

## **2024-25 projects funded by Women of Good Samaritan**

Funds raised last year supported nine projects and allowed the steering committee to distribute \$123,000. Projects include:

### **Pillows for Mastectomy and Top Surgery Patients**

To purchase materials for Legacy volunteers to create pillows to give to patients following a mastectomy or gender-affirming top surgery. After surgery, the pillows are used to protect the wound drain under the arm, and as a rest for the patient's arm post breast surgery. The pillows provide support at the surgery site, comfort for the patient when leaving the hospital and are an expression of care and concern from staff. Approximately 650 patients will be served in FY26.

### **HER2+ Breast Cancer Study**

To support a pilot study to compare the current standard sequential treatment protocol for Hormone Receptor Positive (HER2 positive) breast cancer with the treatment that incorporates endocrine therapy along with chemotherapy prior to surgery. The standard systemic treatment for Hormone Receptor positive/Her2 positive breast cancer is neoadjuvant chemotherapy and HER2 directed therapy followed by surgery then adjuvant endocrine therapy and continuation of HER2 directed therapy. Patients who achieve a pathologic complete response (pCR) at time of surgery after receiving HER2 targeted therapy experience better outcomes in both disease-free survival and overall survival. The expected response rate (pCR) for neoadjuvant chemotherapy and Her2 directed therapy is approximately 28% while there is some early data to suggest that adding endocrine therapy might improve that to 35%. This randomized clinical trial seeks to assess the pCR as well as the Residual Cancer Burden (RCB) of the two treatment approaches. This study seeks to enroll 40 patients in all. Pilot data will be used to support a larger clinical trial if warranted. Funding is requested for study coordination.

### **Employee Helping Hand Funds**

To provide support for Legacy Health employees experiencing a short-term financial crisis. Approximately 70 LGS employees will be served in FY26.

### **Breast Cancer Cryoablation**

To support a pilot study to evaluate patient reported outcomes, cosmetic results and psychosocial impact of cryoablation of breast cancer tumors. Cryoablation freezes tumors and can replace lumpectomy. For patients 70 years of age or older, this can be done as an outpatient procedure in the breast health center. For patients over 60, it provides the option of eradication of the tumor without removal of breast tissue and results in superior aesthetic outcomes with less discomfort. Initial cryoablation studies have focused on confirming tumor ablation and measuring recurrence risk only. The proposed study will enroll 30 patients with 30 matched control patients undergoing surgical lumpectomy. Funding is requested for study coordination and cryoprobes.

## **Music Therapy**

Music Therapy offers emotional support and provide an outlet of expression to promote mental and emotional healing for them. For many people, being in the hospital is a frightening event in their lives. It can bring feelings of hopelessness and helplessness. Music therapists offer a specialized service to encourage memory sharing in life review through methods incorporating music.

## **Shockpulse Stone Eliminator**

To purchase a Shockpulse-SE Machine for Good Samaritan Medical Center's main operating room. Currently, three Legacy facilities share one machine, leading to scheduling conflicts. Ensuring local access to the machine will create better patient outcomes, including reduced recovery times for those with bladder and kidney stones. Approximately 80 patients will be served annually.

## **Menopause & Alzheimer's**

To support investigation into why females are more susceptible to Alzheimer's disease. Women have earlier onset, high incidence of, and more severe symptoms of Alzheimer's disease; the molecular reasons for this risk remain unknown, but are believed to be linked to menopause, which is rarely modeled in animal studies. We can model menopause in Alzheimer's disease in mice by removing the ovaries of transgenic mice that express hallmarks of the disease. We are particularly interested in how it affects early disease development and interactions with autophagy in high-risk brain regions.

## **Car Transfer Simulator**

To purchase a WT-960 Tran-Sit height adjustable car transfer simulator for the Legacy Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon (RIO). Practice getting in and out of a vehicle is integral to the RIO program, as safe car transfers give patients mobility and allow them to return to their lives in the community, but current methods are inefficient and may even pose infection risks. The car transfer simulator will provide a safer, customizable environment for patients to practice car transfers. Funds will be used to purchase the car simulator and height adjustment system, and shipping and delivery costs, with training provided to rehab staff for integration into evaluation, treatment, and discharge processes. Approximately 650 patients will benefit annually.

## **Balancewear Vests**

To purchase 10 weighted sensory integration vests for rehabilitation patients who lack financial resources. These vests are custom-designed to each patient's balance deficits and immediately improve balance, gait, and stability. This leads to reduced falls and improved independence in patients recovering from significant injury. Unfortunately, most insurers will not cover these devices.