMG-Scholls Pediatrics clinics, applied for a grant and from the PMG fund at Providence Foundations of Oregon partnered with Reach Out and Read to provide books for clinic patients 6 months to 5 years of age.

“I knew it was a good program going in, but it has been truly inspiring to hear from our providers who see the joy and appreciation from the patients and families receiving books,” said Naree. The program encourages reading and language development, nurtures family bonds and emotional growth for children, and improves the health and welfare of families.

Naree invited her family and friends to support the book program by donating to the PMG fund. Their gifts have helped replenish the fund, and Naree hopes to attain another grant to keep Reach Out and Read active at her clinics through 2022. “It’s been exciting for our families, but even more so for our clinical teams. It is one more way we bring the Providence Mission to life,” said Naree.

The PMG fund provides for unmet needs in PMG North primary care and specialty clinics. Besides the books at Naree’s clinics, the fund provided “winter kits” for 860 PMG-Gateway patients, and at-home blood pressure monitoring for at-risk patients.

Providence Medical Group
Ethics challenges in the time of COVID-19

COVID-19 was killing Robert. Already frail before he contracted the virus, he struggled to breathe. His caregivers knew that his heart would probably stop beating soon. Because of the need to protect caregivers and other patients from the virus, starting resuscitation would take much longer than usual. Even if caregivers successfully re-started Robert’s heart, his attending physician knew that the quality of his remaining life would likely be very poor. The physician recommended changing Robert’s code status to “Do Not Resuscitate,” but his family objected.

Providence Center for Health Care Ethics has been a leading force in guiding Providence through difficult decisions for 20 years. The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated longstanding health care inequities and brought new life-and-death choices and bewildering uncertainties. The center is 100% supported by donors.

At Providence, our leaders and caregivers regularly confront ethical issues as they seek what is best for patients, especially the poor and vulnerable. Robert’s physician could have overridden the family’s objection. Instead, she turned to a Providence ethicist to help navigate the dilemma created by Robert’s low chance for a meaningful life after resuscitation, the wishes of his family, and the need to protect caregivers and other patients. Through accompaniment with the physician, the care team and the family, the Providence ethicist was able to advise an outcome for Robert’s care that honored everyone’s best intentions in a difficult situation.

“We are fortunate at Providence to have such outstanding support from professional ethicists. These are often some of the most emotionally challenging situations clinicians face and the guidance of our Ethics Center colleagues is an indispensable resource,” said Steven Freer, M.D., regional chief medical officer.


“Today, I Want
to Live!”

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Melvin lost his job like so many Americans. He sank into a deep depression, coping the only way he knew how – by using and selling drugs. His relapse after 19 months of sobriety left him feeling hopeless and afraid he would die on the street. Without stable housing, it also meant he wasn’t able to see his four daughters.

In May 2020, he became sick with a fever, had difficulty breathing, a cough and severe chest and lung pains. When he finally went to the hospital, he was immediately placed in the intensive care unit with life-threatening pneumonia and congestive heart failure.

Melvin spent three weeks in the hospital but had no place to go once he was discharged. His social worker was concerned about sending him back to the streets. Fortunately his brother offered him a safe place to live, but he had no other community support. His social worker convinced him to meet with a peer support specialist from the Providence Better Outcomes thru Bridges program to help him get back on his feet.

The BOB program is made possible through your generosity.

“The first thing I noticed when [peer support specialist] DJ Alex entered my room was all of her tattoos and her smile. As soon as she began talking, her voice brought soothing vibes to my heart,” said Melvin. “I trusted her immediately because she has been down the same paths I have. It was the first time I felt someone genuinely cared about me.”

DJ accompanied Melvin to doctor’s appointments, helped him apply for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, and met him at numerous recovery meetings. “She went above and beyond to help me,” he said. “I am now the father that my children deserve. Today, I want to live!”
Electra Royse loves to crochet. At 94, the great-grandmother still makes hats to donate to various charities. She has made and donated more than 20,000 hats.

When her son noticed that she was starting to physically decline, he took his mother to see Marian Hodges, M.D., MPH, a geriatric doctor at Providence who specializes in treating older adults.

“It’s most important to understand with is important to the patient – what do they value, what gives them quality of life,” explained Dr. Hodges. “Then I can tailor her care to reflect those values and provide the care she wants.”

After meeting with Electra, Dr. Hodges adjusted her medications and ordered both physical and occupational therapy for Electra. Twice a week for several weeks, two Providence Home Health therapists visited Electra at home. Electra lives in a small cottage on her younger son’s property. The therapists gave her exercises to help her with strength and balance, and provided advice on how to safely navigate her home.

Because of your support of Providence Senior Health, Electra received the care and guidance she needed to continue to live independently.

“She feels much better and is more engaged with increased energy and vitality,” said her son Richard. “Mom has been a member of Providence Health for the last 50 years. She is grateful for all of the wonderful services Providence has provided over those years and, now, is especially grateful to Dr. Hodges as her primary care physician.”
Glenn Rodriguez, M.D., has learned the thrill of investing in a passion. He’s also learned you may be able to invest a lot more than you think you can.

As a retired family medicine physician, Dr. Rodriguez is passionate about the role family physicians play in America. In fact, he created the Family Medicine Residency program at Providence Milwaukie Hospital to offer doctors fresh out of medical school the residency training they need to specialize in the field. Since it opened in 2001, the nationally accredited program has trained more than 130 family medicine doctors.

Residency programs are expensive to run. Medicare covers part of the costs, but the programs rely on donor funding to help meet expenses.

Dr. Rodriguez and his wife, Molly, had regularly contributed to the residency program with donations to Providence Milwaukie Foundation.

However, when a foundation member suggested the couple consider making a “stretch gift,” Dr. Rodriguez balked. He firmly believed the requested sum was far beyond their reach. Yet, they were intrigued by the idea and talked with a financial advisor.

“You have to help people think through how a stretch gift might be possible,” he said. He began to realize that if he demonstrated his commitment to the residency program, others may be inspired to do the same.

Dr. Rodriguez and his wife learned they could make a planned gift spread over time that would include the annual required minimum distributions from their IRAs.

“Planned giving created the opportunity for us to contribute in a meaningful way to something we really care about,” says Dr. Rodriguez. “When we connect people with areas at Providence that they’re passionate about, things happen! It’s very satisfying to see others come along and join you in making gifts that change lives.”
Dear Friends of Providence,

Throughout Providence in Oregon, we are dedicated to providing exceptional, compassionate care for our patients and communities. This commitment has never been more important than in 2020, when Providence – with your help – cared for our communities through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, devastating wildfires and the critically important need to address racial injustice.

These challenges led Providence to spend much of 2020 leading the way with innovation, excellence and compassion in supporting our patients, communities and caregivers. You and your support helped make this possible.

Because of you, our scientists are making lifesaving discoveries that bring hope; our community outreach experts and partners provide programs to help keep people healthy, especially those who are poor and vulnerable; our services grow to meet expanding needs throughout Oregon; and our teams of doctors, nurses and other caregivers have the latest equipment to provide the best care.

During 2020, your gifts supported your local hospital and community, COVID response and services, and Providence’s statewide centers of excellence in cancer, heart, brain and spine, women and children, behavioral health, and senior health. Your donations truly make a difference.

During challenging times, Providence relies on our 165-year Mission of service to others as our guiding light. We are privileged to have your friendship and support in this important work. Thank you for everything you do.

With gratitude,

Lisa Vance
President – Strategy and Operations, North Providence
OUR MISSION
As expressions of God's healing love, witnessed through the ministry of Jesus, we are steadfast in serving all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

OUR VALUES
Compassion, Dignity, Justice,
Excellence, Integrity

ProvidenceFoundations.org