



Contact: Tonia Bruess
Phone: (208) 727-8435
bruesst@slrhc.org

Generous art donation to benefit emergency services

Hospital foundation hopes to sell paintings

KETCHUM, ID (June 27, 2008) — The St. Luke's Wood River Foundation is thrilled to announce it received a generous art donation that will help sustain the hospital's emergency services into the future. Hailey artist Theodore Waddell recently gifted two highly valued oil paintings to the foundation, which are presently on display at the hospital for the public to enjoy.

"St. Luke's Wood River provides a peace of mind that comforts those of us who call this remote, yet beautiful place, home," said Waddell. "I am grateful that my paintings will help to ensure that present high level emergency services remain available for future generations."

Waddell and his wife Lynn Campion Waddell are long-time supporters of the hospital and its emergency medical services. Waddell is an acclaimed artist, who finds his inspiration in the American West. After Waddell's paintings are sold, all of the proceeds will go to the Emergency Department Endowment at St. Luke's Wood River Foundation.

"We are so grateful to Ted for his innovative support of the most important effort we have undertaken since raising funds to build the new hospital," said Martha Reed, president of the St. Luke's Wood River Foundation.

The Foundation has focused a major portion of its fundraising efforts on building a \$10 million Emergency Department Endowment that will sustain the hospital's state-of-the-art emergency services in perpetuity.

The hospital presently staffs the Emergency Department 24-hours a day with Board Certified Emergency Medicine Physician Specialists, who are specially trained in emergency medicine. Board certified emergency physicians ensure that the hospital can adhere to the highest standards in the practice of emergency medicine. This level of staffing is rare for a hospital the size of St. Luke's Wood River, because smaller hospitals do not generate the high patient volumes necessary to fairly compensate these highly trained physicians.

St. Luke's Wood River is the only hospital of its size in Idaho able to provide this level of service.

Because of the seasonal nature of the Wood River resort community, where the volume of patients fluctuates dramatically, patient volumes do not reach the critical mass necessary to offset the cost of providing high quality, 24 hour, emergency services. Many hospitals in a community of our size would not, or could not, dedicate such a significant amount of their resources to one department.

The St. Luke's Wood River Foundation is committed to raising the endowment that will ensure high quality emergency services for future generations. The sale of Waddell's art will help the Foundation's Emergency Department Endowment. For more information, please contact (208) 727-8416.

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