

Passing Things On is a Way of Life

By Kaaren Morgner

Faviers have been farming their land for four generations. Katie and Phil have great respect for the years of tradition and careful stewardship that preceded them. Passing things on is a way of life.

Phil, Katie, and all three of their children were born at Mercy Hospital. One of their children had medical needs early in life. “It was scary having a fifteen month old admitted to the hospital through the emergency room. Our child was well cared for. I so appreciated the convenience of being allowed to stay overnight at the hospital. Those allowances - the accommodation for my well-being - meant so much. And that was over twenty years ago! Way before it was the acceptable thing to do! Home for us wasn’t just around the corner or across town.”



Foundation Board member Katie Favier and her husband Phil, charter members of the Heritage Club.

Katie recalls, “The people I knew that supported the hospital were my friends’ parents and my own parents’ peers. Mom’s friends and Phil’s aunt volunteered every Tuesday. I always hoped I’d be in the hospital having my kids on a Tuesday because she always brought in flowers from her garden.”

Katie went to work at Bank of America right out of high school. Her father determined his daughters needed a way to pay for their education. That’s how Katie met Marilyn Reese and began her relationship with the Mercy Foundation. “I’ve known Marilyn Reese since I was eighteen. She was a volunteer at the hospital and involved with the gala. She

found out I knew how to do calligraphy so she asked me to do some lettering for signage that was needed at the gala. So I guess my involvement with the hospital as a volunteer began a while back.”

Katie recalls, “When Phil and I joined Heritage Club as charter members twenty-five years ago our son was six years old. At that time one hundred dollars was a lot of money for us to put out. We had young kids; money was needed in lots of places. Phil and I couldn’t afford to go to the Gala, I’d never been to one. The year of the New York! New York! Gala, I was asked to do the calligraphy for signage so Phil’s aunt gave us tickets. It was our first. I’ve loved meeting new people and broadening my relationships throughout the county. I’ve been very involved with agricultural related endeavors and education. Both of those

are important to me, but the Hospital Foundation Board and Heritage Club encompasses everyone in the whole community.”

Katie expresses, “It feels good to be part of improving medical care in Merced. I’ve been excited about the equipment we’ve been able to bring to the hospital. The 3D mammography equipment and the laparoscopic surgical equipment was especially meaningful. We had an employee that had been going to Mexico for laparoscopic sinus surgery because we didn’t have it available here.”

Katie loves family antiques for the stories and the relationships they represent. Repurposing a piece of furniture, seeing it with new eyes, gives it new life. She refinished and stained her grandmother’s wooden garden chest for use as a coffee table. Her dad’s old work table with drawers, she envisioned painted as an art desk for her first granddaughter.

Passing on the mantle of stewardship to the next generation gives Katie great delight. “Adding young people to the board brings new perspective and fresh energy to move forward. Kids help us see with fresh eyes. It’s exciting!” The Faviors appreciate what Mercy Hospital provides in their lives. They welcome a new generation to discover new relationships and valuable service to Mercy Hospital. Passing things on is a way of life.