



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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'Prescribing' books? Early reading promotes healthy kids



Reach Out and Read is a national program that partners with hospitals and doctors to prescribe books to encourage families to read together. Research shows early literacy encourages neurological, psychological, emotional and language development. The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a landmark statement promoting literacy as "an essential component of pediatric primary care".

Providence Family Practice physicians have been participating in this program for the last 7 years. Children, 6 months to 5 years, take home a book at their well-child check. The book is handed to the child by the physician - validating the importance of reading to both the child and the parent.

This program recently received a vote of confidence from the Walla Walla branch of American Association of University Women with a grant award of \$3,000. With this funding we will increase our supply of books, purchase more interesting books that appeal to all ages with fun colors and interesting subjects and have a full supply through the year so that no child is left out. We will also be able to expand the age of children who receive a book.

According to *Child Trends*, the nations' leading nonprofit research organization, "pre-kindergarten-age children living in poverty are less likely to possess cognitive and early literacy-readiness skills than children living above the poverty threshold."

Of the children that Providence's Family Practice serves each year, approximately 51% are insured through a government-sponsored program, well above the national average of 43%. In addition, 2.3% of local children are uninsured. Both of these insurance types indicate these kids are living below the poverty line.

Of families served through Reach Out and Read:

- Parents are 2.5 times more likely to read to their children;
- Families are 2.5 times more likely to enjoy reading together or have books at home, and;
- Children's pre-school language development is improved by 3-6 months.

Donna Jenner, RN for Family Practice, serves as the program coordinator, making sure books are stocked. Her passion is the driver behind the success of this program in our community. As cited by AAUW member Linda Brown in the award letter for this grant "a community's commitment to early literacy is a good indicator of the community's broader commitment to children and families."

Reach Out and Read introduces, and reinforces, the importance of that parent/child relationship and reading together! We are proud to partner with our caregivers and community organizations to make this program possible for another year.

Impact spotlight: diagnostic imaging

Identifying capital priorities is an ongoing conversation between hospital leadership and our foundation. Increasingly, philanthropy is bridging the gap between available capital funding and need as the community counts on Providence St. Mary to provide the best care possible through the most advanced technology and equipment.



Recently, our foundation board of directors approved our investment in a wrist coil for our 3 Tesla MRI through our greatest need fund.

This imaging technology draws patients from as far away as La Grande, Oregon when they need advanced diagnostic tools.

The wrist coil reduces stress on patients receiving an MRI for hand/wrist ailments or injuries. This piece of equipment is used to aid in diagnosing patients suffering from pain associated with arthritis, tendinitis or carpal tunnel. Athletes also benefit from this particular piece of technology as tendons, ligaments and cartilage are all vulnerable to injury from repetitive motion associated with many sports.

[Make an unrestricted donation](#)

Donor Spotlight: Russ and Lynne Pierce

We connected with Russ and Lynne Pierce during the Family Birth Center effort of 2018. They made a transformational gift to that effort motivated by their desire to leave the community better for generations to come, even after they are gone.

The Pierces have become involved in several other avenues through Providence St. Mary Foundation including recently hosting a Giving Event at their home. This event was an evening with friends of the Pierces and caregivers from Providence St. Mary. The intimate, relaxed setting allowed for conversations about the future of healthcare in our community, the importance of genetic testing as a tool for making decisions after a cancer diagnosis and how community members can get involved if they want to give back.



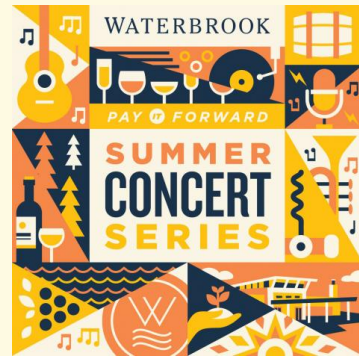
Get in the Game on July 26 - Register your golf team now!



More information & Register a Team

Pay It Forward concert benefits local healthcare

Waterbrook Winery donates proceeds from their first Pay It Forward Concert Series to local healthcare through Providence St. Mary Foundation. Enjoy Whiskey Creek Band, the gorgeous patio, a full menu and cold rose on June 15. Admission is \$20 and includes your first glass of wine. [More information is available here.](#)



We moved!



Providence St. Mary Foundation has moved from the main hospital building to the Southgate Medical Park at 1025 S. Second Avenue.