

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 · SUMMER 2023

# FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

Confluence Health Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

## The Future of Healthcare

### Introducing the 2023 Foundation Scholarship Cohort

Each year, the Confluence Health Foundation is honored to provide academic scholarships to worthy individuals seeking to advance their healthcare career.

Quality healthcare begins and ends with the people that provide it. Having a well-educated workforce is critical to Confluence Health's ability to provide exemplary care to residents of North Central Washington. Confluence Health Foundation's donors understand this. Since 1985, their generous contributions to the scholarship program have manifested in over \$1.48 million in awards distributed to 528 individuals. Most awardees have gone on to faithfully serve the healthcare needs of our community in various capacities within the Confluence Health system.

We applaud the dedication of these scholars, who are working hard and making sacrifices to achieve their academic goals. The Foundation's scholarships provide help and encouragement to awardees. It's our donors' way of saying that there is a community of people who are invested in their success.

Meet this year's scholarship recipients on the following pages.

*Continues on page 2*

## This issue:

The Future of Healthcare

PAGES 1-4

Scholarship Reception Honors Awardees

PAGE 5

Donor Spotlight: Elsa Vogt

PAGE 6 & 7

Armada's 10th Anniversary

PAGE 8 & 9

Foundation Updates

PAGE 10 & 11

Adaptive Cycling Events

PAGE 11

**This year, 28 individuals were awarded a total of \$52,500 in Confluence Health Foundation academic scholarships.**



**Alexa Eckhart**

Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship  
Established by Jean Wood, a dedicated nurse for more than 30 years, who started the endowment as a way to continue her legacy of helping others.



**Sarah Love**

Barb & Charlie Wilson Nursing Scholarship  
Barb and Charlie understood the value of a highly skilled, local healthcare workforce. Their bequest will benefit our community for years to come.



**Idalis Amezcua**

Dianne Kasnic Prinz RN to BSN Scholarship  
Named in honor of an amazing scientist and trained astronaut, the award goes to a promising student completing their BSN degree.



**Morgan Huston**



**Rachel Kelly**



**Carlie Jones**

Wenatchee Valley Street Rods Scholarships  
Brought together by their passion for cars and this community, the WWSR club's gift to the Foundation has been providing scholarships since 2005.



**Christina Lewis**

Career Assistance Scholarship  
Don and Tracey Kasnic established the award to support Confluence employees in non-nursing fields further their education and career.



**Samantha Wood**

Margaret Weed RN to BSN Scholarship  
Established in honor of a Foundation board member and beloved teacher.

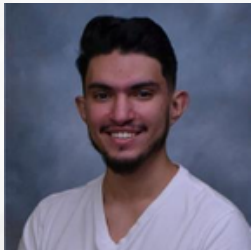


**Emma Bergan**

Oncology Grateful Patient Scholarship  
Established by an anonymous local family in recognition of outstanding care provided by the Oncology Department at Confluence.

Employee Scholarships

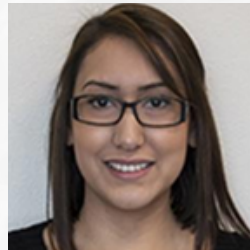
These scholarships are available to people who have been working at Confluence Health for at least one year.



Jairo Aguilar-Solorio



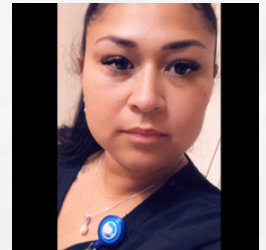
Maria Arroyo Mejia



Yovanna Baltazar



Jessica Bowen



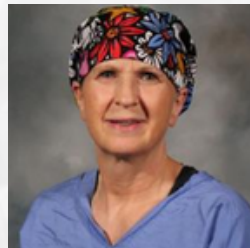
Sonia Casillas



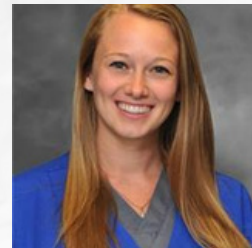
Maria Equiua



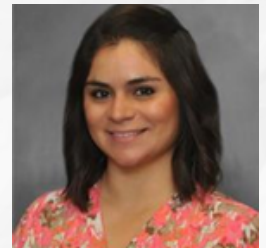
Kayla Flores



Christine Gallup



Molly Gates

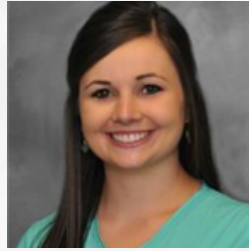


Eva Gomez

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Valerie Hilbun



Morgan Huston



Carlie Jones



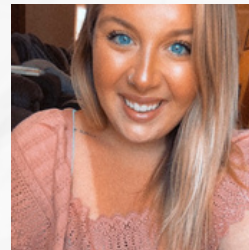
Rachel Kelly



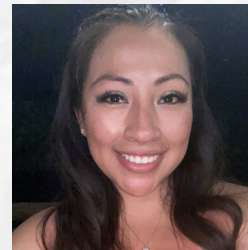
Carolina Martinez



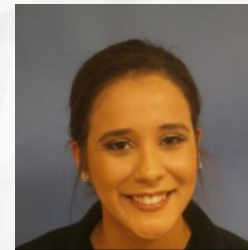
Gabriela  
Martinez-Morales



Jaimee O'Brien



Guadalupe  
Pacheco Rojas



Viviana Sanchez



Leeza Thomas



Krista Veteto



Carol Walden



Samantha Wood

*If you want to help  
students like these  
achieve their  
academic goals, scan  
the QR code to show  
your support.*



## Thank You, Scholarship Committee!

Hats off to these amazing volunteers

The scholarship selection committee is made up of Confluence Health Foundation board members and Confluence Health leaders and providers. Committee members carefully review and score each application. In May, members come together to discuss applications and ensure funding is awarded fairly.

2023 committee members include:

- Kelly Allen, Confluence Health
- René Baca, CHF Board Member
- Don Brawley, CHF Board Member
- Tracey Kasnic, Confluence Health
- Angela Prater, Confluence Health
- Dr. Makrina Shanbour, CH & CHF Board
- Carin Smith, CHF Board Member

# Scholarship Reception Honors Awardees

The Confluence Health Foundation loves a party. This year, we hosted a reception in honor of the 2023 Scholarship Cohort. We invited the scholars, their direct supervisors, Confluence Health leadership, members of the scholarship selection committee, and donors to celebrate each and every part of the scholarship process. Upon reflection, we realized that the core of coming together was the common goal of improving healthcare for the residents of this region. There is a place for all of us on the path of building the bright future of healthcare.



*Above: Reception guests mix and mingle on a delightful afternoon of camaraderie.*



*Above: Scholarship awardees and members of the scholarship selection committee.*

# Donor Spotlight: Elsa Vogt

Every once and awhile you meet a bright, charming, confident person who seems to have life's priorities figured out. Eight-year-old Elsa Vogt is one of those people. Elsa might be one of the Foundation's youngest donors, but she certainly understands the importance of philanthropy with a wisdom beyond her years.

We sat down with Elsa and her mom, Confluence Health employee and friend of the Foundation, Casey Vogt, to learn more about her life and why she chooses to donate her hard-earned money to causes she cares about.

**Name and age:** Elsa Vogt, age 8

**School and grade:** Elsa will be a 3rd grader at John Newbery Elementary this fall.

**Favorite subjects in school:** Science and math

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** Scientist and veterinarian. A passion for helping animals runs in the family. Elsa's great grandfather was a veterinarian and researcher who developed important vaccines, including one that protects pups from canine parvovirus.

**Top three favorite things to do in the summertime:** Swimming, family vacations, and playing with her new English Cream Golden Retriever puppy, Ginny (short for Ginger Peach).

**Do you have any other pets?** In addition to her puppy, Ginny, she has two cats, Livy and Lolo. They were belated birthday presents for Elsa. Her mom went to the foster home to choose one, but the two kittens (sisters) refused to be separated. They cried out for each other and created a heartbreaking scene. Casey was swayed by the touching display of feline emotion and decided to adopt the pair. It's no mystery where Elsa gets her compassion for animals.

Elsa and her family also have 17 chickens. In the warmer months, the chickens can lay up to 14 eggs a day. The eggs are beautiful. Each one is unique in color and size. Some eggs are bluish-green, others are brown-speckled, dark-brown, or white. Sometimes the eggs are so big that they don't fit in the egg carton. Other times they are the size of a ping pong ball.

Rather than let the abundance of eggs go to waste, industrious Elsa packages them up for friends, family members, and neighbors and sells them for \$4 a dozen. Elsa keeps \$2 for her hard work and stashes the other \$2 in a jar. When the jar gets full, she donates the money to a local non-profit. This time, she brought her donation to the Confluence Health Foundation.

**Why did you choose to donate some of your egg profits?** Elsa said she believes that the Foundation is a good place for her donation because, "Others need it more than we do. Helping others is more important than toys." This is the fundamental principle of philanthropy—giving something of value,

whether it is time, money, resources, or talent, for the purposes of helping others in need. Even at the tender age of eight, Elsa understands that she can make a difference in the lives of others through generosity.

With the help of her mom, Elsa chose to split her donation to the Foundation between two causes she cares about. Part of her donation will go to helping patients in need pay for medications, medical supplies, transportation assistance to and from care, and other critical items that patients may not be able to afford on their own. The second part will go to our Snuggle Buddies program. Snuggle Buddies are plush stuffed animals that pediatric patients receive when they are admitted to Confluence Health's Central Campus. They help reduce the stress and uncertainty of their stay, and, best of all, kids can take their new friend home with them.

The Foundation isn't the only local non-profit Elsa has helped. She's also donated to the Wenatchee Valley

Humane Society. One year, Elsa asked that her friends bring items on the shelter's wish list in lieu of bringing gifts to her birthday party. She then donated the items to help animals living in the shelter.

**Do you have any advice for people that are thinking about donating to a cause they care about?** "I would say give as much money as they can," Elsa said. "It's really important to make a donation to help anything that is alive that needs help."

For many people, the hardest part of philanthropy isn't a lack of things to give or a cause to care about, it's believing that a donation will make a difference. Elsa knows generosity is powerful and is willing to give what she can to ensure people and pets get a little extra help when they need it most.

We had one last burning question for Elsa:

**What is your favorite way to eat eggs?** Elsa said, "The best part of raising chickens is having fresh eggs for breakfast!" She loves eating eggs on toast with her grandma's strawberry jam.



"Helping others is more important than toys."

– Elsa Vogt

# 10th Anniversary of the Armada Golf Classic: A Tinclad Commitment

Tin is the symbol of a ten-year anniversary.

Admittedly, not all milestones can be as distinguished as gold and diamond anniversaries; 50th and 75th anniversaries, respectively. It's just that tin seems like an underwhelming representation of the value of the Confluence Health Foundation's longstanding partnership with Armada Corp, now in its tenth year.

Since 2014, Armada has been the largest sponsor of Confluence Health Foundation's signature events, the "Spirit of A. Z. Wells" Gala and the Golf Classic. Most notably, in their first year as sponsors, Armada became the title sponsor of the Armada Golf Classic. Since then, Armada's contributions have been a key factor in the growth of the golf tournament resulting in increased charitable revenue generated by the event. Net proceeds from the tournament are used to purchase life-saving and therapeutic equipment as well as fund innovation and improvements that advance local care. A list items funded by Armada Golf Classic proceeds beginning in 2014 is below.

## Armada Golf Classic Impact

2014 - **\$49,196** to Infant Security System

2015 - **\$51,625** to Exoskeleton Financial Assistance Fund

2016 - **\$65,898** to Masimo Patient SafetyNet System

2017 - **\$74,232** to Sterilization Room at Wenatchee Valley Hospital

2018 - **\$62,414** to Emergency Preparedness Equipment and Training & Stop the Bleed Training

2019 - **\$66,138** to multiple programs that help go above and beyond for patients

2020 - **\$50,394** (no tournament due to COVID-19) sponsors donated to COVID-19 Response

2021 - **\$69,526** (no tournament due to COVID-19) sponsors donated to Colposcope at Moses Lake Campus and a Blood Culture Incubator at Central Campus

2022 - **\$73,985** Adaptive Bike program

2023 - Tournament will be held on September 18, 2023



Armada Corp President and Chief Executive Officer, Tim Carson, believes it is important to stand alongside the Confluence Health Foundation. "Our community is fortunate to have access to outstanding healthcare in North Central Washington," Tim said. "It is easy to take that for granted, at times, until we are impacted by personal medical challenges. My own experiences, and those of family members, friends, and employees, have heightened my awareness of the scope and depth of the care available to all of us as well as the needs for additional programs, equipment, and infrastructure. The Confluence Health Foundation, through its fundraising campaigns and events, has been instrumental in funding many projects throughout the years that, otherwise, would not have been possible. Our entire community benefits from the Foundation's efforts and the generosity of its donors."



*Armada's Albert Rookard (left) and Tim Carson (right) pose with former Foundation board president, Alice Meyer (center).*

Counting this year's commitment to the Armada Golf Classic, Armada Corp will have contributed \$192,000 in sponsorship funding to advance the Foundation's mission of enhancing Confluence Health's ability to provide high quality healthcare close to home. Their support constitutes a major investment in our local healthcare system, which is predicated on the belief that local businesses and individuals can have an outsized impact on their community's healthcare. "Through the years, we have seen the evolution of specialty care, with oncology and the cardiothoracic surgery programs being examples," Tim said. "While it was once necessary to travel to larger health systems for this specialized care, that now is not necessarily the case. My hope is that we build on the successes and continue to advance the delivery of specialized care to the residents North Central Washington."

This summer, Armada committed to an additional three years of support, meaning their legacy of generosity will continue.

According to a quick web search, tin symbolizes the flexibility and stability of a relationship after ten years. Armada's strong commitment to our region's healthcare most definitely embodies these characteristics, but to us, these ten years are golden.

Thank you, Armada, for your steadfast loyalty as a sponsor! We are grateful to you.



# Foundation Updates

## Thank You, Rifton!

Rifton provided a demo pediatric tricycle for rehab patients to use in the inpatient and outpatient therapeutic settings. Rifton understands the numerous benefits of cycling for children with disabilities. By providing the demo bike, Rifton is enabling children and families to try a therapeutic tool that can transition from the clinical to community setting.



## New Radiation Treatment Facility Grand Opening

The Moses Lake Radiation Treatment Center Grand Opening - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for October 7, 2023. Crews are putting the finishing touches on the building now. This is an exciting advance in Confluence Health's ability to serve the healthcare needs of residents of the Columbia Basin.



## Good News at Central!

The healing garden is looking beautiful with some new additions to the pots. Stop in and see the thriving garden next time you are at Central.

New patient services wheelchairs are on the move! Four new donor-funded wheelchairs are helping patients get where they need to go.





## Need Something Special?

Are you looking for a gift for someone special? Look no further than Expressions Gift Shop, located in the lobby of Central Campus (Central Washington Hospital). Expressions is a full-service gift shop featuring a well-curated selection of flowers, candy, home décor, plush toys, skincare products, clothing, and other gifts. Confluence Health employees always get 10% off their purchases.

## Adaptive Bike Community Events

Confluence Health has two remaining adaptive cycling events scheduled for this summer. Our friends at Outdoors for All will be bringing over their fleet of adaptive bikes so patients and residents of the region can try the bikes for free!

These are drop-in events, rather than a group ride. Participants are welcome to stop by and trial the bikes at their leisure during event hours.

Events will be cancelled in the event of extreme heat or wildfire smoke. Please check the Foundation's website [confluencehealthfoundation.org](http://confluencehealthfoundation.org) to verify details or email events planner, Erin, if you have questions about the events.

[erin.keeley@confluencehealth.org](mailto:erin.keeley@confluencehealth.org)

### Dates/Times

Saturday, August 26, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 23, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



### Location

155 N Worthen St., Wentachee in the Riverfront Railway parking lot.

# CONFLUENCE HEALTH FOUNDATION

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# CONGRATULATIONS!

We're thrilled to recognize the 2023 Confluence Health Foundation Scholarship Cohort. Read more inside this issue.

