

Woodard Family Foundation jump starts Swing Bed Program

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore. - A lead gift of \$50,000 from the Woodard Family Foundation has jump started fundraising efforts for the Swing Bed Program at PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center.

The Swing Bed Program allows for PeaceHealth patients from Cottage Grove and the surrounding area to recover and rehabilitate close to home following hospitalization at another facility, such as PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend.

Patients who are recovering from stroke, cardiac care, orthopedic care or other significant injury or illness can recuperate closer to their homes in the Cottage Grove area rather than remain in hospitals elsewhere.

Swing Bed Program patients are provided skilled nursing care, physical therapy, nutritional counseling, social work support, occupational therapy, speech therapy and spiritual care.

"While serving as the first board president of Cottage Grove Hospital in 1952, my grandfather created the W.A. Woodard Foundation with a commitment to this community and geographic region," said foundation president Casey Woodard. "Later renamed the Woodard Family Foundation, with continued family involvement and strategic grantmaking the foundation remains committed to his vision of supporting and sustaining local healthcare."

The lead gift is part of a \$100,000 fundraising effort to expand and add new specialized equipment for the Swing Bed Program. Items include:

Durable Medical Equipment: Tilt-in-space wheelchairs, new recliners conducive to rehab, single-point and quad canes, specialized ADA shower equipment, aerobic stairs and therapy gloves.

Assessment Tools: Fiber-optic endoscope, occupational performance tool, cognitive level screening, behavioral memory test, oral memory strengthening device and neurological assessment battery.

Daily Living Activity Therapy Tools: Washer, dryer, tremor gloves, cookware, driving simulator and personal care devices.

Motor Function Support: Movement tracking therapy with balance equipment, musical instruments, art supplies, an indoor golf set, tablets and multisensory items for dementia patients.

Capital improvements: Renovations of occupational therapy simulation space.

Swing Bed Program pa-

tients make up the majority of PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center's inpatients, who stay in hospital care from one week up to three months. A total of 259 patients have been treated in the Swing Bed Program since its inception in 2017.

"We are excited to partner with donors and invest in our Swing Bed Program and patients," said Alicia Beymer, chief administrative officer of Cottage Grove Community Medical Center. "This lead gift from the Woodard Family Foundation is another important milestone in our partnership, and we appreciate the tremendous impact they have made on healthcare in our region."

To inquire about the Swing Bed Program fundraising campaign, contact Erika Swanson with the PeaceHealth Foundation at 541-222-7100 or eswan-son2@peacehealth.org.

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Lane County experiences 'historic' low blood supply

EUGENE, Ore. - Lane County "a historic and dangerously low supply of blood," according to Bloodworks NW and Lane County Public Health.

The entities are partnering to ask communities across Lane County to come together - and give blood.

"A low supply of available blood is truly a destabilizing factor for community health," said Dr. Patrick Luedtke, Lane County Senior Health Officer. "Many are not aware that an adequate blood supply is not only necessary to respond to traumatic accidents, but is also a life-saving measure for everything from routine surgeries to some types of cancer treatment. Now is

the time to help by donating blood."

The county stated than an area with the population of Lane typically requires nearly 1,000 donors per day to meet demand, but since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of donors has been considerably less and the overall blood supply has reached a dangerously low level as a result.

The county and blood bank have a goal of adding 10,000 new blood donors by the end of the year.

First time and frequent blood donors are urged to participate in a statewide virtual blood drive through Dec. 31. To participate, use the code "Hope" at an appointment check-in to have

a donation counted towards the drive.

To qualify, donors should be at least 18, at least 110 pounds and in good health.

"It is our hope that we will be able to engage our community to both understand the importance of blood donation in community readiness and to recognize and celebrate the incredible efforts of emergency management professionals," said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. "Hospitals need donors to donate throughout the winter season - and to make it a life-saving habit."

Information about who can donate and where is available at www.bloodworksnw.org.

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