



Patients and caregivers have welcomed furry new members to the campus security team.

Donors like you prioritize the health, safety and well-being of your community. Your gifts help Providence caregivers carry out our promise to know, care for and ease the way of patients every day.





# Providence Portland Medical Foundation

## K9 security officers Nix and Zeke join the Providence pack

Thanks to funding from a generous donor, patients and caregivers at Providence Portland Medical Center have welcomed two loyal, furry and energetic members to the campus security team. Our K9 security officers, Nix and Zeke, are German Shorthaired Pointers, a breed with a keen sense of smell, which helps Nix and Zeke excel at detection work. They are specially trained to search for weapons and illicit drugs, which helps their human teammates keep everyone at Providence safe.

Since joining our staff, the dogs have spent time becoming familiar with the hospital grounds and buildings. They have also been developing strong bonds with their handlers, experienced and respected Providence security officers Patricia Varela and Jimmy Hill. Both officers love dogs and have long been interested in working with them professionally. Now, because of a generous donation, they have the chance.

Said Patricia Varela, security officer, "Nix and Zeke will mean safety, security, patience, compassion, dedication and love to our ministry."

Several Providence hospitals outside of Oregon have successful K9 programs. Research indicates the simple presence of K9 teams helps de-escalate situations in hospitals, increasing safety. "I believe the K9 program will help decrease staff injuries, provide a therapeutic purpose with caregivers and promote an overall sense of security," said Jimmy. Since the canine program was introduced in the Providence system, violent incidents have dropped by 30% in facilities with dog and handler teams.

As Krista Farnham, chief executive of Providence Portland Medical Center said when announcing the program, "We are not able to live our Mission without caregivers being able to serve those who come to us in need. We believe Patricia, Nix, Jimmy and Zeke will help create a safe and welcoming environment in which to work and heal."

### In 2023, you helped :



Invest \$27M in critical patient programs, groundbreaking cancer research and caregiver development



Provide much-needed funds to the Patient Support Program, which underwrites transportation to medical visits, lodging at the Providence Guest House, medication assistance, food and more to low-income patients for a short time while they connect to community resources



Finance novel approaches to help patients' own immune systems fight their cancers and important research into adoptive cell therapy, a highly personalized cancer treatment



Build plans for the re-imagined emergency department, part of the Tomorrow Starts Today campaign



Support Providence Women and Children's programs, including purchase of a retinal camera for newborns, so caregivers can discover and prevent vision loss

### 2023 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 1%
- Behavioral Health | 2%
- Cancer Research and Support Services | 33%
- Caregiver Development | 1%
- Emergency Services | 45%
- Senior Health and Long-Term Care | 4%
- Women and Children's | 5%
- Other Funds | 8%

