

**ASHLAND
COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL**

**FOUNDATION
INSPIRING
PHILANTHROPY
TO ENHANCE
ASANTE
ASHLAND
COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL
SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 98
ASHLAND, OR 97520
(541) 201-4015

ACHFOUNDATION.ORG

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INSPIRATIONS

AN UPDATE FROM ASHLAND
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Issue #4
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Women Helping Women Soroptimists Care About Women's Health

Knowing the importance of women's access to quality health care, Pat Acklin, president of Soroptimist International of Ashland, hand-delivered a check to the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation for \$5,000 to support this year's Patrons Campaign for the Women's Health Initiative. The initiative is intended to enhance and expand health care services to women.



Pat Acklin

Soroptimist International is a women's service organization that has five active clubs in the Rogue Valley. They share a common goal of improving the lives of women and girls both locally and globally through various programs unique to each club.

The Ashland club has supported the work of Asante Ashland Community Hospital for well over three decades. Pat shared that \$5,000 was a stretch from what they are normally able to give. The motivation behind their generous gift is the desire that it be used as seed money to help launch the Women's Care Fund, a component of the Women's Health Initiative.

Your Donations Support Women's Health

The Women's Health Initiative supports all women in our community receiving excellent health care regardless of their ability to pay. Your donation will be used to provide services and equipment to ensure the health of our community. Donate online at www.achfoundation.org.



Butler Ford Rallies for Patient Care

We're raising the checkered flag for 294 winners who helped drive Ashland Community Hospital Foundation to a \$5,880 victory at a Drive 4 UR Community event May 2 at Butler Ford in Ashland.

Asante employees, volunteers, physicians and community members got behind the wheel of a new car to help speed donations to patient care initiatives at AACH.

The rules of the road at Drive 4 UR Community were simple: each no-obligation test drive earned \$20 for a maximum contribution of \$6,000 from Ford Motor Co. After all the cars were parked and the drives successfully complete, Butler staff rushed the results to Ford Motor Co. for review. To help us reach our \$6,000 goal, Butler Automotive Group, the community, and members of

the foundation board pledged the remaining difference to get us to the finish line.

The Human Bean, which kept test drivers fueled with complimentary coffee, and all the other event volunteers, musicians, food trucks, and local businesses who donated prizes also should take a victory lap.

We want to raise a special thank-you toast to Chuck and Linda Butler and the staff at the Butler Automotive Group for selecting us for the event and for all their hard work making it a success.



Message from the President

Donors Make a Difference as Hospital Adds Services

There has been a flurry of activity since I wrote to you in the spring. It's hard to believe that summer is over and we are starting to plan for 2016.

As I look ahead, I'm reminded of how critical you are to our work. You have made so many important projects and services possible at Asante Ashland Community Hospital. You have helped us save lives, mend bodies, cure illnesses, and bring babies into the world. I hope you share my joy and pride in your accomplishments.

Our work continues as we partner with you to support two exciting and significant initiatives at our hospital. Both are designed to expand services to our community and offer excellent care, close to home.

Urology Services

Asante Ashland Community Hospital heard from our patients and primary care physicians that they wanted urology services in Ashland. And the hospital listened. The Rogue Valley Urology Group has begun offering urology surgery at the hospital. Phase I of this initiative is underway with the urologists performing basic surgeries now. The foundation is securing contributions for Phase II, which will create a urol-



Liz Murphy

ogy suite at the hospital that will be equipped for more complex surgeries.

Women's Health

Earlier this year, we launched our 2015 Patrons Campaign to support women's health. We are partnering with our community to fund three important projects:

- Asante Ashland Community Hospital is expanding surgical options for women. To support this effort, the foundation is securing donations to purchase equipment for gynecologic and breast-reconstruction surgeries.
- Plans are underway to buy state-of-the-art breast tomography equipment. Tomography is expected to become the gold standard for breast imaging because it improves radiologists' ability to diagnose with confidence.
- Finally, we are creating a Women's Care Fund to help women get the medical care they need, regardless of their ability to pay.

You are important to the success and vitality of our hospital. Thank you for partnering with us to keep Asante Ashland Community Hospital alive and well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz".

Liz Murphy, President
Asante Ashland Community Hospital Foundation

We Care: Employees Make an Impact on Patient Care

Valerie Chamberlain, a donor and employee, is among those at Asante Ashland Community Hospital participating in a new program to keep patients comfortable called the Caregiver Fund.

Launched last year, the Caregiver Fund is supported entirely by donations from staff and volunteers, who also propose how the gifts will be used. The program is designed to develop employee-driven ideas for initiatives, tools, equipment, and education that will reduce waste, improve quality and safety, and enhance patients' experiences.

Any employee at Asante Ashland can submit an idea for consideration for up to \$10,000 in funding. Requests are reviewed by a committee made up of clinical and nonclinical front-line staff from over a dozen departments.

Over the summer, the committee awarded \$15,000 toward installing or replacing TVs in several patient rooms. For patients recovering from surgery, receiving infusions, or otherwise having to bide their time in a patient room, the distraction of a television can provide comfort and ease anxiety.

Valerie Chamberlain shared:

"I am thrilled that there is a program that will allow all of us to make a financial contribution that will leave a lasting impact on patient care, including those of us who can only give a consistent, modest amount," she said. "I give because I am convinced that as a health care organization, AACH has many unique features to offer the community."

Thanks to volunteers and employees such as Valerie for caring about their work and the experience of our patients!

Give Because You Care

Donations to the Caregiver Fund from Asante Ashland Community Hospital staff and volunteers pay for improvements recommended by employees. Help make a difference in patients' lives every day by donating online or through a payroll deduction. Donate online at www.achfoundation.org or 541-201-4015.



Sustaining a Dream

Aspiring Nurse Credits Scholarship Donor with Helping Her Reach Goal

Thanks to the William G. and Ruth T. Evans Endowed Nursing Scholarship, Shannan Widboom is closing in on her dream of becoming a nurse and building a career helping others.

Shannan wanted to be a nurse for as long as she could remember. She had a difficult childhood, growing up in poverty and living at times in homeless shelters. She pored through nursing books and practiced nursing skills on her stuffed animals.

At the age of 18 she gave birth to her son, whose father died in a car accident two years later. Shannan persevered: raising her son, now 18, marrying, and caring for both of her grandparents as they passed away while in hospice. She got a job as a file clerk at a Rogue Valley radiology group and was soon promoted into a management position. However, the great recession struck, and Shannan and her husband lost their jobs and then their home.

Realizing that her lack of a college degree was preventing her from getting a well-paying job, Shannan enrolled in college, selling everything of value to pay her tuition. She also earned a scholarship from the fund endowed by the Evans.

“Without this generous scholarship, I would not have had the means to accomplish what I have,” says Shannan, who has received the scholarship for the past three years.

Today, Shannan is in her final year in the OHSU nursing program at SOU. She works two jobs, is the president of the Ashland OHSU Student Nurse Association, and has maintained a cumulative 3.95 GPA.

She is one of 11 students in the OHSU nursing program at SOU and Rogue Community College who received a total of \$52,500 in scholarships from the William G. and Ruth T. Evans Endowed Nursing Scholarship this year. She and three other past recipients are on track to graduate in 2016.

Ruth Evans established the endowed nursing scholarship in 2002. A nurse herself, Ruth recognized the need for nurses and the importance of education. Although Mrs. Evans passed away in 2013, her legacy continues in the form a \$2.5 million bequest directed to nursing scholarships, among other areas.

Since the creation of the scholarship, 90 local nursing students have received 135 scholarships totaling \$258,433. New this year is the inclusion of the Rogue Community College Practical Nursing Program. Thirteen graduating students each received a scholarship to cover the cost of their state application and exam fees for a total of \$5,518.50.

Shannan speaks for all those who have benefited from Ruth Evans’ generosity. “The generous giving heart and spirit of Ruth Evans inspires me to achieve not only my dreams, but to help others achieve theirs.”



Shannan Widboom



2015 Evans Nursing Scholarship Recipients are:
Back Row: Danielle Friezner, Kristina Nunes, Shannan Widboom, Justin Cole, Annabel Walker, Scott Hamilton.
Front Row: Chastity Drobeno, Erin Oxendine, Barbara Evans, Margaret Evans, Kortney Pree.
Not Pictured: Vaughn Kelly, Tara O'Connor

Sid and Barbara Field *Shine a Light on the Work of the Hospital and Foundation*

Lights for Life trees illuminate winter nights in Ashland and Talent, but did you know that the program's donations brighten the whole year for Asante Ashland Community Hospital and its patients?

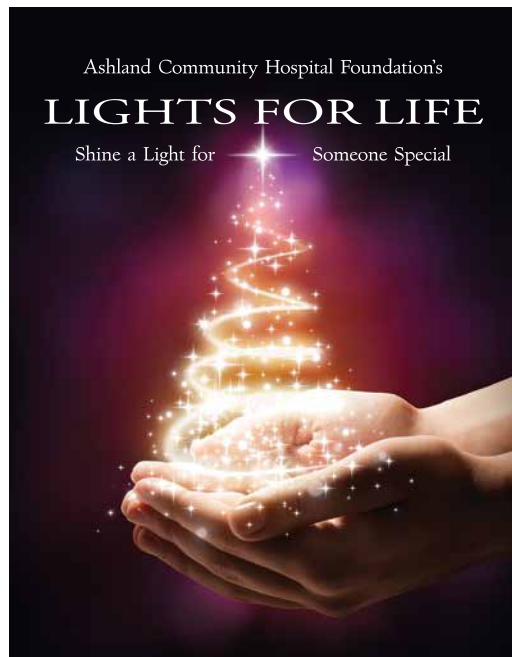
Longtime supporters Sid and Barbara Field know.

Over the past two decades the Fields have supported Ashland Community Hospital Foundation because of the care, comfort, and compassion that both have received as patients at Asante Ashland Community Hospital.

"Whether for major surgery or routine tests, the staff is always responsive to our concerns and needs", Barbara says.

"My favorite treatment has always been the offer of a warm blanket," she confides. "The hospital has talented physicians and medical professionals, and is a treasured jewel, vital to all residents and patients who come for treatment."

Sid jokes that with his lack of ability to operate power tools with blades and chains it's comforting to know there is a skilled Emergency Department nearby.



On a more serious note he explains, "I have had the opportunity to work directly with the organization, as a former board member of the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation. The funds generated through our donations are used to assist in upgrading facilities and purchase new state-of-the-art equipment for our patients and medical staff."

Sid and Barbara agree: "It is important for us all to continue our financial support of the hospital and foundation. It's key to our quality of life."

If you share Sid and Barbara's sentiments about the value Asante Ashland Community Hospital adds to the health of our community, please support our work with a gift to Lights for Life.

Give a Gift to the Future

Have you included Asante Ashland Community Hospital in your will or other estate plans? If so, we'd love to hear from you. It's easy to make a lasting impact on our hospital. Simply include this sentence in your will: I [name] of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to Ashland Community Hospital Foundation [written amount or percentage of estate] for its unrestricted use and purpose.

Contact Janet Troy at (541) 201-4014 or janet.troy@asante.org to learn more and share your hopes and dreams. We'd love to honor you as a member of our Winburn Society of legacy supporters.

Make the Most of Your Gift

Would you like to increase the effectiveness of your gifts? Recurring donations maximize impact and enable long-term planning by providing predictable income to Asante Ashland Community Hospital. Your monthly donations add up to a significant contribution to support the programs and initiatives that are important to you. Recurring donations also reduce our costs for paper, postage and printing since you can opt out of receiving receipts. Visit our website at www.achfoundation.org to learn more.

Shine a Light For Someone You Love!

Your donation in honor or memory of a loved one helps support the many programs and initiatives that keep our community hospital vital and able to serve patients right here in our hometown. Donate online at www.achfoundation.org.

