

FAMILIES MATTER PROJECT



Funding Proposal

OVERVIEW OF SALEM HEALTH FOUNDATION

Since 1968 The Salem Health Foundation has identified challenges, raised funds, and responded with action to community healthcare needs with program and support. Our close connection with Salem Health care providers gives us a critical perspective about patient experiences, needs, and regional health issues. We are a convener of like-minded people who use charitable giving to create valuable solutions to the human conditions that affect healthcare and wellness.

THE 3.7 MILLION FAMILIES MATTER PROJECT

The Families Matter project improves physical access for the ER, improves patient onboarding, and substantially changes options for waiting families by offering new spaces for separation, respite, and reflection. It benefits all, but especially those with low resources.

NEEDS ADDRESSED, AND BENEFITS REALIZED

There is equity of care for any patient admitted or in care, *but socioeconomic differences can affect the waiting experience for families and supporters*. Presently, children, people with language differences, low-income, elderly, people with physical differences can be negatively affected by the present waiting experience. The Families Matter Project creates new choices for anyone who arrives in need of care, helpful options, useful regardless of income, age, or physical state. The project improves life for anyone who waits under stress or duress.

How is the waiting experience different for low-resource families and supporters? An example would be an entire family needing to crowd into the Emergency Room because they share one vehicle or have no means to separate during an emergency.

Presently, small children, the elderly, physically and mentally affected, all wait in a single crowded space. The Families Matter project improves physical access for the ER, improves patient onboarding, and substantially changes options for waiting family options by offering new spaces for separation, respite, and reflection. It benefits all, but especially those with low resources.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The Salem Health Foundation is best positioned as the community advocate for this project. Salem Hospital is expanding building A capacity by adding 150 new patient beds. The Families Matter Project embeds into the new construction. The Salem Health Foundation is using its own resources and is asking for your support.

An ER is among the most specialized and high-demand spaces in a hospital. This project captures valuable space and makes it more beneficial to patient families. A quick calculation of project usefulness reveals that millions of Marion and Polk County residents will be positively affected by the Families Matter Projects in its foreseeable future of use.

Evidence suggests that the present ER entry is confusing because it doesn't readily reveal where to access care. Also, waiting for the aged, families, and young children means too often one must sit on waiting area floors for extended periods. Stress from these experiences can be palpable. Salem Health ER hosts 115,000 visits each year, the busiest in the state. These 115,000 patients illuminate the problem we need to solve for the necessary family members and supporters who accompany patients. The Families Matter project will address these deficiencies.

Your partnership support provides a new visible, understandable, covered ER entry point, a new all-faith Chapel, outdoor activity space, and personal reflection spaces. This project makes immediate and positive improvements.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Provides a highly visible, new unobscured ER entry area free of landscaping and parking obstacles that are all-weather protected and offers outside seating.
- Creates a new large entry vestibule to provide patients/visitors with accessible entrance and exiting capabilities.
- Improves space for the families and supporters of patients to wait while their loved one is receiving care.
- Accommodate multi-generational families, especially those with children
- Make the separation of patients from families less stressful
- Be accessible 24 hours a day to all hospital visitors
- Add areas for families who need to spread out while waiting
- Add comfortable seating clusters with immediate proximity to the ER receiving areas
- Create areas helpful to families, friends, and supporters who need a place for reflection and respite.
- Create a new all faith chapel for all hospital visitors and families to find quiet spaces for prayer and contemplation and disperses crowding at peak times of operations, indoors and outdoors, under shelter.