

2024-25 projects funded by Women of Meridian Park

Funds raised supported 12 projects and allowed the steering committee to distribute more than \$50,000 to the hospital. Projects include:

Lymphedema Garments

To provide compression garments to underinsured lymphedema patients. These garments prevent the return of swelling, which allows patients to regain use of the affected extremity and decreases the chances of infection. Many patients do not have funding resources for these important (and expensive) treatment items. Approximately 40 patients will be served in FY26.

Human Centered Leadership

To provide Human-Centered Leadership training, a 4-hour workshop, and additional resources for 100 leaders in the Willamette Region and LMG, aimed at reducing burnout, increasing engagement, decreasing turnover, and supporting a culture of wellbeing, which ultimately enhances patient outcomes and promotes a more inclusive and effective healthcare environment.

Pediatric Rehabilitation Project ImPACT

To continue and expand a parent mediated intervention for young children with autism spectrum disorder and related social communication disorders. Access to 1:1 rehabilitation services for children with ASD is increasingly difficult. By offering Improving Parents as Communication Teachers (ImPACT), we can provide parents with effective tools and strategies to work with their children at home, which improves quality of life and functioning as children experience developmental and behavioral improvements. 14-week parent intensive Project ImPACT training classes will be offered to 12 families of children with autism who are uninsured and/or underinsured. Funding is requested for training materials and staff training time.

Infant Hearing Screen

To purchase a newborn hearing screening device for the family birth center at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center. Standard of care is to conduct a baby's first hearing test prior to discharge. Having a second screening device will ensure that all babies can be tested and do not need to be referred to an audiologist if discharge volumes are high or one device is in for repair. The Meridian Park FBC discharges approximately 900 newborns each year.

Cancer Services Art Therapy Supplies

To support Legacy's cancer art therapy and writing programs, which offer patients a variety of art groups to address topics such as, grief, stress, anxiety, isolation, and self-expression during and after cancer. Funding is needed to maintain the high quality and inclusive programming for cancer patients, families, and caregivers in both virtual and in-person settings. Current offerings include art therapy groups, equine therapy groups, the Artist in Residence program, the Words for Healing program, etc. Funds will be used for contract group facilitators and art supplies. Approximately 2,100 patients will be served in FY26.

Annual Pacific Northwest Excellence in Breast and Gynecologic Care Conference

To support the annual "Pacific Northwest Excellence in Women's Cancers" professional conference so patients in our hospitals and our region can receive the highest quality care. The conference brings national and/or world-renowned physician experts in breast and gynecological cancers to present the very latest information on preventative, screening, diagnostic and treatment modalities as well as ongoing care and surveillance into survivorship. Legacy's cancer outcome record is among the best in the nation and part of what makes our program strong is the educational activities we provide to our team, including this conference for more than 200 attendees. In FY26, the conference will include information related to the disparities seen at the local, state and/or national level in breast and gynecologic cancer incidence and mortality rates taking into account factors such as age, race, ethnicity and access to care. Legacy screens approximately 45,000 patients for breast and gynecologic cancers and treats approximately 900 newly diagnosed patients annually.

Pocket Talkers

To purchase 100 pocket talkers to support older patients with hearing impairments who cannot afford or have been unsuccessful with hearing aids. Hearing impairment is very common in older patients and can contribute to social isolation, depression, anxiety, failure to thrive and dementia. Many patients have dementia as well as hearing impairment, which is likely contributing to their cognitive symptoms. Currently, Medicare does not cover hearing aids and many patients find these cost prohibitive. A pocket talker is an affordable alternative that is compact, portable (can be carried in patient's pocket) and user friendly. Patients have reported dramatic improvement in their hearing and this has positively impacted their quality of life.

Child Passenger Safety

To support Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seats and education for families discharging from the Family Birth Center and at community outreach events. The project addresses the high risk of injury and death among children in motor vehicle crashes, focusing on low-income and immigrant families who may struggle to afford appropriate car safety seats. Evidence shows that car safety seats, when properly used, prevent child fatalities and the need for hospitalization. Funds will pay for CPS Health Educators to continue offering no-cost car safety seats and information on their proper installation and use, as well as outreach supplies and publications. Approximately 250 families will be served in FY26.

Oncology Patient Assistance

To support care management needs for cancer patients receiving treatment at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center. Cancer patients often experience significant hardship with affording daily expenses or having to make difficult choices between paying bills, purchasing gas, or buying food due to income loss during cancer treatment. Funds will assist 25 patients with identified barriers to treatment including transportation, nutritional support and medication assistance.

Grief Support

To provide bereavement support for patients and families through the end-of-life process with death and dying resource materials. Funds will be used for a variety of books on understanding the dying, death, and grief process; as well as bereavement keepsake items, such as teddy bears for patients with young children, handprint kits, etc. Approximately 150 patients and families will be served in FY26.

Geriatric Resource Guides

To provide comprehensive resource guides to geriatric patients and their families/caregivers, ultimately addressing psycho-social stressors that impact a family's ability to provide quality, ongoing care. The LMG Geriatrics program continues to struggle to meet the psycho-social support needs of seniors and their caregivers. We anticipate over 1,000 new patients in FY26, and approximately 66% will benefit from community resource connections based on their social circumstances. Funds will pay for 600 guides covering resources on caring for our aging population.

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. Pilot data will be used to support a larger clinical trial if warranted. Funding is requested for study coordination time.