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Annual event turns virtual movement as we #FINISHCANCER, together.

A message from Hall Grimes, Cancer Center Director

Every day, dozens of moms and dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters, neighbors, colleagues and friends walk through the doors of Providence St. Mary Regional Cancer Center for treatment, follow-up and care. And every day, I have an amazing team of dedicated staff who answer the call with compassion and service.

Support from our generous community through Providence St. Mary Foundation helps my team do their jobs better every day as they deliver the best care possible.

A key fundraiser for cancer care is the annual Gran Fondo. Each year, I look forward to this event (now known as #FINISHCANCER Walk.Run.Ride) to join with hundreds of people who come together to walk a mile, run a 5k or venture into the country on a long bike ride to raise critical funds for cancer care.

While we will not be able to gather in person, this annual event has always been about what we can do to finish cancer, together. I am excited for what Providence St. Mary Foundation has in store and invite you to join the online #FINISHCANCER movement from [Sep. 1 - Sep. 26!](#) We are counting on you to help raise critical funds to support cancer care for the people who need us most. Your support has never been more important.

There are many ways to participate. Join us at our virtual cancer town hall on September 16th from 12pm - 1pm (RSVP [here](#)). It will be an hour chock full of information from Providence oncology experts and you'll hear from Sam Byrnes, cancer survivor hero and an inspiration. You can also visit the [#FINISHCANCER page](#) to make a gift of any size, start your own fundraising page or honor a loved one. We look forward to being back together in person in 2021.

It's an honor and privilege to serve in this role and to interact with so many amazing and strong individuals each day. I thank you for your past, current and future support that makes this work possible, right here in Walla Walla.

In health and with tremendous gratitude,

Hall

Hall Grimes

Join us for a virtual town hall
Wednesday, Sep. 16 from 12pm - 1pm, PST

Meet the team behind the #FINISHCANCER movement in Walla Walla. Hear from top Providence oncology experts on the latest advances in cancer care and how our center has responded during the pandemic. Meet one of our cancer survivor heroes, Sam Byrnes, who will share his inspiring story and learn how you can participate in the online movement.

Presenters include Dr. Oliver Batson (Hematology and Medical Oncology), Collette Bivins (Radiation Oncology Manager), Sam Byrnes (Cancer Survivor), Blake Underriner (Foundation Board) and a spotlight on our patient navigation program.

The town hall is free and RSVP is required to receive a link to the event.

RSVP



What does it mean to finish cancer? A spotlight on Sam and Laura Byrnes

Sam was diagnosed with throat cancer and he and Laura found the strength to make it through and get back to their lives. The Byrnes share their story [here](#).

Watch the video



Book chronicles long and storied history of Providence St. Mary Medical Center

In celebration of our 140th anniversary this year, Providence St. Mary Medical Center has published a book chronicling a long and storied history. You can purchase the book [here](#).

In Order to do Good: The History of Providence St. Mary Medical Center was written by local author Linda M. Andrews, who was given access to the chronicles kept by the Sisters of Providence, as well as historical accounts, letters and photos. The book spans from 1856 to 2019.

The title of the book comes from a letter that St. Mary foundress Mother Joseph wrote to Bishop Bourget in 1858. In the letter, she acknowledged that it would be a financial struggle to start schools, orphanages and hospitals in the Northwest, but wrote “It seems to me that we should be glad to feel the pinch, in order to do good.”

The Sisters arrived in Walla Walla in 1864 at the invitation of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church to teach in the newly erected St. Vincent Academy. The Sisters also took in boarders at the school to help cover expenses, and over time developed a reputation for caring for the sick and feeding the hungry who showed up at the school’s kitchen door.

Epidemics of smallpox, diphtheria and scarlet fever often swept through the area. As Walla Walla grew, so did the need for health care. The Sisters answered the call, raising the necessary funds and opening St. Mary Hospital in 1880.

Through the years, the hospital has burned to the ground and flooded, cared for patients through the Spanish flu and polio, and has been built and rebuilt to meet the health care needs of Walla Walla.

“Looking back at our history at how the Sisters endured offers a message of hope as we respond to the global pandemic,” said Chief Mission Officer, Kathie Oreb. “The Sisters and the hospital they founded faced so many challenges. Their strength and perseverance ensured that Providence St. Mary would be here today, 140 years later, to care for this community during this extraordinary

time.”

In Order to do Good: The History of Providence St. Mary Medical Center is available at Book & Game Company, Earthlight Books, the Providence St. Mary gift shop and online [here](#). Proceeds benefit the area of greatest need through Providence St. Mary Foundation.

Exceptional Care, Close to Home

Providence St. Mary Foundation is committed to strengthening local healthcare through the generosity of donors. Philanthropic support funds 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.](#)