Words to live by
An update on your investment in innovative, data-driven cardiac care.

Greg Coffman is active and spending time with his family thanks to you.
Pride, precision, discipline and urgency. Those words guided Greg Coffman over his career as a successful construction executive. So when he learned his heart was failing in fall 2018, he was relieved to find that the whole John L. Locke Jr. Advanced Cardiac Support team at Swedish Cherry Hill embodied every word of his motto.

It all started in San Francisco, where Greg was spending Thanksgiving with his extended family. While walking up the city’s famously steep hills, he noticed he was out of breath and exhausted. Even at age 71, this was unusual for the typically energetic Greg. He ended up skipping Thanksgiving dinner and flying back to Seattle the next day to see his primary physician for what he thought was a stomach issue.

X-rays revealed fluid building up in his lungs, and Greg was rushed to the emergency room at Swedish Ballard for testing, then to Swedish Cherry Hill after he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Over the next four weeks, Greg received three stents and underwent several procedures to stabilize his heart function. Through the hard work of his physician, John Mignone, M.D., the Robert M. and Patricia Arnold Endowed Medical Director for Heart Failure, and the whole care team, Greg has been able to get back to the things he loves most: golfing and spending time with his grandkids.

“I’ve got a well-calibrated measuring stick for why I feel Swedish is so extraordinary,” Greg says. “Dr. Mignone has an amazing combination of tremendous understanding and knowledge and passion for what he does, along with a great ability to communicate effectively.”

It’s because of you that Greg received that level of comprehensive care. And it’s because of you that he and other patients at the Swedish Heart & Vascular Institute (SHVI) will receive an even more sophisticated level of care in the near future.

We’ve got your number

Once he was discharged, Greg began tracking his vital signs, sleep and activities so he could compare them with how he felt each day. We’re preparing to use a similar data-driven approach to revolutionize care across SHVI.

It’s a concept called population health. By gathering health information from our patients and viewing it in the aggregate, we can improve our understanding of certain heart conditions, and identify gaps in care. This wider perspective

“Swedish care is the best I’ve ever experienced, and I have had hospital stays at least seven times in major hospitals around the country. And that includes the nurses, the people preparing food and cleaning, everybody.” —Greg Coffman

Greg is back on the golf course because of the care he received.
will allow us to narrow in on the details that matter most to each patient.

For patients with heart failure, this approach could literally be the difference between life and death. In many cases the most effective treatments for heart failure are a handful of simple medications, yet not all patients are prescribed the correct drugs or adhere strictly to their regimen. Population health will allow us to better review and monitor our patients’ prescriptions and ensure they’re not only taking them, but also taking them appropriately.

With philanthropic support, a statistician has joined SHVI to allow us to make the most of the robust collection of data we’ve built through decades of cardiac care. Your investment will ensure that every patient can benefit from this invaluable resource.

Thank you for making this kind of advanced cardiac care possible for our patients.

**Scanning the horizon**

Data will also play an integral role in how we care for patients with atrial fibrillation (AFib) at the Swedish Comprehensive AFib Network (SCAN).

This common arrhythmia can be caused by a number of different conditions—from sleep apnea to obesity—and increases a patient’s chances of heart attack and stroke. As we prepare to open a clinic for SCAN this summer where we can coordinate patients’ care, we’re also excited to welcome a few new team members.

Thanks to your support, Christie Craig, RN, BSN and Marja Dempsey, ARNP, will put patients on a path to better health by developing personalized care plans and connecting them with the appropriate specialists to address their underlying condition.
Thank you for investing in the health and well-being of our community.

To learn more about comprehensive cardiac care at Swedish, please contact:

Swedish Medical Center Foundation
747 Broadway
Seattle, WA 98122
206-386-2738
foundation@swedish.org
swedishfoundation.org