

## Furthering the Mission of Washington Health since 1983



Photo: Student volunteer at Welcome Teacher Day event on August 11, 2025 at Washington Health

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



Every day at Washington Health, lives are being changed- and it is because of you.

Your incredible generosity has enabled Washington Health to respond to over 2,200 trauma patient activations since July 1st, 2024, and provide injury prevention resources to our community through our **Level II Trauma Center**. This year, you've also helped strengthen Washington Health's robust **Cardiac Surgery Program** by funding specialized nurse education. And most notably, your support for the **UCSF-**

To all of our volunteer leaders and donors who engage the community in support of Washington Health, thank you. We will be honoring all **Legacy Society** members and our closest supporters at the **4th Annual Founders & Friends Luncheon on September 17th** at Casa Bella Restaurant. Read below for more details.

Our favorite time of the year is almost here! Mark your calendars for a trip to the Emerald City at the **39th Annual Top Hat Gala** on October 11th in support of the da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot and Robotics Program at Washington Health. It will be a magical night you don't want to miss!

Please reach out if you'd like to get

**Washington Cancer Center** has helped patients and families facing their hardest moments find strength and access academic-level cancer care, close to home. Together, we are providing truly extraordinary health care to our community, when and where it is most needed.

involved in our work or learn more about any of our programs. From all of us at the Washington Health Foundation, thank you for your partnership in promoting health and wellbeing in our community.

Sarah G. Gemski  
***Executive Director***  
***Washington Health Foundation***

Upcoming Foundation Events	Save the Date
Legacy Society 'Founders & Friends' Luncheon	Wednesday, September 17, 12:30 p.m.
39th Annual Top Hat Gala	Saturday, October 11, 6:00 p.m.
Foundation Quarterly Board Meeting	Tuesday, October 28, 4:30 p.m.
Giving Tuesday	Tuesday, December 2
Holiday Tree Lighting	Monday, December 1, 5:00 p.m.
Foundation Annual Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 4:30pm



**You're invited to an Oz-some evening of Enchantment and Impact!**

Step behind the curtain and into a world where magic meets medicine at our Wicked-themed Gala at the **39th Annual Top Hat Gala** on **Saturday, October 11th**, in the Grand Tent and Outdoor Garden at Washington West.



Washington Health is committed to staying at the forefront of medical technology to provide the best possible care for our patients. Your generosity will help ensure the Hospital continues to invest in best-in-class technology and equipment—advancing our surgical capabilities and ensuring every patient receives the highest standard of care. The surgical systems at Washington Health will continue to enhance our ability to provide minimally invasive surgeries with unparalleled precision, control, and improved patient outcomes with less operative trauma, shorter hospital stays, less pain, and a quicker recovery. Join us in building the future of care with the **da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot and Robotics Program** at Washington Health.

Interested in supporting Top Hat? Here are a few ways you can help:

- Purchase a ticket or sponsorship (online or phone/email, ticket sales now open)
- Make a gift to Washington Health's Surgical Robotics program
- Donate your vacation home, sports tickets, or airline tickets to our live auction
- Bring Friends! Share the invitation with your networks

Keep an eye out for more information regarding Top Hat in the weeks to come. We look forward to celebrating with you all in support of Washington Health!

*Learn more about Washington Health's Robotics Program in the **WH Annual Report***

**Be a Sponsor/Buy Tickets**



## **A Milestone Moment for the UCSF- Washington Cancer Center**

It's hard to believe that just over 1 year ago, in the summer edition of the Washington Health Foundation's Foundation Focus, the **UCSF – Washington Cancer Center Campaign** had reached a goal of \$10.5M. Your generosity helped us raise even more, reaching a total of over \$12M this summer! Construction on the new Cancer Center began in September 2024, and today, we are thrilled to announce that it will be completed in a few short months. The long-awaited, newly expanded Cancer Center will increase access to advanced treatment offered in partnership with UCSF Health, enabling patients to remain close to home, surrounded by their family and friends.

Set to open in early 2026, the 15,000 square foot center will include state-of-the-art technology and additional space for ongoing multidisciplinary collaboration and an expansive network of leading cancer care specialists.

The expansion was financed through a variety of sources, with an overall funding need of \$22M, and \$12M raised through philanthropy. The success of this transformational initiative has been supported by hospital staff, community members, local businesses, physicians, and countless other generous donors. If you'd like to learn more about the Cancer Center or make a gift to support cancer care, please visit our [website](#).

***"We are grateful for the ongoing support of donors who recognize the value of top-tier care offered locally,"*** said Kimberly Hartz, Chief Executive Officer.

Please stay tuned for more details about upcoming events and the ribbon-cutting.

## Foundation Updates



The Foundation received several generous donations from community members and organizations over the past few months, including care packages for cancer patients, hand-made cards with thoughtful messages for patients, knit blankets for infusion center patients and toys. Many thanks to Girl Scout Troop 33723, Josie Jew, Care Circle, Vidhi and Vishesh and Ananya Nidamanuri.



On June 17th and for the past several years, family-owned and operated Berge-Pappas-Smith Chapel of the Angels has generously donated lunches to the Washington Health staff to say thank you for their dedication and hard work. Thank you, Sam and Ian Smith, and the entire Berge-Pappas-Smith Chapel of the Angels team, for keeping our healthcare staff going strong!

### Make Your Donation Go Further - Match Your Gift Today!

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage charitable giving, and some even extend these benefits to spouses and retirees. This





means your donation to Washington Health could be **doubled—or even tripled**—at no extra cost to you. It's a simple process, and every contribution, no matter the amount, makes a powerful impact. By taking advantage of your employer's matching gift program, you can help Washington Health continue delivering the highest quality care to our community. Make your generosity go even further today!

[Learn More](#)



## Welcome Teacher Day

The Hospital was thrilled to host **Welcome Teacher Day** on August 11th at Washington West, in collaboration with Foundation Members, **Dirk and Lisa Lorenz**. This special occasion aimed to bring together elementary students and their families to pick up a vase with a flower to present to their teacher on the first day of school. Every year, Welcome Teacher Day celebrates the bond between students, families, and educators, and helps foster a spirit of community and appreciation that will carry into the school year.

Photo: Foundation Members, Dirk & Lisa Lorenz

## Washington Health Trauma Center - Community Safety Fair

Join us for a fun-filled, family-friendly day packed with exciting activities and valuable learning experiences! Explore educational booths where you can learn lifesaving skills like **Stop the Bleed and Choking First Aid**. Kids can enjoy the Bike Rodeo hosted by Bike East Bay, get up close with emergency vehicles, and have a blast with face painting and balloon animals. Plus, the first 120 guests will receive a free bike helmet- perfect for safety on the go! Don't miss out on sweet treats from Kona Ice and a day full of fun, safety, and community connections!

**Date:** Sat, Oct 4

**Time:** 10 am - 2 pm

**Location:** 2500 Mowry Ave. Fremont



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