

ONWARD



MARCH 2016

A publication for friends and supporters of Oregon Health & Science University



More than **A PLACE TO SLEEP**

The new OHSU Guest
House will create a
community of support

Welcome to **ONWARD**

Welcome to the March edition of **ONWARD**, a magazine for OHSU and OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital donors. In this issue you can read about how the new OHSU Guest House will provide out-of-town families with much more than a place to stay, discover what makes philanthropist John Wold tick and learn what economists predict will be the statewide economic impact of the Knight Cancer Challenge.

Thank you for your continued support. Your generosity allows us to continue taking on the toughest questions and biggest challenges.



L. Keith Todd
President, OHSU & Doernbecher Foundations

What can **ONE BILLION+** **DOLLARS** do for Oregon's economy?

The success of the Knight Cancer Challenge in 2015 is not only fueling cancer research, it is also expected to boost Oregon's economy. A 2014 analysis by ECONorthwest predicts that the billion-dollar investment in the Knight Cancer Institute will add thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue.

Two-year impact during construction of new research and patient care buildings

- // **\$892 million** in total economic output, including \$393 million in personal income
- // **6,835 jobs**, including 3,605 directly created jobs
- // **\$35.3 million** in tax revenue, including \$21.3 million in state income tax and \$14 million in local property tax

For more detail, go to www.onwardohsu.org/economy

Ongoing annual impact once fully operational

- // **\$134 million** in total economic output, including \$62.1 million in personal income
- // **860 total jobs**, including 384 new Knight Cancer Institute employees
- // **\$5.6 million** in tax revenue, including \$3.4 million state income tax and \$2.2 million in local property tax

The billion-dollar investment has also helped inspire financial institutions like Standard and Poor's Ratings Services and Moody's Investors Service to upgrade the university's credit rating. In less than five years, OHSU's Standard and Poor's rating increased by four notches, from BBB+ to AA-. Its Moody's rating outlook improved from A1 Stable to A1 Positive. The ratings increase is testament to the strength of OHSU's faculty, our support in Oregon, strong financial performance across the university and especially philanthropic support. These ratings are important factors in determining OHSU's future cost of debt, which in turn influences its ability to grow.

HOME BASE FOR HEALING

The new OHSU Guest House will provide not only a place to sleep, but also a community of support for out-of-town patients and their families and caregivers.

Tom Barber does not get sick. So in 2013 when he complained of severe rib pain and fatigue, his wife Lori was worried.

"I knew it was serious when Tom agreed to miss work to go to the doctor. He had not taken a sick day in 17 years," said Lori.

That visit led to a diagnosis of multiple myeloma, a type of cancer that begins in the bone marrow plasma cells. He started treatment close to home, in Redmond, Ore.; but soon his doctors decided he needed a bone marrow transplant at OHSU. The Barbers were glad to have this life-saving option — but knew it would turn their lives upside down.

The typical autologous bone marrow transplant process (the kind where the patient uses his own bone marrow) requires about a month in the hospital and then up to four weeks in Portland for specialized follow-up care. Transplant patients also require a full-time caregiver. For the Barbers, the transplant meant that Tom and Lori had to temporarily leave their jobs, find a long-term place to stay near OHSU Hospital and leave their youngest son to finish out his senior year in high school on his own.

It has been a difficult time, but mostly the Barbers are grateful for what has gone right. They were lucky to find a room available at a small B&B within easy walking distance from OHSU Hospital. While there, they met another couple who happened to be going through the exact same experience.

"The best part about staying at the Marquam Hill Inn was that we met Dennis and Carolyn Olsen," said Tom. >>>>

On the cover: Doernbecher patient Shelby Grace Hansen settles in at Ronald McDonald House with her parents Leianna and Ray Hansen. Near right: Tom and Lori Barber enjoy lunch in Bend with Carolyn and Dennis Olsen.





Tom and Lori Barber

The Barbers received plenty of family and community support back home, but they soon learned the importance of finding people who understood what they were going through.

“When a loved one is going through a serious illness, it’s very isolating. It feels like other people don’t get it. Spending time with Dennis and Carolyn cut through the isolation,” said Lori. “We didn’t need to explain anything to them.”

Like the Barbers, the Olsens found great comfort in the new friendship.

“We were not mentally prepared for what I was about to go through. Tom was farther along in the process and they were able to tell us what to expect — and put up with our inquisitiveness,” said Carolyn.

Creating the right conditions for connection

The Barbers and the Olsens met by chance. Unlike OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital families, who can meet and bond at one of two houses operated by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington, there is currently no central housing location for OHSU’s adult patients and families. But that is about to change. OHSU is building a new five-story guest house on Portland’s South Waterfront that will not only take away the stress of finding a place to stay, but also provide a spacious home base for a new community of healing.

Two floors and 38 rooms of the new OHSU Guest House will accommodate Doernbecher families. Two floors and 38 rooms will house families and caregivers of adult patients like the Olsens and the Barbers. One floor will be dedicated to community activities and include amenities such as a fitness room, outdoor terrace, teen room and a communal kitchen.



Clockwise from left: Lisa Anderson and her daughter Lischelle Shiptom share stories with Stacey Ekparian and her daughter Karrah Petty over dinner at Ronald McDonald House. Both girls are in treatment at Doernbecher for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Each residential floor will include a careful balance of private areas and public spaces that will encourage families to talk informally, share activities and support one another.

“When your loved one is sick, you need more than a place to sleep. You need a solid community of support,” said Jessica Jarratt Miller, Ronald McDonald House’s chief executive officer.

Ronald McDonald House Charities and OHSU have forged an exciting new partnership through which Ronald McDonald House will continue to provide a full range of services to Doernbecher families at the new location, and oversee operational aspects of the floors devoted to adults. OHSU will raise \$40 million in philanthropic funding to build the facility and Ronald McDonald House Charities will take on the cost of providing programs and guest room furnishings for the two pediatric patient floors.

“A long-term illness is hard on everyone. We do everything we can to take as much stress off the family as possible,” said Jodi A. Coombs, R.N., M.B.A., vice president, Women’s & Children’s Services, OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and board member for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington.



Help for everyone

Currently a patient navigator from the American Cancer Society helps oncology patient families find local lodging through donated hotel rooms – but the demand is always greater than the supply. Adult patients traveling to OHSU for non-cancer services, such as advanced cardiology care, tend to rely on their networks of friends and family to find long-term housing. With the new guest house, OHSU will be able to establish a centralized system for helping everyone who needs a place to stay.

“Having family around can be reassuring during a frightening time. It helps to have people who know you nearby, those you feel safest with,” said Susan Hedlund, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., manager of patient and family support services at the Knight Cancer Institute. “And it goes beyond family members. We are designing the guest house to facilitate natural helping networks – communities that arise spontaneously in crisis.”

The OHSU Guest House will complement the Knight Cancer Institute’s current array of services for patients and their families, including yoga, mindfulness training, group therapy, acupuncture and pain management. >>>>

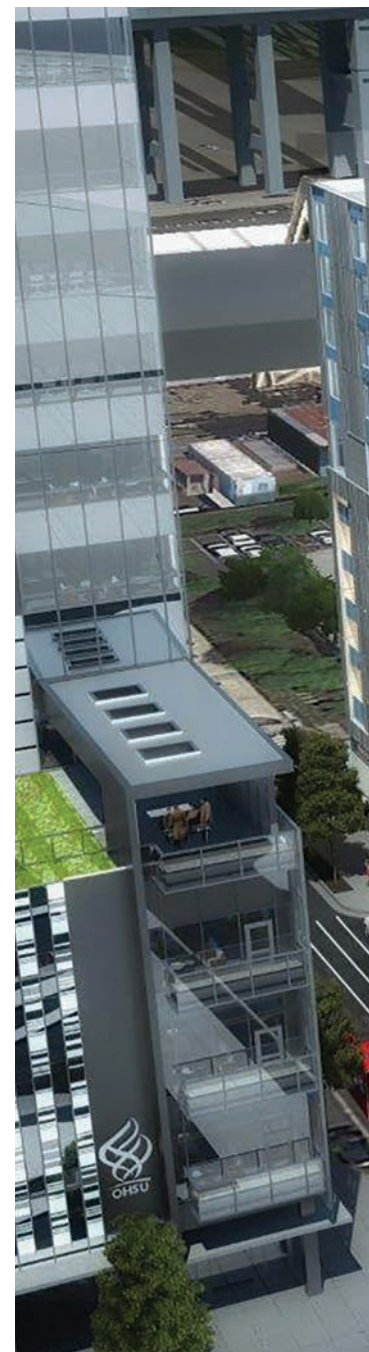
Robert Bower grew up on a farm just west of Eugene. In 1942, when Robert was 12, he developed a bone infection that his local doctor did not have the expertise to treat, which meant a trip to Doernbecher. “I was up there for three months. It was the first time I had ever been away from home. My parents had to go back to Eugene right away, and they weren’t able to visit all that often because of gas rationing. I remember feeling pretty lonely and distraught. There was no family housing back then.” Robert went on to a 50-year career in the floral industry and is now a loyal Doernbecher supporter.



Shelby and her dad Ray Hansen find various ways to have fun in between hospital appointments. The Hansen family had been away from home (Grants Pass, Ore.) for two months when this photo was taken.



Eileen and Mike Amaranthus



Several good things going on at once

Mike Amaranthus is an esophageal cancer survivor. He and his wife traveled from Grants Pass, Ore. to OHSU for treatment. His experience gave him a new understanding of why patient family housing is important.

“One of the things you learn when you go through cancer is that you spend a lot of time in doctor’s offices. The days are long and stressful. We met a lot of people in those treatment rooms. And often they didn’t know where they were going to stay that night, or they were facing a long drive home,” said

Mike.

Mike and his wife Eileen recently pledged \$250,000 to the OHSU Guest House, recognizing that the fight against cancer is about more than finding new treatments — it’s about supporting families every step of the way.

“It’s about innovative medicine, great care, bringing the family together and managing stress. The best outcomes occur when there are several good things going on at once. We’re happy to do our little part,” said Mike.

To find out how you can do your part to build the OHSU Guest House, call 503-228-1730 or visit onwardohsu.org.



Room to grow

Doernbecher anticipates that more families will arrive from afar now that its new intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging suite has opened. The iMRI allows neurosurgeons to take detailed pictures of the brain while they are performing surgery, ensuring better outcomes for young patients. Doernbecher is one of only two pediatric hospitals in the Western U.S. offering this service.

As the Knight Cancer Institute launches more clinical trials, they expect many more patients to arrive from out of town for the chance to try experimental treatments. The OHSU Guest House will be located directly across the street from another new building planned for completion in 2018: the Center for Health and Healing South, which will include patient care and research space for the Knight Cancer Institute.

Above: The OHSU Guest House is scheduled to open in 2018 on Portland's South Waterfront, close to the OHSU tram. The five-story facility sits atop a parking garage and will feature an extensive outdoor play area and garden. This architect's rendering reflects the design as of February 1, 2016.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT // John S. Wold // OHSU Casey Eye Institute

Fiercely curious and driven by discovery, John S. Wold is a politician, a businessman, an entrepreneur, a geologist and a philanthropist. But most important, Wold is an innovator.

He patented a design for underwater swimming goggles in World War II. He was the first professional geologist to ever serve in the United States Congress. He founded his own company and directed several energy ventures in the Rocky Mountain region. He and his late wife, Jane, have been recognized by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* as some of America's most generous donors for their contributions to education and research. And now his generous philanthropy will benefit the groundbreaking research taking place at OHSU's Casey Eye Institute.

"My father was a physicist and the chairman of sciences at Union College in Schenectady, New York. It was that upbringing that launched me off into all these crazy practical ideas I've come up with," said Wold.

This year, Wold will turn 100. His age has not stifled his ambitions or routines. He still puts on a suit and goes into his office every day. But now, because of vision loss from age-related macular degeneration (AMD), his secretary picks him up and drives him there.

AMD is the leading cause of severe vision loss in adults over 50. It affects 1.8 million Americans, with another 7.3 million at risk of developing the disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. AMD occurs when there are changes to the macula, a small portion of the retina responsible for sharp and central vision. There are two forms of AMD— wet and dry. Though treatment can slow the progression of wet AMD, there is no known treatment for dry AMD — and no cure. Wold suffers from dry AMD.

A century-old scientific problem with no solution does not sit well with Wold. "It's so frustrating that we discovered this disease 100 years ago, and we're still fighting it!" he said.

That is why he is using philanthropy to advance research for AMD. His \$5 million donation to Casey Eye Institute will establish the John S. Wold Macular Degeneration Laboratory. This lab will enable collaborative, multidisciplinary research into macular degeneration genomics and cell therapy, and will serve as a site for clinical trials to translate lab insights into patient treatments.

"As a long-time sufferer of macular degeneration, I know well the devastating effect the disease can have on a person's life," Wold



Wold relaxes at the Arlington Club during a recent visit to Portland

said. "I am hopeful that my gift will help make advances possible in the research programs working to find a cure to this very debilitating disease."

Though Wold lives in Casper, Wyo., he chose to give to OHSU because of his historical ties to Oregon — his father and five aunts all grew up across the street from the University of Oregon and received their degrees there. His daughter Priscilla Wold Longfield is also a long-time Portland resident, and she encouraged him to check out Casey.

"I think Casey will be at the forefront in creating a treatment that will prevent vision loss resulting from macular degeneration. I like to think about how that cure eventually will benefit millions of people in future generations," said Wold.

For a man with many legacies, the impact of his generosity could turn out to be the most profound. ■



OHSU & Doernbecher
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Thanks to supporters like you, OHSU has earned a reputation for taking on the impossible — and succeeding. Join us as we take on a new set of bold challenges. Together we can innovate faster, save more lives and give hope to millions.

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Suite 100
Portland, OR 97205

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