

a healthy future

now.
a legacy campaign

The COVID-19 crisis has had a dramatic impact on our people, our patients, our community and our world. However, we are inspired by the generosity of our donors during this critical time. We remain grateful for your support and are honored to have you as our partner in helping patients and families heal.



Sixty years of expert care at Legacy Devers Eye Institute

Six decades ago, Portland coffee merchant Arthur Devers made a \$1 million gift to support the creation of Legacy Devers Eye Institute.

Little did he know how broad the impact of his generosity would be.

In 2020, Legacy Devers Eye Institute celebrates its 60th anniversary. Its fourth eye clinic is scheduled to open this year.

The new clinic in Vancouver, adjacent to Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center, is the latest expansion to meet the needs of local communities lacking subspecialty services. The clinic will initially be open three days a week.

Patients in underserved areas often arrive at Legacy Devers clinics with advanced eye disease, because they're reluctant to make a long trip for treatment until they have no choice.

"The traffic is getting more and more difficult in Portland," said Steven Mansberger, M.D., Chenoweth Chair of Ophthalmology at Legacy Devers. "Patients are getting older and older and to increase our value to patients we need to be closer to them."

In addition to the Vancouver clinic, Legacy Devers provides services at Legacy Good Samaritan, Legacy Emanuel and Legacy Meridian Park medical centers. Legacy Devers Eye Institute – Emanuel opened about six years ago, to serve Northeast Portland. Legacy Devers Eye Institute – Tualatin, which opened about a year ago, serves a community with a high concentration of patients 70 and older.

In Vancouver, market research revealed the need for glaucoma, retina care and other subspecialties. Dr. Mansberger also cited research that suggests patients suffering from macular degeneration and glaucoma will nearly double in the next 30 years as the population ages.

"We've got some of the world's leaders in glaucoma, cornea, and research and they're making discoveries every day," Mansberger says. "One of our goals is to spread our expertise beyond the Portland area to Southwest Washington and throughout the Northwest."



Arthur Devers

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– Steven Mansberger, M.D.,
Chenoweth Chair of Ophthalmology at Legacy Devers

"He's one of my all-time heroes I'm very pleased to give something back and recognize his contributions to the field."

– Peter Belluschi

A grateful patient becomes a generous donor

Peter Belluschi had his first eye surgery in Seattle four decades ago.

Then he met Mark Terry, M.D., director of corneal services at Legacy Devers Eye Institute, who performed cataract surgery on both of Belluschi's eyes, as well as a cornea peel.

Grateful for the wonderful experience he had, Belluschi was looking for an opportunity to give back and decided to donate to the Mark A. Terry, M.D., Endowment for Corneal Care.

In addition, Belluschi has included a generous bequest to Devers in his estate plans, ensuring support for Dr. Terry's work far into the future.

"He's one of my all-time heroes," Belluschi says. "I'm very pleased to give something back and recognize his contributions to the field. When they write the book on eye surgery, I'm sure he'll go down as a leader."

If you would like information about including Legacy Devers or another Legacy Health program in your estate plans, please contact Rachel Gitner at rgitner@lths.org or 503-413-6774.

One family's long history of eyecare at Legacy Devers

Debbie Mink's family has experienced exceptional care at Legacy Devers Eye Institute for decades. Her grandparents were patients. Her mother was a patient. And now, so is Debbie.

Debbie's late mother Sally was especially fond of Steven Mansberger, M.D., the Chenoweth Chair of Ophthalmology at Legacy Devers, who treated her for glaucoma. They had a playful relationship and Debbie says Sally would have adopted him, given the chance.

Dr. Mansberger has also treated Debbie for glaucoma, and she calls him "totally the most awesome doctor I've ever met" and credits him for making her feel at ease.

"He's done two surgeries on my eyes," she says, "and he made it seem like he was taking a splinter out of my finger."

Debbie reflected on her family's positive experiences at Legacy Devers and wanted to ensure others had that same opportunity. She made a donation to Legacy Devers to support eyecare for patients who otherwise would not be able to afford the services.

Recognition for her gift, Debbie says, is far less important than the gift itself.

"I wanted this money to go to people who need ophthalmological treatment and can't afford it," she says. "That's not putting your name on the door. That's just helping."

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A patient gets his sight and life back

The patient came to Legacy Devers Eye Institute – Emanuel with cataracts in both eyes. He was nearly blind and out of work.

"He was pretty distraught," says Blake Acohido, M.D., ophthalmologist and director of the Emanuel clinic. "He'd been living out of his (vehicle) the previous few months."

Fortunately, he came to the right place. Acohido performed cataract surgery and restored his vision to 20/20 in both eyes. On a sunny day a year-and-a-half later, Acohido bumped into the man, who was now driving, employed and deeply grateful.

"That's just one story about one patient," Acohido says. "But we're (correcting) cataracts with people here, seven to 10 a week."

Acohido estimates about 60 percent of the patients who come to the clinic are covered by Medicare or Medicaid, about 30 percent have private insurance and the rest are uninsured. They come from as far away as Sandy for treatment because there are few other options.

Philanthropy is critical for eyecare at Legacy Devers for two reasons, Acohido says. The generosity of donors helps pay for expensive ophthalmological equipment and supports patients who need assistance paying for their treatment.

"We don't really have to think about the financial background of our patients to keep the doors open," Acohido says. "We serve everybody without regard to their income or financial needs."

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– Blake Acohido, M.D.,
ophthalmologist and
director, Legacy Devers Eye
Institute – Emanuel

Philanthropy aids discovery of new treatments for corneal transplant patients

Through donor support, Good Samaritan Foundation is funding research on a new drug that might aid patients who receive partial cornea implants.

The drug is called Ripasudil and Michael Straiko, M.D., believes it could cut recovery time from months to weeks and limit complications that sometimes require additional surgery.

In Japan, Ripasudil drops are used to treat glaucoma. But the drug also heals the inside of the cornea.

So Dr. Straiko, associate director of Corneal Services at Legacy Devers Eye Institute, is testing the drug to see if it will hold corneal tissue in place after a partial implant. Currently, some patients have to lie on their backs for three days to prevent the tissue from slipping off.

Ultimately, Straiko hopes to test 72 eyes. Support from the foundation will help him complete the study, giving him the funds to pay for a research assistant, a technician and a specialized camera.

The philanthropic support also allows Legacy Devers Eye Institute to redirect research funding to other priorities such as patient assistance, salaries and equipment.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, these funds create a ripple effect that will aid our current patients and those who follow, for years to come.