

Power of giving

Donors *make the difference*

Fall 2021

Timely Transformation of Emergency Care

Donors to the Beyond 911 campaign transformed emergency care at Providence Seaside Hospital.

Constructed in the 1960s and last updated in the 1990s, by 2018 the hospital's emergency facilities were too small and outdated and provided little security or privacy. Lisa Huddleston, M.D., leads the hospital's emergency department. "When someone comes to us, they're honoring us with their trust," she said. The facilities were beginning to undermine that trust.

Today, thanks to \$1.5 million in donor support, patients have a new facility exactly when it has been needed most. "Health care is dealing with something of greater severity and scale than we've dealt with before," said Dr. Huddleston. "This new space makes me feel infinitely better about what we're able to do for our patients."

The new triage area means care can start sooner after a patient arrives and replacing treatment areas separated by curtains with private rooms helps with infection control.

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RNs Bridget Sigman, Carly Wilson, and Sarah Mitchell, ED Tech Katie Lamping, and Lisa Huddleston, M.D.

New emergency facilities provide more room, privacy and security. "This new space makes me feel infinitely better about what we're able to do for our patients," said Dr. Huddleston.

“Having more and larger rooms gives us the space to provide care and use the equipment we need to save lives,” said Kathy Gantz, who manages the department’s clinical operations. “Plenty of storage in each room puts resources close to hand. With quick access to the lab and imaging department, we can see and treat patients quickly. There’s also more privacy, which is especially important in a small community.”

Dr. Huddleston has seen an impact on caregiver morale. “You’re proud of the space, proud of where you’re working. It’s nice to have patients enjoy a nice, shiny new facility. Everyone who has contributed deserves a huge thank you from all of us – nurses, techs, physicians. We are all so happy with the care we can provide now.” ■

Beyond 911 Leading Contributors

Jim & Penny Broyles
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Katie Brewington received life-saving emergency care in Providence Seaside’s new emergency department.

Emergency care saved her life

Katie Brewington credits the Providence Seaside emergency department with saving her life. “I’m deeply grateful,” she said. “They provided me with the best care I have ever experienced.”

Katie and her husband Adam Ellis were visiting Seaside for a volleyball tournament when Katie woke up nauseous, in pain and going in and out of consciousness. After a quick ambulance ride to the hospital’s new emergency facility, she was diagnosed with a ruptured ectopic pregnancy in her Fallopian tube and heavy internal bleeding. “The ER team immediately kicked into gear to save my life,” she said. Adam added, “It was like watching a NASCAR pit crew working seamlessly together.”

The emergency department team provided calm and encouraging care to prepare Katie for surgery. “My nurse, Stacie, knew exactly what to do,” she said. “When I told her I was scared she put her hand on my shoulder and told me what was going to happen next. They let my husband stand next to me and hold my hand while they worked.”

Less than an hour after she was transported, Katie met her surgeon, Michael Adler, M.D., and was prepped for her procedure. "When he was explaining to me what was happening and what the surgery would look like he held my hand and told me it would be okay," Katie recounted.

Today, Katie is recovering well and deeply grateful for the care she received in the new emergency department and throughout her stay. "Everyone treated me as a person, not just a patient," she said. "It meant a lot to me to have such amazing support, especially at a small coastal hospital."

"There is no question that the facility increased my confidence in the care Katie was receiving," said Adam. "I'm so glad that people gave the funds to create it. That they were able to take such great care of Katie just speaks volumes." ■

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Sherrie Chojnacki, mammography technician, ensures the mammography machine is properly adjusted before performing a biopsy.

Easier access to breast care

Generous donors have made it easier for North Coast patients to access life-saving breast care. Finding breast cancer early reduces the risk of dying from the disease by 25% or more.

In 2017 donors allowed the hospital to purchase 3D mammography equipment that allows radiologists to detect small cancers earlier and with greater accuracy. In 2020 donors added minimally invasive breast biopsy capabilities, saving patients a trip to another hospital for a biopsy. "We use the same team of radiologists who perform these specialized biopsy procedures at Providence St. Vincent to provide the same high caliber of care," said Tim Hardin, the hospital's diagnostic imaging manager. ■



Helping patients breathe easier

Donor support purchased new equipment for evaluating patients' pulmonary function. The body plethysmograph machine measures lung capacity, rates of air flow into and out of the lungs, and how well blood is carrying oxygen to the rest of the body. The test helps physicians plan care for patients with asthma, COPD, 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 because they don't have to go to Astoria or Portland." ■

Respiratory therapist Lisa Bertin demonstrates how the plethysmograph machine works.

New car helps connect patients to vital medical appointments

Donors purchased a new car for Community Connections, a service that offers free rides to medical appointments for county residents who have limited options for transportation. Besides local trips, the program provides transportation to and from clinics in the Portland area.

All that driving takes a toll on the program's vehicles. It became crucial to replace the current car. "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," said Mark Squire, volunteer coordinator. ■



Mark Squire, volunteer coordinator, with the new car used to transport patients to medical appointments.

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.

Values

Compassion, Dignity, Justice, Excellence, Integrity

Inspiring Generosity ♥

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