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# Partnered for a Common Cause: Confluence Health and Wenatchee Valley Medical Group Announce Recipients of Annual Community Partnership Fund Grants

**North Central Washington:** Confluence Health and the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group announced today that this year's recipients of the annual Community Partnership Fund grants had been selected. In total, 147 different foundations, groups, organizations, or causes stretching across Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties received a combined total of just over \$500,000 to help in their work to improve and support the region.

As <u>previously announced</u>, community causes and organization had been encouraged to submit their qualifying requests for a grant starting at the beginning of June. The grant is funded jointly by Confluence Health and the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group, the largest physician group affiliated with Confluence Health, and is administered by the Community Foundation of North Central Washington. Created to help support causes and organizations in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties, the fund aims to award up to \$500,000 each year in grants that focus on health and wellness, education, or arts and culture. In particular, the fund looks to award grants that have a significant benefit to the community or that drive local, positive economic impact. For those grants that promote education, a special focus is also given to applications for events that target math and science education.

"We were so pleased to see such incredible interest and support for these grants this year, with such outstanding applications for so many worthy causes," explained Dr. Andrew Jones, CEO of Confluence Health. "In fact, the number of requests has tripled over the past two years, a true testament to how much good this investment in our region can really do. With our mission of being local care by and for our community, we are so proud each year to invest in such phenomenal community causes that do so much to make our corner of Washington State so special."

Award recipients were represented by a wide range of causes from education to healthcare, art to community engagement. The causes were also spread across all four counties, with each county represented multiple times and several requests that aimed to work across all four. Each group was notified in the past few weeks of their selection.

One recipient of a grant this year was the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation. Founded in 2000 as the Moses Lake Cancer Foundation, the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation focuses on providing services and support for cancer patients in both Grant and Adams County. In 2018, the Confluence Health Foundation and Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation began partnering on the Your Local Cancer Care campaign. Ultimately, this fundraising, coupled with state grants and additional funding from Confluence Health, led to the opening of the new Moses Lake Radiation Oncology Center in October 2023.

In their grant application, the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation requested support for their fuel program that helps patients with cancer get to their out-of-town treatments, funding for a food program feeding clients and their families going through cancer care, and other programs, such as a support group, fresh produce pick-up, and phone calls of encouragement. One of many similar worthy causes from other community groups, the grant will help to further their work to support patients and their families in the Columbia Basin.

"This is just one example of many showing the tremendous impact that our partnership with Confluence Health in this fund has on the excellent community causes working each day to better our region," concluded Dr. Jennifer Jorgensen,

president of the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group. "We requested creative and excellent causes across North Central Washington to apply and were so pleased to see so many answer the call. We are so thankful to be able to come together to provide these grants to such deserving community-focused causes."

### **About Confluence Health**

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence Health is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

## **About the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group**

Wenatchee Valley Medical Group serves North Central Washington as the largest physician group affiliated with Confluence Health. Its history began with the founding of the Wenatchee Valley Clinic (WVC) by three physicians in the 1940s, born from a vision of bringing high-quality, multispecialty, integrated healthcare to the Wenatchee Valley. Over the next 70 years, WVC grew to become Wenatchee Valley Medical Center (WVMC) a large healthcare system that provided care across its four-county region and included 300 physicians in roughly 50 primary care and specialty disciplines. In 2013, WVMC and Central Washington Hospital affiliated to form Confluence Health with the vision to continue to provide high level, comprehensive care locally.

## **About the Community Foundation of North Central Washington**

The Community Foundation of North Central Washington is a tax-exempt philanthropic organization that helps individuals, families, businesses, and agencies support charitable causes throughout North Central Washington. Its mission is to grow, protect, and connect charitable gifts in support of strong communities throughout Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties. Established in 1986, the Community Foundation manages \$130 million in assets through 600+ individual funds and has awarded over \$55 million in grants and scholarships.

### For More Information

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