



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

[Make a gift](#)



## From Susan Blackburn, Chief Executive

In this season of gratitude, I want to thank you for your philanthropic support which has strengthened our local healthcare system's response to the pandemic. As COVID-19 entered the United States, Providence St. Mary Medical Center responded right away.

Since the outbreak, our needs for equipment, supplies, personal protective equipment and so much more have been overwhelming and continuous. The community's generosity and support is humbling and has allowed Providence St. Mary to rise up to meet unprecedented community needs.

In March, we worked with the Foundation to prepare the Southgate campus as a temporary hospital for additional beds (thankfully, the additional beds have not been needed thus far).

Our Population Health Team partnered with the Health Department to provide local contact tracing and support to COVID positive patients through daily phone calls, grocery delivery and mental health support.

This work continues as does our ongoing support of patients receiving care in the medical center as well as throughout the community. Our dedicated healthcare heroes rise to the challenges of the pandemic every day while caring for each of our patients' physical and emotional needs, often staying by their side when their families can't be with them due to COVID restrictions.

We are thankful to partner with the Foundation to address the needs of community members outside of our hospital walls by utilizing the Good Samaritan Fund to buy shoes for a barefoot patient, pay for transportation to and from doctor visits and so much more. The Good Samaritan Fund has helped twice the number of patients this year than in 2019 - a true testament to the growing need right here in our community.

In early November, we signed a contract with Walla Walla County to provide COVID quarantine housing at the Southgate campus. Public Health provides screening of potential residents who can't quarantine on their own but aren't sick enough to require hospitalization. The design of the Southgate building allows for the safe housing of these individuals without impacting other services at the facility.

This last week we've had the highest number of COVID patients we've ever cared for in our hospital. We are taking steps to increase our capacity to free up more inpatient hospital beds. While we are taking these steps, I urge you to do your part to keep these beds from being filled. The best thing you can do to support our health care workers is wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing.

While we join you in facing the challenges of each day, we are optimistically looking forward and

planning for the future. We are anxious to begin vaccinating our caregivers, as well as the community we serve. Planning for the COVID-19 vaccine began several months ago and is now in full swing as we rapidly approach the receipt of our first vaccine allocation. The vaccine will be rolled out in a phased approach, following State and Federal guidance, and we look ahead to the future when we are able to rest assured that our most vulnerable are protected from this illness.

Thank you for all you are doing to make our work possible.

Warmly,  
**Susan**



## The Human Bean raises \$3,737 for early detection

The coffee stand, which opened earlier this year in College Place, donated 100% of proceeds from their #CoffeeForACure fundraiser from Friday, October 23 to support local mammography services in our community.

Their donation will support the Jan Erickson Life Saver Fund which promotes the early detection of breast cancer by covering the cost of screening and diagnostic mammograms for women 40 years and older who do not have the financial resources or insurance to pay for a mammogram.

*Pictured: The Human Bean baristas, Jaime Humbert (Stand owner), Amy Watkins (Development Officer) and Katelyn Reseck (Foundation Coordinator)*

## Leaving a Lasting Legacy: Philanthropy and The CARES Act Online Seminar on Dec. 9 at 4pm

You may be able to make a difference to causes you care about while saving money and preserving your assets, thanks to changes in tax laws. Join keynote speaker Amanda Ferrari, at a virtual seminar to learn about The CARES Act tax benefit, leaving a legacy and other philanthropic opportunities. Amanda is a philanthropy leader known for her extensive knowledge of gift planning techniques and her ability to provide creative solutions based on sound estate planning, and financial principles. [Register online.](#)



## Hundreds of employees donate through Caregiver Giving Campaign



In addition to their incredible efforts in the fight against COVID-19, nearly 400 of our caregivers and volunteers also made a personal gift through Providence St. Mary Foundation's Caregiver Giving Campaign which concluded right before Thanksgiving. We are so thankful to each of our [Campaign donors.](#)

Each year, caregivers have the opportunity to come together as People of Providence and pledge their support with a financial gift that directly benefits the community by helping to address critical health care needs right here in Walla Walla. This year, more than ever, we are grateful for our caregivers and their support during this time of unprecedented need.

---

## #healthcareheroes honored in November

Several Providence St. Mary caregivers have been honored over the last few weeks through the [Honor a Healthcare Hero](#) program. You can see the full list of honorees [here](#).



Each caregiver has received a special hero pin and postcard to let them know a gift was made in their honor and to share a message of gratitude. As our caregivers rise up to meet community needs, acknowledging their hard work is incredibly meaningful.

[Learn more.](#)

---

## 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.](#)