



The Mended Hearts, Inc.

Founded 1951 * Incorporated 1955

Greater Wenatchee Chapter #91, Founded 2000

P.O. Box 3231, Wenatchee, WA 98807

*Dedicated to inspiring hope and inspiration
in heart patients and their families*

The Mended Hearts, Inc is a national volunteer support group dedicated to inspiring hope for recovery and a full life to heart disease patients, their families and caregivers. The organization is affiliated with the American College of Cardiology. The Mended Hearts, Inc was founded in 1951 by four, post-surgery heart patients at a Boston, MA hospital. When they met together with their surgeon, Dr. Dwight Harkens, they related their experiences, their new feeling of wellness, and they expressed their hopes for the future. They realized the experience was rewarding for each of them and wanted to share this understanding with others. From this beginning, Mended Hearts has grown to over 18,000 members in over 300 chapters around the country. In addition, Mended Hearts patient-visiting programs are established in over 450 hospitals around the country. Accredited visitors of Mended Hearts make over 200,000 patient visits annually.

Information about Mended Hearts was first introduced to Wenatchee in 1998. However, at that time heart surgeries were referred to Seattle or Spokane and the need for a support group was not as great as it is today. In 2000, everything changed with the introduction of Central Washington Hospital's Heart Center. In cooperation with Central Washington Hospital, letters were sent to heart patients in the Greater Wenatchee area. The first organizational meeting was held June 2000 and in January 2001, Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts Chapter 91 was awarded a charter from The National Mended Hearts, Inc.

One of the special gifts Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts members bring to the heart patient community is our experience. We're like the very people we serve – heart patients and families serving others going through what we went through ourselves. This allows us to draw on our own personal experiences to offer hope and inspiration to others.

We partner with Central Washington Hospital and Wenatchee Valley Medical Center to help those affected by heart conditions to have a positive patient-care experience. We do this through our hospital patient visiting program, chapter support group meetings, our monthly newsletter *Heartbeat Away*, educational speakers and special events.

Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts conducts an accredited visiting program at Central Washington Hospital. Our trained members visit heart patients and their families in the hospital when they need us most. Since the Heart Center at Central Washington Hospital officially opened in August 2000, Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts Chapter trained visitors have made more than 5000 hospital visits to heart patients and family members.

Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts Chapter 91 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Smitty's Pancake House, 1621 N Wenatchee Avenue from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., January through August plus October and November. We also have a picnic in September and a holiday gathering in December. The meetings are open to all heart patients, their families and other interested individuals. Our meetings offer menu dining, educational speakers, and interaction with other heart patients and families. Visitors are always welcome. For more information about Mended Hearts, contact Ann Diede, President of Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts, at 509-679-8181 or send an email to mendedhearts91@frontier.com.

“It's great to be alive - and to help others!”