



Providence Benedictine Nursing Center Foundation

Blake Johns, cook's helper, appreciates all the new kitchen equipment donors helped purchase. "The kitchen now has a better flow that makes everything run more smoothly and efficiently," he said.

Nourishing bodies and souls at Providence Benedictine

The nearly completed \$160,000 kitchen and dining enhancement project at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center means more than just a better way to prepare and serve food. The improvements bring a higher quality of life for residents, patients, visitors and employees.

Funded by grants and generous donor support, new commercial-grade stainless steel equipment allows for much better quality of food preparation. Grants from the Larry & Jeanette Epping Fund at Salem Foundation and the Bob Fessler Family Fund helped support the project. A board member's company, GEM Equipment, generously custom designed, manufactured, donated and installed \$74,000 in kitchen equipment.

“Thank you to everyone who made this transformation possible to better serve our residents, patients and visitors,” says Emily Dazey, executive director, Providence Benedictine. “Everyone put their hearts into this effort, and it shows.”

The kitchen and dining enhancement project included: a redesign to improve work flow; a plate warmer system, a cold foods system, and insulated delivery carts that provide capacity for over 250 room service meals a day; new stainless steel fixtures, including a dishwashing line to reduce repetitive stress injuries for kitchen employees, countertops, service staging area in the dining room, central beverage island, and shelving for made-to-order meals; and air conditioning for the dining room.

“The donations we received though the foundation have greatly improved our quality of service and efficiency in the kitchen,” says dietary aide Chaz White. “Our new large coolers and mini freezer provide quick access to what we need and allow us to keep our ice cream cold.”

2019 Highlights

New fences enhance safety

Two aging wooden fences were damaged in a windstorm and needed to be replaced in 2019 to keep the Providence Benedictine campus safe. A smaller fence surrounded the Child Development Center. It was replaced with a new wooden fence at a cost of \$12,000, thanks to donor support. In addition, a long fence along the back of campus was replaced with a new, \$30,000 chain-link fence and privacy slats, also funded by generous donors.



Replacing worn hospital beds

Like any equipment, hospital beds age and stop functioning as well as they should. Replacing them requires a substantial cost. Providence Benedictine researched renting replacement beds but learned it would be more expensive in the long run, compared to buying them. Thanks to generous grants – from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the AJ Frank Family Foundation – the nursing center was able to buy 15 new hospital beds to better serve our patients and the employees who care for them.

2019 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 66%
- Hospice/Palliative Care | 21%
- Building and Equipment | 7%
- Therapy Gardens | 3%
- Home Health | 1%
- Other Funds | 2%

