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**Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital receives WSHA Community Health Leadership Silver Award  
for Diabetes Wellness Initiative for Central Washington**

SEATTLE – Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital received the Washington State Hospital Association’s 2016 Community Health Leadership Silver Award for its innovative approach to educating the community about the prevention of diabetes, proper nutrition and taking a proactive approach to their own health care.

The association gives the Community Health Leadership Award annually to health care organizations that are serving their community’s broader health needs in innovative and lasting ways. The award was presented during the association’s annual meeting on Oct. 14, 2016. A full list of all the nominees, along with detailed program descriptions, can be found here: [www.wsha.org/our-members/awards/community-health-leadership-award/](http://www.wsha.org/our-members/awards/community-health-leadership-award/)

“We are extremely proud of how Washington state hospitals such as Memorial are serving the needs of their communities,” said WSHA President and CEO Scott Bond. “This award seeks to recognize organizations such as Memorial that are not just serving patients, but are investing in solutions that improve the health of their entire community.”

The goals of Memorial’s Prevention and Management programs are to partner with physicians to screen for both pre-diabetes and diabetes and refer patients to the Diabetes Management and Prevention programs; to encourage patients to take an active role in their health; to reduce patient weight by 7 percent; to reduce the risk of diabetes; and for patients to improve their blood-glucose levels.

“Hospitals such as Memorial have shown that they take seriously their role in the community,” said Geri Fain, chair of the WSHA Hospital Governing Boards Committee. “Washington state hospitals recognize that it’s not enough to just be concerned about the health of the patients who walk through the doors. They know that we must think more broadly about how we can improve the health of the entire community.”

“Lifestyle intervention programs have been proven to have a positive impact on those facing the threat of diabetes and other chronic conditions,” said Russ Myers, Memorial CEO. “These types of education classes are instrumental in holding down the costs of care and improving the overall quality of life in the Yakima Valley.”

### **About WSHA**

The Washington State Hospital Association works to improve the health of all Washington state residents by being active on key issues of policy and quality. WSHA represents more than 100 hospitals and health systems in the state, including those that are non-profit, investor-owned, and county, state and military hospitals. The Triple Aim guides our members and our work, as we strive to improve the patient experience, improve the health of populations and reduce the cost of health care. Visit [www.wsha.org](http://www.wsha.org) for more information.

### **About Memorial**

**Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital**, part of the Virginia Mason Health System, is a 226-bed, acute-care, nonprofit, community hospital serving Central Washington’s Yakima Valley. Memorial Family of Services includes primary care practices and specialty care services including high-quality cardiac care; cancer care through North Star Lodge; breast health at `Ohana Mammography Center; acute hospice and respite care at Cottage in the Meadow, winner of the Circle of Life Award from the American Hospital Association for innovative palliative and end-of-life care; pain management at Water’s Edge; an advanced NICU unit, the only place in Central Washington that offers specialty care for at-risk infants; advanced services for children with special health care needs at Children’s Village; and The Memorial Foundation, a separate 501c(3) organization that raises funds for innovative health care programs in the Yakima Valley ([www.memfound.org](http://www.memfound.org)).

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