As we reflect on giving in 2022, I’m reminded that Sisters of Providence have relied on philanthropy since their story began in Montreal in 1856.

Our foundress, Mother Emily Gamelin, was not without her own struggle. Orphaned at an early age, she went on to lose all three of her children and her husband. Yet, in spite of the incredible hardships she faced, she dedicated her own life to service. The Ministries she established were made possible thanks to the generosity of community members throughout Montreal. After her death in 1851, the Sisters traveled and the Mission grew.

They arrived in Spokane over 135 years ago and established Providence Sacred Heart Hospital, dedicating their lives to those in need. The Sisters were our first fundraisers, traveling by horseback to the mines in secluded, rural areas across the West. Women were not welcome in many of these communities. Still, the Sisters made the ask, begging for gold dust to continue their Mission.

You continue this vital work. Each gift, no matter the size, helps ensure quality, compassionate care in our community.

Your contributions have funded hundreds of thousands of dollars in life-saving health care equipment. An ECMO machine kept a critically ill toddler alive for 11 days. New X-Ray machines at Providence Orthopedics South replaced outdated machines that would often break down and disrupt care. More anesthesia machines at Sacred Heart Medical Center are providing faster treatment for our stroke program – the only one in our region.

Thanks to your generosity, we’re also able to offer life-changing support for patients and their families. It could be gas to help with travel; or a gaming system for children to experience the same joy they may have outside of the hospital; or the memento of a hand or footprint of a child taken too soon. You make the small moments possible for our caregivers to provide comfort, service and hope.

I hope you enjoy reading about the lives changed by your generosity. We are so blessed to find each other through this work in philanthropy—spreading love and light to others. Now more than ever, philanthropy is vital to world-class health care in our communities. Thank you for helping us continue our Mission.

Colleen M. Fox
Chief Philanthropy Officer
“The economics continue to be challenged. The quality of care and the technology continue to improve, but the cost grows as well. People can’t pay for the care they need. There are people in the system who have the talent to provide that care. For those of us that don’t have those skills, the next best thing we can do is fund the process.”  —Mike Bolander, Former patient and donor

EXCELLENCE

“The first patients were amazed. We had a couple patients that really got a boost of confidence.” Susan Ropp, manager of Rehabilitation Services

New Device Supports Stevens County Rehabilitation Patients

The recovery process after a serious injury or stroke can be frustrating and scary, and a fall during rehabilitation can delay recovery even further. The new LiteGait therapy device at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital provides unweighted support to patients while they use a treadmill to improve their strength, gait and balance. The new device was years in the making at Mount Carmel Hospital, and thanks to your support, our patients have the resources they need to heal.

Before this equipment, caregivers with rehabilitation services had to help a patient remain upright during treatment. “As soon as we put our hands on a patient, it changes how they move,” said Susan Ropp, rehabilitation services manager. “Some patients need to move on their own and make mistakes. The LiteGait catches them so they can learn without falling.” Ropp pushed for funding to buy this state-of-the-art equipment for years, keeping a brochure pinned to her office cork board to remind her that one day it would be a reality.

Foundation funding to purchase LiteGait was welcome and exciting news. “The first patients to try it were amazed,” Ropp said. “Their sense of independence and confidence grew immediately.” Thanks to generous donations, the outpatient therapy program is now better equipped to serve its rural communities. During busy times, three patients use the equipment every day.

“COMPASSION

Patient Emergency Fund Helps Pediatric Patients and Families

Health emergencies can require families to uproot their lives. The patient emergency fund, made possible through generous donations, is intended to provide relief and support through unexpected moments. Caregivers identify patients and families who are going through a difficult time and deploy the funds to meet their needs.

For one family from Othello, Washington, this help allowed them to focus on healing. After her 15-year-old son was diagnosed with a rare blood cancer, Margarita took a leave from work and stayed in Spokane so he could receive months of treatment. His siblings continued to attend school at home, and Margarita’s budget was stretched.

“We went through a very difficult situation but with the Foundation’s help, we felt some relief from the stress,” Margarita said, in Spanish. “We are doing well, thanks to God.”

“I am not sure where we would be today if the Foundation hadn’t been there to help us.”
DIGNITY

**Community Health Clinic Serves All**

The Providence Mission is alive inside the Providence Community Health Clinic in Spokane. It is a place for all and utilized most by those experiencing homelessness.

“Being able to go somewhere where you don’t have that financial burden or expectation that you need to pay, that’s a blessing,” said Community Clinic operations manager Robert Lippman, DBH, MSW. “Especially when you have a Mission that’s so driven around being steadfast and serving all, especially the poor and vulnerable.”

*Serving all* is present in the details throughout the entire space. The supply closet is filled with socks, shirts and other basic items. There is a kennel for patients who are concerned about leaving pets outside during appointments. A shower is available, and the kitchenette is stocked with food donations.

Generous donations help fund bus passes, clothes and inclement weather items. Donors have also helped provide updated medical equipment as well as plants to create a welcoming and calm environment in the front office. The hope is that patients walk through the doors as they are and experience high quality health care without judgment.

Scott came for a new prescription after his medication was stolen. He received a 30-day supply. “The time was taken to make sure that I was comfortable and cared for,” Scott said.

Carol received life-changing help after caregivers helped her set up medical assistance. She continued coming back to the clinic, even after moving into a place of her own. “I just want to thank the people at the Providence Community Clinic, let them know they’re awesome and they’re there for the community. They’re there to help us. They’re there for all of us,” Carol said.

“Building relationships is crucial,” Lippman said. He has decades of experience working with unhoused communities. “The only common denominator in all of homelessness is loss of a relationship so I look for ways to build a relationship with everyone who comes in for help.”

The community clinic is the only one of its kind in Spokane, and volunteer caregivers serve 1,700 patients per year.

“We are here to meet whatever need walks through the door. We greet everyone with a smiling face and aim to be an expression of healing love,” Lippman said. This work would not be possible without your support.
INTEGRITY
New Ultrasound Machine Provides Faster Diagnosis, Treatment at Providence Breast Clinic

A new ultrasound machine at the Providence Breast Health clinic is easing the way for patients, allowing Jess Welsh, M.D. to diagnose and start treatment in one appointment.

Dr. Welsh is the first breast surgeon employed by Providence in Eastern Washington. She is grateful to donors for funding an ultrasound machine in the breast clinic at the Providence Holy Family Medical Building.

A teenager with development delays, an elderly woman who struggles with travel to appointments and a lactating mother who needed to heal before feeding her baby again – all have benefited from the ultrasound machine. It allows patients to receive diagnostic treatment in a familiar space and by the medical team they know well, providing comfort and saving crucial time in determining next steps.

Before this technology was available in the clinic, Dr. Welsh needed to refer patients elsewhere for imaging appointments, delaying treatment for days or weeks.

The need for the Providence Breast Health clinic is clear in the Inland Northwest. Dr. Welsh said surgeries are booked for months. “Knowing we have the Foundation and donors who are willing to help our patients is huge.”

JUSTICE
Program Expands to Address Pediatric Mental Health Crisis

To address the increasing need for pediatric mental health services, a Providence program is leading the way with a transformative model. The Behavioral and Educational Skills Training (BEST) Program is designed for children navigating behavioral and emotional challenges related to trauma or mental health issues. It is the only service in Eastern Washington that provides a partial hospitalization program – intensive outpatient services – to children.

The BEST program treats children who are 8-12 years old. In 2021, 243 children participated, a 21% increase over the previous year. Over the course of five to eight weeks, the program builds social skills and emotional regulation through hours of group therapy, family sessions and medication management. Waitlists can be as long as one to two months, which increases the risk of hospitalization or school suspension.

Thanks to donor support, the BEST Program will move into a renovated space at Providence Holy Family Medical Center to serve both the families waiting for help and the growing need for these services in our communities. The renovation will include three group therapy rooms, four patient and family rooms, three provider offices, four low stimulation rooms and other safety accommodations. The additional space will allow the program to treat up to twenty children per day—more than 450 each year.
Jack & Liam Kelsey spent 78 days in the NICU at Providence Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. They saw specialists for two years and are now the most social kids in their class and love to laugh and run.

“We always tell them to “Wave to the babies!” whenever we drive past Sacred Heart, and we truly hope Liam and Jack can help share their own miracle of life with many other children by supporting the Children’s Miracle Network.”

-Mike & Corrina Kelsey (Dad & Mom)