

FOUNDATION insider

Giving from the Heart

Janis Chico is extraordinary!

No, she hasn't broken the internet, time traveled, or even climbed Mount Everest. But what she has done in the world of philanthropy is a truly remarkable feat – she has annually supported the Washington Health System Foundation for more than 30 consecutive years!

It all began in 1993. Janis cannot recall the exact circumstances that led her to making that first gift, but she vividly remembers why she did it. It was a feeling of gratitude. She reflects, "My dad always said to us when we were growing up that we should give back to the things we feel most deeply about, and I felt so honored to be given a position here."



A lifelong Washington County resident, Janis spent her youth in the Meadowlands. Her father was a farmer and an iron worker. While a high school student, Janis had an interest in healthcare and even considered nursing. But after graduation, she enrolled in a medical assistant program, and it was then that she knew she had found her true calling.

For seven years, Janis worked for a local private physician, then she joined the Family Medicine team in 1982.

From holding roles in the back office to serving as the front office coordinator, her caring demeanor and keen eye for detail allowed her to flourish. "I feel that I was given the opportunity to grow my career here, and I enjoyed everything from helping patients to working with the physicians."

During her 35-year tenure with the Washington Health System (now UPMC Washington), Janis took great pride in watching the organization progress. "It always made me feel good to see the hospital advance, to see it grow."

Additionally, her involvement enabled her to see the value of its educational opportunities. "It's so exciting to have the School of Nursing and the Residency Program . . . these teaching programs are just fantastic! Both my sister and my daughter graduated from the School of Nursing."

Janis loved her career, and she only recently retired to help care for her grandson, Lincoln. But she continues to look forward to all that the future holds. "I think that it's a great thing that through the affiliation, we will grow . . . UPMC Washington is something that the community needs, and we've got to build on it. I believe that from the bottom of my heart."

"There's always a need. And if you give, you are going to get something in return . . . It is still my pride and joy to be part of this organization."

JANIS CHICO

The Foundation receives a gift from Janis each month, like clockwork, and in recent years, she has been committed to supporting UPMC Washington's greatest needs. Not only does Janis give an amount that is meaningful for her, but the act of giving is her way to maintain her connection to this local healthcare provider.

From the Executive Director

Today is a new day!

On June 1, 2024, the Washington Health System affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and is now UPMC Washington.

With this affiliation, the Washington Health System Foundation (WHSF) became a separate non-profit organization. For now, the name remains the WHSF, however, look for a name change in the coming months!

The mission of the Foundation will continue to support the health and wellbeing of Washington and Greene Counties. All gifts, past, present, and future will stay in our communities.

In addition to directly supporting UPMC Washington, UPMC Greene, and its non-profit entities, WHSF will be grantmaking to qualified non-profit organizations. We will share more exciting details, like grantmaking guidelines, when the program is finalized.

I am sure you have questions about UPMC Washington and WHSF. I encourage you to stay connected to us by following UPMC Washington on Facebook, visiting our website at www.whs.org and reading our WHSF e-blasts and Newsletter updates (and sharing with your friends).

In this issue, we introduce you to our new strategic funding framework - four distinct areas of fundraising, each with their own objectives and initiatives. The key components are Community Assistance, Education, Prevention & Intervention, and Wellness. As always, your contributions will directly impact UPMC Washington, UPMC Green, and our communities.

Also in this issue, you will read about Ms. Janis Chico who has given to the WHS Foundation for 30 consecutive years; Mr. Robert Pivrotto, a volunteer and patient of UPMC Washington; Ms. Mindy Zatta and her support of the Children's Therapy Center, the generosity of our UPMC employees, the recent Sporting Clay Shoot event, and more.

We have much to celebrate. What an exciting time for our communities. If you have specific questions, I encourage you to contact one of our Foundation team members or me. We cannot thank you enough for investing in the health and wellbeing of Washington and Greene.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,



Sara Schumacher, CFRE
Executive Director



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Funding Framework

Washington Health System Foundation is proud to announce our new strategic framework, highlighting four major focus areas of giving. Donors are encouraged to direct their funds to one of these key areas, each with their own objectives and initiatives. As always, Washington Health System Foundation's mission is to invest in Washington and Greene Counties and all donations support our UPMC hospitals and community.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Ensuring disparity does not affect outcomes

Initiatives such as the Patient Assistance Fund, Clothes Closet, Transportation, & Medication + Durable Medical Equipment Needs



EDUCATION

Building careers & strengthening our workforce in the healthcare sector

Initiatives such as: School of Nursing, Rice Energy Family, Simulation Center, Professional Development, & Community Outreach



Supporting life-changing services at critical junctures

Children's Therapy Center, Teen Outreach, & Population Health Screenings

REVENTION INTERVENTION



Fostering overall well-being as well as a connection between mind and body

Initiatives such as Integrative Cancer Program, Nutrition Programs, Mental Health, & Pet Therapy

WELLNESS





Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Robert Piviroto

a PCCF volunteer and Washington local

In the 21 years Robert Piviroto has been a resident of Washington, PA, he has received life-saving treatment from UPMC Washington on three separate occasions. During these experiences, Robert recalls that every staff member was “beyond professional” and that “even the food was good” – an impressive feat for a hospital!

Today, Robert volunteers for UPMC Washington. He stumbled upon this role reading a brochure waiting to have his blood work done. He saw that the Human Resources department was an area that needed volunteers and, having a master’s degree in human resources, he figured they could use his help. By chance he ended up as a Patient and Family Centered Care (PFCC) volunteer at UPMC Washington.

Robert believes that’s exactly where is meant to be.

As a PFCC volunteer, Robert makes phone calls to patients recently discharged from the Emergency Department. He asks them how they are doing and if they have any other questions about their discharge paperwork, then forwards the questions or comments to the appropriate departments.

Robert understands the importance of his role, stating, “I am the last interaction patients have with the hospital before they receive a survey.” The feedback from patients that Robert obtains, and forwards makes an impact on the experience future patients will have at UPMC Washington, as patient satisfaction surveys are vital to performance improvement, patient experience, and even funding.

Stacey Rush, Director of Patient Experience at UPMC Washington, oversees the PFCC volunteers. She stated that, “Robert has been an awesome addition to our PFCC team. He takes his role very seriously and has really enjoyed talking to the patients. We are so happy to have him!”

Robert shared that he has learned the art of empathy through his difficult phone calls. He genuinely cares about the patients and has a fondness for the tight-knit community within the hospital.

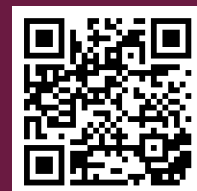
He said the people who work here are also the people you see at your local grocery store and proudly noted that familiar community members who work here also receive their health care here. And, although he’s volunteered in many capacities throughout his life, his time at the hospital isn’t just a reason to get out of the house.

Robert is thankful to be a part of this group of volunteers and staff at UPMC Washington. He shares that there is always a need for more volunteers in a variety of roles and departments. Whether you or a family member were a grateful patient at UPMC Washington, UPMC Greene, or a Washington Physicians Group outpatient office, or you are just passionate about helping others, volunteerism is one of many ways to “give back!”

GIVE BACK
and have a blast!

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Volunteer opportunities are available for any individuals 14 years old and up. To learn more about how you can get involved as a volunteer at UPMC Washington, UPMC Greene, or a Washington Physicians Group outpatient office visit whs.org/volunteers or scan the QR code!



Donor Supports Children's Therapy Center with Grant Funding



Thanks to recognition given to Mindy Zatta, Children's Therapy Center was able to purchase new adaptive equipment.

Mindy Zatta, who is the vice chairman of the Board of Directors for the Washington Health System Foundation (WHSF) has recently been recognized by the Osaic Foundation for her volunteer service and dedication to WHSF. Mindy is part of a group of financial professionals recognized by the Osaic Foundation for their dedicated volunteerism and the subsequent impact this level of involvement has on their local communities. In honor of Mindy's recognition, WHFS has received a \$4,000 grant from the Osaic Foundation. Sara Schumacher, Executive Director of WHSF commends Mindy, stating that "[She] is a hands-on community member who volunteers to support many organizations. Mindy is always there when we need her and her expertise. We are grateful for her level of involvement at WHSF, especially as we embark on our next chapter and look to make greater impact on patient care in our Washington and Greene communities."



Mindy Zatta



A child benefiting from a Rifton Chair

This grant has been used to purchase a Rifton Activity Chair, an innovative adaptive seating device that establishes safe seating and positioning for children with a variety of physical and or cognitive needs.

Reflecting on this award, Mindy noted, "Thank you to the Osaic Foundation for this honor, and most importantly, for the grant funding that will support the Children's Therapy Center in offering rehabilitation services to help the children of our community. I am sincerely grateful for the Osaic Foundation and their efforts in celebrating and amplifying the charitable endeavors of Osaic financial professionals, and for my colleagues at IronBridge Wealth Counsel, LLC for holding ourselves to a higher community standard by investing our collective time and financial resource back into our communities," said Mindy Zatta. "I choose to give my time and efforts to The Washington Health System Foundation because I know the impact that is made on our patients and community through the many initiatives the Foundation supports like the Children's Therapy Center."



Sara Schumacher (bottom left), Executive Director of the Washington Health System Foundation, Steve Datovech, Director of UPMC Washington Children's Therapy Center, and Mindy Zatta with and Therapists.

The 1897 SOCIETY

Educational Event

On April 25, members of the 1897 Society and special guests were given exclusive access to the Rice Energy Family Simulation Center in the UPMC Washington School of Nursing. The 1897 Society represents some of the Foundation's most committed and generous donors, so annually providing the group with these kinds of behind-the-scenes learning opportunities is an important way for us to show our gratitude.

In addition to offering a venue to share updates about UPMC Washington and the Foundation, the event served to shine a spotlight on UPMC Washington's role as a cutting-edge educational resource for local healthcare professionals, first responders, and other community groups. Feedback from the attendees has been excellent!



Special thanks to Jamie Golden, Director of Staff Education and the School of Nursing, Lisa Atkinson, Coordinator of Simulation Operations, Daniel Ayers, Simulation Technician, and Auxiliary Member Karissa Rohrer for their efforts in making the tour a great success!

A Regency Ball Success!

Thank you to our sponsors, committee members, and guests for making the 2024 Charity Ball another successful year! Together, over **\$130,000** was raised to support programs and services of UPMC Washington.



CONCORDIA HOSPICE OF WASHINGTON STAFF, WINNER OF THE 2024 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Concordia Hospice of Washington (CHOW) who received the 2024 Distinguished Service Award. CHOW has served the residents of Washington and surrounding counties with a continuum of high-quality caregiving, so patients and families don't have to face end-of-life decisions on their own.



Save the date for next year's Charity Ball - Saturday, April 5, 2025!

ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY SHOOT EXCITEMENT

The 2024 WHSF Sporting Clay Shoot was held on Friday, August 2 at Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve. Thanks to our sponsors and shooters, we raised over **\$45,000** for local health care needs in Greene and Washington Counties. The 2024 event proceeds are benefiting the patients and families that UPMC Greene and UPMC Washington serve.

Save the date for next year's shoot - Friday, August 1, 2025!



FIRST PLACE TEAM



AHEAD OF HER TIME:

Forward-Thinking SON Alumna Supports Nursing Students with Legacy Gift



Determined. Independent. Spunky.

Mildred “Smitty” Smith was an organized, no-nonsense nurse from the Old School. . . and so much more. Those closest to her will attest that she also had an enormous heart – one that has come to lay the foundation for a meaningful legacy.

Smitty was proud to hail from the section of Centerville that ran along the Old National Pike. She graduated from Centerville High School in 1941 and the Washington Hospital School of Nursing (SON) in 1944. Smitty also pursued post-graduate studies at Washington and Jefferson College as well as what is now PennWest California.

As an only child who was unmarried, Smitty always recognized that she was responsible for taking care of herself. Professionally, she worked as a registered nurse and nursing instructor at both Washington Hospital (now UPMC Washington) and Brownsville Hospital. She also spent 34 years as an office nurse for Dr. J.W.G. Hannon.

Deeply rooted in her faith, Smitty attended services at Centerville United Methodist Church as long as she could. At one point, she even served as the oldest living member of the church. Additionally, Smitty was an enthusiastic traveler. During a time when it was not acceptable for young women to travel alone, Smitty arranged for a chaperone to take her on a tour of Europe, documenting her experiences through postcards to her parents.

Captivated by the world around her, Smitty developed a passion for digital photography – especially beautiful scenes from nature. This fostered a commitment to organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society.

And with a little help from her friends Nancy and Ray Racunas, Smitty relished in the excitement of online shopping.

Her time at the SON was an important part of her life, and Smitty was determined to attend the reunions whenever she could – even if that meant having to coordinate a ride.

Smitty was also an avid reader who loved to learn about the latest advancements in the field of medicine. Although her eyesight began to fail in her final months, her mind remained sharp.

When Smitty passed in 2022 at the age of 99, it came as no surprise that all her final affairs were in order. In fact, she even requested that the funeral repast be hosted at the Century Inn, a most beloved place to visit. Although the various details of her estate had been addressed, Smitty did leave a few final surprises for her friends.

Cheryl Wheat, Smitty's longtime friend and executrix, remarked, “We discovered that she learned how to invest and manage her own stock portfolio...That floored me!”

Many people who care deeply about a particular charitable cause like to leave a gift for it in their will.

As part of her legacy, Smitty left a bequest to the Foundation designated for the SON, supporting both scholarships as well as the equipment, technology, and supplies needed for nursing education.

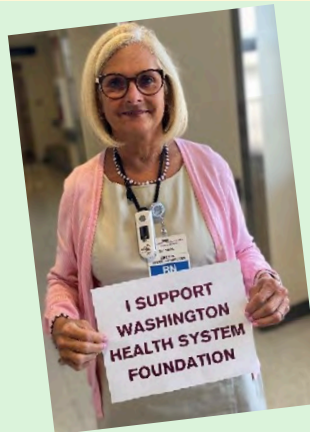
Employee Giving Campaign

Each year the employees of UPMC Washington, UPMC Greene and Washington Physicians Group are given the opportunity to invest in community health through WHSF's Employee Giving Campaign. Below, employees explain why they give.



"It makes me feel honored to work in an organization that has a tradition of giving back to the community. "

-Lisa Goss, MD, Associate Chief Medical Officer



"Giving is one of the most selfless acts an employee can offer. I get a feeling of satisfaction; I feel proud and humbled to serve my community through supporting the foundation."

-Sandy Hlipala, Director of Emergency Services

"Giving is important to me because my family and friends use this hospital for their care. My kids are third generation babies to be born at this hospital! I'm proud to donate and give back to my hospital of choice"

-Joetta Elliott, Education Generalist at UPMC Washington



"Giving is important to me because I have been very fortunate, and I hope to help others who may be having a moment of need. I think it's important to give back because you never know what someone might be going through in their life and the difference a little help might make to them. "

-Matthew Raineri, Lab Medical Technologist at UPMC Washington



"This hospital is here to help those in need and being a part of UPMC Greene and working to help better this facility is important to me. I want to help others in any way possible."

-Janie Clark, Pharmacy Technician at UPMC Greene

"Contributing to the campaign leaves me with a sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing that my support directly impacts the health and well-being of our community members."

-John Six, MD Chief Operating Officer & Chief Medical Officer at UPMC Washington



In Honor Of

Jan 1, 2024-June 30, 2024

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Major John M. Brubaker Jr.

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Ways to Give

Your gift has an immediate impact on our community's essential health care. Your gift provides resources for UPMC Washington's current needs and opportunities. You can also choose to give to a specific program, including UPMC Greene, or make a gift in memory or honor of a loved one.

GIVING OPTION	NEXT STEPS
Recurring, monthly giving	Visit www.whs.org/GiveNow .
Employer matching gifts	Submit your employer's matching gift form to WHSF.
Appreciated stocks and securities	Contact WHS Foundation at 724-223-3875 for transfer information.
Donor-Advised Fund grant	Visit plannedgiving.whs.org .
Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA at age 70 ½ or older	Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.
Planned giving vehicles, including those that can provide income to you in your lifetime	Contact WHS Foundation at 724-223-3875 or foundation@whs.org to chat more about the different giving options.
Bequests	Consider including WHSF in your will.