

Foundation Focus

A message from the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

I did not become a healthcare CEO by design. As is so often the case in business, I was set on this career path because I happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Some would call that luck. I prefer to think of it as providence.



Mike Snow

Over the years, I've realized that hospitals are a perfect fit for me. It's not the buildings or prestige but the people. From the doctors and nurses who deliver care at the bedside to the board members and philanthropic supporters who offer their counsel and generosity, the people who have committed themselves to health care are like no other.

I've found that to be true at every hospital and health system in which I've worked. Certainly, it's true at Wellmont Health System.

In the short time I've had the pleasure of serving as Wellmont's president and CEO, I've been gratified by the commitment of our physicians, employees and community supporters. I'm particularly impressed by the good work made possible through the dedication of the Wellmont Foundation and its generous donors.

People in health care are truly exceptional. They're so unselfish, so giving to those around them. It's the touch that comes along with business. Yes, health care is a business. But at the end of the day, it's one person taking care of another person. And there's nothing else like it.

My wife, Kandice, and I are so happy to call Wellmont Health System and this region home. We are blessed.

Mike Snow,
President and CEO
Wellmont Health System

Marta Pugh Nursing Scholarship is a Lasting Legacy

Most people aspire to leave a legacy with their lives in some way. Whether it is through our work, our family or our contributions to society, a lasting impact is something that would be considered an honor to most people.

Dr. Tom Pugh embraced the concept of creating a lasting legacy after the loss of his wife Marta to breast cancer. Members of the Wellmont board of directors brought up the idea of a scholarship to honor her memory – Marta was a nurse educator by training and believed wholeheartedly in the value of superior nursing education. The concept of a nursing scholarship dovetailed nicely with the needs of Wellmont during a nursing shortage and the need to help people find a path into nursing.

In 2005, a scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Pugh's late wife to provide opportunities for nursing students. Two junior or senior students each year are provided with the Marta Pugh Nursing Scholarship, to help them complete their education. The story of Dr. Pugh and his commitment to the success of our health system is truly heartwarming.

On February 14, 2009, Valentine's Day, Dr. Pugh married the former Sharon Cooper, a longtime family friend. While drawing support from each other during tough times recently, their friendship



Dr. Tom Pugh and his wife, Sharon, celebrated their wedding and established a legacy for the late Marta Pugh by creating a nursing education scholarship fund in her honor.

took a wonderful, unexpected turn. The manner in which Tom and Sharon chose to spread the joy of their wedding was unique. The couple requested that in lieu of gifts, donations could be made to the Marta Pugh Nursing Education Scholarship fund through Wellmont Foundation. Many friends and family members made donations to the scholarship fund and have made the dream of becoming a nurse a reality for more students than ever.

"We cannot say enough about the importance of nursing," Dr. Pugh said. "Nurses are the direct providers of patient care and are both the face and the hands of our healthcare system. We are very supportive and appreciative of what they do."

Wellmont Foundation is very grateful for Dr. and Mrs. Pugh and their contribution to our health system – and to nursing education in our community.

Breast Specific Gamma Imaging brings better technology to Wellmont patients

When it comes to breast health and proper early detection exams, mammograms are the standard method of care. At times, however, a regular mammogram cannot provide as much information as is necessary. The Comprehensive Breast Center has become the first facility in Tennessee to bring the newest tool, Breast Specific Gamma Imaging or BSGI, to our patients.

A Breast Specific Gamma Imaging machine was funded by a gift to Wellmont Foundation from a group of physicians at Blue Ridge Radiology of Kingsport, the radiologists serving the Holston Valley Medical Center campus. Dr. Jim Phillips, the center's director of medical imaging, said, "We donated the money to acquire this technology because we, the radiologists, are frequently frustrated by the knowledge of the limitations of the other imaging methods particularly when malignancy could be hiding in dense tissue where it's not detectable." BSGI technology can be especially useful for patients with dense breast tissue, implants and breast augmentation or

scarring from previous surgeries. BSGI can also be useful for dealing with suspicious areas on a mammogram or lumps that can be felt but not seen with mammography or ultrasound. "While this exam is only indicated in a small minority of patients, having this technology available provides us with better capabilities to evaluate these most difficult situations," Dr. Phillips said.

BSGI has already helped many women, including some by identifying disease and others by providing confidence that no cancer was present when other tests generated concern or were less conclusive. It is very exciting to have this technology available for the women in our area. Leslie Gilliam, clinical coordinator of the Breast Imaging Center said, "We are very fortunate to have a piece of equipment that helps us to better serve the community and our patients." Dr. Phillips quipped, "I've been pulling out my hair for years trying to evaluate these tough cases. Maybe with the help of BSGI, I can save the few I have left."



**Wellmont
Foundation**

A Member of Wellmont Health System



Several individuals from Wellmont Hospice House were recognized for making a difference in the lives of patients.



Jerry Gibbons is recognized for being a Guardian Angel in his duties as a valet assistant at Holston Valley Medical Center.



Holston Valley's radiation oncology department comes together as a team to affect the lives of patients – and be honored as Guardian Angels.

Guardian Angels Honored

Several Guardian Angels have been honored in recent weeks. These individuals were honored with a contribution to Wellmont Foundation by a patient or family they have

served in their daily work. Jerry Gibbons, a valet assistant at Holston Valley Medical Center; the radiation oncology department at Holston Valley Medical Center; and several

individuals from Wellmont Hospice House, located on the Bristol Regional Medical Center campus, were recognized for making a difference in the lives of our patients.

Partnership Provides Care for Bristol Motor Speedway

Physicians from Bristol Regional Medical Center are the primary medical providers for the infield care center and fan care center at Bristol Motor Speedway. Through a partnership with Wellmont Foundation and Philips Medical, equipment was donated to provide the best care for local NASCAR professionals and fans.

More than 40 Wellmont nurses, physicians and therapists, along with paramedics and first responders, staff the multiple fan care centers

at BMS, as well as the infield care center where drivers are treated. Wellmont also stands ready should emergency air transport be needed.

Through the generosity of Philips Medical, excellent equipment is also available on site to offer treatment to those who need it most. Wellmont Foundation is grateful to the physicians of Bristol Regional Medical Center and Philips Medical for helping to keep our local residents and visitors safe during such an important event in our region.

Estate Planning News

Reviewing your estate plan could be one of the best decisions you make. Wellmont Foundation offers a free service to help ensure your estate plans are in order and that your lifetime earnings are maximized for your heirs and the charities you value.

Dates are available with Jeremy Pharr, an estate planning attorney, on May 27 and June 17. There is no obligation and no promotion of a service or product associated with your consultation.

To schedule your appointment today, please contact Wellmont Foundation at (423) 230-8550.

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