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COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL**

**FOUNDATION
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INSPIRATIONS

AN UPDATE FROM ASHLAND
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Issue #6
Fall 2016

Special Delivery: A Renovated Ashland Family Birth Center

Congratulations donors! You helped usher a beautifully renovated Ashland Family Birth Center into the world.

Your generous contributions added a second waterbirth room and shower and gave the entire center an esthetic makeover to create a nurturing and comfortable setting where every family can feel at home during their personalized birthing experience. Asante Ashland Community Hospital CEO Sheila Clough commissioned Erica Ritchie of Erica Ritchie Photography to provide beautiful photographs of Asante Ashland's very own newborns to adorn the walls of the Birth Center.

Bob Mayers, CEO of Adroit Construction Inc., the company that did the renovation, had a multigenerational connection to the project. His son and daughter and two of his grandsons were born at the Birth Center. At each birth, a caring staff made the experience memorable, he says.

"As a family, we feel fortunate to have had two generations be a part of the Ashland Family Birth Center," he says.

Another strong supporter of the Birth Center facelift project, Bob Holbrook watched the progress over the past several months. Earlier this year, Bob toured the hospital



Erica Ritchie Photography

and was touched by the passion of the Birth Center staff as they spoke of their vision of the project and what it would mean to young families in our community.

"My tour of the facility and the enthusiasm of those with whom I spoke made clear both the serious needs of the Birth Center and the opportunity for making a difference," Bob says. "My second tour, during construction, only confirmed me in my commitment."

Committed to the Ashland Family Birth Center's motto, "Your baby, your way," the Asante family is adding three certified nurse-midwives who can give expectant mothers more childbirth options. These new additions to the team — Patricia Reddy, Loretta Sandoval and Pamela Rossio — will collaborate with the hospital's physicians, doulas and other childbirth experts to offer "high-touch, low-tech" care for women with low-risk pregnancies. Certified nurse-midwives specialize in natural childbirth, massage, water laboring and other pain-management techniques.

Every time a baby is born at the Ashland Family Birth Center, Brahms' Lullaby plays over the hospital intercom system. Hum along with us now as we welcome an updated space and expanded services for growing families.



Message from the President

Your Generosity Helps Hospital Provide Exceptional Care

Fall has arrived in all her glory and I'm starting to reflect on the end of another year. I'm sure that you are doing the same as we prepare for the upcoming season of celebrations, traditions and giving.

For me, the end of the year has particular significance because I will complete my term as President of the Foundation Board of Directors. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve in this role for the past two years. I know how important a thriving hospital is to our community and I'm proud of the commitment and dedication of my fellow board members and staff as we partner with Asante Ashland Community Hospital to continually improve your experience here.

I am sometimes asked why Asante Ashland needs charitable support, especially since we joined the Asante system. In my six years on the board, I've seen many examples of how philanthropy can move a hospital from good to great to excellent. Even the most successful nonprofit hospitals and healthcare systems rely on charitable support to fund new equipment and technology, community outreach, service line start-up, and care for less fortunate members of the community.

Your philanthropy has an important role to play in making Asante Ashland excellent. As you read through our news-



letter, you will see how contributions from individuals just like you have helped renovate the Ashland Family Birth Center, create a chapel in the hospital, assist nursing students working to complete their degrees, and more.

You also will hear from your fellow donors themselves as they share why they have chosen to support Asante Ashland with gifts to our Foundation. I hope you are as inspired as I am to see the power of generosity at work.

If charitable giving is part of your year-end tradition, I hope you will consider investing in Asante Ashland with a charitable gift to our Foundation. There are so many ways to give and so many departments to support. And, as always, your gift to our Foundation stays right here in your community.

I have the good fortune of talking with many people who share their stories of exceptional care and gratitude. It warms my heart to know that the work of our Foundation has impacted so many of my neighbors, colleagues and friends.

Thank you for being part of our story and our success. I hope the holiday season brings you happiness and joy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz'.

Liz Murphy, President
Ashland Community Hospital Foundation

Doors Open on Long-Awaited Chapel

A sacred space where patients, their loved ones and the hospital's caregiving staff can pause and reflect will open this fall, thanks to a partnership between generous community members, the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation and Asante. The Asante Ashland Community Hospital Chapel will provide a quiet place within the hospital where people can grieve losses, celebrate births and learn about faith traditions.



Asante Ashland chaplain Rev. Pandora Canton led a dedication ceremony for The Chapel during Spiritual Care Week, which was October 17-22. Rev. Canton envisions a living, breathing chapel that offers a prayer request book, monthly tributes for loved ones who have died, drop-in meditation/contemplation sessions for staff and celebrations of each faith tradition's high holidays. After much planning and preparation, she is excited to see this dream supported by the community finally become a

reality with open doors, welcoming those of any faith or spiritual practice.

Thank you to our contributors for their generous support of the creation of The Chapel: Ashland Community Hospital Auxiliary, Ashland First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ashland First United Methodist Church, the Dobson Family in Memory of William A. Dobson, Sr., First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, P.K. Hallinan, Estate

of Geraldine Oeser, Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church, Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Temple Emek Shalom, Trinity Episcopal Church, Gennell Williams, Lorraine B. Skaff-Winger.

While we are unable to publicly acknowledge every gift, we truly appreciate each special contribution that went into making this project a success.

Record Number of Students Receive Nursing Scholarships

Thirteen Rogue Valley nursing students enrolled in the Oregon Health Science University nursing program received a record-setting \$81,000 in financial assistance for the 2016-17 school year from the William G. and Ruth T. Evans Endowed Nursing Scholarship. An additional sixteen graduating students enrolled in the Rogue Community College Practical Nursing program received scholarships totaling \$6,792 to cover the cost of their state application and exam fees.

This is the largest amount awarded since Ruth Evans, herself an Army nurse during World War II, established the scholarship program in 2002. Students receiving scholarship help this year are pursuing nursing degrees at OHSU at Southern Oregon University and RCC and intend to work in the Rogue Valley after graduation.

“We are fortunate that Mrs. Evans anticipated the current nursing shortage and created a solution,” says Marjorie Lininger, scholarship selection committee chair. “Because of her forethought, we can provide scholarships that train nurses and encourage them to live in the Rogue Valley.”

Recognizing the need for nurses and the importance of education, Ruth Evans created the nursing scholarship in 2002 around the time of the death of her husband, Dr. William G. Evans, who had been a family physician for 50 years in Pennsylvania before moving to Ashland. Mrs. Evans passed away in 2013, leaving a bequest in excess of \$2.5 million dollars to the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation for nursing scholarships and other programs she cared about.

Since 2002, 148 scholarships valued at more than \$339,400 have been awarded to 103 aspiring nurses studying at the OHSU program at SOU or at RCC.

Give Back Wednesdays

During the Ashland Chamber’s Festival of Light Celebration, local businesses will be donating a portion of their profits to three wonderful, local non-profits. When you shop on these dates with participating businesses a percentage will benefit the following non-profits:

- Wednesday, November 30th - Ashland Community Hospital Foundation
- Wednesday, December 7th - Ashland Emergency Food Bank
- Wednesday, December 14th - Ashland Schools Foundation

Please visit www.ashlandchamber.com/livelocal after November 16th to learn what businesses are participating in this special promotion this year or look for the Give Back Wednesday sign posted in the store. Shop local and support our local businesses and community organizations!

Louie’s Big Give

In April and May, fans of Asante Ashland Community Hospital had the opportunity to show their support in a novel and delicious way called Louie’s Big Give.



Because of your generosity, the Big Give raised \$3,000! Proceeds will benefit the Care-giver Fund, which supports patient care initiatives at the hospital. The fundraiser was a fun and simple way to support local business and the hospital, and was a complete success.



2016 Evans Nursing Scholarship Recipients are:

Back row (L to R): Luis Ayala Rangel, Irelí Hernandez, Lindsay McCreedy, Dan McLaren, Gerhardt Reichenbach, Katlin Mostue-Nesbit, Alisha Kerr
Front row (L to R) MariaElena Rivera, Guadalupe Ortíz, Helen Danson, Rachel Dunn, Barb Evans, Peg Evans, Michelle Benitez, Sadie Knights

Ed and Sharon Laskos

Lights for Life Gift Brings a Special Glow to the Holidays

This holiday season give a gift that benefits everyone who needs top quality medical care in Ashland with a gift to Lights for Life, an annual celebration of life that began in 1987 and has become a community tradition.

For more than two decades, Ed and Sharon Laskos have supported the work of Asante Ashland Community Hospital by commemorating people and events in their life with gifts to Lights for Life. Gifts to the program benefit the hospital's programs and patients. You can designate your gift to the department or service most meaningful to you. A key initiative this year is to bring Telehealth technology to our Intensive Care Unit to serve the most critically ill patients.



Ed and Sharon Laskos

"It's amazing that our small town can have a thriving hospital connected to specialists and technology, and supported by active community involvement. We look forward to supporting it through Lights for Life every year," says Sharon, an Ashland native, who was born at the hospital back when it was on the Southern Oregon University campus.

She graduated from Ashland High School, and then enrolled in nursing school. While in school she would return to Ashland to work during the summer at the hospital as a nurse's aide. Ed and Sharon met while living in California. In 1990, they returned to Ashland and have honored loved ones through Lights for Life ever since.



Sharon says the hospital has played an important role throughout their lives. "Our son was born at the hospital, and now we help care for our elder family members and visit the hospital often. We appreciate the convenience for appointments, especially when transporting loved ones with walkers and scooters."

Ed notes, "It's a significant community asset, and as an active tennis family we appreciate having excellent care so close to home."

Please join Ed and Sharon in this special celebration honoring or remembering someone special with a gift to Lights for Life to support Asante Ashland Community Hospital. The person or family being honored receives a Lights for Life holiday card letting them know how much you care.

Those honored or memorialized through Lights for Life gifts also will be symbolized by lights on two trees located in Ashland and Talent. Your name and the names of those you choose to commemorate will be recognized throughout the holiday season in the Ashland Daily Tidings, Medford Mail Tribune, Ashland Sneak Preview, and the Talent News & Review unless you choose to be anonymous.

A gift to the community: Your donation in honor or memory of a loved one helps support programs that keep our community hospital vital and able to serve patients right here in our hometown. Donate online at www.achfoundation.org



Lights for Life Community Partners

Shining Lights for Life
for All to See



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If you would like to join in this special celebration of life, and are interested in additional recognition opportunities please consider giving as a Lights for Life Community Partner. For more information, please call Stephanie Roland at (541) 201-4019.

