Gratitude

CREATING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY. TOGETHER.

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Transformational Generosity

Earlier this summer, the Sequoia Hospital Foundation received a generous \$10 million gift from an anonymous private foundation in the Bay Area. The gift will fund the renovations and new technology for two Cath Labs within Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital's Heart and Vascular Institute and represents the most significant single donation in the 36-year history of our foundation.

"This transformational gift is visionary," said Hardwin Mead, MD, physician leader at Sequoia Hospital's Heart and Vascular Institute. "The enhancements to our cardiac electrophysiology laboratories will measurably advance cardiovascular care at Sequoia—allowing us to continue providing state-of-the-art technology for cardiac procedures and helping patients achieve their therapeutic goals in the most efficient and safe manner possible."

Sequoia Hospital's Heart and Vascular Institute was an early trailblazer in innovative cardiac care. The hospital's internationally recognized electrophysiology program was founded in 1984 by Dr. Mead and Roger Winkle, MD, to treat cardiac arrhythmias, abnormal heart rhythms that typically develop when disease or injury disrupts the heart's electrical signals, causing the heart to beat erratically.

Like medical facilities across the nation and globe, Sequoia Hospital has had to divert much of its financial resources to the COVID-19 response. While the hospital continues to offer the same advanced, award-winning cardiac care for which it is well known, it cannot at this time fund updates to non-COVID-19 hospital programs and projects. At this challenging time, community donations such as this one are essential to the hospital's operations and ability to provide high-quality, world-class care to the community.



Hearts of the Hospital

Founded in 2019, the Sequoia Hospital Foundation's Hearts of the Hospital group was established to help advance the decades-long legacy of Sequoia Hospital through public education and engagement. The group also works to raise funds necessary to transform patient care and programs, and secure cutting-edge technology today and well into the future. This group of dedicated women is comprised of many of Sequoia's most engaged and long-standing volunteers, donors and community advocates.

In the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, Hearts of the Hospital members including former Foundation Board chair Joan Ulibarri, began reaching out to donors and restaurants to supply meals to Sequoia's caregivers working on the pandemic's front lines. Ultimately, more than 40 local restaurants and businesses came together to support Sequoia's employees, with many returning to supply meals time and again. Their donations had a significant impact in uplifting the spirits of the hospital's caregivers during the challenging early days of COVID.

More recently, the Hearts of the Hospital held an innovative and successful three-day virtual event in August to benefit the Foundation's Caregiver Response Fund. The event was chaired by Carolyn Rianda with Lisa Brennan and Julie Bell serving as co-chairs. Attendees heard directly from Sequoia's President, Bill Graham, Chief Medical Officer, Dieter Bruno, M.D., and frontline healthcare workers about the hospital's response to the pandemic and the importance of community support. Featuring a silent auction and highlighted by a trio of private performances by internationally-renowned opera singer Pasquale Esposito, singer/songwriter Ruth Gerson and singer/songwriter Summer Brennan, the event successfully raised more than \$42,000.











Our Guardian Angels

The Sequoia Hospital Foundation is honored by the gratitude expressed by Sequoia Hospital's patients and their families. Our Guardian Angel program provides grateful patients an opportunity to honor a caregiver while giving to support the hospital's lifesaving programs.

"In July of 2019 I had an aortic valve replacement. It was flawlessly performed by Dr. Luis Castro. Five and a half months later I traveled overseas and had no problems whatsoever. Dr. Luis Castro is a great doctor. I just can't say enough about his professionalism and the care he provides for his patients.

He gave me my health back and I am able to live a normal life again. I am grateful for that and part of my gratitude includes a donation to Sequoia Hospital."

— Mai Dolch, Grateful Patient

Learn more at: sequoiahospitalfoundation.org /guardianangel

1950 Sequoia Society - Planned Giving

The Sequoia Hospital Foundation's 1950 Sequoia Society recognizes those individuals in our community who have provided for Sequoia Hospital's future through an estate or planned gift. The society's name pays tribute to the hospital's opening on October 15, 1950 to serve the residents of the peninsula.

Earlier this month in a virtual reception, the Foundation celebrated its 1950 Sequoia Society members and welcomed new members who joined the group in the past year. Those in attendance received updates on the hospital's current operations as well as plans for the future that will be made possible, in part, thanks to the generosity of the society's members.

We invite you to consider joining this important group dedicated to ensuring that Sequoia's award-winning programs continue for generations to come. Adding just a few specific words to your will or trust will keep your support local and will advance quality health care for the future of our community.

Let us help you plan a legacy that reflects what is important to you.

Contact Sequoia Hospital Foundation President Jennifer Svihus at 650.367.5712 or Jennifer.svihus@dignityhealth.org to learn more.



Meet Sylvia Nelson, our newest board member



Sylvia Nelson joined the Sequoia Hospital Foundation's Board of Directors in July of 2020. A former Mayor of the City of San Carlos who was honored by the Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year in 2003, Sylvia's connection to Sequoia Hospital and the Sequoia Hospital Foundation spans decades and crosses generations.

Sylvia has been a passionate champion for Sequoia, previously serving on both the hospital's Community Board and its Community Advisory Council. In these capacities she has had an active role in helping to shape the hospital and programs we know today. Sylvia has been a dedicated donor and volunteer for the Foundation's efforts throughout the years serving on event planning and campaign coordinating committees and advocating for donor support. In 2014, as a member of the Foundation's New Sequoia Hospital Capital Campaign Cabinet she helped secure the millions of dollars of funding that made the hospital's new patient pavilion a reality.

Away from Sequoia, Sylvia is Vice President of the Chamberlain Group. She has served as President of the San Carlos Chamber of Commerce, as co-founder of the Friends of San Carlos Senior Center and has been actively involved with the San Carlos Elms, a rental housing community created especially for seniors.

Please join us in welcoming Sylvia to the Board of Directors.



Although the Sequoia Hospital Foundation's Steven San Filippo Memorial Invitational Golf Tournament has been postponed until September of 2021, please join co-chairs Gregory Engel, M.D. and Beverly Joyce, M.D. in training for next year's event.

sequoiahospitalfoundation.org/golftournament

Give in kindness. Give in Gratitude. Give in Joy.

Giving Tuesday is December 1,2020

This day is set aside during the busy holiday season to provide us all with a reminder of the importance of giving back to support the organizations that benefit and enhance our communities.

Please join the Sequoia Hospital Foundation's Giving Tuesday effort at sequoiahospital foundation.org/giving tuesday.

#GI₩INGTUESDAY

GRFALL2020

Our Gratitude Newsletter

It is our pleasure to share this quarterly newsletter with you. We invite you to let us know if you would prefer to receive a printed version by mail or an electronic version by email. If, on the other hand, you would prefer NOT to receive our newsletter at all, please feel free to call 650.367.5657 or email: **sequoia.foundation@dignityhealth.org**. Our newsletter is also available on the Foundation's website.

Make a gift to the Sequoia Hospital Foundation Today

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