The Impact of Your Giving

The Dart Foundation Clinical Simulation Lab was established in 2018 at WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital. Simulation education embraces the "learning-by-doing" theory of education. While it is imperative to have the academic and scientific knowledge that comes from a traditional classroom, nothing compares to having the opportunity to actually perform a procedure or run through a scenario in a controlled environment on a simulated human patient before working with a live patient.

When used in conjunction with classroom instruction and clinical experiences, care providers trained in simulation labs are more efficient, more confident and better analytical thinkers. These hands-on trainings also lead to improved patient outcomes and higher rates of treatment success. Clinical simulations reinforce knowledge, improve teamwork and communication and streamline processes.

Generous donations to create the Dart Foundation Clinical Simulation Lab will impact medical training and improve patient care well into the future.

ON THE COVER: Volunteers raised nearly $6,000 for WellSpan Ephrata Cancer Patient Help Fund at the Red Run Campground Benefit Auction and Craft Fair.
A cancer diagnosis often brings financial challenges. Patients miss work— and paychecks. Some lose their jobs and insurance. Others face financial challenges due to the high cost of co-pays or medication.

The Ephrata Cancer Patient Help Fund was established for patients dealing with the financial consequences of cancer. The fund provides immediate, temporary financial support. Patients receive help paying for basic living expenses such as rent, utilities, groceries and transportation costs for medical appointments. The goal is to serve as a bridge during a difficult time so patients can focus on healing.

Nurses spend their lives caring for others. But at WellSpan, we believe it’s just as important that we care for them. That’s why in 2019, Ephrata Community Health Foundation started the Nursing Education Fund. The fund supports educational opportunities for nurses and nurse managers across the health system so they can continue providing excellent care to our patients and community.

The fund has:

• Sent 14 staff members to the Pathways Conference, which supports nursing excellence.
• Provided two nurses the opportunity to go to an emergency nurses conference to learn the latest in emergency care.
• Sent a wound nurse to a wound ostomy conference to learn about wound care techniques.
• Provided funds for an operating room assistant to go to a da Vinci Coordinator Course to learn more about robotic surgery equipment.
• Sent two nurses to a National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses Congress to learn from industry experts.

Tara Smolar is one of the nurses who attended the Pathways to Excellence Conference. She says, “I am so thankful to donors who support the Nursing Education Fund. The conference was truly an amazing and educational experience. I felt so refreshed, motivated and empowered in my career as a registered nurse!”

In Fiscal Year 2019, patients in our community received support to relieve their financial burdens so they could focus on beating cancer.

One Patient’s Story
When Tammy Wolfe of Ephrata was diagnosed with cancer, she received treatment at WellSpan Ephrata Cancer Center and was grateful to receive top-notch care so close to home.

Eventually, her pain and treatments caused her to cut back on her work. The bills started piling up. A social worker at the cancer center connected Tammy with the Cancer Patient Help Fund. “The fund has been a huge help to me,” says Tammy. “They paid my propane bill and gave me a grocery gift card. When you live paycheck to paycheck, this kind of support is amazing. It touched my heart so much it made me cry.”

You are important to Ephrata Community Health Foundation!

This past year, your generosity helped support:

• **Community benefit.** Because of you, patients with cancer who are facing financial hardship received help paying vital expenses.
• **Innovation and education.** Thanks to you, WellSpan nurses furthered their education and advanced their skills through nursing education programs.
• **Clinical excellence.** Because of you, medical professionals honed their skills in a clinical simulation lab to improve patient care.

Your donations make a difference. This report provides examples of just a few of the countless ways you are helping advance health and wellness in our region.
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In Fiscal Year 2019, 37 patients in our community received $28,000 of support to relieve their financial burdens so they could focus on beating cancer.

One Patient’s Story

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Innovation and Education
Nurses Further Education and Enhance Skills to Improve Patient Care

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Clinical Excellence
Clinical Simulation Lab Uses Leading Edge Simulation Technology to Enhance Clinical Training and Patient Care

Clinical Simulation Lab: Hands-On Learning Enhances Clinical Training and Patient Care

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“The simulation lab means I can do the best I possibly can with skills and procedures. Thank you for giving!”

– Simulation Lab Trainee