Providence St. Peter celebrates 100th TAVR patient

Howard Rotter can now catch his breath. The 90-year-old is back at home in Clearwater, keeping busy turning bowls in his shop and enjoying time with family, including his wife of 73 years, Fae. That’s right, 73 years.

“She’s put up with me all that time, so that’s pretty good,” Howard joked just hours after his transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure at Providence St. Peter Hospital on July 11. It was the 100th TAVR performed at St. Peter since the program began a year ago.

TAVR is a game-changer for many patients who, in the past, would have needed open-heart surgery. TAVR involves catheter-based placement of a self-expandable or balloon-expandable aortic valve, normally inserted through the groin. The procedure typically takes less than two hours and the patient usually returns home the next day, compared to open-heart surgery, where the patient is typically hospitalized for five days and recovering for six to eight weeks.

“Open-heart is still optimal for a younger patient, or where we need to work on multiple arteries,” said Michael Eveland, ARNP, Providence

Continued on page 2
Giving to hospice

Donations ensure hospice and grief support services are available to anyone in need. Gifts support the highest quality of care and a comprehensive range of services.

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Cardiology Associates. “But if the surgeon identifies someone as a candidate for TAVR, the procedure and recovery time is much quicker.”

Earlier this year, Howard just wasn’t feeling himself. He’d lose his breath simply walking to his shop, about 200 feet from his home. He is a five-time cancer survivor who has already had heart bypass surgery twice. “I’d like to think I do my part to keep the medical industry going,” he said.

Because of his advanced age and his previous history he was an excellent TAVR candidate.

“With the previous surgeries and his age, recovery from open-heart could have been difficult,” Eveland said.

“Now I feel like I can run over to the shop,” Howard said the morning after the procedure. “I’m ready to get home and get ready for my family’s reunion.”

“It’s fun for us old dogs,” Howard said. “Too many grandkids to count—greats and even a few great-great grandchildren.” Dale helped with the math. There are five grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and seven great-great grandchildren. The oldest great-great is 12, so there are a few years to wait until any great-great-greats. “But it’s not out of the question,” Howard said.

For more information about the TAVR program, please contact Providence Cardiology Associates at 360-493-5286.

TAVR is a game-changer for many patients who, in the past, would have needed open-heart surgery.
$50,000 grant received from Dart Foundation

The Dart Foundation, a private, non-profit family foundation engaged in charitable giving, awarded a $50,000 grant to Providence St. Peter Foundation. The grant has been used to purchase rehabilitation equipment for patients at St. Peter Hospital’s cardiac rehabilitation unit and critical imaging equipment in outpatient surgery.

Cecily Clemons, philanthropy officer for St. Peter Foundation, accepted the award on behalf of the foundation and stated, “The Dart Foundation is well known for its long history of philanthropy in communities across the country. The equipment purchased with this grant will benefit our cardiac and physical rehabilitation patients for years to come.”

The Dart Foundation is a private family foundation established by Dart Container Corporation founder William A. Dart and his wife Claire T. Dart. The foundation supports projects that enhance education, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, and those that improve the quality of life in specific communities.

2018 Providence Pride Award
Christmas Forest Gift Shop Volunteers

Four extraordinary volunteers accepted the 2018 Providence Pride Award on behalf of former Christmas Forest Gift Shop volunteers at the annual foundation board reunion in August. The award was presented to honor the many, many years of work these volunteer leaders have given to further the charitable work of the Providence St. Peter Foundation.

With the recent changes to the Christmas in the Forest schedule, the gift shop will not reopen. We thank these remarkable volunteers for their many years of service. This year they will enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their families, without having to “tend to the store.” We are grateful to each of them for all they have done in support of the Providence Mission for the significant funding their efforts have provided Providence ministries over the past 30 years.
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WINTER Wonderland

Christmas in the Forest provides vital funds to ensure better health for the entire community. Over the past 30 years, the Forest has raised significant funds for many Providence programs such as the Providence St. Peter Sexual Assault Clinic, Cancer Survivorship Clinic, Outpatient Palliative Care Clinic and Providence Community Care Center.

Christmas in the Forest offers public viewing times and activities for the entire family. The Gala Dinner & Auction provides a special experience and requires advance registration. Public viewing is a fun and casual way to see the Forest while enjoying local musicians and dance groups performing on the public stage. You can also purchase Christmas in the Forest raffle tickets.
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A Special Christmas in the Forest Cause
HOSPICE

The Providence Sound HomeCare and Hospice mission is to provide compassionate care to terminally ill people and their loved ones to ensure that each individual experiences dignity, comfort, and support in their own home.

The multidisciplinary team coordinates medical equipment, pharmacy needs, therapy, bathing assistance, and personalized guidance to both the patient and family. The in-home caregivers provide company to the patient as well as a needed break for family members providing around-the-clock care.

Gifts to hospice help more than 1,400 patients each year, enabling comfort care therapies that promote calming and well-being, while providing bereavement programs to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Providence hospice brings the tradition of excellent medical care into the comfort of the patient’s home setting. Their team provides a comprehensive range of care, including emotional and spiritual support, in a compassionate and responsive manner.

These programs can only exist through the generosity of our community.

Save the Dates

November 30 - December 2

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Please note our new abbreviated schedule.

Friday
GALA DINNER AND AUCTION
5 PM-10:30 PM
Bid on beautiful, one-of-a-kind trees and wreaths.
$250/$325 per guest – advance registration required. Registration is open now.

Saturday
PUBLIC VIEWING AND KIDS’ DAY
9 AM-5 PM
Special crafts and activities for kids by Hands on Children’s Museum.
Admission: $5 per person; children 12 and under are free

Sunday
PUBLIC VIEWING
9 AM-5 PM
Admission: $5 per person; children 12 and under are free

Raffle

Sponsored by McKinney’s
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• Professionally decorated and delivered* 6-foot tree, designed with nearly $200 worth of Washington State Scratch LOTTO tickets!
• Professionally decorated wreath
• Great Wolf Lodge package
• Two tickets to “The Wizard of Oz” at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts

Raffle tickets are $5 each
Drawing is at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2.
*FREE DELIVERY within Thurston County on Monday, Dec. 3, courtesy of Olympic Moving and Storage. Delivery time TBD.
“This is a sacred moment for our volunteer team,” said Karen Burton, manager of the gift shop. “This speaks to the heart of our volunteers and our Mission of the hospital. It is a true gift to St. Peter Hospital and a labor of love for our volunteers to help ease the way of our patients and caregivers.”

Each year, the committee looks at the previous year’s gift shop and Book Nook profits and decides whether to have a grant cycle or build upon the grant fund for more impactful results. The committee has focused on using the grant fund to purchase medical equipment from the high-priority capital needs list.

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Proceeds from St. Peter Hospital gift shop fund surgical equipment – $450,000 granted for eight pieces of equipment

Proceeds from purchases made at the Providence St. Peter Hospital gift shop and the Book Nook funded $450,000 in surgical equipment for the hospital.

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“The Surgical Services Director, Elle Meerdink, gave an impressive and compelling presentation to gift shop volunteers, demonstrating critical need of this equipment,” said Burton. “She will now immediately begin the process of purchasing this equipment. We can’t thank our volunteers enough for their dedication, commitment and gifts of time and talent.”

The equipment that will be purchased is:

- Cardiac laser
- Surgical stretcher
- Surgical drills for spine and brain procedures
- da Vinci® Si™ 8.5 mm fluorescence endoscope with camera for robotic surgeries, including cardiac, colorectal, general, gynecologic, head/neck, thoracic and urologic procedures
- POWEREASE™ System for performing spinal reconstructive surgeries
- Tracheal intubation video scope and tower (used to provide airway support during surgeries)
- Trans Thoracic Echocardiogram probe
- Two POWEREASE™ consoles

Provenance St. Peter Hospital gift shop volunteers took a tour of the surgery area during their quarterly volunteer gift shop meeting on Aug. 21. Front row, L to R: Elle Meerdink, director of Surgical Services, with volunteers Brenda O’Gorman, Brenda Hotchkiss, Darld Brennan and Dottie Johnson. Back row, L to R: Volunteers Pat Duncan, Sandy Shanks, Margaret Burley, Myrna Brown and Karen Burton, gift shop manager.
Message from the foundation president

Thank you for your generous support of Providence St. Peter Foundation. With so many programs changing the lives of so many people, the reasons we get involved can be very different.

The constant is always the impact we have on the lives of our families, our friends and our neighbors. Whether helping a young family through the birth of a child, providing mental health support during a crisis, or guiding and supporting a family through the loss of a loved one, Providence caregivers are remarkable. I expect that, like me, this is why you have made Providence a local charity you choose to support.

In my role as foundation board member for the past 12 years, I often share information with friends and colleagues about the incredibly compassionate care provided by Providence. I recently heard from an Olympia woman about her experience with Providence hospice care. She had lost her 53 year old husband to brain cancer. After I thought about the story she shared, I realized something—hospice is not about death—it’s about loving, caring and having time to say goodbye to a loved one.

Talking about hospice is a difficult subject for obvious reasons. But a lack of awareness and even fear about hospice care means that too many people are not benefiting from these compassionate services when finding a cure isn’t possible. It also means that many family members are left without bereavement support.

We should not be afraid of talking openly about hospice. Hospice care is not about giving up; it’s a model of quality and compassionate health care tailored to each person’s unique needs and wishes. This is the kind of work that I am grateful to be part of and I cannot thank you enough for all that you make possible through your continued support and involvement.

Mick Phillips, board president

Would you like to support one of the programs you are reading about?

If you read about a program in this issue of Cornerstone that you would like to support, please use the attached self-addressed/stamped envelope to mail your gift. Just make a note on your check if you are supporting a particular program — if you do not specify a program, your gift will go to the Greatest Need Fund. Or, go online at www.providence.org/giving and let us know you read Cornerstone when you send in your gift!

Thank you for helping us provide compassionate programs and services to those in need.

New board member and officers elected for Providence St. Peter Foundation

Jennifer Burtner, M.D.

Providence St. Peter Foundation is pleased to welcome a new board member, Jennifer Burtner, MD, an emergency room physician and department medical director for Providence St. Peter Hospital. Dr. Burtner will serve a three-year term. Richard “Mick” Phillips, Jen Foley, Marcia Fromhold, Mark Naubert and Mark Wagner, MD, were re-elected to additional three-year terms.

“I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Burtner to the foundation board,” says Mick Phillips, foundation board president. “She brings a depth of experience from the medical community and a deep respect for the importance of having access to high-quality health care locally.”

The foundation board also elected new officers. Mick Phillips, founding member of Phillips Burgess, PLLC, was elected president. Scott Smitherman, MD, was elected vice president and Kevin Schreiner, Title Management, Inc., was elected treasurer. Each officer will serve a two-year term. Rick Middleton, president and CEO of Anderson & Middleton Company, will serve as immediate past president.

Retiring from the board after 12 years of service is Joyce Targus, retired president and CEO of Frost & Company.
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To learn how to make an IRA rollover gift and helping Providence provide compassionate and high quality health care in our local community, contact us at 360-493-7981 or email us at ProvStPeterFoundation@providence.org
www.PSPFlegacy.org/IRArollover

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If you have suggestions or wish to have your name removed from the list to receive fundraising requests, please contact the Foundation at (360) 493-7981, ProvStPeterFoundation@providence.org, or write: Providence St. Peter Foundation, 413 Lilly Road NE, Olympia, WA 98506. Archived newsletters and subscription to the electronic newsletter are available online at: www.providence.org/giving.