

THE GIVING EFFECT

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT FALL 2025 UPDATE

How your support
impacts quality
of care

Saving Lives

A simple switch could save
up to 35 lives annually

Think Pink

Breast cancer screening

Connection Van

A lifeline for seniors

Oh, baby!

More than 200,000
diapers delivered



Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Foundation, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your generosity. Because of you, lives in our community have been lifted, restored, and given hope. Your support makes it possible for us to reach those who are most vulnerable, neighbors without resources, families facing impossible choices, and individuals who might otherwise go without the care they desperately need.

Every story within these pages is a reflection of your kindness. Whether it was providing critical medical treatment, offering comfort to those in crisis, or filling gaps when no other help was available, your giving turned hardship into hope. The impact of your gifts cannot be overstated – you are changing lives.

As you read about the people whose journeys have been touched by your generosity, I hope you see the power of your investment in our work. Together, we are building a healthier, more compassionate community.

There is still so much more to do, and we invite you to continue this journey with us. With your support, we reach more local people who have lost hope or need a pathway to care.

“ Every story within these pages is a reflection of your kindness. ”



With gratitude,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Jim Bauer.

Jim Bauer
Chief Development Officer
Salem Health Hospitals & Clinics
Salem Health & West Valley Hospital Foundations



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THE FOUNDATION CELEBRATES OUR NURSES FOURTH MAGNET® DESIGNATION

Salem Hospital (SH) has earned its fourth Magnet® Designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center – healthcare’s highest honor for nursing excellence and quality patient care. Even more remarkably, SH received eight exemplars, recognizing areas where we exceeded national standards.

**Only 2% of hospitals
worldwide have
earned it four times.**

years of sustained excellence, continuous improvement, and a deep commitment to our mission.

It’s a testament to the culture of collaboration and innovation across Salem Health, where nurses and interprofessional teams are empowered, supported, and valued.

Only 10% of hospitals worldwide have achieved Magnet status, and just 2% have earned it four times. This rare achievement reflects

The foundation is proud to celebrate this milestone achieved by our nursing colleagues and the exceptional care they provide – every day, for every patient.



DONORS POWER OCT. THINK PINK



Breast cancer affects countless women – our mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends.

This year, an estimated 376,030 new cases are expected to be diagnosed in the U.S., including many in women under 50. At Salem

Health, around 400 new breast cancer patients are seen annually.

The annual Salem Health Breast Cancer Screening event, typically held in October as part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, provides clinical breast exams and mammograms to local uninsured and underinsured women. Mammography remains the most effective tool for early detection, and regular screening for women aged 40 and older can be lifesaving.

“ While October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in the Salem Health Cancer Center, we ‘Think Pink’ 365 days a year. ”

—Zeth Lannigan

This effort is powered by key partners: the Salem Health Foundation, local providers, Salem Health Women’s Imaging, and the Salem Free Clinics. These organizations provide funding, referrals, imaging, and follow-up

care. The Salem Free Clinics play a vital role in identifying and referring women for screening, ensuring access for those who need it most. When follow-up care is needed, Breast Oncology Nurse

Navigators at the Salem Health

Cancer Center offer compassionate support throughout the journey. Zeth Lannigan, Supervisor - Cancer Support and Outreach, coordinates the annual screening event.

“We’re very grateful to offer this screening, partner with amazing people, and provide a connection within our community,” Zeth shares.



YOUR SUPPORT IMPROVES PHYSICIAN EDUCATION

SALEM HEALTH'S PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Salem Health's Physician Leadership Institute (PLI) is transforming medical education. More than a continuing education program, PLI meets three times a year in a four-month collaborative cohort experience that empowers physicians

to lead change, improve care delivery, and elevate the patient experience. Unlike traditional programs focused on licensure, PLI brings together specific physicians from across disciplines. Participants identify areas for improvement and implement real-time solutions that make measurable impacts across Salem Health.

FEATURE PLI PROJECT: SAVING LIVES WITH A SIMPLE SWITCH

A recent PLI initiative tackled sepsis care. Historically, normal saline was the standard IV fluid. However, research shows Lactated Ringer's (LR) – a fluid that closely mimics the body's natural balance – is safer for patients with severe infections, reducing the risk of kidney damage and death.

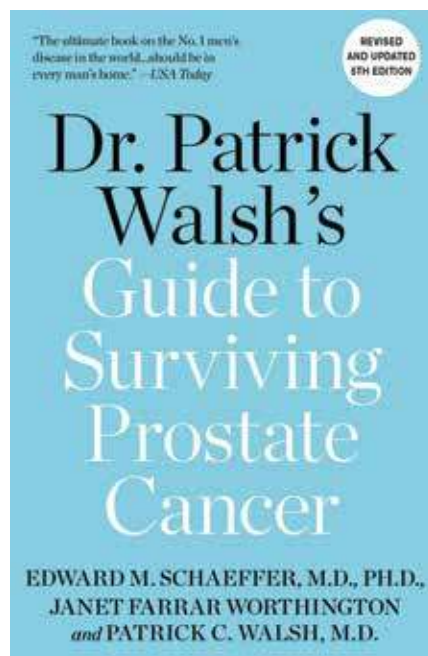
The PLI team updated order sets, increased LR availability, and educated staff using quick-reference guides and even bathroom flyers. As a result, LR use rose from 27% to 52%, and patients received fluids faster. This change could save up to 35 lives annually. This project highlights how teamwork and small changes can lead to life-saving results.

What is Lactated Ringer's?



A fluid given through an IV that contains water, salt, potassium, calcium, and lactate.

It closely matches the body's natural fluids.



SUPPORTING PATIENTS THROUGH EDUCATION

Thanks to generous donors to the Salem Health Foundation's Cancer Fund, patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer now receive a trusted resource: Dr. Patrick Walsh's "Guide to Surviving Prostate Cancer." Long recommended by urology providers, the book offers clear, compassionate guidance on diagnosis and treatment.

With urology services newly integrated into Salem Health, the team identified a gap in patient education. Recognizing the book's value – especially for support group participants – they applied for Foundation funding to ensure consistent access.

This initiative supports Salem Health's commitment to quality, safety, and patient experience. By providing reliable information at a critical time, the book helps patients feel informed, supported, and empowered throughout their care journey.





Through the vision of Salem Health Family Birthing Center Clinical Specialists, the dream of the Diaper Depot began. They did what all great healthcare workers and volunteers do... respond to parents' needs for a basic necessity: diapers.

Over 100,000 children in Oregon live in poverty. Among low-income families, 93% have exhausted their diaper supply at least once; 79% have sacrificed other necessities to buy diapers. Half worry more about diapers than food or housing. To save on the cost of diapers, many families change them less frequently. The result for these babies includes skin issues and potential infections.

Since 2018, Diaper Depot has grown from serving a few community members to a network of 11 food banks and shelters in Marion and Polk Counties. Salem Health volunteers obtain cases of diapers of various sizes. Community partners come to the hospital monthly to pick up the diapers and distribute them to food banks and shelters.

Barbi Ashwill, Diaper Depot Volunteer Coordinator, reports that with the help of Foundation donor support and multiple volunteers, so far, in 2025, approximately 205,000 diapers have been distributed.

"This is vital to our community, our babies, and families. That's exactly why I do this," says Ashwill. "It is a commitment to our community, with many hands and hearts coming together to provide support and care. It is truly one of the greatest joys of my life to be part of this tremendous effort – one diaper at a time."



Barbi Ashwill, Diaper Depot Volunteer Coordinator

**Because
of you:**

205,000 diapers delivered!



CONNECTIONS VAN:

A Lifeline for Polk County Seniors

Imagine being elderly, living alone, without family, a car, or a driver's license – and needing to get to a doctor's appointment. This is a reality for many seniors in Polk County, especially those in rural areas. Mobility challenges, disabilities, chronic illness, and medications that impair driving make transportation a serious barrier to care. The outcome of such situations leads to delayed care or no care, poor health outcomes, and even more severe health issues.

In 2001, staff at Salem Health West Valley Hospital responded to this need by launching the Connections Van. In 2009, Cherriots began supporting the project, directing annual grant funds to the Salem Health West Valley Foundation, which enabled the program to be expanded to serve more patients who lacked reliable transportation.

According to Scott Day, Volunteer Services Assistant, the Van

provides around 1,200 non-emergency rides each year, thanks to six vetted volunteer drivers. To qualify, patients must reside in Polk County, have appointments within the county, and schedule them during Van hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. "We're always looking for more volunteer drivers to help," Scott adds.

Scott's dedication is evident: "The Van provides a strong and vital connection to our community. We have genuine affection for those we serve. It truly improves quality of life."

The Connections Van is more than transportation – it's a bridge to better health and hope for those who need it most.



Judy and Thomas Petus receive a ride from Scott Day, Connections' Van Coordinator.

“ This Connections Van means health and a chance to thrive. ”

—Tom and Judy, regular riders

ANSWERING THE FINAL CALL:

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE NURSE HONOR GUARD

How do you honor a life dedicated to serving and healing others? With reverence, compassion, and now – through Oregon’s first Nurse Honor Guard in Salem – a new tradition of heartfelt tribute.

Nurse Honor Guards are volunteer groups that pay respects to fallen nurses during funerals and memorials. Clad in traditional white nursing uniforms and capes, volunteers stand vigil at the casket, recite the Nightingale Pledge, and lay a white rose – a symbol of unwavering devotion to nursing.

The ceremony’s poignant moment comes when the Nightingale lamp is lit, and the nurse’s name is called three times – a call to “report to duty.” After the final call, the nurse is officially “retired” from service. The flame is then gently extinguished and given to the family as a lasting symbol of care. The Salem Nurse Honor Guard (SNHG) launched in February 2025, offering comfort to grieving families and honoring

nurses with deep respect. RN Dana Hart inspired the SNHG after witnessing a moving tribute at the Emergency Nurses Association conference. Motivated by the recent loss of a dear colleague to breast cancer, Hart teamed up with the Salem

Health Foundation and retired RN Lori Phillips to create Oregon’s very first Nurse Honor Guard.

With over 20 volunteers and a growing waitlist, the SNHG provides a powerful way for nurses to honor their peers and offer solace to families. Community members describe the ceremonies as “absolutely

beautiful,” reflecting the profound impact of this new tradition.

Looking ahead, the SNHG aims to help other Oregon communities establish chapters – ensuring that every nurse’s legacy is honored with dignity, compassion, and respect. To learn more or request a tribute, email salemnursehonorguard@gmail.com.

Community members describe the ceremonies as “absolutely beautiful,” reflecting the profound impact of this new tradition.





HONORING A LEGACY:

JENNIFER WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Salem Health Foundation proudly announces Veronica Nunez, RN Care Manager, as the first recipient of the Jennifer Winslow Scholarship for Advanced Degrees in Allied Health. This scholarship honors Jennifer Winslow (1974–2024), who served Salem Health for more than 20 years in roles from Licensed Practical Nurse to Quality Programs Manager.

Jennifer was known for her love of learning and her compassionate spirit. The scholarship continues her legacy by supporting Salem Health employees pursuing advanced degrees in allied health.



Veronica Nunez RN, first scholarship recipient

Veronica Nunez, a 15-year Salem Health team member, serves at Edgewater Clinic, managing care for over 100 patients. She supports individuals with chronic illness, helping them navigate specialty care and overcome barriers with warmth and humility.

Veronica will pursue a Master of Science in Nursing at Gonzaga University, aiming to become a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner by December 2027.

The Foundation thanks Jennifer's family for honoring her memory so meaningfully. To learn more about creating a named scholarship, visit salemhealthfoundation.org.



**FALL 2025
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**
PRESENTED BY THE SALEM HEALTH FOUNDATIONS

[\$146,500]
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



178 STUDENTS
RECIPIENTS PURSUING MEDICAL-RELATED
DEGREES ACROSS MARION AND POLK COUNTIES

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE
IN OUR COMMUNITY

salemhealthfoundation.org

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CREATIVITY SUPPORTS HEALING

Mike Morgan Interview

Visitors and families now see Mike Morgan's beautiful walnut carvings as they move through the A-East Tower spaces intended for respite and quiet reflection.

"Art in healing spaces is more than decoration – it's a bridge to comfort, hope, and peace during challenging times," says Cheryl Nester Wolfe, CEO of Salem Health. "The Salem Health Foundation Commissioning these carvings is our way of supporting both physical healing and emotional healing, as well."



Artist Mike Morgan

We engaged local talent Mike Morgan. With a heart for Salem and Salem Hospital, Mike created ten substantial, hand-carved walnut panels for the waiting areas of Salem Hospital, Building A.

We talk with Mike Morgan about his artistic journey of creating art for Salem Hospital.

Tell us about your journey to becoming an artist.

I have not always been an artist. I spent most of my life in the education field as a mathematics professor. It was not until

2005 that I produced my first carving. The work of Leroy Setziol inspires my pieces. He created the large wood carvings located on the first floor in Building B. I have admired and observed his work for a long time, and one day I thought to myself, 'Maybe I can create something like that too.'

What is the difference between making a piece of furniture and making a carving?

When I make a piece of furniture, the art is in deciding what it is going to look like. Once I've drawn the plans, the artistic part is over. Though

the design might look different, the actual techniques for constructing a piece are pretty much the same. The art ends when you finish the rendering.

On average, how long did it take you to create one of the featured carvings?

Each of the carvings in Building A took approximately 60 hours to complete.

What does this project mean to you personally?

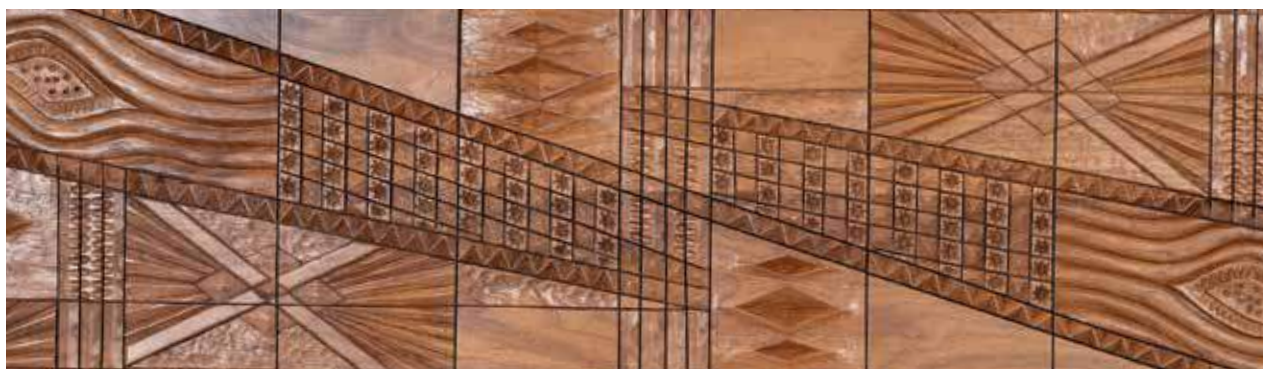
This is my first public project, and it's great to have my work showcased to the community. Everything else I've created has been for my wife, my friends, or a client. It's a

pleasure to have something in a public venue.

What do you hope people will take away from your carvings?

I want viewers to engage with the work in their own way – to find their own meaning.

"Mike's work creates peace in spaces that too often harbor anxiety and fear," says Jim Bauer, Chief Development Officer at Salem Health. "We're proud to bring art into our hospital in a way that speaks to the heart of our mission – caring for people, completely."



EXPERT INSIGHTS ON CAREGIVING:

Kari Barrett Leads Community Conversation



Kari Barrett shares expertise on caregiving

As part of Salem Health's Community Health Impact Speaker Series, the Foundation welcomed nationally recognized caregiving and mental health expert Kari Barrett in November. With decades of experience in trauma-informed care and caregiver advocacy, Barrett offered both professional insight and personal depth.

She emphasized that caregiving is more than a role – it's a relationship that can reshape identity, health, and family life. Barrett spoke candidly about grief, guilt, and exhaustion caregivers often face, especially when supporting loved ones through chronic or terminal illness. "We don't talk enough about the trauma caregivers carry," she shared.

Barrett encouraged attendees to prioritize their well-being, offering strategies like journaling, mindfulness, and boundary setting. She also stressed the importance of community and professional support, reminding caregivers that asking for help is a courageous act.

The Salem Health Foundation thanks Kari Barrett for empowering caregivers and bringing this vital conversation to our community.

SAVE THE DATE

ALL IN 2026!

An evening of fun and entertainment for a great cause – removing barriers for Polk County residents to access quality health care!

Friday, March 13th
at Colonel Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas

SPONSORED BY SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Learn more about upcoming events at www.salemhealthfoundation.org



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A close-up photograph of a female doctor with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat, smiling warmly while using a stethoscope to examine a patient. The patient is seen from the side, also smiling. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor clinical setting.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY
AND BEYOND