OHSU 2015

GIVING GUIDE

DISCOVERY POWERED BY GENEROSITY
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YOUR GUIDE TO GIVING

When you give to OHSU, you can support what matters most to you. Lifesaving scientific breakthroughs. Healing children and helping families. Care and compassion. This guide will help you find the cause that sparks your passion. The need is great, and the possibilities are even greater. At OHSU, discovery is powered by generosity. Your tax-deductible gift lights the way toward hope.

WHAT WILL YOU GIVE THIS SEASON?
In 2008, Pete Julian was given a lifeline. It came in the form of a pill. Pete had been battling a gastrointestinal cancer called GIST, and got some bad news: the disease had spread. Surgery hadn’t worked, and chemotherapy wouldn’t either. But there was one more option to try: Gleevec, a drug that targets cancer cells without harming healthy ones.

Pete began taking a daily dose. Over time, the tumors shrank, then vanished. Seven years later, Pete still takes the pills, and the cancer remains at bay.

OHSU’s Knight Cancer Institute launched an era of precision cancer medicine with Gleevec. Today, we’re building on that success with research to find lethal cancers in their earliest, most treatable stages. Who benefits? Thousands of patients like Pete, who coaches an elite track team and treasures life with his wife and son.

“Every time I have to go through that CT scan machine at OHSU, I pray,” says Pete. “I pray that I can live. But you know, living isn’t just having a heartbeat, or an inhale or exhale of air. To live is to have a life that we look forward to each and every day.”

This season, give life to savor. Support the Knight Cancer Institute. Your gift will bring hope through the power of research to help cancer patients like Pete.
Sarah Power leads a team of social workers at OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. Three years ago, her professional and personal lives collided when she found out her 18-month-old son had an immunodeficiency disorder and needed care at Doernbecher.

“I work here. I thought I understood what this was like – but I really didn’t get it until my son needed a bone marrow transplant. It was devastating,” Sarah says. “My biggest insight was the vulnerability of families when they come to OHSU for care. One of the biggest needs is housing.”

Because she lives near OHSU, Sarah was able to be with her son day and night. But many families come from rural areas. The burden of finding a place to stay – on top of navigating an unfamiliar environment – is too much. “Patients are in crisis and focused on their family’s needs. They need a sense of normalcy,” she says.

OHSU will build a new guest house on Portland’s South Waterfront to provide a space of healing, safety and care for families in crisis. Your gift will help give patients at Doernbecher and the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute a home away from home.
Doernbecher Children’s Hospital provides the very best care to children across Oregon and the region – and we have never turned away a sick child for inability to pay.

Doernbecher kids light up our world. They are brave, strong, funny and fierce.

Meet Lizzy Olivan. In August 2014, she came down with a fever that wouldn't go away. She and her family found out that her body was fighting acute lymphoblastic leukemia. With one year of chemotherapy behind her, Lizzy is now halfway through her treatment and doing well. Throughout it all, her light continues to shine.

She started middle school this fall. She’s playing flute in the band, serves as treasurer of her class and teaches dance lessons to younger kids. “When I tap, I feel the rhythm. And when I feel the rhythm, I feel alive,” Lizzy says.

Lizzy says she’s worked hard to stay positive: “It really makes a difference. Instead of being scared, I just try to think about all the good things in life.”

Your gift to Doernbecher helps kids enjoy the good things in life. Give the gift of hope and healing to kids like Lizzy.
As a medical student in San Francisco in the 1980s, OHSU’s Dr. Louis Picker found himself on the frontline of the AIDS epidemic in its earliest days. Today, he is one of the world’s foremost experts on the disease. For Dr. Picker, this global epidemic hits home – and his drive for a cure is unstoppable.

Nearly 37 million people around the world are living with HIV. In some countries, more than 20 percent of the population is either HIV-positive or living with full-blown AIDS. And their best chance for a cure could come from Oregon.

Dr. Picker has developed an HIV/AIDS vaccine that is headed for clinical trials soon. This vaccine may not only prevent new HIV infections, but also cure existing ones. “The approach we’ve developed at OHSU is unique, and it could be a game changer,” says Dr. Picker. “It would be an honor to defeat this deadly epidemic and find a cure.”

*Your gift supporting Dr. Picker’s research will speed OHSU’s progress toward eradicating AIDS.*
OHSU has blazed trails, changed history and accomplished the impossible. We were the first medical school in the Pacific Northwest. Now, we are a nationally renowned academic health center and a premier research university where scientists, students, and clinical experts work side by side to improve our health.

Patients come to OHSU from all across the state and region for specialized care. Oregonians turn to us to take on the toughest challenges in medicine. We are your hospital, and we are educating the next generation of health care providers who will serve your community.

We are home to pioneers who are finding new ways to move medicine forward. We break down barriers. We give hope. And we believe the next big ideas in medicine have their roots right here in Oregon.

*Your gift to the Kohler Fund for OHSU Excellence supports the university’s areas of greatest need.*
As Oregon’s only academic health center, OHSU educates the next generation of health care providers. We’re proud of our brilliant, passionate students and their commitment to making the world a better place.

Here’s why our students and graduates think OHSU is the best place to train and learn:

“A strong emphasis on patient-centered care has helped prepare me to be an effective and compassionate clinician. Faculty members have been inspiring – offering powerful examples of the kind of physician I would like to become.” – Christopher, first-year medical student

“I grew up seeing the effects of inadequate health care in my rural community. I want to serve as a dentist in a more rural setting, building momentum toward healthier communities.” – Lorena, alumna, School of Dentistry

“I grew up in a family of nurses in rural Oklahoma. OHSU’s evidence-based education appealed to me. I’ve spent time in Central America and Africa, and I want to continue my nursing practice in addition to educating future nurses.” – Jake, alumnus, School of Nursing

Your gift for scholarships enables OHSU to recruit the best dentistry, medical and nursing students, no matter their financial situation.
At OHSU, care means more than seeing to a patient’s physical needs – it means making sure our patients and their families feel heard, supported and empowered.

After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2013, Lara Cunningham scheduled her first neurology appointment at OHSU. To her surprise, she soon received an email from Dr. Dennis Bourdette. They hadn’t yet met, but he was eager to know how she was doing and what her symptoms were. He had reached out on a Saturday, while traveling abroad. “That was above and beyond from my standpoint,” said Lara. But this compassion and concern would prove to be business as usual.

Lara’s mother, Caron Ogg, attends appointments with her. “Dr. Bourdette makes Lara feel like she is the only person around,” says Caron. Lara turns to him for advice when facing difficult decisions – like retiring from her work or applying for disability.

“I’m thankful that I have OHSU,” Lara says. “I don’t think I could have done this without them.”

Your gift to OHSU’s Brain Institute will help exceptional faculty members like Dr. Bourdette discover new solutions to debilitating neurological disorders.
There are 900,000 heart attacks and 700,000 strokes each year in the United States. The OHSU Knight Cardiovascular Institute is developing new life-saving procedures and evidence-based medicine to cut these numbers down.

“At the Knight Cardiovascular Institute, disease prevention is part of our key values,” says cardiologist Joaquin E. Cigarroa. “Patients need down-to-earth guidelines,” Cigarroa says. “We can help them make the right choices through personalized prevention and healthy lifestyles.” Choices that can slow – and even beat – heart disease. Choices that can add years to life.

He knows firsthand that it can be done. With a family history of heart attacks and a high cholesterol level, Cigarroa knew he, too, was at risk – and he had to act. He overhauled his diet to emphasize vegetables and fresh foods. He cut down on sugar and soda. He took up running. Today he estimates that his own lifetime risk of heart attack has dropped from 50% to 5%. His patients know he’s a doctor who takes his own advice – and he hopes they’re inspired to follow suit.

Cigarroa is part of a growing team of cardiology experts at OHSU. In 2006, OHSU had six cardiology faculty and two heart surgeons. We now have 69. There is no turning back.

Our two-pronged approach of molecular-level research and personalized prevention at the Knight Cardiovascular Institute will help save thousands of lives. Your gift will help speed that work.
Some 16 years ago, at the age of 63, Bob Purvis began losing his vision. But he has maintained his independence – and his ability to work – thanks to the care he now receives at OHSU’s Casey Eye Institute.

Bob comes to Casey Eye Institute from his home in Sitka, Alaska. He’s being treated for age-related macular degeneration – the nation’s leading cause of legal blindness. Casey Eye Institute is a world leader in AMD research, investigating promising new gene and stem cell therapies.

“When I come here, I get a sense that I’m in the right place,” Bob says. “My vision loss has slowed down since being treated at Casey. I appreciate that my doctor takes the time to discuss research and developments around AMD.”

Though legally blind, Bob leads hikes for tourists. “I jokingly tell people: I walk with my hand out, in case I hit something big, warm and furry – like a brown bear,” Bob says. “I’m grateful I’m able to do my activities, and I’m able to travel independently. That is why Casey Eye Institute is very significant in my life, and why I would like to see them supported.”

Your gift to the OHSU Casey Eye Institute helps provide exceptional care and develop new, sight-saving treatments.
YOUR GENEROSITY IS OUR GREATEST GIFT

THANK YOU

Contact us to learn more about giving to any of these areas at OHSU, or to direct a gift to a specific program not featured in this giving guide.

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