When Jim Remillard of Otis collapsed at the Wyantenuck Country Club, everyone assumed he was having a heart attack. That conclusion seemed logical. He had been experiencing shortness of breath for a few weeks, and his friend Bruce Singer was so concerned about his breathing on the way to Wyantenuck that he wanted to take Jim to the hospital. “I really thought I was OK – that it would go away,” Jim recalled. Within a few steps of leaving the car, Bruce ran to catch him as he passed out.

Rushed to Fairview Hospital’s Emergency Department, physicians worked quickly to discover the cause of Jim’s emergency — and it wasn’t a heart attack.

An immediate CT scan revealed that his lungs were filled with blood clots and he was in critical condition. Jim was stabilized at Fairview and transported to the Intensive Care Unit at Berkshire Medical Center for more care.

“I recovered because of very sound decision-making and fast action on the part of the Fairview practitioners,” Jim said. “They quickly determined what was wrong and initiated the right care. I also learned that the CT scan that was used to diagnose my condition was state-of-the-art, and was available at Fairview because of funds raised during a previous community fundraising campaign. The generosity of this community enabled Fairview Hospital to have fantastic practitioners and diagnostic equipment, and the combination saved my life.”

Jim’s experience also revealed Fairview’s extraordinary reputation for compassionate care. “A nurse stayed with me, my wife and Bruce the entire time, talking to us and keeping us calm,” he said. “They are very professional and well-prepared at Fairview, but they’re also very kind and attentive.”