

WINTER 2019

# Firmly Rooted

NEWS FROM THE MERCY MEDICAL CENTER MERCED FOUNDATION

## Community Ambassadors

Sounding the alarm, engaging our community



Inside: Foundation Happenings /  
Meet Dr. Wagner / 2018 Donor Roll



Mercy Medical Center  
Merced Foundation

A Dignity Health Member

# WELCOME

## Dear Friends of Mercy,

At the Mercy Foundation, we seek to partner with our community to support diverse funding priorities with a direct impact on the care provided to patients at Mercy Medical Center Merced. We see ourselves as living out a health care ministry through our physicians, nurses, and all supporting personnel.



Our community's need for compassionate care, regardless of a family's ability to pay, will always outpace our resources. Your charitable contributions enable Mercy to provide exceptional care, advanced medical technologies, and treatment opportunities to all who seek care. In

2018, we provided approximately \$700,000 in support of Surgical Services to bring robotic surgery to Merced. We're proud to say that since July, our medical care team and surgeons have provided well over 200 robotic surgery cases allowing our patients to receive their advanced care closer to home and in their own community.

We value you as a partner in the health care ministry of Mercy and as a dedicated community member in this region. You are allowing us to move exponentially in providing transformational philanthropy. We know health care remains a vital element to the community infrastructure and we are committed to serving our community in these endeavors.

On behalf of the Foundation and those we serve, please accept our deepest gratitude for your compassionate partnership and your caring support of our healing ministry.

With Gratitude,

Jacob McDougal  
Vice President, Philanthropy  
Mercy Foundation



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## 2018 - 2019 FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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| - Katie Favier, Vice Chair<br>Fund Development          | - Ric Kirby              |
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- |                            |                       |
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- |               |                       |
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## FOUNDATION STAFF

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Jacob McDougal, Vice<br>President of Philanthropy | - Shelby Davidson, Annual<br>Giving Coordinator |
| - Marcee Cervantes,<br>Operations Manager           | - Sally Strasser,<br>Administrative Assistant   |

\*deceased



**Mercy Medical Center  
Merced Foundation**  
A Dignity Health Member



## SPRIT BOOSTER APPRECIATION LUNCHEONS

October 31 - November 2, Foundation Board and staff members treated our wonderful employee donor club, the Spirit Boosters, to lunch in appreciation of their unwavering philanthropic support of programs and services at Mercy Medical Center.

Current and brand new members enjoyed a Mexican feast at the Dia de los Muertos themed luncheons. Employees had the opportunity to change their giving designation, as well as increase their giving amount for a chance to win special prizes.

In the last five years, Mercy Spirit Boosters have contributed over \$740,000 to Mercy Medical Center. Thank you Spirit Boosters!



**Above:** Left to right: Dawn Butler, RN; Dawn Arnsberg, RN; and Rachel Abril, RN, enjoy their lunch together. **Below:** Left to right: Theresa Rodriguez, RN and Chris Costa are all smiles in the buffet line.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A look at recent events in support of Mercy Medical Center Merced

### CELEBRATE A LIFE



**Above:** Left to right: Foundation Board member Dan Holmes shares a smile with Nadine Washington before the reflection ceremony.

It was a full house on the night of December 4 as a number of familiar friends and new faces joined the Foundation for our annual Christmas-time event, Celebrate a Life.

Chaplain Rico kicked off the event with a lovely reflection ceremony themed on the healing power of stories. Guests reflected on happy memories of loved ones past and present during the candlelit procession to the main lobby where they were greeted by the angelic voices of the El Capitan High School Choir. It was a truly special evening.

Check out our website to see video highlights: [supportmercymerced.org/news--events/celebrate-a-life](http://supportmercymerced.org/news--events/celebrate-a-life).



**Above:** The El Capitan High School Choir performed Christmas carols while guests enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies.



To all sponsors, restaurant partners, and volunteers who made Mercy Medical Center Foundation's Taste of Merced a success, we thank you!

Because of your support and generosity,  
**\$117,000**  
 was raised for Surgical Services at Mercy Medical Center.

## Main Street Sponsors

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 Toni's Courtyard Café  
 Turmeric Indian Cuisine  
 Uncle Buck's Blazin BBQ & Catering  
 Vista Ranch and Cellars



**Above:** Local band California Creedence rocked the night away. **Below:** Brad Kessler, owner of Uncle Buck's Blazin BBQ & Catering, serves up his signature stuffed mushrooms.

**Bottom left:** Left to right: Former Board member Amie Marchini, Jill McCarthy, Leandra Baker, and Camisha Alexander pose for a photo op. **Bottom middle:** Left to right: M. Stephen Jones, Ralph Busby, and Nancy Olson enjoy good fellowship and the beautiful ambience of Bob Hart Square.







## ARE WE IN YOUR ESTATE?

### Who should Join the Mercy Foundation Legacy Society?

For people who want to create a legacy beyond their lifetime, the Mercy Foundation Legacy Society ensures donors that their charitable dollars are used in the way they intended. If you have made arrangements in your will, trust, or other deferred gift mechanism to make a gift to the Mercy Foundation, you are already eligible to be a member of the Legacy Society.

### What are the Benefits of Joining the Mercy Foundation Legacy Society?

Being a member of the Legacy Society gives you the opportunity to belong to a select group of like-minded people who are committed to supporting the needs of our communities.

Other benefits include:

- Recognition annually at a special event honoring you for your gift during your lifetime.
- The guidance of our professional staff to help you with your estate and gift planning.
- A personalized giving plan, as detailed or generic as you'd like, can ensure your philanthropy will be meaningful to you.

### How does the Mercy Foundation Legacy Society Work?

- Establish – Donors can include a gift to the Mercy Foundation in their will or trust, establishing a bequest.
- Notify – Donors notify the Mercy Foundation of their plans and automatically become members of the Legacy Society.
- Join – Donors join the network of other Legacy Society members and receive special recognition.

Please contact the Mercy Foundation Office at 209.564.4200 to discuss the various planned giving options available to you or visit our website at [supportmercymerced.plannedgiving.org](http://supportmercymerced.plannedgiving.org).

## 2018 Heritage Club Summer Social



**Left:** Left to right: Former Board member Walt Adams, Board member Ric Kirby, and Chris Morgner enjoying some great fellowship. Thank you Ric for opening up your beautiful home to us!



**Right:** Left to right: Phil Favier and Marty De Jager having a good laugh.





# In This Family, No One Fights Alone

Written by Kaaren Morgner

**1873** marked the establishment of the Fire Department in Merced. That same year Merced's first hospital, a small, one-story wooden building, opened on East North Bear Creek. Both were milestones in the development of our city. Both were dedicated to the health and safety of a growing community. One hundred forty-five years later Merced City Firefighters Local 1479 and Mercy Medical Center Merced continue to seek the welfare of the community.

What began as one firefighter's idea - Let's sell a few t-shirts to support Breast Cancer Awareness - has become a community effort with big possibilities. Fire Captain Morgan Madruga took the lead in 2014 when the firefighter who had been in charge was working a fire out of town and unable to come back.

Prior to that time, the money they raised for Breast Cancer Awareness was donated to a national organization for disbursement. Morgan had a different vision. He let his vision for community and passion as a firefighter come together. "Why send the money away? We don't know where it goes. We can keep it here locally and

know exactly where it goes. It's a better cause! People like to know the money they give stays here. We have so many needs here," Morgan emphasized. The result has been nothing short of wonderful!

The decision to donate directly to the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center through the Mercy Medical Center Foundation came in 2014. "We want to do some good for our own community," Morgan stated. "A number of our members have been challenged with cancer.

Their family members, their wives. It's something that hits home when family and friends' lives are affected. So this year's theme - In This Family No One Fights Alone - is fitting."

Over the past seven years, Merced City Firefighters Local 1479 has raised over eighty thousand dollars for Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center. Madruga is quick to give credit to team effort and community support for the growth of their philanthropic



**Above:** Fire Captain Morgan Madruga stepped in to lead the campaign in 2014. The 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt Drive raised \$23,647, the largest amount to date in the campaign's history!

## POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

project. “Merced City Fire Department leadership support is great, allowing us to wear, sell, and promote our shirts for this project. Steve Carrigan, Merced’s City Manager, met with me personally. He set up meetings so we could speak with the Merced City Schools’ superintendent and the Merced Union High School superintendent. He’s been pushing for us to be successful with this. We can’t say enough about these community leaders and their contribution to this project!”

This year the Firefighters partnered with Code 3 Ink for the

design and printing of the shirts. Morgan explained the fundraiser to owners Krista and Earl Stokes. Earl, a military veteran and the design artist, worked closely with Morgan to bring his vision to life. The firefighters’ theme resonated with Krista, a law enforcement officer. “Our company is only two years old. Code 3 represents the emergency lights and sirens of first responders. Our company is made up of first responders,” Krista noted. “We - police officers, firefighters, EMT’s - arrive first at the scene of an emergency. We’ve been doing that within our own

agencies. We pull together if one of our members is battling cancer. We want to be the first to respond. We have one now battling brain cancer. We pull together! We are happy to be part of this project!”

Greg Hostetler, a local rancher, developer, and cancer survivor, made a generous donation to this project. In 2018 every dollar collected for the shirts is a direct donation to the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center.

Morgan sees the community response growing each year. “It’s not just selling a few shirts. It’s the support the community feels,



**Above:** Left to right: Station 55 Firefighters Joe Jarratt, Brent Boyd, Morgan Madruga, and John McMillen gather around the table. “We figure out most of our problems at this table - what could be and should be. This is our outlet. Where we can talk about calls. Where a brand new guy can talk about the experience. But mostly we ridicule and poke fun! Sounds a lot like family!” - Morgan Madruga.





**Above:** Morgan says, “Our shirt is not a banner for everybody. The Code 3 Ink logo (our designer) is on one sleeve, and Mr. Hostetler’s company (Stonefield Homes) logo is on the other sleeve. The rest is all about cancer. That’s how we want it!”

the stories we hear. My mom had cancer, my dad has cancer... Thank you for doing this!” he reflected.

Kanwar Singh, director of Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center, affirms the patient’s need for support during cancer treatment. “Support is very important before, during and after treatment. Providing patient-centric services is a priority for the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center.” Generous giving through the Foundation sustains and expands support services for patients and families fighting cancer. The Foundation has funded a patient transportation program, biweekly Cancer Support Group, and new infusion chairs for patients undergoing chemotherapy. Providing exceptional care to patients close to home is the heart of our Foundation’s mission.

“We want this to become something big. In a city with ninety

thousand people, we’re selling nine hundred to a thousand shirts. Somewhere we’re not connecting. We’ve got to keep reaching!” Morgan exclaimed.

Groups like Merced City Firefighters Local 1479 are valuable partners to Mercy Medical Center Merced Foundation. They extend the reach of the Foundation into the community. According to Shelby Davidson, Annual Giving and Events Coordinator, “Third-party fundraisers are ambassadors for the Foundation in the community. People give when they feel passionate about a particular cause; third-party events help us... these supporters have a deep emotional connection with our mission.”

Giving is rooted in respect. Giving is rooted in dignity. For Morgan’s team, being involved with the community and encouraging

us as citizens to take an active part reminds us of our roots. We are people who can show up, be leaders, and build up new leaders. “Merced is a small community. At one time it was a very close community. I know that it’s not that far from being able to come back to that,” he assured.

The alarm sounds faintly to rouse those who are asleep and unaware. It builds in volume to set the team in motion. By the time fire engines leave the station, Code 3 is in full operation. First responders show up and lead. Merced City Firefighters Local 1479 sounded the alarm and rallied the community inviting us all to join them in the fight alongside families touched by cancer. “In this family, no one fights alone!” It is a fitting phrase for us all.

Mercy Medical Center Merced Foundation applauds the Merced City Firefighters Local 1479 for their passion and vision for our community. They embody the spirit of philanthropy through their gifts of time, leadership, and generous support of the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center.

# GRATITUDE

## ASSOCIATE BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Every team needs a cheerleader. Even better when the cheerleader is a teammate who steps out to lead from the front. Carol Madruga is that kind of leader.

Her passion for nursing and creating community among colleagues fueled a thirty-year career with Mercy Medical Center. Her first assignment was as a Med/Surg floor nurse and from there she moved to Obstetrics. As she puts it, “I spent over twenty-five years in obstetrics, and saw a lot of magnificent babies come into this world!”

Almost half of Carol’s time at Mercy was spent on the Mercy Foundation Board. Mercy on the Creek, as she called it, had the intimate feel of family. “We knew every nurse on every shift... It was a camaraderie that came with the small setting,” she reflected. It was fertile ground, growing Carol’s enthusiasm for team building.

Change begets challenges. As “Mercy on the Creek” and Merced Community Medical Center merged, gathering together - finding ways to be included - mattered. Doris Gonella, Mercy Foundation Board president at the time, asked Carol to consider ways employees and the Foundation could be mutually supportive. Mrs. Gonella had a vision to connect the employees with the Foundation. Carol had ideas. The result of their collaboration: Spirit Boosters.

Beginning in 1986, “Mercy on the Creek” employees had a voluntary employee payroll deduction that went to support the hospital’s general fund. Spirit Boosters added a new twist; these are employees who make donations through payroll deduction to Mercy Foundation. “People may have only been giving one to five dollars at a time, but they were contributing. And it was a huge success!” Carol recalled.

Employee giving directly to the Foundation has continued for over two decades. “We had other fundraisers - we asked them to donate one hour of their pay per pay period. Some people doubled that! It continued to be successful. People would see me coming down the hall and say, ‘Oh no! She’s coming to ask for money!’ And yet, they never said no to me,” she laughed. Spirit Boosters continue to be generous donors to the Mercy Foundation. Spirit Booster contributions over the last five years total more than 700 thousand dollars. “I’m so proud of Spirit Boosters, of the employees, and there are a lot of them, giving to the Foundation,” she smiled.

Carol attended the groundbreaking for the new hospital. The day the first shovel of dirt turned remains a vivid memory of the community coming together to build. “We were each given a vial planted with a tiny pine sapling. I planted that sapling in a little pot, then moved it to a big pot as it grew. We put it in the ground the day our twin grandbabies were born. That tree is now over 50 feet tall!” she exclaimed.

For Carol, it represents the nurturing required to take all the steps: leaving “Mercy on the Creek,” joining with the medical staff and volunteers of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street hospital (Sutter Merced Medical Center), and finding the passion together to build the Mercy Medical Center Merced we have today.

The sapling, now a mature tree in Carol’s front yard, tells the community’s story. A story of a dedicated team: doctors, nurses, ancillary staff and volunteers nurturing excellence in health care for Merced County residents.



**Left:** Carol’s pine tree that was given to her as a sapling at the groundbreaking ceremony for Mercy Medical Center Merced. To read Carol’s full story, visit [supportmercymerced.org/why-giving-matters/testimonials](https://supportmercymerced.org/why-giving-matters/testimonials).



### MEET DR. MARK WAGNER



Dr. Mark Wagner's service to Mercy spans nearly three decades. As a doctor of radiology, he and his practice, Merced Radiology Medical Group, handle all radiology for Mercy Medical Center. From the County Hospital (MCMC) and Mercy (on the creek), to the old outpatient center (MSDC) on Loughborough Drive, "I've been wherever the hospital wanted me," he laughed. More than once Dr. Wagner has served as Chief of Staff and held positions on numerous hospital committees. He continues to sit on the Medical Executive Committee, a committee made up of all the department chairs, currently serving as Radiology Department Chair, a position he's held for almost twenty years.

Community matters to Dr. Wagner. As a physician, the Mercy Medical Center Merced Foundation remains an important link in his community involvement. Dr. Wagner was active in and gave generously to the Capital Campaign for the building of the hospital facility as well as the 3D mammography campaign. He, along with

his technologists, researched and determined the best 3D mammography equipment to purchase. "I submitted the 3D mammography request to the Foundation Board. I was glad we could take that to the community," he stated. "The community support was overwhelming!" Since August 2016, all mammograms at Mercy Medical Center have been done with 3D mammography and women in Merced no longer have to travel out of town to receive this service.

Dr. Wagner's heart for community, passion for his profession, gifts of time and service in leadership, and generous financial support for both the Capital Campaign and 3D mammography keep Mercy Medical Center moving forward to deliver compassionate, high-quality health care service. To read Dr. Wagner's full story, visit [supportmercymerced.org/why-giving-matters/testimonials](http://supportmercymerced.org/why-giving-matters/testimonials).



**Above:** Mercy's first DAISY Award winner, Danielle Muratore, RN, pictured with Mercy Medical Center President Chuck Kassis.

At Mercy Medical Center, our nurses touch the lives of our patients and their families every day. Their expertise, skill, and compassion are now being honored through The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses.

"We are proud to be among the health care organizations participating in The DAISY Award program," says Chief Nursing Officer, Janet Ruscoe, RN, MSN. "Nurses are heroes everyday. It's important that our nurses know their work is highly valued, and The DAISY Foundation provides a way for us to do that."

The DAISY Foundation™ was formed by the family of Patrick Barnes as a way to honor the nurses that provided quality and compassionate care to Patrick during the final stages of his battle with an autoimmune disease (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System).

Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues. Awards are presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by the honoree's colleagues, patients, and visitors.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2018

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**Above:** The Merced City Firefighters pose with their “big check” totaling \$23,647. These heroes donate the funds raised from their annual Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirt drive each year to benefit the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center.

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