

# Dumke Foundation makes \$500,000 gift to St. Luke's McCall expansion

The Dr. Ezekiel and Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 grant to St. Luke's McCall Foundation in support of the hospital's renovation and replacement project.

The gift is dedicated toward expansion of the hospital's surgical department.

"The grant was awarded as an acknowledgement of the excellent reputation of St. Luke's McCall medical staff and surgical team and the quality of care as evidenced by the zero percent post-surgical infection rate," foundation Executive Director Jenny Ruemmele said.

The grant also acknowledges increasing

demand for surgical services from patients, Ruemmele said. Trustees structured the grant so that \$250,000 would be contributed when the foundation raises a matching \$250,000.

The Dumke Foundation has awarded 11 other grants to the hospital since 1985, totaling \$784,347 to purchase a CT scanner, 3D digital mammography, and other equipment.

The foundation was created in Ogden, Utah, in 1958 by Dumke and his wife, Edna Wattis Dumke, and reflects the couple's lifelong commitment to the healing and betterment of the community, Ruemmele said.

The foundation provides gifts and grants

to support organizations involved with health and human services, arts and culture, education and the environment.

Current trustees Zeke Dumke, Jr., Nancy Schwandfelder, Andrea Manship and Claire Ryberg, unanimously approved the gift to support the "Right Care, Right Here" campaign.

## Rural Focus

Dumke's family continues his early efforts to provide advanced health care to rural communities by funding strategic health care investments, Ruemmele said.

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## Gift

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Dumke provided surgical care to patients in Utah, Idaho and Montana and was a prominent physician who started his surgical practice in 1919 in Ogden and pioneered the use of spinal anesthesia.

He was instrumental in forming the Ogden Surgical Society, and founding St. Benedict's Hospital, which opened its doors in 1946. He served as the first chief of staff at both St. Benedict's and Dee Memorial hospitals in Ogden.

"While so much has changed in medicine since the time Dr. Dumke practiced, trustees recognize much has stayed the same," Ruemmele said.

"There are the long days, nights and weekends, time on call, emotionally exhausting cases, technical challenges and constant change," she said.

"This lead gift recognizes the commitment and compassion of the physi-

cians, nurses, and clinical team at St. Luke's McCall," Ruemmele said.

The expansion of the surgery department will be part of the overall expansion and replacement project that is expected to start in the summer of 2018.

The estimated cost of the project is \$35 million, of which the St. Luke's McCall Foundation has committed to raise \$5 million. The Dumke Foundation grant is the first major gift to the foundation that has been announced.

The expanded hospital will be built on the current site of the hospital at State and Park streets, with the work expected to be done over three years.