Phil Knight and his wife Penny will have a building named in honor of their philanthropy at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center.

Providence St. Vincent renames pavilion for Phil and Penny Knight

Oct 13, 2021, 12:00pm PDT  Updated: Oct 13, 2021, 2:34pm PDT

Providence St. Vincent Medical Center is renaming its West Pavilion for Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife Penny, who have donated $100 million to the Providence Heart Institute since 2014.

The couple first gave Providence $25 million, which was matched by other donors for a $50 million campaign. In

2019, a $75 million donation from the Knights, one of the largest gifts ever to a community hospital, enabled the institute to open a heart transplant program last year. The donation has also supported research, clinical care and prevention and wellness programs.

The Knights had no expectation that the pavilion, located on the St. Vincent campus in Southwest Portland, would be named for them, said Dr. Dan Oseran, executive director of Providence Heart Institute.

“It’s something I came back to them with and said, ‘We’d like to recognize the transformative power of your philanthropy on the Heart Institute.’”

In addition to the rename, the pavilion lobby is getting a makeover to create a more comfortable space for families, Oseran said. Cardiac services take up most of the pavilion, but labor and delivery is also located there.

“We’re trying to make it pleasant and inviting, and it definitely needs to be updated,” Oseran said.

The institute has performed 21 heart transplants in the first 15 months since the program started. It received a crucial certification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in July.

“It’s ahead of the pace we had predicted we’d be at,” Oseran said. “It’s changed the nature of a lot of what we do in the hospital. It’s not just the 21 transplants,
it’s all the other patients who get referred here for evaluation.”

The Heart Institute is caring for a more complex and higher acuity patient than three or four years ago. That shift will inform the lobby redesign, Oseran said.

“Cardiac intensive care is different than it was four or five years ago, when average length of stay was a couple of days. Now we may have patients waiting for transplants in the unit for several weeks, so the family members need places to be comfortable,” Oseran said.

Providence Heart Institute is the largest program offering the most cardiac services between San Francisco and Seattle, according to the institute.

Elizabeth Hayes
Staff Reporter
Portland Business Journal