

LIFE SUPPORT EVENT

Celebrating accomplishments and looking ahead

Standing ovation affirms merger of two outstanding non-profits, Life Support and Medic One Foundation, at Life Support Dinner and Auction on July 12

CLE ELUM – Two visionary organizations committed to emergency response and pre-hospital care joined forces this month to enhance fire/EMS services in upper Kittitas County

Saving lives has long been the goal of both Life Support and the Medic One Foundation. They announced their merger at the Life Support Dinner and Auction held at Swiftwater Cellars Winery on Saturday, July 12.

A sold-out crowd of over 300 gathered to celebrate Life Support’s 25th Anniversary and participate in a fundraising auction of everything from homemade cookies to trips to Lake Tahoe. The result was \$430,000 raised in support of emergency response and healthcare initiatives in this area.

From the first moment, it was clear this gathering was more than a dinner and auction. It was a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the commitment of emergency medical services and the first responders who serve.

A tribute to those first responders and the military began the event, with VFW representatives Fred Tale-rico and Renee Norris presenting American flags, and Clarice Alfonso singing the National Anthem. A commemorative presentation recounted the history of the Life Support, its board members and volunteers, and highlighted key events and notable donors. Providence-Swedish was recognized for its 20-year sponsorship, commitment,

“For Cindy and me, we believe in world-class first responder care, equipment, and training. This is what has driven our nearly 20 years of giving and support to the community through Life Support.”

– Roger Jobs, Medic One Foundation Life Support Advisory Committee

and continued support.

“A special moment occurred in recognition of EMS Pre-hospital care pioneer, Dr. Michael Copass, along with Frank Chopp, former Speaker of the Washington House of Representatives,” said Cheri Marusa, Life Support Founder and President. “Their mentorship and friendship deeply impacted this organization for over two decades. Both passed away recently, but their legacy continues to inspire.”

One aspect of that inspiration lives on with the announcement of the merger of Life Support and the Medic One Foundation. The new partnership received a standing ovation from the crowd. The late Dr. Copass, one of the founders in advancing Medic One into a nationally and worldwide recognized program, would probably have applauded the loudest.

“Life Support is honored and proud to become part of the Medic One Foundation,” said Robert (Bob) McLean, Trustee of Life Support. “Their success speaks for itself, and it’s the right time to join together to broaden our missions.”

Craig Peterson, Board President, Medic One Foundation, said, “We’re proud to

partner with an organization as deeply rooted and respected as Life Support. This merger allows us to honor their 25-year legacy while expanding our shared commitment to life-saving care along the I-90 corridor and beyond. Together, we’re ensuring that no matter where you live, help will be there when you need it most.”

Brook Simpson, Medic One Foundation Board Member, added, “This merger brings together two organizations with a shared mission to save lives. By combining our strengths, we’re expanding access to life-saving care, advancing world-class training, and building a more connected emergency response system.”

“Having 22 years of experience with Life Support, I understand the vital importance of our work,” said Sid Morrison, Life Support Chairman. “During my tenure as Washington State Secretary of the Department of Transportation, I recognized early on, after the formation of Life Support, that their efforts to develop a comprehensive fire-based EMS infrastructure from Snoqualmie Pass to upper Kittitas County were spot on – that’s visionary leadership.”

Morrison added, “A significant part of this progress is due to Cheri Marusa’s early outreach to the best in the field, including Dr. Copass, his colleagues, and the Medic One Foundation. They laid the foundation for our success today.”

Dr. Mark Reisman, Life Support Trustee, said, “As a cardiologist, I know firsthand the benefits of rapid response and early intervention. The merger of Life Support and Medic One creates resources and opportunities that pave the way for improved care in our region. Medic One has truly ‘written the book’ on emergency cardiac care in the field. Together, we will continue the Life Support mission and build on the strong legacy of the Medic One Foundation.”

Marusa concluded, “Merging with Medic One Foundation and working alongside their visionary board leadership and dedicated Executive Director, Kim Martin, has been an extraordinary experience. Their commitment to working with us in expanding the mission of Life Support in upper Kittitas County and beyond is a tribute to the pioneering innovation and the compassion exemplified by Dr. Copass.

“I have often said, regardless of what the 911 call involves, whether it’s a rescue, extrication, fire, illness, palliative care, or trauma, first responders providing initial care in the field must always know everything possible was done

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MEDIC ONE FOUNDATION MEX. Director and Board Chair Craig Peterson presented Life Support with a \$70k donation.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography



LIFE SUPPORT BOARD MEMBER Dr. Mark Reisman pays tribute to Life Support Board member Dr. Patricia Galloway.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography



BIG WINNER! Scott Wallace is excited that he won the Holland Cruise excursion.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography



GRACE TERRILL PRESENTS Chris Davis of the Davis Law Group with a thank you sponsorship recognition award.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography



VOLUNTEERS ASSIST ATTENDEES with registration during the annual fundraiser event.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography



GREG BLUM's table having a good time at the dinner.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography



FIRE CHIEF Aaron Lowe from KCFD 7 was a Life Support 2025 Award recipient.

Christy Wersland Photography



FIRE CHIEF Jay Wiseman from Snoqualmie Pass Fire District was a Life Support 2025 Award recipient.

Christy Wersland Photography



SAVING LIVES TOGETHER. On July 12 it was announced that Medic One Foundation and Life Support were merging. Pictured are a few of the board members from each non-profit organization (left to right) Brook Simpson, Michael Vanderslice, Dr. Mark Reisman, Kim Martin, Craig Peterson, Bob McLean, Cheri Marusa and Sena Lanphere.

Photo courtesy of Christy Wersland Photography