

A Thank You to David Jaffe  
*by Dave Earling*

I recently received a phone call from David Jaffe, CEO of Swedish Edmonds, letting me know of his plan to retire at the end of this year. We as a community need to pause, reflect and thank him for the inspiring leadership he has brought to Swedish Edmonds and to Edmonds. He and Swedish laid out an ambitious plan to improve healthcare for Edmonds and South Snohomish County and they have "walked their talk".

David, if you don't know, came out of retirement 3 ½ years ago to lead the merger of Stevens Hospital and Swedish. Previous to his "first" retirement, he was Executive Director/CEO of Harborview Medical Center in Seattle (a level 1 trauma center serving a five-state region) for 16 years. Previous to that, David was COO at the Nassau County Medical Center in Long Island, N.Y., a 615-bed level 1 trauma center.

During his administration at Swedish Edmonds, he has brought a fresh face and new energy to the hospital. The hospital campus is growing dramatically. In anticipating the expanded needs of the greater community, Swedish Edmonds has opened a new cancer center, a new parking garage and they are currently under construction with a 78,000 square foot ambulatory care center. Swedish Edmonds is growing and following through on their commitments.

Under David's leadership the hospital patient volume has grown and financial, as well as philanthropic giving has reached new heights. At the recent Swedish Edmonds Auction held in Lynnwood over \$700,000 was raised. Since assuming leadership, the hospital has gained an 'A' rating for three consecutive years and the Emergency Nurses Association gave Swedish Edmonds their prestigious 2014 Lantern Award.

From the beginning, David made a commitment to become active in the community. He currently serves on the boards of Edmonds Center for the Arts and Edmonds-based Operation Military Family and he is a trustee for the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County. We see David and his wife at many local events and he has been active as a guest speaker throughout South Snohomish County.

I have had the privilege of working with David on a number of occasions. He has a warm, engaging personality and a fabulous sense of humor. At the same time, he is a great listener and an active, engaged, problem solver. His leadership and vision is a valuable asset to all of us.

Even though David is retiring, there is some very good news to report. He and his wife intend to move to Edmonds! They have so enjoyed becoming involved in the community and with the friendly quality of life we have, they want to stay right here!

So while we may be losing David in his role at Swedish Edmonds, we have the great opportunity to welcome him to our community as a resident, as well as keep his energy and leadership.

When you see David, please thank him for his work at the hospital and within the community.