

# 2010 Report to donors

INSIDE:  
A FOCUS ON DONOR IMPACT

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Vision for philanthropy at Group Health



Laura Rehrmann  
President  
Group Health Foundation

In 2009 nearly 6,000 donors made gifts to the Group Health Foundation. Even in these difficult times, many of you still came through—and in new and bigger ways than last year. You contributed just over \$3 million in 2009, a record for the Foundation. You gave an unprecedented \$750,000 at the Gift of Health Gala to support our Childhood Immunization Initiative.

Why are donors stepping up in such inspiring ways?

Our community of donors invests in Group Health for many reasons. Some of you make gifts to

thank your care teams for a lifetime of great care. Others make gifts to support Group Health's work to improve health care for everyone.

While the reasons for this generosity vary, each and every donor is a catalyst for innovation. Your investment helps Group Health expand its potential and explore what's possible.

You fund programs like the Childhood Immunization Initiative, helping our medical teams and public health experts find new ways to protect the health of our children.

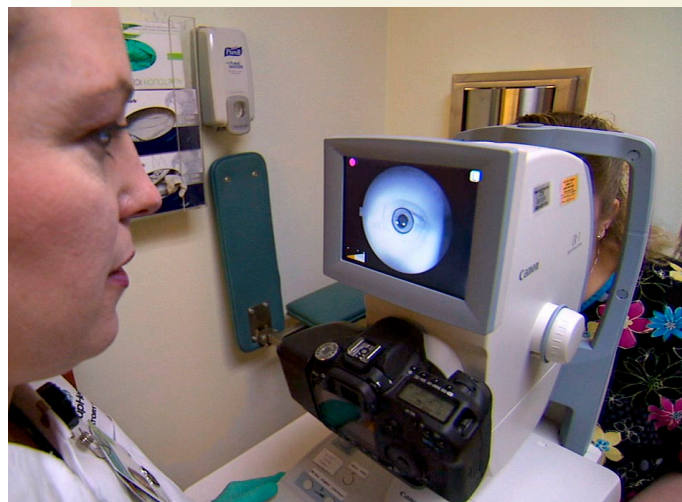
Through the Partnership for Innovation, eight pilot projects were launched that are testing new ways to improve care and reduce costs for our patients. You make it possible for Group Health to take on the biggest challenges in health care.

We look forward to building on the success of 2009 and working with you, our donors and community partners, to enhance the lives of our patients and improve the health of our communities.

Thank you for everything you do to make this work possible.



- Childhood Immunization Initiative — Your gifts are funding a statewide initiative to help raise immunization rates to protect our children and our communities against dangerous diseases. [Page 2](#)
- The Partnership for Innovation—Group Health is a national leader in health care innovation. Foundation donors are funding pilot projects to find new ways to deliver better care at lower cost, while increasing patient satisfaction. [Page 3](#)



A Group Health lab technician prepares to take a retinal scan for a patient as part of a screening for diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy is a condition that can damage eyesight and cause blindness.

With funding from the Partnership for Innovation, the Group Health eye care team is piloting a program that integrates retinal screening into routine lab visits for our members with diabetes.

### 2010 Group Health Foundation Board of Directors

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# DONOR IMPACT:

## Group Health Childhood Immunization Initiative

Immunization is the most effective way to protect our children against many diseases, some of which have no cure or treatment. Diseases like whooping cough, measles, and diphtheria disabled or killed thousands of children every year before the widespread availability of vaccines. Children who are immunized protect themselves, as well as their own families and communities, from dangerous diseases.



John Dunn, MD, is a pediatrician at the Group Health Northshore Medical Center. Pediatricians are concerned that low immunization rates could put children and communities at risk.

Nearly one-third of the children in Washington state miss one or more recommended vaccinations. Health care providers, parents, teachers, and children's health advocates are concerned that low immunization rates are putting our children and our communities at risk.

### How are donors helping to close the immunization gap?

We know that a combination of factors influence immunization

rates. With the support of Foundation donors Group Health is developing two pilot projects to explore solutions in two key areas:

#### Building solutions to address parental hesitancy

An increasing number of parents are choosing to opt out or defer recommended vaccines for their children. In Washington state, 7.8 percent of parents signed exemption forms for kindergarten school entry requirements for vaccinations. Many parents have serious questions about the safety of vaccines which contribute to this trend. Group Health is crafting tools and resources for parents and health care providers so they can work together to make informed decisions to protect our children.

#### Providing vaccines for kids who fall through the cracks

Too many children are not getting immunized because they fall through the cracks of the health care system. The Foundation is working with school districts and health departments to bring vaccination clinics to schools in King, Pierce, and Spokane counties. Donors have helped get more than 4,000 kids vaccinated since the program began in 2008.

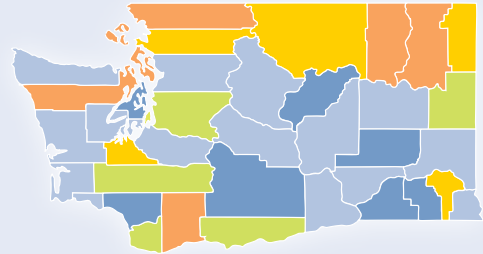
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COUNTY	CHILDREN IMMUNIZED	VACCINES
King	463	821
Pierce	2321	2990
Spokane	1426	2333
<b>Total</b>	<b>4210</b>	<b>6144</b>

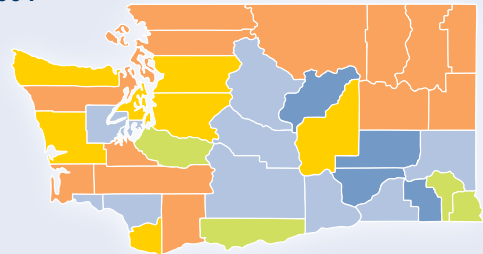
### School exemption rates on the rise in Washington state

These shaded maps indicate the percentage of children whose parents opt out of at least one vaccine required for school entry by county. The number of counties with a greater than 5 percent exemption rate has grown more than 500 percent over the last decade.

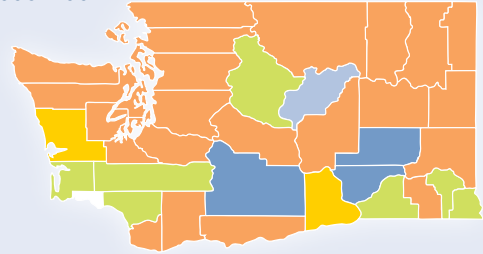
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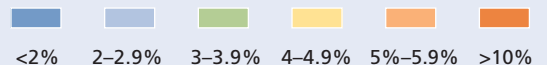
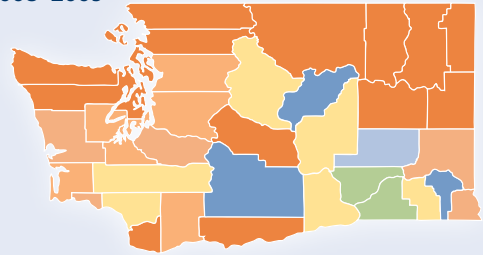
2004



2006–2007



2008–2009



Source: Washington State Department of Health

# DONOR IMPACT:

## The Partnership for Innovation

The Partnership for Innovation is built around three goals: Improving care, reducing costs and increasing patient satisfaction. The initiative is a collaboration between Group Health medical staff, the Foundation and our research institute.



The Partnership for Innovation provided funding for a pilot project to sort and divide medications making it safer for patients who take complex medication regimens. Each package is clearly marked with the date the medication should be taken.

### How it works:



Foundation donors have invested more than \$800,000 to support pilot projects throughout Group Health. In 2010 donors will provide an additional \$500,000 through the Partnership for Innovation.

INNOVATION	DEPARTMENT	POTENTIAL BENEFITS
<b>Medication Safety for Complex Regimens</b>	Pharmacy	
<b>Flu Prevention Partnership</b>	Occupational Health	
<b>Medical Home Model for Healthy Options Pregnant Women and Children</b>	Pediatrics and Obstetrics	
<b>Risk Reduction for Prescribing Long-term Opiates</b>	Physical Medicine	
<b>Integrating Behavioral Health Specialty into the Medical Home</b>	Behavioral Health	
<b>Nasal Flu Vaccine Clinics for Kids</b>	Pediatrics	
<b>Online Chronic Disease Self-Management Program</b>	Health Information and Promotion	
<b>Retinal Screening for Diabetics</b>	Eye Care	

# 2010 Report to donors

## • OUR MISSION

The Foundation supports Group Health in providing the best care for its members and creating better health in our communities.

### Let's stay connected

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## Immunizations *Continued from page 2*

### Spotlight on partnerships

We know that the solution to closing the immunization gap lies in the power of partnerships. We've worked with parents, health care providers, community based organizations, health departments, and school districts from across the state to build a better understanding of the problem and to explore solutions. We've identified and convened the right partners for critical expertise, resources, and approaches that greatly expand the reach and effectiveness of our work.

#### Our partners:

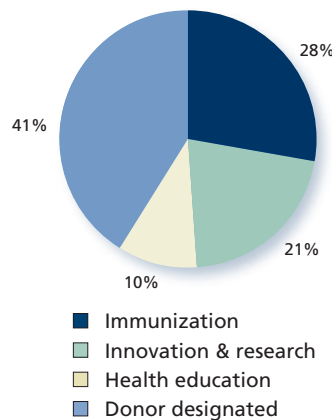
- WithinReach
- American Academy of Pediatrics, Washington Chapter
- Seattle Children's
- Washington State Department of Health

## 2009 FUNDRAISING SNAPSHOT

### Donors step up in a tough economy

Even in the worst economic downturn in decades our donors remained committed to Group Health as their charity of choice. Together our donors invested more than \$3 million in Group Health—a record for Foundation fundraising.

Where does the money go?



Who are our donors?

