



## Providence Portland Medical Foundation

Therese Reynolds, MSN, RN, and Jessica Knister, RN, check the nurses schedule for the new surge unit.



# New 48-bed surge unit at Providence Portland Medical Center

When an emergency 48-bed unit opened in early 2022 at Providence Portland Medical Center, it was the result of timely pre-planning, generous Providence donors and a partnership with Oregon Health Authority. The unit

was built quickly to help increase hospital capacity in Oregon, as COVID-19 hospitalizations and projected cases continued to rise with the Omicron surge.

In 2020 and 2021, after the Delta surge and not knowing what else COVID might bring, Providence took the initiative to begin converting an empty space into a temporary unit to manage future surges. The emergency unit was partially built out on the ninth floor of Providence Cancer Center, which had been left unfinished for future use when Providence opened the cancer tower in 2008.

Providence Portland Medical Foundation and donors provided funding for the surge unit through the foundation's "area of greatest need" fund. When the hospital has an unexpected need, these funds help the team respond quickly.

The Providence surge unit, which opened in early 2022, helped care for patients with lower levels of COVID and other health needs, easing the burden on hospitals throughout the Portland metro area.

"Patients needed to be hospitalized due to many health care emergencies, including COVID," said Krista Farnham, chief executive, Providence Portland. "Opening these additional beds allowed us to take care of all patients who came to us for care. We are so grateful to donors who helped make this possible."

## 2021 Highlights

### New critical care beds feature latest technology

Providence Portland's critical care unit bought 16 new ICU beds, thanks to donor support. The new Hill-Rom Progress ICU beds improve care for vulnerable patients and help prevent injuries among care teams.

Features include the latest air mattress technology to prevent pressure injuries, mechanical assists to help turn and reposition patients safely, and attachments to assist in proning patients who are in respiratory distress.

Nurses and care teams say they are a vast improvement over the previous beds that were operated manually and often were in disrepair.

### Dementia Care Pathway improves care for patients and families

More than 5 million Americans live with dementia, but only half are formally diagnosed. A timely diagnosis helps improve quality of life for patients and their families.

Providence's Dementia Care Pathway, a part of Providence Senior Health, provides early-diagnosis training for primary care providers, geriatric assessments in some clinics, a year of virtual/phone support to 100 people with dementia and their families, and improved care during and after diagnosis.

Thanks to your gifts, patients and families receive the support they need.



## 2021 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 4%
- Cancer Research and Care | 47%
- Emergency Services | 5%
- Heart | 7%

- Senior Health and Long Term Care | 33%
- Other Funds | 4%

