

# Free books for young children

Thanks to you, children receive books to take home. We participate in Reach Out and Read, a national program that supplies free books to children between 6 months to 5 years of age at every well child doctor's visit. Doctors "prescribe" books and reading to promote literacy in children and support quality family time by encouraging families to read aloud to their young children.

Families that participate in the program are twice as likely to read to their children more than three times a week. This type of family engagement has proven to increase vocabulary, provide critical brain stimulation and advance language development. Your gifts support the program at our two low-income clinics under the umbrella of the Family Residency Program. Books are available in both English and Spanish. ■



## Milo and Marcel comfort patients, family members and caregivers

Interacting with a therapy dog helps with blood pressure regulation, pain relief, stress relief and brings joy. There are currently two pet therapy teams at Providence Milwaukie Hospital that serve in the Senior Psychiatric Unit.

Dexter and black lab Marcel visit twice a month. "Marcel and I like people and this is a way for us to give back," said Dexter. Nan and Milo, a German shepherd, visit weekly.

Chaplain Linda Smith started the Pet Therapy at program Providence Milwaukie in 2011. All Providence Pet Therapy teams are certified through Pet Partners.

Dexter and Marcel

The Senior Psychiatric Unit at Providence Milwaukie Hospital provides short-term inpatient psychiatric care. It is specifically tailored to address the unique needs of seniors, providing them with a safe environment, a structured and supportive social setting, and an effective treatment program.

Pet therapy teams not only provide therapy service to our patients and families, but also to our caregivers. The caregivers look forward to these special visits and receive the same benefit as our patients.

Thank you for supporting this program and providing comfort to those we serve. ■

### Our Mission

As expressions of God's healing love, witnessed through the ministry of Jesus, we are steadfast in serving all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

### Values

Compassion, Dignity, Justice, Excellence, Integrity

Inspiring Generosity ♥

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