

# FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

Confluence Health Foundation Biannual Newsletter

## 2023 Annual Impact Report

### Look What You Did!

What's the point of looking back?

As an organization, Confluence Health Foundation spends most of its effort focused on the future. Looking forward feels exciting and inspiring. Planning ahead is prudent and strategic. That's why many of our programs and legacy gifts center around the vision of a better tomorrow.

But once in a while, it's good to look behind us so we can see where we have been and the progress we've made. That's why the Foundation's annual impact report to donors is an important ritual. Each year, we take an opportunity to reflect on the impact of your generosity and the collective strength of our donors. We share this information in a sincere effort to show our gratitude for your support.

At the same time, we hope you will find this report inspiring. Your gifts, and the gifts of others like you, continue to lead to meaningful change through advancement of the local healthcare workforce, patient-centered improvements to care, and preservation of compassion at the core of the care provided by our colleagues at Confluence Health.

The work you have made possible is important, and if the past is any indication of what we can accomplish together, we will continue to do great things for our community for years to come.

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# Advancing Our Healthcare Workforce

## 2023 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Confluence Health Foundation donors are committed to the advancement of our local healthcare workforce. That's because they recognize that Confluence Health's staff and providers are fundamental to its ability to serve the needs of our region.

Since 1985, the Foundation has provided more than \$1.48 million in academic scholarships—funding that has gone to work fortifying a pipeline of qualified, capable individuals that we can rely on when we need them most.

The academic scholarship opportunities stewarded by Confluence Health Foundation are made possible because of the generosity and vision of donors like you.



- This year the Foundation's scholarship committee awarded 28 individuals \$52,500 in named scholarships. Named scholarships are awarded annually and funded by ongoing or legacy gifts.
- 2023 scholars are pursuing a variety of academic paths, including healthcare management degrees, nursing prerequisites, associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing, master's degrees in nursing leadership and physician assistant, and doctorate degrees in nursing practice.
- Award recipients work in departments throughout the hospital, including medical oncology, internal and family medicine, surgery, case management, urology, rheumatology, revenue cycle, emergency department, pediatrics, home infusion, and the progressive care unit.

## CERTIFICATIONS

Clinical certification funds increase competency in our medical staff and reward those who are dedicated to their craft. Confluence Health employees who receive certification scholarships are grateful for the personal investment and encouragement from our donors. This program is a staff favorite!

In 2023, there were 20 employees that received certifications scholarships for:

- Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse
- Certified Medical Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN)
- Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Nursing Professional Development Board Certification (NPD-BC)

## CSI CAMP

Confluence Student Intern (CSI) Camp is a weeklong adventure for high school students who are curious about careers in healthcare.

In 2023, fourteen campers immersed themselves in life at Confluence Health. Read our in-depth feature about this novel program on page 4.

## A Life Changing Gift

*"The scholarship gifts I have received from the Foundation have been wonderful. I have been gifted donations from strangers who care enough about me and this Valley so that I can become a better version of myself and a better caregiver for the members of this community. I have been fortunate to receive awards towards both my BSN and now my DNP education and have watched several friends and colleagues move through their careers with the aid of the Foundation scholarships. Some of my hardest working co-workers have started in an entry level position at Confluence Health and with the help of a Foundation scholarship (or two!) have earned their education and are now working as Registered Nurses and Certified Surgical Technologists (thanks to a fully funded scholarship, with most of the funding from the Foundation). I will forever be grateful to the Foundation for the scholarships I have been granted and the support they have shown me over the years."*

*Rachel Kelley  
Perioperative Supervisor & Educator*





# Program Spotlight: CSI Camp

Think back to summers in high school. What were you doing? Maybe you had your first summer job scooping ice cream. Perhaps you and your best friend spent the summer riding your bikes around town and swimming in the river. For most of us, summer was a welcome reprieve from thinking about school, future careers, and impending adulthood.

Others, like Maggie Fennell, were thinking ahead. As a high school student, Maggie spent part of her summer enrolled in the Confluence Student Intern (CSI) Camp. CSI Camp is a program that brings together local students for a week-long experience behind the scenes at Confluence Health Hospital, Central Campus. The program is designed to pull back the curtain on healthcare careers, allowing high schoolers to see and experience a variety of exciting roles that can be found in a healthcare setting. The goal of CSI Camp is to inspire a new generation of healthcare professionals that will help Confluence Health serve the needs of our community now and far into the future.

Maggie was a member of the 2018 CSI Camp cohort. She and her peers were given the opportunity to visit departments throughout the hospital, including laundry and food services, security, lab, pharmacy, and all the medical floors in between. “I thought one of the coolest things was the laundry services. It’s incredible how much laundry they do a day,” said Maggie. (Note to reader—that amount is between 5,000 and 6,000 pounds of laundry each day!)

But what left the biggest impression on Maggie was the experience of welcoming new babies into the world. As part of the CSI curriculum, campers are given the opportunity to investigate their own interests. At the time, Maggie was considering a career as a nurse. “I chose to go to labor and delivery and follow a nurse and that was like one of the most amazing things I’ve ever experienced.” said Maggie. “That was really formative...I still have vivid memories of my time in labor and delivery. Especially for a 17-year-old. There’s not many 17-year-olds that get to see babies born.”

It’s been nearly six years since Maggie’s CSI Camp experience. Since the goal of CSI is to inspire the next generation of healthcare workers, in Maggie’s case, the formula worked. In 2023, she joined Confluence Health’s employee ranks as a nurse working in the Progressive Care Unit (PCU).

Maggie represents a growing number of Confluence Health employees who have been inspired to begin a career in healthcare, at least in part because of their time as a CSI camper. Maggie always thought she wanted to be a nurse. To her, it seemed like a natural fit. Perhaps some would even say it was a calling. But without context, she was still on the fence. “I didn’t know what nurses did when I was young. I just knew they took care of people,” she said. “I didn’t know the hospital environment. I didn’t know what being in a hospital looked like, so it was very cool to see how it’s run and how the pieces come together.” CSI gave her enough insight into the world of healthcare to lock her sights on working as a nurse in a hospital.



This is the beauty of CSI Camp. It provides campers with the first opportunity to consider what they want their day-to-day to look like after high school or college and exposes them to previously unknown career paths and work environments. By working side-by-side with professionals, campers can home in on what resonates with them.

Today, Maggie enjoys working in the PCU and credits her colleagues for helping her feel more confident in her new role. “The more experienced nurses on my floor have been very welcoming, and they are always willing to talk about things that maybe I don’t understand yet.” she said. She continues to hone her practical skills as a nurse and is pursuing further education. This January she began an online BSN program at Boise State University. But she isn’t stopping there. Maggie has her sights set on obtaining her master’s degree next. She aspires to be a nurse leader or a nurse practitioner.

The sky is the limit for Maggie.

CSI is a valuable program that makes it possible to identify students with an inclination towards healthcare careers. The program is designed to inspire and foster their interest by helping them take the first step on what can be a stimulating, rewarding career path. Maggie credits CSI for giving her an opportunity to gain more context about what being a nurse meant and the confidence to pursue her dreams.

As healthcare experiences workforce shortages in critical areas, it becomes increasingly important to ensure young people are given an opportunity to discover career paths. The Foundation and its donors recognize the value in exposing high school students to healthcare careers as they begin to consider their options. Gifts to the Foundation for CSI Camp help purchase items that enhance CSI campers’ experiences, so they get the most out of the opportunity. But the real gift our donors give—to Maggie and other CSI campers like her—is inspiration. Sometimes inspiration and opportunity are the greatest gifts we can share with young people as we seek to build a better tomorrow for future generations in North Central Washington.



*Nurse Maggie Fennell demonstrates the value of CSI as an onramp to a career in healthcare.*



## “GROW OUR OWN” ALLIED HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The “Grow Our Own” scholarships are a targeted response to growing workforce shortages in key areas of the healthcare industry. The power of these scholarships is twofold. First, by investing in the career advancement of faithful employees, the Foundation is addressing workforce shortages that lead to costly, temporary contract workers (travelers). The goal of these scholarships is to help local individuals complete their degrees so that they in turn fill essential roles within the healthcare system. Secondly, obtaining a degree can be a life-changing accomplishment that improves an individual’s earning potential and provides greater economic stability over a lifetime. Confluence Health continues to prioritize opportunities to advance employees within the organization—this program will contribute to individual, organizational, and community benefits that will make our region stronger.

2023 “Grow Our Own” Scholarship Highlights:

- Four scholars graduated with their degree in **Surgical Technology** from Yakima Valley College, and six scholars enrolled in their second year of the program and are set to graduate in 2024.
- Two scholars graduated from the **Medical Assistant** program at Wenatchee Valley College.
- One scholar began the **Radiologic Technology** program at Wenatchee Valley College and has started their second year.
- One student completed their first year of the **Medical Lab Technology** program at Wenatchee Valley College and is preparing to start their second year of the program.

## HOSPICE EDUCATION FUNDS: YOUR GIFTS ARE AN INVESTMENT IN COMPASSION

Those working within the Home Health & Hospice Department at Confluence Health are called on to provide compassionate care under some of the most difficult and unique circumstances faced by patients and their loved ones. In addition to traditional clinical skills, they must apply specialized knowledge when caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients who are dealing with pain, grief, and changes to their level of independence.

Many of the Foundation’s donors have been inspired to give because of the outstanding care and devotion they or their loved ones received from home health, hospice, and palliative care providers. Their gifts help fund education and training that advance the skillsets of this dedicated group, which ensures a legacy of excellence and compassion in service for patients.

In 2023, a total of \$20,933 of hospice donations were used to fund training, certifications, and education for staff and providers within the department. These gifts are a beautiful reminder of the healing power that can arise from acts of gratitude.



# Patient-Centered Improvements to Care

## MOSES LAKE RADIATION TREATMENT CENTER

What an amazing gift to our region! 2023 marked the grand opening of the Moses Lake Radiation Oncology Center, a critical resource for the residents of the Columbia Basin. The new center will save lives, reduce care inequities, and improve quality of life for patients with cancer and their families.

This incredible accomplishment could only come to fruition because of the support of our donors. Their generosity has unlocked the door to state-of-the-art cancer treatment close to home and will continue to touch the lives of their friends, family, and neighbors for years to come.





## EQUIPMENT & PATIENT CARE RESOURCES

Donor support helped fund new equipment for patients at Confluence Health Hospital, Central Campus and Mares Campus.

- Wenatchee Valley Medical Group's 2022 year-end gift helped fund seven new labor and delivery beds for the Mother-Baby Unit.
- The 2022 year-end appeal yielded enough funding to purchase four new Stryker wheelchairs for safe and accessible patient transport.
- The Rehabilitation Department received a new adaptive trike for younger patients to use during occupational and physical therapy appointments.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: WENATCHEE VALLEY MEDICAL GROUP

What do you want our local healthcare to be?

This is the question Wenatchee Valley Medical Group (WVMG) continues to ask and answer through their gifts to the Confluence Health Foundation. Since their first gift in 1982, the organization now known as WVMG has donated more than \$1.7 million to advance healthcare in North Central Washington. They continue to take the lead as major partners in transformational efforts like the Moses Lake Radiation Treatment Center and Peter Rutherford Professional Development Endowment, so that their patients have access to state-of-the-art healthcare close to home, provided by highly capable, trained professionals.

We'll be sharing more about WVMG's commitment to North Central Washington in the Fall issue of Foundation in Focus, so stay tuned!



## A GIFT IN LOVING MEMORY OF BABY SILAS

After the incredible care we received when our sweet son was stillborn last year, the staff at CWH and Confluence Health Foundation's Footprints on My Heart program hold such a special place in our hearts.

On January 5, 2023, at 35 weeks pregnant, we learned that our son, Silas Franklin Pierson, no longer had a heartbeat, and he was stillborn at Central Washington Hospital on January 7, 2023. We got to spend the saddest but most meaningful 24 hours with him, and the staff at CWH took such incredible care of us and our sweet Silas, including that they made molds of his hands and feet, encouraged us to take photos with him, and sent us home with a beautiful keepsake box.

Afterward, we learned that so many of the special things the staff did for us were made possible by the Confluence Health Foundation's Footprints on My Heart program. Because of this, when friends and family reached out to ask us if there were any causes they could donate to in honor of Silas, we made sure to mention the Confluence Health Foundation.

After we lost Silas, we also heard stories of other families who had losses like ours and the role a device called a CuddleCot played for those families, if their hospital had one available. We learned that a CuddleCot is a bassinet that keeps a deceased baby cool, giving grieving families more time with their child. As parents who only got to spend a day with our child before having to say goodbye, we know how precious every second is for parents like us who get to spend only a short time with the child they lost.

After the meaningful experience we had when Silas was born, and learning that CWH did not have a CuddleCot (but that it was something they had always wanted), Silas's grandma and grandpa felt inspired to donate the funds for a CuddleCot to the Confluence Health Foundation. Thanks to this donation, CWH now has a CuddleCot available for any families who might need it.

Even though ours is an experience we wish no parents ever had to go through, it is so special for us to know that Silas's much-too-short little life is being honored in a way that is giving other families like ours more precious time with their sweet babies.

- Allison Int-Hout and Seth Pierson, parents to Silas Franklin Pierson



**Top:** Seth, Allison, and their pups from fall of 2022 when Allison was pregnant with Silas.  
**Bottom:** CuddleCot made possible by gifts to the Foundation in memory of Silas.



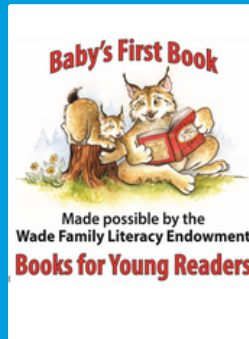
# Compassion at the Core of Care

## LEGACY PROGRAMS TOUCH THE HEART

Programs that have a multiyear funding commitment from the Foundation are referred to as Legacy Programs. These programs help fund medical resources and programs that bring hope and joy to patients; deliver comfort and compassion to patients and their families in times of need; and help ensure a positive patient experience. These special touches are unique to our local healthcare system and send the message to our community that healthcare at Confluence Health goes beyond medicine. In 2023, the Foundation gave back \$114,219.71 in support of legacy programs. A few legacy programs are featured below.

## CARDIOLOGY CARES

Cardiology Cares empowers patients to better manage their chronic systolic or diastolic heart failure, leading to improved health outcomes and better quality of life for patients. The program provides scales and blood pressure monitors to individuals who live in rural areas and those with limited financial means who may have difficulty accessing care in a clinical setting. In addition, patients enrolled in the program receive training on how to use the cuff and scale to monitor their health and share vital information with their care team. In 2023, Foundation funds were used to provide 325 blood pressure cuffs and 205 scales which were given to patients.





Cardiology Cares improves communication and information sharing between patients and their care team, improves medication management, reduces hospital admissions, and lowers re-admission rates among those enrolled.

## ADAPTIVE CYCLING PROGRAM

The Adaptive Cycling Program is run by Confluence Health's Rehab Department with funding provided by donors to the Confluence Health Foundation. In 2023, the program hosted four free adaptive cycling events – one a month from June to September. Approximately 30 individuals between 5 and 66 participated in one or more events. Friends and family would ride along or walk beside participants. Though no formal evaluation of the community events was done, the smiles said it all. These events continue to be a source of joy for participants, their families, and the Confluence Health volunteers that staff the events. 2024 adaptive cycling event schedules are on the on the [Foundation's website](#) under the "Events" tab.

## LITERACY FOR LITTLES

Research demonstrates that early literacy has far reaching benefits for cognitive, social, and emotional development of children and is a predictor of future health and academic achievement. Beyond the empirical evidence, giving kiddos books spreads JOY! That's why the Foundation is pleased to host two early literacy programs benefiting Confluence's youngest patients. This year the Wade Family Literacy Endowment funded 1,200 new books through the Baby's first book program, which provides a new book to every baby born at Confluence Health Hospital, Central Campus. In addition, seven Confluence Health clinics partner with the national Reach Out and Read program, which provides free books to patients ages six months to five years during their well child checkups. This year, participating clinics provided 7,224 books to kids!

## Adaptive Cycling Provides a "Light at the End of the Tunnel"

An occupational therapist at Confluence Health shared feedback she received from her patient. It warmed our hearts, and we think it will make you feel good too!

*"I want to thank you for introducing me to adaptive biking into my therapy. I was starting to feel that therapy could not lead me to enjoying the activities I did prior to my stroke. Biking has always been a huge pleasure spot in my life. Knowing that I can do adaptive riding opens my world up and made me want to do therapy so I can get better at riding.*

*Thank you for the boost I needed and knowing I can do things I enjoy but differently.*

*My therapy sessions with you are always a bright spot in my day, as I get to do something different and exciting activities. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and that is i can live an active and fulfilling life of doing and not just being!*

*Thank you so much!"*



## THE SINGLETONS LEAVE A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

Each November, the Confluence Health Foundation is pleased to present the Floyd and Noreen Singleton Award for Outstanding Practice, an annual honor presented to individuals who exhibit exceptional nurse performance as well as compassion at the bedside. This year, 10 Confluence Health nurses were selected to receive the award.

The Singleton awards are made possible thanks to an endowment established by local philanthropists Floyd and Noreen Singleton in 1999. Noreen, a nurse at Central Washington Hospital, was well known for her kindness and compassion towards her patients.

The Singletons chose to leave a legacy for a community they adored. Though Floyd and Noreen have passed, their enduring gift has inspired a longstanding tradition of recognition and provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the nurturing spirit of caregivers.

Congratulations to the 2023 Floyd and Noreen Singleton Award for Outstanding Practice awardees!

- Alicia Anderson
- Marilyn Ashcroft
- Rachael Davies
- Diany Godoy
- Sarah Harvill
- Peggy Hester
- Maribel Mariscal
- Schuylar Smart
- Judy Verebi
- Haley Widness



## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S GIFT TOUCHES PATIENTS FACING CANCER

We talk a lot about access to healthcare. In fact, it's the reason why we are here—to ensure the fine communities we serve have access to the healthcare they need and deserve. But for some patients receiving treatment for cancer, concerns about access to care can become much more acute, especially with regard to the financial impacts of transportation to and from appointments.

For these reasons and more, we are extremely grateful for American Cancer Society's continued support of a grant that provides transportation assistance to Confluence's patients facing cancer. Their gift will be used to offset the cost of fuel to reach appointments and will link patients with life-saving cancer treatment. We are honored to continue this meaningful partnership that will benefit so many people in our community!



# Foundation Operational Updates

## A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION'S BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Donors & Friends of the Foundation,

It feels natural to start thinking about change in the springtime. Perhaps it's the extra light at the end of the day that gives us a little more time to move beyond our routines. Maybe it's the awakening hillsides and trees that show us a little more color each day. Whatever, the cause, I find springtime inspiring. It is as if nature presents us with an opportunity to see things differently and the energy to make transformation happen.

This spring the Confluence Health Foundation Board of Trustees is also thinking about change. In April, the board will undergo strategic planning. This is the process we will use to set our priorities for the next several years and provide a roadmap that will advance our mission of supporting high-quality healthcare close to home. It is an intentional evolution aimed at strengthening our alignment with the community's needs, Confluence Health's strategic priorities, and our purpose and function as a healthcare foundation.

Although the board will be creating the plan, it's only the first step in a collaborative process. My colleagues and I feel a great sense of responsibility to you, our donors, and the broader community. We recognize that healthcare is imperative for the ongoing success of this thriving region and that we all have an interest in Confluence Health's success.

That's why the second step of the strategic planning process will involve conversations with donors, partners, and the community. These conversations will help us ensure that our objectives remain focused on what matters most—the health of North Central Washington's residents. When we emerge from this process, we will understand what role the Foundation will play in shaping and strengthening independent healthcare in the region.

I am excited about the opportunities ahead of us. As the Foundation evolves, we will begin to see the new ways our work touches the lives of those around us. But throughout this transformation, one thing will never change: we need you.

As a donor, you will have an important role to play—because everything we do, we can only do because of you. Your generosity is not just a donation, it's a lifeline. With your support, we're not just funding treatments or programs; we're investing in futures, in dreams, and in the possibility of a healthier, brighter tomorrow and supporting Confluence Health with the mission to provide safe and superior health care close to home.

So. Are you ready? Let's see what our partnership can do!

John Stoll, Board President  
Confluence Health Foundation



## 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSITIONS

2023 was far from ordinary for the Confluence Health Foundation. Most notably, we said goodbye to old friends and hello to new faces. We even welcomed back old friends!

Relationships are critical to the Foundation, and in a relatively small community, we want to make sure we take the time to acknowledge some of the people who have been or will be behind the driving forces of our future work. The Foundation Operational Update section of this newsletter is an opportunity to share a bit more about the transitions that occurred in 2023, including announcing board updates, introducing our new Vice President of Philanthropy, Suzanne Carté-Cocroft, and saying thank you to a faithful member of the Foundation team, Adele Haley.

## 2023 BOARD UPDATES

The Confluence Health Foundation is pleased to welcome three new members of the Board of Trustees. Tracey Kasnic, Dr. Dennis Utley, and Michele Mosely were voted into service at the November 2023 board meeting. The Confluence Health Foundation's board member terms are three years.

Tracey Kasnic, former Chief Nursing Office (CNO) of Confluence Health, has rejoined the board in a new capacity. Previously, Tracey was the Confluence Health CNO member-at-large of the Foundation for more than 20 years.

Tracey, who has always been an advocate for the advancement of the local healthcare workforce, now works for the Wenatchee School District as a health occupations teacher, where she is inspiring future generations of healthcare workers.

Welcome back, Tracey!



Tracey Kasnic  
Tracey Kasnic, MBA, BSN, RN, CENP  
Health Occupations Teacher  
Wenatchee School District



Michele Moseley recently retired from Confluence Health after a fulfilling career as a family practice nurse practitioner. Michele will bring valuable experience and perspective to the board. We're grateful to Michele for continuing her commitment to the health and well-being of residents of North Central Washington. Welcome, Michele!



Michele Moseley, ARNP  
Retired Family Practice Nurse Practitioner  
Community Volunteer

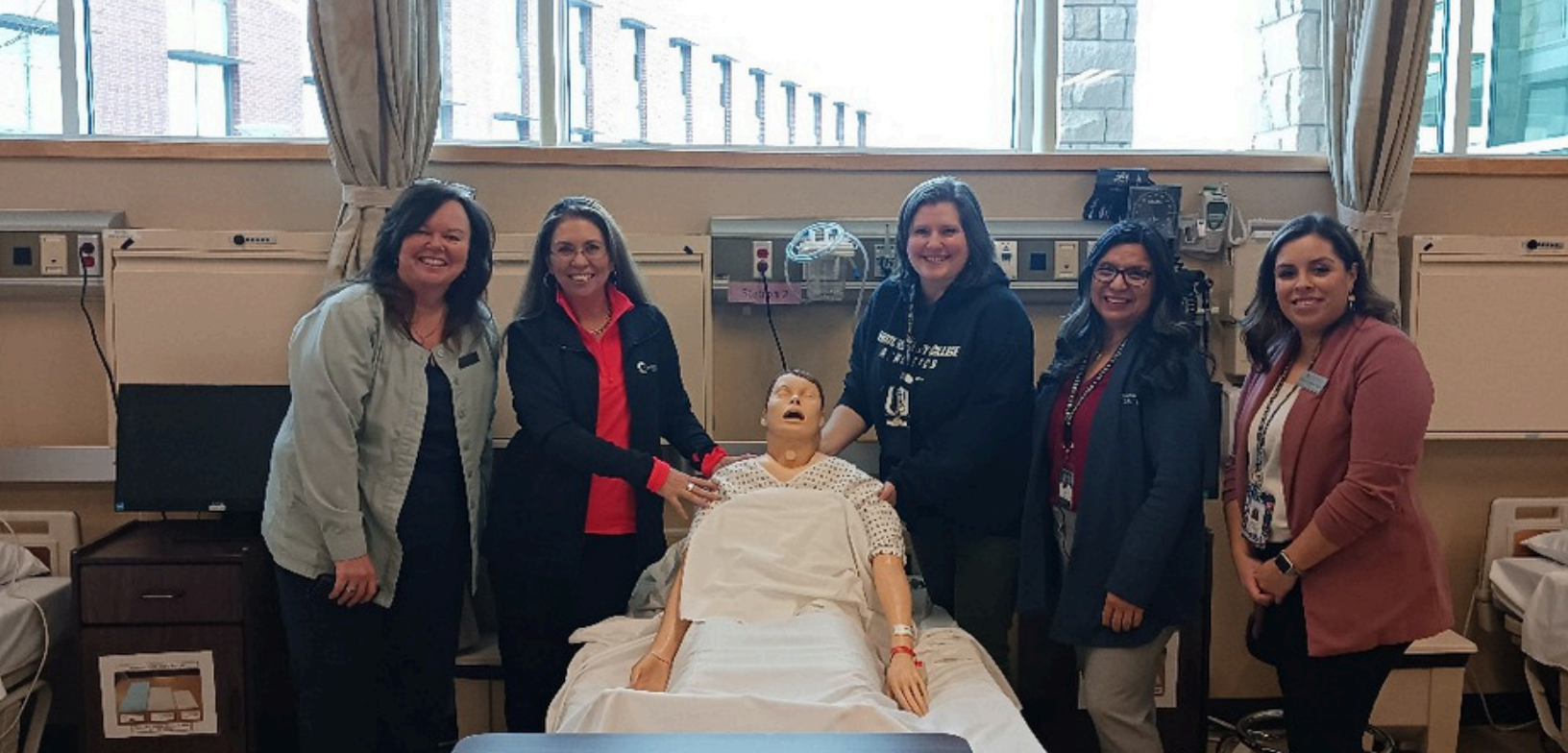
Dr. Dennis Utley is another familiar face from Confluence Health. Dr. Utley, now retired from Confluence Health, most recently served as the Medical Director of Surgical Services for the organization following his career as an OB/GYN. Dr. Utley's experience as a physician and a leader at Confluence Health will bring valuable insight to the board. Welcome, Dr. Utley!



Dennis D. Utley MD, F.A.C.O.G.  
OB/GYN Physician  
Confluence Health Retired

**Confluence Health Foundation**  
**Board of Trustee**  
**2024 Officers**

John Stoll, President  
Lincoln Denny, Vice President  
Jake Davison, Treasurer  
Bryan Maroney, JD, Secretary  
Steven Neher, Past President



## Leading With Heart

### SUZANNE CARTÉ-COCROFT FOCUSES ON WHAT MATTERS MOST

Meet Suzanne Carté-Cocroft, Confluence Health's new vice president of philanthropy and leader of the Confluence Health Foundation.

Suzanne moved to the region in November, but if you didn't know any better you could be tricked into thinking she's been here her whole life. It's not just her affinity for Wenatchee's Downtown, EZ's Burger (Tightwad Tuesdays – such a good deal!), and walking on the Apple Capital Loop Trail, it's that Suzanne has jumped into her new community with both feet. "I think its because everyone here has been so welcoming," Suzanne said, "...this definitely feels very much like home, which is cool that it happened so quickly."

Suzanne hadn't planned on moving for a new job when she got the call from a recruiter.

At the time, Suzanne was the Chief Philanthropy Officer and President of the Providence Alaska Foundation, a position she loved and had held for more than twelve years. "If you're going to move out of Alaska after a lifetime to go somewhere else, it can be pretty scary and kind of intimidating, but Washington was one of those places that felt more like home than anywhere else," said Suzanne.

The opportunity with Confluence Health would bring her and her husband, Steve, closer to family. Her mom and sister live in Lewiston, Idaho, and both of her adult children live in the lower 48. But location wasn't everything, "I also wanted to continue to do meaningful, rewarding work." said Suzanne.



She decided to learn more about the opportunity, and that's when she really became intrigued. "The fact that we have an independent healthcare system is a big deal...the challenges that healthcare is facing nationally as well as very acutely here and being able to help, that's important work."

Suzanne felt confident her experience would be valuable and relevant to the healthcare challenges facing North Central Washington.

She had spent nearly 23 years at the Providence Alaska Foundation, moving up the ranks, starting her tenure as the Children's Miracle Network Director where she worked with children and families who were extremely reliant on the healthcare system. "In Anchorage it was a really isolated system, so much like here. If you can't get service there, you have to travel a ways away. If it's something acute, you need it right away. If it's something chronic, you need it all the time. It can be difficult, if not impossible for families."

From that point on, Suzanne has spent her career improving access to care and developing critical resources that make people healthier. She and her team were instrumental in establishing the first cancer treatment center to Alaska, integrating behavioral health resources into schools in Anchorage and Kodiak, and building the first-of-its-kind child abuse response facility in the state, work that wouldn't have been possible without philanthropy.

Now, in her new role at the Confluence Health Foundation, Suzanne is focused on building relationships with key stakeholders from Confluence Health and Wenatchee Valley Medical Group, as well as other community leaders and friends of the Foundation.

Throughout her conversations, clear themes have emerged, starting with the fact that people in this community are passionate about healthcare. Everyone wants Confluence Health to be the best that it can be because there is an awareness that healthcare is vital to a thriving region.

Suzanne believes the Foundation can channel this energy into meaningful outcomes that benefit the whole community.

But how?

Bringing transformational projects to fruition requires careful planning and a whole lot of collaboration.





Over the next few months, Suzanne and the Confluence Health Foundation Board of Trustees are building a strategic plan. “What is the highest and best use of the Foundation for what comes next in our community?” wonders Suzanne. “How does philanthropy plug in to the big picture so that our community can have a bigger role in what the future looks like? Ultimately by the end of the year we have a plan that can launch us for one to five years but also sets a course for what the next 40 years looks like. What’s the structure that we need here in order to be successful and carry out this work that we are committed to doing for the community?”

Once the general plan has been created, the next step is to involve the community in the discussion.

The goal of these conversations will be to get insight, and eventually buy-in, which will be essential to the Foundation’s success. “It’s an exciting time for us to figure out what’s next. There’s a lot of great things that this Foundation and our donors have been responsible for in this community and so it’s a big obligation to choose what are we going be involved in next. We want community to be part of that process, so we get it right.”

Although the plan has yet to be determined, in many ways, the stars have aligned and great things are on the horizon. Suzanne has found a new community that she feels invested in, doing meaningful work that will make a difference for those around her. The community has gained the expertise of a talented leader who understands the potential and power of philanthropy.

There is a new energy building around the Confluence Health Foundation. “I’m absolutely optimistic about what the possibilities are. And excited! It’s fun to make a difference, to be part of a great team, and to make things happen.”

**Photos:** *Page 16, Suzanne meets with Wenatchee Valley College Allied Health leaders; page 18 Suzanne and her husband, Steve, explore their new backyard.*





## EVERYONE NEEDS AN ADELE

If you're fortunate enough to have a friend who always seems to be there when you need them and knows just what to do, then you have an Adele. Everyone should have an Adele.

If you don't know what we mean, let us explain.

We're talking about a faithful friend to the Foundation, Adele Haley. For more than 14 years, Adele has been a fixture at Expressions Gift Shop, a boutique serving staff, patients, and visitors in the lobby of Confluence Health Hospital, Central Campus.

At first, Adele was a gift shop volunteer, but beginning in 2014 she took on the official role of Gift Shop Manager. Her duties included managing volunteers, stocking the store, and ensuring an excellent customer experience for all. From time to time, Adele pitched in as a personal shopper, patient transporter, therapist, security guard, flower delivery driver, and, on one occasion, she helped save a visitor's life!



As if these responsibilities weren't enough, Adele was also an integral and beloved part of the Confluence Health Foundation team. The idea of planning an event makes most people run away screaming, but Adele is not afraid. She has a natural talent for pulling together all the details to make events seamless and beautiful. Her skills even landed her a role as the Armada Golf Classic golf tournament director beginning in 2022. Under her supervision, the tournament netted more than \$148,000 in charitable revenue to help support our local healthcare system.

Beyond the meaningful work she's done, Adele has always been a devoted colleague. The Foundation is a small, close-knit group, and we tend to share the ups and downs with each other. We've always made a point to celebrate birthdays and milestones as a group. Adele has an uncanny gift-giving talent. We can always count on her to bring the most thoughtful gift or card that says it all. When things get tough, Adele's sense of humor brings levity to the team. There's no job too big or too small when it comes to supporting those she cares about.

At the end of 2023, after years of dedicated service, Adele decided to hang up her Confluence Health badge. This heartfelt tribute to Adele hardly feels like enough of an expression of gratitude, because Adele has left an indelible impact on the Confluence Health Foundation, Confluence Health, and her colleagues, who count her as a friend.

Now Adele will get to spend more time with family and friends, traveling, and contributing to the many community causes she cares about, but at least we always know if we need her, she'll be here in a jiffy. That's just who Adele is and why everyone needs an Adele.

# CONFLUENCE HEALTH FOUNDATION

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## AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

In 2023, volunteers donated an astounding 8,199.49 hours of their time in service to the mission of Confluence Health. That's the equivalent of four full time staff members! According to the Do Good Institute, the value of volunteer time is \$31.80 per hour, meaning Confluence's committed volunteers have generously pitched in the equivalent of \$260,743 in donations. That's incredible!

Pictured: 2022 Volunteer of the Year, Cornelius Blair, presents the 2023 Volunteer of the Year award to Rosie Shipman. Rosie is a Mother-Baby Unit volunteer who also launders all the handmade donated items newborns receive.

