PHILANTHROPY THAT HEALS

2017 Your Gifts, Your Impact
Philanthropy That Heals

YOUR GIFTS, YOUR IMPACT

AREA OF GREATEST NEED: YOUR GIFTS SUPPORTED THESE PROGRAMS

Comfort Trays

When you're in the hospital saying goodbye to a loved one in their final stages of life, the last thing you're thinking about is food. You're grieving and feeling so many emotions all at once. You may have lots of family there with you, or maybe you're all alone. Either way, you are hurting. And likely, you're not wanting to leave your loved one's side, even for a moment. It is in moments like these that the simplest expression of care from others can make all the difference. Our nutrition services team is ready to comfort grieving families with the gift of nutritious food and a compassion card, letting them know that generous donors like you care about them and want to ease their way. This small gesture brings comfort and nourishment to family members, and it's all possible thanks to you.

Adult Immunizations – Improving Community Health

Senior citizens are some of the most vulnerable and underserved members of our community, and many are unable to leave their homes to receive basic medical care. The Adult Immunization Program delivers annual seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccines at no cost, thanks to your support. Because of you, we are able to visit the homes of some of our most poor, vulnerable, underserved and mostly homebound neighbors. Last year your donations provided 539 people, in 48 homes (including Brother Francis Shelter!), lifesaving immunizations. Thank you!
Zabeeba Mohamed was born in a time of war and instability in Ethiopia. She came to Alaska in 2008 to pursue a better life for herself and her family. At the time, she didn’t speak English. She remembers the helpless feeling of relying on interpreters and social workers to negotiate her new life in an unfamiliar city and country. “Everything was so hard,” she recalls.

“Everything was so hard… [But] little by little you change your life.”

A lot has changed for Zabeeba since then. She has a high school diploma, U.S. Citizenship, a driver’s license and a comfortable apartment. She speaks English and has a steady job. “Little by little, you change your life,” she reflects. The turning point for Zabeeba came in part when she began attending the Peer Leader Navigator (PLN) trainings, taught by Providence’s Nurse Community Outreach coordinator, Linda Shepard. The PLNs are available thanks to you and act as a point of contact for people in their community to demystify the medical system and impart public health messages that might not otherwise get across, especially to those patients for whom English is a second language.

To read more about this program and Zabeeba’s journey, check out the full story in the Anchorage Daily News (Boots, M., 2017, March 13).

THE CANCER CENTER AT PROVIDENCE

Providence Imaging Center Mobile Mammography

Your gifts in 2017 helped provide breast cancer early detection services through our mobile mammography unit. This specially designed van provides state of the art imaging equipment to communities throughout Alaska to make sure women have access to life saving screenings.
#FINISHCANCER

No one with cancer has to go it alone. Your gifts allow us to offer resources and services - from diagnosis and beyond - to ensure people have the support they need to focus on what matters: getting better.

The #FINISHCANCER campaign launched in 2017 to raise awareness about cancer prevention, to help support services at the Cancer Center, and to show that everyone has the power to do something to help #FINISHCANCER.

From UPS employees, to firefighters and law enforcement officers, to the Bleeding Heart Brewery in the Mat-Su and so many others – donors like you gave generously and, because of you, cancer patients of all ages are receiving compassionate care and support above and beyond medical interventions and treatment!

How You Help

Wig room and beauty boutique honors dignity of female cancer patients providing brazier and prosthetic fittings and more.

A pediatric oncology patient gets a visit from Pet Assisted Wellness. Tinkerbelle’s parents can stay at Providence Hickle House to be close to their child during her treatment, when home is far away. In-hospital educators will help keep her connected to school, one less worry for her parents in a difficult time.

Construction of Healing Garden space for patients and families to enjoy some respite. The garden will be completed in 2018.
**Patient Navigation Services**

Sara, a Patient Navigator at the Cancer Center at Providence, picked up her ringing phone. It was a Physician’s office in town. They were calling to ask for help for a newly diagnosed rectal cancer patient. The patient, Nancy, was 56 years old and she would need chemo, radiation, and two surgeries. The voice on the other end of Sara’s line was full of concern. The patient needed financial assistance for medications, chemo, radiation, and more. She was uninsured, homeless, and unemployed.

Sara met with Nancy. She held her hand and offered support as Nancy began detailing how she was couch surfing with her adult children because she lost her partner of 20 years just six months prior. After helping Nancy cope with the grief over the loss of her partner, Sara worked with Nancy on how to break the news of her cancer diagnosis to her adult children and grandbabies, something Nancy was terrified to do. Sara assisted Nancy with coping skills and encouragement to start the battle against her disease.

"God knew what He was doing when He assigned you to me. He knew I needed a soft heart who could listen to me, hold my hand, and fight for me when He knew I couldn’t fight for myself." –Nancy, cancer patient

Sara helped Nancy apply for programs to get her the assistance she would need. Sara says, “There were many ups and downs such as when she was too ill or fatigued to meet in person so we followed up over the phone or met in the infusion center. I met with several of her children to help them understand empathy and how to be better caregivers.” During her treatment, Sara helped connect Nancy with financial counselors, dieticians, lab services, radiation and infusion services, as well as inpatient care for her first surgery.

Nancy recently came to the Cancer Center lobby and passed out hugs to any staff member that walked by. She shared that she had successfully come through her surgery and that she was grateful to have been, “given the best care in the world.” She shared, holding Sara’s hand, that she “could never have done it without the help and support of my navigator.” Nancy reflected, “God was looking out for me when he assigned you to me. Because he knew that I needed a soft heart who could listen to me, hold my hand, and fight for me when He knew I couldn’t fight for myself.”

Nancy’s journey isn’t over yet, but thanks to you, your gifts to Patient Navigation services ensures that whenever Nancy needs a soft heart, there will be one waiting for her to help her on her journey. Thank you for making this life changing service available. Your generosity means no one will have to fight cancer alone.
THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AT PROVIDENCE

NICVIEW: Keeping Families Connected

When Gabe was born prematurely in a Fairbanks hospital he was immediately medevaced to The Children’s Hospital at Providence’s Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

The separation that comes along with the anxiety of a hospitalized newborn is one of the most difficult things that a family can go through. Thanks to gifts you gave in 2017, families of children in Providence’s Newborn Intensive Care Unit are able to stay together through technology.

At the beginning of 2017 webcams were installed in all NICU patient rooms, giving parents and families live video stream access to their child 24 hours a day from any computer, smart phone, or tablet. Gabe’s family had one less thing to worry about because they had the comfort of seeing their son anytime. This allowed dad to stay connected when he was home with the older children in Fairbanks. It allowed their family and friends who reside out of state to check in, and it gave mom the peace of mind to be able to go back to work in Fairbanks after three months of being in the NICU with her son. Thank you to all our donors for helping keep Gabe’s family together.

Donors Stefani and Todd Steeples provided NICU babies their first Halloween costumes. Thank you!

Local Star Wars cos-players visit kids at The Children’s Hospital and raised funds to support family services for kids during their hospital stay.

How You Help
Philanthropy That Heals

**Resilience helps raise awareness about Alaska CARES and Impacts of Childhood Trauma**

It feels unimaginable that anyone could ever hurt an innocent child, and yet we know that Alaska consistently ranks in the top 5 in the nation for child abuse.

Your gifts to Alaska CARES help children heal and thrive after the trauma of abuse. As the state’s largest Child Advocacy Center, Alaska CARES is a comprehensive and child-centered facility that allows specially trained law enforcement, victim’s advocates, medical and mental health professionals to work together in cases of abuse and keep children safe.

Recently, Alaska CARES co-hosted sold-out screenings of the documentary *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope*. The film delves into the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and reveals how trauma experienced in childhood creates “toxic stress,” which can alter brain development and have lifelong effects on health and behavior. The statistics are grim, but your gifts are helping to keep children from becoming statistics.

Following the film there were panel discussions that included representatives from the team at Alaska CARES. The panel was able to answer questions from the community, connect our community to resources and to discuss the work that Alaska CARES and others are doing to address childhood health in Alaska.

Every child deserves to grow up in a healthy environment. Your gifts are making that possible for at least 1,000 kids each year. You make it possible for counseling, justice, and medical help to be available to kids and families in need, at no cost.

“...After I learned [my son] had been abused...His needs were new ... and I didn’t know how to help him. The kind team at Alaska CARES helped me... understand what he needed from me to help him heal.” Mother to “Sam”, age 8

**How You Help**

Zonta Int’l and Architects Alaska held toy and art supply drives for kids at The Children’s Hospital at Providence.

BRYANT SKINNER, MANAGER OF ALASKA CARES, FACILITATES THE PANEL DISCUSSION AT BEAR TOOTH TO A SOLD OUT AUDIENCE
HOSPICE

Remembering Sam Weis

Sam Weis devoted his life to helping conserve wild places and clean water. Sadly Sam died of Leukemia on May 9th of this year at just 31 years old. He is survived by his loving wife, Jenny, 29. Sam’s life was brief, but powerful and inspiring. Sam may have lived a short life, but it was one full of meaning, joy, passion and purpose. So many of us can learn a great deal about truly living from Sam and his wife Jenny.

Jenny and Sam did not have to face his death and dying alone. The Hospice services your gifts help provide allowed Hospice workers to walk alongside Sam, Jenny and their family during Sam’s final days and their grief.

“I will never forget the extent of compassion demonstrated by the Providence Hospice team in Sam’s final days. Their encouragement and quality of care made the hardest days of my life easier, and their efforts will certainly never be forgotten,” Jenny said recollecting her experience with the Providence team.

Hospice provides compassionate care at the end of life through intensive symptom management, and support of patient/family identified goals of care. Your gifts allowed our caregivers the incredible honor and privilege of playing a small role in helping Sam to pass away peacefully and with dignity through hospice services. We thank the friends and loved ones who gave to hospice in honor of Sam, and will faithfully endeavor to honor his legacy by sharing his story, and helping others on the same journey.

Sam’s incredible life was highlighted in the ADN (Wohlforth, C. 2017, December 2).

PATIENT ASSISTANCE

Compassionate Care for the Poor and Vulnerable

Picture a homeless man who is getting ready to be discharged from the hospital, but who doesn’t have a winter jacket or boots to keep him warm. Or a new mother who just gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, but who can’t afford a car seat to bring her home. Or picture the person working multiple low wage jobs who just found out she needs to take expensive medications for a scary new diagnosis, but who is already making difficult choices between food and fuel to get her to her jobs and can’t afford the $4 co-pay.

The Patient Assistance Fund helps to ensure that low-income patients have a safe discharge by assisting them with non-medical needs such as transportation, food support, temporary medications, and access to temporary housing. Thank you for making this possible.
Our Mission

As people of Providence, we reveal God’s love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, through our compassionate service.

Our Core Values

Respect, Compassion, Justice, Excellence, Stewardship
STAY IN THE KNOW!

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Want to hear more uplifting stories about how you make a difference? Follow Providence Health & Services Alaska on social media, or subscribe to our e-News by emailing foundation@providence.org. Call our office at 907-212-3600 today or visit us online at WWW.PROVIDENCEALASKAFoundation.ORG.