

Providence Milwaukie Hospital

An award-winning, full-service medical facility, Providence Milwaukie Hospital was established in 1986 when Oregon's Providence Health System acquired the former Dwyer Community Hospital at 10150 SE 32nd Ave. Why did Oregon's second-largest private employer and the fourth-ranked integrated health care system in the nation decide to invest in this 18-year-old community hospital? Partly due to shared compassionate health care philosophies and partly due to location – Providence saw opportunity in serving the growing Milwaukie area.

The organization's foresight soon became reality...and with it came expansion. In recent years, Providence Milwaukie has added nearly 60,000 square feet of space to its campus to accommodate growing community needs: A new 16,000-square-foot, 20-room Emergency Department with the capacity to serve 40,000 patients a year, and a three-story, 42,000-square-foot medical office building complete with a "healing garden," espresso shop and café.

Through all the expansion and remodeling activities, "our construction and facility management staff feel they have developed a good working relationship with city staff," says Richard Smith, Providence Milwaukie Hospital assistant administrator, "They appreciate their efforts to be helpful, supportive, and willing to come out to the site and talk through issues."

"From my own four-year experience working with the city's planning department, I've been impressed by the administration's collaboration with business leaders," adds Smith, a member of the city's Economic Development Advisory Committee. "I've experienced first-hand their responsiveness to business needs around development and growth and their creative efforts to address the unique needs of both large and small businesses."

The hospital has also found benefits from its location within the North Clackamas School District and proximity to Clackamas Community College. With a growing shortage of health care workers affecting hospitals nationwide, Providence Milwaukie has partnered with area schools to introduce and mentor students with interests in health care careers. Hundreds of students from the North Clackamas' Sabin Skills Center have participated in internships at the hospital and many now work there. Likewise, community college nursing students get hands-on practical experience in many areas of the hospital and many have become "some of the finest nurses on staff," Smith says.

www.providence.org/milwaukie



At a Glance: Providence Milwaukie

One of Providence Health System's seven Oregon hospitals, Providence Milwaukie Hospital has nearly 500 employees and 445 physicians with practicing privileges. It offers 77 licensed beds for acute care.

The associated Providence Milwaukie Foundation received \$400,000 in donations in 2004 that was used to purchase new, state-of-the-art equipment, fund building projects, provide medications to patients unable to afford them and offer educational opportunities to hospital staff. Beyond the foundation, the hospital's charitable giving (including unpaid services) exceeded \$7 million.

Although one of Providence's smaller hospitals, Providence Milwaukie's holistic focus – services geared to meet patients' physical, mental, social, psychological and spiritual needs – and preventive care emphasis have earned it national recognition. It has been named three times (most recently in 2001 and 2003) as one of the "100 Top Hospitals" in the nation by Solucient, a research company that reviews empirical data from more than 6,000 hospitals.

