



Your support through Providence St. Mary Foundation creates a healthier community. Stay connected with the latest program highlights, donor events and health care news.

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This is why! A message from Peter Hess, Foundation Board Chair

Given the current COVID-19 crisis, many people are recognizing healthcare as worthy of charitable support. We've seen this in the last several weeks at Providence St. Mary. I want to thank those who have given, whether it was two years ago or two days ago, and emphasize why I serve as board chair.

Donations stay local: Providence St. Mary Foundation is a separate non-profit focusing on the healthcare needs of our valley. Our Board is comprised of 20 local volunteers who are not only dedicated to raising money but also to ensuring the money makes the biggest impact possible.

One of the questions that we, as board members, habitually ask ourselves before we approve an expenditure is: "Will this [equipment, program, etc.] be possible if the Foundation doesn't fund it?" In other words, we work really hard to make sure that donations go directly to making healthcare better in Walla Walla. You can read below about a recent example of this with rapid testing. Generous donors have stepped forward in less than one week to fund a platform that will make rapid testing available in our community. This simply wouldn't have happened without our Foundation and your support!

Affiliation with a large health system: Sure, there are challenges navigating within a large organization and within the complexities of healthcare in our country. However, our affiliation with Providence St. Joseph Health brings so many benefits. First and perhaps most importantly, PSJH underwrites virtually all administrative expenses for the Foundation, ensuring most all of your donation directly improves healthcare for our community. Secondly, the money we approve for expenditure is used efficiently and effectively because of PSJH's bargaining power with insurance, medical suppliers and pharmaceutical companies. It would be much more expensive to deliver healthcare if our hospital was independent. Finally, our community can access a vast referral network of some of the country's top clinical services because of the expertise, research and advances available through PSJH.

These are just a few of the reasons I choose to serve but there are many more. Personally, I thank you for all of the acts of support you've provided. We are constantly learning of emerging priorities so if you haven't had a chance to renew your support, I invite you to join me and so many others.

You can see our most recent impact report [here](#) to see what we've been up to. We live in a truly special place, and I am proud to be part of an organization that constantly strives to improve the health of Walla Wallans!



We are blessed to be part of such a caring community and we're inspired by the generosity shown to our hospital, patients, caregivers and the most vulnerable in our community.

You deserve a round of applause! Please [visit our gratitude page](#). It is our honor to recognize all of the businesses, organizations and generous individuals who have strengthened healthcare in our Valley in direct response to COVID-19 and beyond.

With gratitude Walla Walla!

Spotlight on Population Health

This new service line launched last year with a focus on enhancing wellness, preventing illness and strengthening community self-care. Due to COVID-19, they've had to immediately pivot and respond to the crisis.

Our Foundation team had a chance to catch-up with **Becky Betts**, MSN, RN, CRRN and department manager (pictured at right). Becky shares more about Population Health and what her team has been working on which includes providing masks for unsheltered individuals, meals for homeless teens and more than 4,000 outreach calls in recent weeks.



You can read about our conversation [here](#).

Rapid testing platform for COVID-19 fully funded through community support

In less than a week, private citizens, cities, agencies and fire departments in the Walla Walla area donated over \$174,000 to make rapid testing for COVID-19 available in this community.



According to Providence St. Mary Laboratory Director, **David Jansen (right)**, the equipment, when fully functional, will produce test results in approximately 45-minutes, drastically reducing the days it takes now to ship and process tests.

As hospitals across the nation grapple with the economic pressures from the pandemic, it is becoming increasingly difficult to generate the operating revenue needed to invest in technologies and equipment. The hospital's foundation is playing a big role in strengthening Providence St. Mary's local response by funding direct patient and caregiver support, key equipment and other needs like testing.

Funding for the Cepheid GeneXpert came from a blend of private philanthropic gifts and support from local governments.

Read the full release [here](#).

Donor Spotlight: Susan Monahan and Mark Brucks

Susan and Mark of Walla Walla were among the first from

the community to join Dr. Richard and Deberah Simon with a \$50,000 leadership gift for the Cepheid platform to bring rapid testing to Walla Walla.

Susan and Mark have lived in Walla Walla since 2008. They are involved with many organizations in town as volunteers and supporters, including the Kirkman House Museum, where Susan is on the board; and the Walla Walla Symphony, where Mark serves on the board.

Susan and Mark care deeply about Walla Walla and are pleased to be making a difference in improving the quality of life and healthcare for the community.



Giving that gives back: Life Income Fund

Individuals and couples that are age 60 or over have an amazing opportunity to make a charitable contribution while receiving an annual return of at least 6% for life.

The Life Income Fund is a type of charitable program that the IRS designates as a "pooled income fund". When you contribute, the IRS allows for an immediate tax deduction and an annual income while making a philanthropic impact. Gifts are unrestricted in nature, providing flexibility to respond to the area of greatest need.



Visit our [gift planning website](#) and select 'Pooled Income Fund' to learn how to maximize your impact.

Exceptional Care, Close to Home

Providence St. Mary Foundation is committed to supporting exceptional health care, close to home, at Providence St. Mary. Your support enriches the lives of our friends, family and neighbors by funding innovative programs, equipment and capital projects that help create a healthier community.

Leaving a Legacy

Have you included Providence St. Mary Foundation in your estate plan? Please let us know - we would love to express our gratitude! Including us in your will, as a life insurance beneficiary or in a charitable remainder trust offers more than potential tax savings. It continues the legacy of compassionate care that the Sisters of Providence began many years ago.

Please reference the Providence St. Mary Foundation, EIN #45-2841492 in any estate planning document to provide a lasting impact on the health of our community. [Learn more.](#)