



## Dr. Reed -- Around the world to Davenport



Winter is a big deal to the Reed family.

"Sam, our youngest, just played in real snow for the first time," says Fred Reed, MD, Lincoln Hospital's new physician. "The other two remember snow, but haven't touched it in years."

So where have the Reed's been that snow is in such short supply?

"Join the Navy, see the world," laughs this once avid skier of his military service. "It's been a great ride, but it's time to get off. We want to settle down and make a home. We're ready for the quiet family life."

Just like the one he had as a kid in Yakima.

"Growing up, I idolized my dad. He was a WWII marine and part of that whole generation which did their service for their country. I always admired that and wanted to go to the Naval Academy, but my eyesight wasn't good enough."

Instead, he enrolled at the University of Washington and did what most kids in the mid-1980s did. "I got a degree in economics because nothing else really hit me." He moved to Idaho and worked as a waiter and construction hand at Sun Valley hoping to sort out his future. And that's where he got really mixed up – but in a good way.

"I was working as a bartender when I met this girl," he recalls with a grin. "She was a bartender too and I guess we mixed up a little love cocktail because we started dating and eventually married."

With clarity for the first time, he knew his future was in medicine. "I thought this was a good opportunity to finally serve my country and get through medical school, so I enrolled at Boise State for my pre-med studies and signed on with the Navy."

The military, he says, is an adventurous life, but it has its drawbacks. In time, the Reeds yearned to put down roots.

"When I first found out about Lincoln Hospital and Davenport I wasn't very thrilled because I equated it with Spokane. The only times I'd ever been to Spokane was to get my tail handed to me in hockey," laughs Dr. Reed, quick to note that despite several years on skates he still has all his teeth. "It's something I'd love to get back into -- skiing too. I'd love for the kids to have the chance to learn."

And family is what this move is all about.

"We miss our family, mine in Yakima and Kim's in Portland. We haven't been able to see them in years. And this is an important time in my kids' lives. In the Navy, I'm gone so much on deployments that I miss a lot. So do they."

Although he misses his family, he admits those deployments have made him a better man and a better doctor.

"I was sent to Sri Lanka for a relief mission in 2005 after the tsunami. We gave basic medical care including surgery to hundreds of displaced people. We even brought medical care back into the northern hills to camps where people had escaped to. Really remote places, but the U.S. military can go just about anywhere."

The experience taught him how fortunate he and his family are to be Americans.

"Sri Lanka has been going through a civil war for decades. People live in fear and want," says Dr. Reed. "Most of the kids I saw had never seen a white person before. I'm as white as they come so they'd start crying the minute they saw me."

Then there was earthquake relief in Pakistan.

"We set up a hospital on the northern frontier to help the people get through the brutal winter. You see a lot in these situations and you learn how to make do and get things done despite limitations."

While relief work has been a constant in Dr. Reed's military career, he has had his share of "normal" medical practice.

"When you're a physician with the Navy, you do a lot of family practice – even when you're stationed in Okinawa," he smiles. "You take care of the personnel and their families on a daily basis — just like I'll be doing in Davenport and Reardan. Only in Japan, we lived in a tiny apartment in the middle of a huge city. There were people and cars everywhere. No open space."

In fact, it's that familiarity and the relaxed pace of life here that sold Dr. Reed on Lincoln Hospital.

"There were a lot of positives to this opportunity. First off, just the way the practice is laid out. The structures are similar to what I'm used to. The scope of practice is very much the same as what I have now, and the folks I'm going to be working with really made us feel like this is the right place for us."