



LAKE CHELAN
HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH *in motion*

Moving Healthcare Forward

Fall 2022



Lake Chelan Health and Wellness Foundation presented a check for \$2 million dollars to the hospital fulfilling their commitment to the new hospital project.

**OPENING 6am
December 5, 2022**

CEO Aaron Edwards, cuts the ribbon at the **NEW Lake Chelan Health** facility on October 15, 2022.

The critical-care access hospital includes nine private ER rooms, 12 state-of-the art patient rooms, including four multipurpose labor and delivery rooms, and two expanded operating suites.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



Board and Staff (left to right): Mary Murphy, Board Chair; Mary Signorelli, Board Member; Lori Withrow, Board Member; Jordana LaPorte, Board Vice-Chair; (not pictured Jeremy Jaech, Board Secretary); Aaron Edwards, CEO; Shawn Ottley, CNO/COO; Brant Truman, CFO; Ken Peters, Director of Facilities; Joe Thompson, Materials Manager; Rihanna Montgomery, Director of Nursing; Agustin Benegas, Communications Manager



Master of Ceremonies: Mike Steele, 12th District State Representative and Lake Chelan Health and Wellness Foundation Past President.



Flag Ceremony: Clyde McCullough, Commander for American Legion Post 108 handing CEO Aaron Edwards a flag flown over the state capital that was placed on the flag pole at the new hospital site.



Flag Ceremony: Craig Pittson and Ed Holst, Legion members, help raise the flag.



NEW Operating Room Suite.

FROM OUR CEO



Greetings!

Please join me in thanking all staff, volunteers, and sponsors who made the Lake Chelan Health hospital ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, October 15, 2022, such a success.

What an amazing day it was! It was outstanding to see our community come out in full force to celebrate. Staff was encouraged by all your positive comments, smiles, and excitement for what the new hospital will bring to local healthcare. Most importantly, thank you for your support and entrusting us with your care. Staff is committed to being the best stewards possible of your new facility, and they look forward to serving you when you need us.

In the weeks after the ribbon-cutting, staff spent a lot of time training on their new equipment and spaces, preparing to care for patients in the new building. On October 20, Healthcare Specialty Movers poured through the doors of our old facility with specialized packing carts and containers. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of planning and preparation to successfully move a hospital!

The new Lake Chelan Hospital—located near Walmart and our healthcare partner Columbia Valley Community Health—will be open 24 hours a day for hospital services, including round-the-clock emergency room care.

We are excited to open the hospital at 6am on December 5, 2022. Until it opens, care continues uninterrupted at the old Lake Chelan Health building.

You may be wondering what will happen with the old building. It will become an extension of Lake Chelan Health and will now be referred to as our Highland Campus. Over the next couple months and into the new year, services and offices now spread out across the community will be consolidated there for your convenience. Our business office and accounting personnel from the two-story portable, west of the old hospital, will move into the Highland building first. Next, we will relocate our Primary Care, Express Care Walk-in, and Specialty Care clinics from our downtown location up to the second floor of the Highland building. EMS, Human Resources, and various administrative personnel will remain where they already are at the Highland Campus. Our goal is to be completely settled in the Highland Campus by the end of March 2023.

Again, thank you for your support and trust in us. We are committed to being your lifelong partner in health!

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Edwards, MHPA, CEO
Lake Chelan Health

"Because Healthcare is a Community Good": Former Lake Chelan Health Pharmacist Gives Back

If you're fortunate to have the opportunity to chat with Christy Nielsen one day, ask her what she's passionate about.

The former Lake Chelan Health pharmacist might tell you about her photography—a longtime hobby that's become more consuming since she retired last December. She might show you her nature journal, which combines her written reflections about the Pacific Northwest outdoors she loves so much with her beginner sketches and watercoloring. Perhaps she'll talk about her recent adventures to Wyoming and Montana in her camper van, which she gave herself as a retirement gift.

Or maybe she'll share her enthusiasm for the new Lake Chelan Hospital, slated to start taking new patients in November.

"I believe quality healthcare close to home should be available to everyone," Nielsen said. "The new facility will serve all of us well—now and for many decades into the future."

As LCH pharmacist from 2005 to 2021, she knew firsthand the limitations of the current facility. "It could no longer meet the needs of the community or provide modern healthcare," Nielsen said. "It was designed in the 1960s and built in the early '70s—on a challenging slope, nonetheless. The infrastructure couldn't be updated, and parking couldn't be expanded. It was time for a fresh start."

Nielsen also loves Chelan, and she wanted to help ensure that Chelan's people would be taken care of. "Healthcare is a community good," she said. "I'm for things that are good for the community. It's about other people. It's about everyone."

Nielsen volunteered on the new hospital committee in 2016 and 2017. She attended local meetings and provided factual information for community members with questions or misunderstandings about the initiative. When hospital district residents voted to approve the bond for the new facility in April 2017, Nielsen celebrated. "It was a joyful outcome," she said.

Nielsen grew up in Omak and was working at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane before joining LCH. As an area native and a healthcare professional both, Nielsen understands how crucial it is for people in smaller



Christy Nielsen (standing left) attended the Lake Chelan Health and Wellness Foundation with her sister Lane Sawyer. Foundation members (sitting front) Judy Steele, Ed Brownfield-Nelson, Linda Parker

communities like Chelan to have quality healthcare nearby. So when her parents, Hawley and Laura Wooschlager, who now live in Wenatchee, asked Nielsen and her two siblings to each select a nonprofit to be the beneficiary of a \$10,000 gift from the family, Nielsen chose the Lake Chelan Health & Wellness Foundation.

Nielsen appreciates the Foundation's role in meeting the capital needs of the hospital. She's also a big believer in the Foundation's support of LCH employee education, through tuition reimbursement and monetary support for continuing education programs.

"I love school," she said. "I believe a woman's greatest asset is an education." She herself earned several degrees and certifications during her career, including a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1979 and later, when her daughter was about to graduate from high school, in 2001, her Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Throughout her tenure at LCH, Nielsen made regular contributions to the Foundation through paycheck deductions. She has also included the Foundation as a beneficiary in her will. While she's happy to be retired, Nielsen is grateful she had such a wonderful career at LCH. Her gifts to the Foundation are also in appreciation of that.

GUILD B MEMBERS - PAINT THE TOWN PINK



In recognition of breast cancer awareness month Guild B members presented Paint the Town Pink. Only 100 tickets were available and quickly sold out for the luncheon event held on October 3, 2022, at Sorrento's Ristorante.

Guild B members held the event to raise funds to support Lake Chelan Health's Mammography department in purchasing a special chair that will be used to assist patients during their annual breast exams. Between the ticket sales, community business contributors, table sponsors, dessert dash and the wine pull, the Guild was able to raise over \$15,000 far exceeding their expectations. The dessert dash alone raised \$6,700. It was a sweet treat to be able to purchase the Vela Mammography chair for the hospital.





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Guild Y

Guild Y was formed in 1965 by a group of women who wanted to support the local hospital. The group has capped their membership at 20, and that includes two charter members that are still involved.

The Guild membership shared the goal of raising money to buy things for the hospital – and they have certainly done that through luncheon fashion shows, selling See's Candies, selling Mother's Day flowers and Christmas wreaths, and most recently selling 253 engraved bricks at a price of \$100 each for the patio outside the new cafeteria. People have bought the bricks to remember deceased spouses, parents and other past and present pioneers of the valley.

"This group has done a lot over the years, but just as important, has been the bond and support that we've created for each other," says Vicki Carr, publicity officer and chairman of the brick drive. "We also campaigned and encouraged people to get out to vote for this hospital. It's nice to finally see it happen."



Lake Chelan Health joins more than 600 hospitals nationwide including 33 in Washington State to receive DNV accreditation. For more information about DNV GL hospital accreditation visit dnvglcert.com/healthcare.

Copia en español disponible en
LakeChelanHealth.org

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**WE ARE
SEEING
NEW PATIENTS!**



Establish care with
Charles Waszkewitz, MD

Dr. Waszkewitz is a board-certified family physician who has practiced in the Lake Chelan Valley since 1987.

Call 509-682-8511

219 East Johnson Avenue Chelan, WA

www.lakechelanhealth.org

Primary Care

With the fast-growing Lake Chelan Valley community, we recognized the need for more primary care services.

Doctor Charles Waszkewitz is a board-certified family physician who has practiced in the Lake Chelan Valley since 1987. He has returned to the Lake Chelan Health clinic, currently at 219 East Johnson Avenue in downtown Chelan, to help open primary care services.

Doctor Waszkewitz is seeing previous patients and new patients in the clinic on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 8am-5pm.