



The impact of **your giving**

2020

Above: Patients with heart failure received meals and holiday cheer from members of the WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital Heart Care Team.

Your generosity impacts so many!

Ephrata Community Health Foundation extends a special thank you to our valued donors and community for the steadfast support you provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. You went above and beyond to help us in a time of great need. In addition to rallying around our health care heroes, your generosity this past year helped support:

- Our community. Because of you, patients facing financial hardships brought on by a cancer diagnosis are receiving help paying vital expenses. And patients with heart conditions are being provided with support to help them live a healthier lifestyle.
- Innovation and education. Thanks to you, WellSpan medical professionals honed their skills in a clinical simulation lab to improve patient care.
- Clinical excellence. Because of the generosity of donors like you, our friends and neighbors diagnosed with cancer receive individualized treatment in a state-of-the-art cancer center close to home.

Your donations make a difference. This impact report provides examples of just a few of the countless ways you are helping advance health and wellness in our region.

Visit our COVID-19 Information Center at **www.wellspan.org/covid19** for the most up-to-date data, testing and vaccine information for our region.



Community Benefit

Helping patients by providing resources and compassion

Your gifts to Ephrata Community Health Foundation support programs and initiatives that help people in times of need and provide resources for a healthier life. There are a variety of programs that you can support. This year, we are profiling programs that help patients with heart conditions and patients whose cancer diagnoses present financial challenges.

Center for Heart Care

Recognizing the importance nutrition and weight management play in heart health, we provide patients with free resources to help them maintain their health with the support from our generous donors.



4,266

low-sodium food pantry items available to patients throughout the year



100

bags of fresh fruits and vegetables distributed to heart failure patients



39

scales were provided for self-management



13

low-sodium holiday meals were provided to patients with heart failure

Cancer Patient Help Fund enables patients to focus on healing

In addition to receiving excellent care, patients experiencing financial difficulties can also receive support to help pay for basic living expenses. The Cancer Patient Help Fund helped Russell Blackney during treatment for his cancer. "Medical and household bills were causing me so much distress while undergoing cancer treatment. I was encouraged to apply for help and was approved," says Blackney. The fund helped pay his rent, an electric bill and grocery bills, which went a long way toward easing his financial worries and helped him focus on the important journey of beating cancer.

In 2020, the Cancer Patient Help Fund supported 41 community members with nearly \$25,000 worth of support.

Innovation and Education

How a vision for improving training became a reality and what the future holds

The Dart Foundation Clinical Simulation Lab started out as a dream in 2018. A dream to create a place where modern technology could be blended with a desire to learn as well as to teach. Through the generosity of community donors and organizations, and support from the Ephrata Community Health Foundation, the vision became a reality in 2019. The opening of the Sim Lab had an immediate, positive impact on how WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital conducted education.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many newly graduated nurses had their clinical experiences shortened or even eliminated. This situation has underscored the importance of a simulation lab. Clinical simulation with a high-fidelity mannequin helps to ease trainee anxiety and allows for a safe transition from classroom to patient room.



Sessions are conducted using appropriate PPE and following recommended safety guidelines. Proper use of protective gear has become an integral part of simulations to reinforce the effectiveness of PPE utilization.

The Sim Lab isn't just for nursing. Additional staff, including respiratory therapists and medical practitioners in the emergency department, benefit from Sim Lab training and education.

Simulation Center by the Numbers 2020



140

different
educational
sessions



45

topics



467

hours of
education



1,441

trainees from
multiple
disciplines

Looking Toward the Future

The Sim Lab is driven to always find new ways to apply resources to create opportunities and expand outreach to other departments. In the future, the Sim Lab will work with the respiratory therapy department to aid in providing additional staff education. The goal is to purchase an add-on component for the SimMan 3G mannequin that more precisely mimics the actions and reactions of lungs to disease processes. This would expand the ability to simulate procedures with patients on both invasive and non-invasive ventilators. Other departments such as anesthesia and critical care nursing will also benefit, but perhaps the greatest benefit may be the fostering of an interdisciplinary and collaborative team approach between multiple patient areas.

Clinical Excellence

Providing comprehensive cancer care close to home

When we reached out and asked you for support in updating the WellSpan Ephrata Cancer Center, you responded. Our goal was to raise \$500,000. In just eight short months, \$632,000 was donated by 274 generous supporters that included individuals, businesses and foundations. The recent \$7.1 million renovation to the center provides the community with comprehensive, state-of-the-art technology and patient-friendly amenities all in one, convenient location.

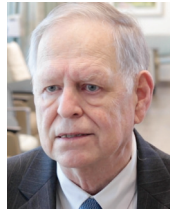
Because of the generosity of donors like you, our friends and neighbors receive individualized treatment by compassionate experts close to home. The renovations offer enhanced features such as:

- A new True-Beam Linear Accelerator, offering pinpoint accuracy and precision in the radiation treatment of patients with cancer.
- A new CT Simulator, allowing patients convenient access to the equipment WellSpan physicians use to plan radiation treatments.
- A state-of-the-art WellSpan pharmacy that prepares infusion medications for patients.
- Support services including nutrition counseling, navigation services and survivorship programs.
- Larger patient bays in response to patient input during the design of the renovations.
- Updated exam rooms, waiting areas and common space.
- A warm and healing environment so that patients and their loved ones have a positive, enhanced experience.

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We now have top-of-the line cancer care right in our own backyard. And, you're treated like family.

Gil Sager
Board Chair, patient and donor



True-Beam Linear Accelerator

Thank you for your donations that ensure your friends, neighbors or maybe even you, are able to get advanced, comprehensive and convenient care close to home.