

Be a CHAMP for Children's Health in Yakima!

Part of our role in the community is to listen and take action when our community requires a change in healthcare services. A few years ago, local leaders, employees, and community members approached us with concerns over the growing demand for children's health services, specifically at Children's Village and the Family Birthplace. Since then, we've been assessing the need, impact, and future growth a capital campaign could have on Children's Village, the Family Birthplace, and our community. Through this, we've discovered that over the past ten years, the number of children seeking services at Children's Village has more than doubled to over 9,500 per year. Our local Family Birthplace was last updated in 1993 (nearly thirty years ago!) and has been

the site of over 70,000 births. Specialty services for children are projected to grow 52 percent over the next five years, meaning many families will have to travel to find care if it's not offered in our community. This led us to start the Children's Health and Medical Program Campaign (CHAMPs).

Since 2020 we have raised nearly \$9 million through local support, grants, and other funding initiatives. Thanks to our amazing, compassionate supporters, we are only \$6 million away from reaching the campaign's goal. We still need your help to get there! Get involved or donate today. Thank you to everyone who has supported the CHAMPs campaign; we are so excited to be nearing our financial goal!



Get involved or donate today!

champscampaign.org



A Heartwarming Story from a Hospice Employee

"As a hospital hospice social worker liaison, I have been able to consult with patients about their care goals and hospice, which has helped prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and assisted patients with timely transitions to hospice. I recently had the privilege of working with a mother of 10 children with a terminal diagnosis. I helped her complete an advanced directive and power of attorney and helped support her emotionally as she processed her impending death. We talked through her options, I helped get her adult children involved, and offered support in her decision to transition to hospice care at Cottage in the Meadow. I coordinated with the chaplain to support her spiritually, and she was able to see a Catholic Priest for her last rights, bringing great comfort to her and her family. Alongside her social worker, I assisted her young adult children in finding the legal resources to support them with custody matters related to the seven minor children. This family had a huge burden to shoulder, and I am so grateful to have been able to help nurse their mother through her peaceful transition and guide them to the resources that helped them stay together."

Our COVID Test Sites are Moving

Spread the word... both of Yakima Valley Memorial's COVID test sites have moved to a single new location in the parking lot of the former Orthopedics Northwest building off 16th Avenue. The Yakima Valley College community test site and the employee/patient pre-op test site on the hospital campus are now located at **1211 N. 16th Ave**. The consolidation of these two test sites ensures we will consistently have enough staff on hand to serve the testing needs of our employees, our pre-op patients, and our community.



Donor Milk Program is Liquid Gold

Last year, your support helped the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Yakima Valley Memorial launch its Donor Breast Milk Program. For our sick and convalescing infants requiring expert NICU care, optimal nutrition is critical. Mother's milk is always considered the best basis of nutrition, with the balance of macronutrients for optimal brain and eye development, proteins from the mother's immune system that help protect the baby from infections, and components that help protect a premature infant's gut from a unique type of injury called necrotizing enterocolitis that can be life-threatening.

However, it's not always available, making donor breast milk an essential resource for these vulnerable babies. Donor breast milk is expensive and has historically only been available in resource-rich settings such as metropolitan areas, larger healthcare organizations, and children's hospitals. Because of the generous donations from our community, your contributions helped give the NICU a \$50,000 grant to start our Donor Breast Milk program so that our most vulnerable patients have the best start possible. This grant represents the community's commitment to the children of our valley, the long-term health of the community at large, and the equitable distribution of resources to some of our most vulnerable. Thank you for your continuous support, giving vulnerable preemie babies an extra boost toward a healthy life!

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Friday at North Star Lodge

Kudos to the team at North Star Lodge - they know how challenging it can be for patients dealing with complicated healthcare treatment after a cancer diagnosis. Patients often run into transportation issues and an inability to do their shopping or gardening. With the help of Fruit City in Union Gap, Borton Fruit, and Tree Top, North Star Lodge employees set up a produce stand every Friday last summer, giving patients access to fresh fruits and vegetables. North Star Lodge hopes to offer this program again during next year's harvest. If you know of a business that would like to donate fresh fruit or vegetables next year, please contact Nicole Williams at NicoleWilliams@yvmh.org.

A Gift that Echoes Across the Valley

Your gift to the Memorial Foundation affects countless lives and future generations. A healthier today is a happier tomorrow. Please consider Memorial Foundation as part of your legacy. For information on including the Memorial Foundation in your will, visit our website:

memfound.org/get-involved/ways-to-give



Mission Sponsor

Thank you to Gesa Credit Union, Mission Partner of The Memorial Foundation. Gesa's partnership helps fund each of the Foundation's four initiatives: Children's Health, Healthy Yakima, Cancer Care, and Compass Care. Through their support, Gesa directly impacts areas of well-being across the entire lifespan, from birth through end-of-life care.

