



## Welcome Craig Christopher, PA-C

FCPHD Board of Trustees invites the community to join us in welcoming Craig Christopher PA-C, as the newest member to our team of medical providers. This now brings our cadre of family practice providers to six, Farad Alrashedy, MD; Richard Garcia, DO; Mari Hunter, ARNP; Jodi Petersen, ARNP; Jim Corbett, PA-C; and now Craig Christopher, PA-C.

Craig earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska, College of Medicine in 1981. His first position was with a “One Doctor” Family Practice and General Surgeon in the small community of Tecumseh, Nebraska. The two managed a 20 bed hospital, Emergency room, Ambulance service, clinic, and three nursing homes. Spare time in the evenings was spent driving to five other small communities in SE Nebraska, once a month, to provide Family Planning services. Craig then moved to Waterville WA, in 1988 where he practiced seventeen years as a remote solo provider for Douglas County Hospital District and ambulance service. From 2005 to 2008 Craig practiced at the North Valley Hospital Emergency Department in Tonasket. His most recent practice was from 2008 to 2017 with the Northport Community Health Center. That clinic is part of the N.E. Washington Health Programs Association rural system operating eight clinics in Stevens, Pend Oreille, and north Spokane counties.

Craig reminds me that he and Karen have had a “retirement cabin” on Curlew Lake since 2005 and have enjoyed the Republic area for 12 years. This was one of the more important reasons working here made sense. His primary home is in Colbert where his



wife, Karen, is an elementary teacher with the Mead School District.

His primary hobby is flying competition aerobatics. Secondary interests include rebuilding experimental aircraft and water skiing. Craig is currently working on rebuilding an aerobatic mono-plane. With some luck, it might be ready to fly this year. Parked at the Ferry County airport is the newest member of the family, the little white Cessna last owned by Justin Smith. In addition to learning to ski at Mission Ridge during his years at Waterville, he has also enjoyed backpacking the North Cascades. Because of the insurmountable odds of a high school student at 5’6” and 125 pounds, making the football or basketball team, at age 16 he learned to skydive. He remained active over 20 years, accumulating close to 1000 jumps. Craig still dreams of doing one more.

Please join us in welcoming Craig Christopher PA-C, as we continue adding well qualified medical practitioners in moving forward on our mission “To strengthen the health and well-being of our community through partnership and trust”.

*Dave Iverson, Sarah Krausse, DiAnne Lundgren, Ron Bacon, Nancy Giddings*