



Spring 2026 Foundation Focus



A Brighter Future, Thanks to You

Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe that summer is right around the corner! While we look forward to the months ahead, we're also reflecting on how far we've come in the first half of the year.

This spring, our Washington Health Foundation community rallied together to raise **an extraordinary \$66,000** to fund oncology programming in support of the first 100 days of the newly expanded UCSF - Washington Cancer Center.

As community hospitals like Washington Health navigate ongoing changes and challenges in health care legislation, **your consistent support is more vital than ever** in powering our mission—ensuring *everyone* can access the care they deserve.

The stories below are some of my recent favorites, because they highlight the life-changing impact of our community's generosity at Washington Health:

- A **high school senior** invested in her community
- A milestone year for our **Top Hat Gala**
- **Prestigious accomplishments** for our care teams
- A tax-wise way to **build a legacy**

Thank you for sharing our vision for a healthier, brighter future for all!

With sincere appreciation,



Sarah G. Gemski

Executive Director

Washington Health Foundation

P.S. With so much meaningful work underway, we're formally reaching out twice each year—once in the spring and again at year's end—to invite your support. **No matter when or how often you're moved to give, please know how grateful we are for every dollar!**



Left to right: Cathy Avon, Washington Health Foundation President; Daniela Mendes, Newark Memorial High School Senior; and Kimberly Hartz, Washington Health CEO

Big Impact at a Young Age

Inspired by her grandmother's journey as a breast cancer survivor, 18-year-old Daniela Mendes knew she wanted to help her neighbors navigating a cancer diagnosis.

As State Youth President for the Luso-American Fraternal organization, the Newark Memorial High School senior organized Pink Ribbons & Rhythms, **raising more than \$23,000** for the Washington Health Foundation in support of the newly expanded UCSF – Washington Cancer Center.

Daniela's generosity will help fund advances in patient care services, such as a cold-capping system to support cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, proving that community impact has nothing to do with age; it takes compassion, commitment—and a big heart.



Long-time Foundation supporters Joe and Deolinda Caldeira

Foundation Spotlight: Deolinda and Joe Caldeira

Deolinda (Deo) Caldeira joined the Washington Health family when she was still in high school. She took a medical assistant course, trained in the radiology department, and was offered a job right after graduation—a dream come true!

From the very beginning, she had a soft spot for her patients. “Many patients seemed nervous or worried about the unknown. Some looked lost and confused,” she recalls. “It was my goal to make sure they felt safe.”

Of all the things Deo learned in her career, compassion was the most important. And though she no longer works for Washington Health, she and

her husband, Joe, are very involved and continue to support key initiatives at Washington Health.

The couple has seen firsthand how generosity and compassion work hand-in-hand, ensuring people receive the kindness and care they deserve when they're most vulnerable.

"Washington Health has done so much for my family," Deo shares. "We are very happy to be able to give back."

[Join Deo and Joe with Your Gift](#)



A Milestone Year for the Top Hat Gala

Join us on **Saturday, October 10, for Washington Health Foundation's 40th Annual Top Hat Gala**—our Ruby Anniversary! Together, we will celebrate the enduring generosity of our philanthropic community, which has powered four decades of innovative, compassionate care, close to home.

This year, we are striving to raise \$2 million to support a new neurosurgical robotic platform, advancing the precision and quality of care available to our patients.

Break out your dancing shoes, dust off your top hat, and mark October 10 in ink on your calendar. Look out for the reveal of the official theme later this summer!

[Learn More](#)



Left to right: Tigist Awel, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer; Terri Hunter, VP & Chief Nursing Officer; Adelita Tinoco, Magnet Program Manager; Kimberly Hartz, CEO; and Gina Gholston, Nurse Manager

Recognizing Clinical Excellence

Washington Health has achieved Magnet Recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center for the fourth year in a row—one of less than 2% of hospitals nationwide to be recognized this many consecutive times. We are incredibly proud of our team for their commitment to their patients, **and deeply grateful to all those who have supported our Excellence in Nursing Fund.** Their investments ensure our nurses have the skills and resources they need to provide *truly exceptional care*, year after year.

Washington Health has earned an “A” in The Leapfrog Group’s Spring 2026 Hospital Safety Grades, placing us among a select group of hospitals meeting some of the highest standards for patient safety in the country. Achievements like this happen because our caregivers, staff, volunteers, hospital leaders, community members, and supporters **share the same commitment to the health and well-being of our Tri-City area.**

Thank you for helping us reach new heights!

Celebrate with a Gift



Grateful patient Cris Raimundo and wife, Evelyn

Giving with Purpose: Cris Raimundo's Story

In June 2000, Cris Raimundo woke up with severe chest pain. Home alone, he called 911 and placed his trust in the hands of his community—firemen, EMTs, and the team at Washington Health—who saved his life that day.

“Washington Health is a life-giving organization that creates an enduring impact,” Cris said. “Not just on the patient, but on everyone who becomes a part of their community.”

Cris and his wife, Evelyn, pay it forward by supporting Washington Health Foundation through their donor-advised fund (DAF) because of its tax-efficiency and ease of administration.

“We get an immediate tax deduction when contributing to our DAF. There is no start-up cost or minimum payout requirement. Plus, charitable assets in the DAF grow tax-free.”

Giving Smarter in 2026

Giving back in 2026 comes with a few new perks. New tax rules may create more flexibility—and in some cases, greater benefits—for donors supporting Washington Health's mission.

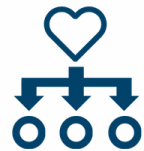
Here's a quick overview of what's changed:



If you take the standard deduction, you may now be able to receive a tax benefit for cash gifts—up to **\$1,000 for individuals or \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly**—even without itemizing.



Have appreciated assets? Donating shares of stock or real estate instead of cash can help you avoid capital gains taxes while allowing you to give at their full value.



For donors age 70 1/2 and older, a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** now lets you give up to \$111,000 directly from your IRA annually, count the gift toward your Required Minimum Distribution, and reduce taxable income.



Maximize your 2026 tax savings by using a **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)** to 'bunch' multiple years of giving into a single contribution, helping you clear the new 0.5% AGI deduction floor while supporting Washington Health Foundation.

Interested in learning more about ways to give, including gifts of stock, exploring a company match, or setting up a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) like Cris and Evelyn to support Washington Health Foundation? Our team can help you choose the option that works best for your situation. Contact Sarah Gemski at foundation@washingtonhealth.com or [510.818.7350](tel:510.818.7350) today to get started.

[Learn More](#)

Disclaimer: This information is educational only. Please consult your professional advisor for guidance on your personal situation.

Events and Updates



Calling All Scholarship Applicants!

We are accepting applications through July 31 for the Dr. Albert V. Assali Scholarship, supporting Tri-City Area high school seniors and college students pursuing a career in medicine.

If you know someone who would make a strong candidate, please help spread the word!

[About the Scholarship](#)



Save the Date—Top Hat Returns October 10, 2026

The 40th Annual Top Hat Gala is coming to the Outdoor Garden and Grand Tent at Washington West. This Ruby Anniversary celebration promises an unforgettable night of dinner, cocktails, live entertainment, dancing, and more in support of exceptional health care close to home.

Ticket details and event highlights coming soon!

[Learn More](#)



On Air with Washington Health!

We're proud to announce the launch of the Washington Health Podcast, a new series designed to give listeners an inside look at the people, breakthroughs, and conversations driving health care forward at Washington Health.

Tune into the first episode to hear from Tammi Tyson, Senior Director of Oncology, and Bogdan Eftimie, MD, Medical Director of the UCSF – Washington Cancer Center, **as they share what the first 100 days inside the newly expanded cancer center have looked like—and what your generous support has already made possible.**

New episodes will premiere Thursdays at 8 a.m., twice a month, starting July 16 on Washington Health's YouTube channel.

[Listen Now](#)



The Washington Health Foundation inspires investments in health by engaging the community to provide critical support for our strategic partner, Washington Health.

[Make a Gift](#)

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Interested in including Washington Health Foundation in your will or trust?

[Learn more about planned giving here.](#)



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