

### St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation

**Mission:** To inspire generosity that improves health and well-being in the community.

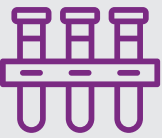
**Vision:** We envision a community where generosity ensures clinical excellence and empowers health for all.

## COVID Outreach Wood River Testing Collaboration

The COVID Outreach Wood River testing collaboration, a free community testing program, concluded this spring. The program served to significantly expand testing for asymptomatic patients and help contain the spread of the coronavirus. The community collaboration concluded when St. Luke’s Wood River expanded its testing capacity to asymptomatic patients. Many thanks to Dr. Tom Archie of InnerHealth MD, and his staff, for their efforts in caring for our community.



**2,844 COVID-19 viral detection tests** administered by the COVID Outreach Wood River collaboration. Of these, 238 tests were positive.



**25 sequential PCR-positive samples** sent to the University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson for viral genomic sequencing. Of the 25 PCR-positive samples sequenced, 12 were variant positive. These were the first variants confirmed in Blaine County.

## Scheduling your COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone! Appointments can be scheduled through myChart. To set up a myChart account, visit [mychart@slhs.org](mailto:mychart@slhs.org) or call 208-381-9000. Those who are unable to use myChart can call St. Luke’s Connect at 208-381-9500 to set up a vaccine appointment.



Twelve-year-old Tristan Boloix wants an “end to COVID.”



Generosity makes a new bus service for Wood River patients a reality.

## Bus Service Expands Access to Care

Wood River Valley patients in need of medical treatment in Twin Falls are often challenged to find transportation. A new pilot program through Mountain Rides hopes to solve the problem and expand access.

“The service will transport people with serious and chronic health conditions who live in the Wood River Valley and rely on critical medical care in Twin Falls,” says Cece Osborn of Mountain Rides. “People who rely on dialysis, cancer treatments and substance abuse rehabilitation need regular transportation to Twin Falls; others need occasional transportation to psychiatry, cardiology, ear, nose and throat, and ophthalmology appointments. Accessible, quality transportation is key to their health care.”

The pilot bus route began transporting patients from the Wood River Valley to St. Luke’s Magic Valley in April. The route operates three days a week. Patients in surrounding communities may also access the bus route to receive care at St. Luke’s Wood River.

A grant from St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation, in partnership with other community funders, will enable Mountain Rides to extend the eight-week pilot program through the end of 2021.

“We hope our funding expands access to care and serves as a catalyst to secure long-term government funding,” says Megan Edwards, president of the St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation Board of Directors. “We are confident that a well-supported pilot will evolve into a sustainable, viable service.”

The new Mountain Rides route is designed to meet the non-emergency medical transportation needs of people in the Wood River Valley and surrounding rural communities. The route has stops through the Wood River Valley and ultimately, in Twin Falls. The goal is to provide 3,000 trips by the end of 2021.

Schedule information is available on the Mountain Rides website at [mountainrides.org](http://mountainrides.org), on their facebook page, at Atkinsons’ Market and at St. Luke’s locations.

## Project Seeks to Help End Pandemic

St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation and the National Institutes of Health partnered to sponsor Blaine COVID STATS, a research project designed to study, test and track COVID-19. The project began its six- to nine-month research study of people in Blaine County who are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

The study will determine the existence of the COVID-19 variants and evaluate how long someone infected with COVID-19 is able to spread the virus. Participants with frequent, regular contact with the public are best suited for this study. Participants complete a weekly questionnaire and do weekly, at-home nasal swab self-testing for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. By taking part in the study, participants are helping Blaine County more quickly recognize a new wave of COVID-19 infections, helping to reduce community spread and contributing to research about the immune response to coronavirus infection.

The Blaine COVID STATS project will seek to answer questions that Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to the president and countless other scientists have been asking as they seek an end to the pandemic. “It’s a unique opportunity for a small rural community in the Intermountain West be on the world stage of scientific innovation combating the pandemic,” says emergency physician Dr. Terry O’Connor.

Two Wood River physicians, Dr. O’Connor and Dr. Tom Archie, and the study team—which includes laboratory technicians at St. Luke’s Wood River and epidemiologists at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in New York—are contributing their expertise to the project.

“This will help understand the risks of potential transmission between someone who’s vaccinated and someone who’s not vaccinated,” Dr. O’Connor says, “and how necessary mask wearing may or may not be going into the future.”

Dr. O’Connor says he’s very hopeful we’re near the end of the pandemic.

**For more information, please visit: [blainecovidstats.com](http://blainecovidstats.com)**



# Consider Your Legacy:

## Reduce your Tax Burden

Do you have an IRA or other qualified retirement plans? Are you looking for a tax-wise strategy that provides significant tax advantages? An IRA rollover gift allows you to give from pre-tax assets and could help you avoid income that could push you into a higher tax bracket.

A qualified charitable deduction (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. These deductions can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year if certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Please contact your tax advisor, who can help you determine if your IRA qualifies for a QCD. For documentation to issue a QCD from a financial institution, contact your broker or representative for specific instructions.

If you would like to more information on how to support health through your estate plan, contact Marsha Edwards at [edwardma@slhs.org](mailto:edwardma@slhs.org) or 208-721-0482.



## A Lasting Legacy

*“The Wood River Valley is a wonderful place to live. Our gift to the Legacy Society will help ensure exceptional health and care for our community long after we are gone.”*

–Buddy Wilton and Shay Doll

Buddy is St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation Board Member. He and Shay are members of the Legacy Society.

**Join our Legacy Society today.  
Call 208-727-8444.**



**If your estate plans include a gift to St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation, please let us know. We want to thank you for your generosity, honor your wishes and invite you to join our Legacy Society.**

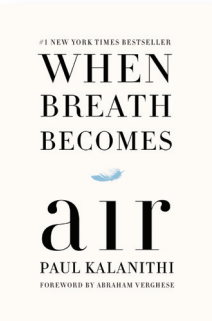


P.O. Box 7005  
Ketchum, ID 83340

### Contact Us:

*The Heart of Health Care* is published by St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation.

208-727-8419  
[www.slwrf.org](http://www.slwrf.org)



### Stay tuned for details: St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation’s 2021 Health and Well-being Speaker

Dr. Lucy Kalanithi helped complete the bestselling memoir her late husband, Dr. Paul Kalanithi, wrote before he died: “When Breath Becomes Air.” The dying doctor’s memoir teaches about love and loss.

*Your generosity impacts lives. Makes a difference. Heals.*

## Highlights in Giving

Congratulations to the caregivers and individuals who have been honored through a gift to St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation.

### In Honor of:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mary Ann Crowdson          | Dr. Leigh Morse            |
| Emergency Department Staff | Betsy Mullins              |
| Dr. Dan Fairman            | Dr. Deb Robertson          |
| Dr. Robert Hall            | Rob and Adrienne Robideaux |
| Dr. Matt Kopplin           | Amber Weber                |
| Elizabeth LaRocca          | Donna Wright               |
| Dr. Nancy Mann             | Dr. Steven Writer          |

We recognize the legacy of the following individuals who have been lovingly remembered through a gift to St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation.

### In Memory of:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Charlie Ellwanger | Fischer Rose Watson |
| Will Storey       |                     |

To honor a caregiver or loved one, please visit [www.slwrf.org](http://www.slwrf.org).

WRF-261.5.21

## Your Gifts at Work

Nearly  
**\$1 million**  
committed to expand COVID-19 testing




**\$50,000+**  
to St. Luke’s Wood River  
employees in need of  
financial assistance



 **19**  
patient rooms upgraded  
with telehealth technology

 **10,000**  
meals provided to feed  
front-line staff

**1**  
new  
ambulance 

**205**  
patients in need assisted  
with health-related  
necessities 

 **9**  
community health grants  
to empower health for all

 **14**  
grants awarded to educate  
clinical staff