
A SHOW OF LIGHT AND LOVE: LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES PARADE AT CENTRAL WASHINGTON HOSPITAL

Wenatchee, WA: Christmas Eve was a bit brighter for patients, staff, and providers at Confluence Health as local emergency services came together to spread some holiday cheer to those who needed it most. Organized by Shawn Ballard from Ballard Ambulance, the procession involved EMS, fire, and law enforcement driving with their emergency lights flashing through the Central Washington Hospital parking lots to send a message of support and encouragement to those looking on from the hospital tower.

“After the overwhelming positive feedback we received from both those on the receiving end and those that participated in the parade last year, we plan on making this an annual event,” commented Ballard. “It only makes sense to continue this simple gesture that will hopefully bring a little joy, peace, and hope to those that are sick and hurting, and to honor those that are caring for them, during the holidays.”

The first such parade held last year on Christmas Eve was a show of support to a local deputy who had recently lost her unborn child and was fighting for her own life after becoming seriously ill with COVID-19. To encourage her and her family, fellow law enforcement and others in the first responder community arrived in a procession of flashing lights, an event that caught the eye of other patients and their families who were spending the holidays receiving care.

“This was a beautiful display of love for a patient and their family which, in turn, offered some encouragement and support to all of our patients, staff, and providers spending Christmas Eve in the hospital,” remarked Tracey Kasnic, chief nursing officer for Confluence Health. “Being in the hospital, or caring for a loved one who is in the hospital, is always difficult, especially around the holidays. I am so pleased that they are continuing this beautiful tribute.”

The repeat of the parade this year in a show of light and love offered encouragement, hope, and some joy for those who truly needed it.

“We’re thankful to the efforts of our local emergency services, both for their kind display for all those in our facilities over the holidays and for their partnership year-round,” added Dr. Andrew Jones, CEO of Confluence Health. “This is a community that cares and we’re so thankful for all the support.”

About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health, the Clinic, Central Washington Hospital, and Wenatchee Valley Hospital, and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

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