



Investing In Our Health

In the moment when a health crisis leaves life in the balance, there's no overestimating the value of quality health care.

Just ask Ellensburg's Robert Gregerich. The moment when his life hung in the balance came this past summer.

By the time he saw his doctor on August 4, the 68-year-old hay farmer had been suffering for a week from what he thought were symptoms of stomach flu. Gregerich was immediately admitted to Kittitas Valley Community Hospital for tests and treatment.

Two days later, Gregerich was feeling better and demanding to go home. Doctors reluctantly released him. By late that night, he was in trouble. Gregerich's wife Keri was away camping, so a relative rushed him to KVCH where doctors determined that a mass in his abdominal area had ruptured and infection was setting in. After surgery Gregerich was moved to intensive care in critical condition.

"He had 17 lines attached to him, not counting the ventilator," Keri says. "He was on the brink of death. At one point his blood pressure went down into the 40s."

For two days Dr. William Waltner, a KVCH hospitalist, worked around-the-clock to save Gregerich. When worried family members suggested Gregerich should be moved to a bigger hospital, Keri refused. Waltner had won her confidence.

"He's not afraid to consult. He was on the phone talking to doctors at Virginia Mason to make sure he wasn't missing anything. Any time they were doing something he would explain what they were doing and why. He kept the family in the loop," a grateful Keri says now. "He literally saved Bob's life."

High quality patient care is the heart of KVCH and its mission. Eight awards recently presented to KVCH by the Rural Healthcare Quality Network highlight the quality of care provided at KVCH. And KVCH was just named one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the country. But you don't need to tell Robert Gregerich and his family – they've already seen it in action.

Support through the Foundation's annual appeal assists KVCH in continuing to provide excellent patient and family-centered care. Your gift is an investment in the future health of our community.



Annual Appeal 2011

Dear Donor,

It is comforting to know that if you or your family needs medical treatment, exceptional medical care is available right here in our community. You can help ensure that excellent care with a tax-deductible gift to The Foundation at Kittitas Valley Community Hospital.

Your contribution is more than a charitable donation; it is an investment in the future health of Kittitas County.

Through the tremendous support of the community and a dedicated staff, KVCH has become a recognized healthcare leader, winning eight quality awards this year alone. And in late September KVCH was named one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the country by the National Rural Health Association.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift to The Foundation to assist KVCH in providing high quality patient and family-centered care to our friends and family right here in the community.

Where does your donation go? All funds raised will directly support the purchase of medical equipment and to fund essential KVCH programs.

You can choose to give to the unrestricted fund so dollars can be used where they are most needed, or you can choose to support a particular program or department of your choice.

Though you can donate anytime, we only send one mailing a year. We hope you choose to support The Foundation at KVCH. Every gift makes a difference. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Connie Dunnington
President, Board of Directors
The Foundation at KVCH