## Firmly Rooted NEWS FROM THE MERCY MEDICAL CENTER MERCY



## WELCOME

## Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board and leadership of Mercy Medical Center Merced Foundation, we are profoundly grateful to each of you for making 2016 a year to remember.

And to the more than 1,100 friends of the Foundation who supported

our mission, we say, thank you!



The Mercy Foundation, led by board Chair Steve Koenig, comprises talented professionals and community leaders who have a genuine desire to fulfill our hospital's mission and lead our Foundation into the future. The Foundation, with the help of our community, provided more than \$961,982 in support to the Medical Center

in 2016, including the completion of a yearlong campaign for a 3-D mammography system.

In 2016, Foundation leadership announced our latest project bringing a robotic da Vinci Surgical System to Merced. In support of this two-year initiative, we received a lead gift of \$150,000 from one of our truly valued partners, the Volunteers of Mercy. This partnership demonstrates a commitment and dedication to providing the highest quality of care for all in our community and serves as an inspiration for others to follow.

With strong leadership, collaboration, and your continued support, we're looking forward to a year filled with promise and hope!

On behalf of Mercy Merced Foundation, its board of directors, and all of the patients served by Mercy, we thank you for your generous support.

## Jacob McDougal

Vice President

Mercy Medical Center Merced Foundation

## COME ON BOARD

Want to make a difference? Think about joining the Mercy Foundation board. We're looking for passionate people who have a diversity of perspectives; an enthusiasm and energy to support the mission of Mercy Medical Center Merced; and experience in finance, marketing/communication, fundraising, nonprofit leadership, human resources, or law. Call 209.564.4200 for more information.

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\*deceased

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## NEWS AND NOTES



## SPIRIT OF GIVING

The Mercy Spirit Booster Employee Giving Drive kicked off in November, empowering Mercy Medical staff to make a difference in the lives of countless people in the community.

Their generous tax-deductible gifts help provide state-of-the-art equipment, programs, and services to Mercy Medical Center that otherwise may not be available to those in need.

"I like being a part of something that does so much good for the community," says Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Supervisor Henry Moreno, who first became a Spirit Booster 18 years ago. "I think it is very important to give back, and for me, this is a very direct way of doing that."

The program now has 429 members. To find out more about becoming a Spirit Booster, visit supportmercymerced.org/ways-to-give/spirit-boosters-.



Left to right: Vanessa Collins, RN; Koua Yang; and Marcee Cervantes at the Spirit Boosters luncheon.

## THE FOUNDATION AT WORK

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

## A SEASONAL CELEBRATION OF LOVED ONES

The holidays took on a deeper meaning last December when the Foundation held its annual Celebrate a Life event.

Participants paid tribute to loved ones with special ornaments hung on the Foundation's Christmas trees as part of a program that raised more than \$13,000. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to pause, remember, and honor friends and family while listening to a beautiful reflection ceremony delivered by Chaplain Steven Heath at the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center. Following a special Christmas tree lighting and a short candlelight vigil walk, the crowd enjoyed hot cocoa, treats, and a moving caroling performance by the El Capitan High School Choir.





**Above:** Members of the El Capitan High School Choir sang holiday carols at the Celebrate a Life event.

**Left:** Rebecca Cates and Rachel Abril took a moment to honor loved ones.

# SARRETT LELAND ANDRESEN/LELAND PHOTOGRAPH

## NEWS AND NOTES

## THE RACE IS ON

Get ready to run at Mercy's 5K Stroke Awareness Run

Lace up your sneakers and mark your calendars. The Foundation is gearing up for Mercy's sixth annual 5K Stroke Awareness Run. The race will take place on Saturday, May 6 and will kick off Mercy's Family Festival, which includes health screenings, children's activities, and more.

Last year, more than 500 race participants ran, walked, and strolled through the streets of Merced to raise stroke awareness in our community. Thirty-nine groups accepted Mercy's Team Challenge and competed for honors including largest team, best dressed, and best team selfie.

"I love the camaraderie and esprit de corps," says Philip Brown, Director of Emergency Services and Foundation board member. "I love that we have stroke survivors, college students, hospital employees, and board members all smiling and running together to support this issue and bring awareness to our community."

All proceeds from the race benefit Mercy Medical Center's Stroke Program, which has the Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission. The 2016 run raised more than \$15,000.

## SAVE THE DATE

Get your team of co-workers, family, and friends together and join us for the next 5K on May 6! Visit mercymerced.org to register; click on 5K Stroke Awareness Run.



Last year's 5K Stroke

Awareness Run helped raise
more than \$15,000 for Mercy
Medical Center's Stroke Program.
Runners enjoyed a fun day with
family, friends, and colleagues, all
united in support of a good cause.





## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Volunteers of Mercy provided the lead gift for the robot-assisted da Vinci Surgical System

At Mercy Medical Center Merced, volunteers play a vital role in our healing ministry, supporting our staff and providing a "personal touch" for patients and visitors.

The Volunteers of Mercy have also been faithful philanthropic partners, providing more than \$650,000 to Mercy Medical Center since the Foundation was established in 1984.

From their first \$250 donation more than two decades ago, to their latest gift of \$150,000 to help fund the robot-assisted da Vinci Surgical System, the Volunteers' involvement with Foundation projects often comes at precisely the right time.

At Mercy, the power of philanthropy touches every patient,

family member, and professional caregiver. Philanthropy is more important than ever as we look to the future; the Volunteers' commitment serves as a catalyst to others to demonstrate their own support of local health care.

"The Volunteers of Mercy are dedicated to the work we do every day," says Sally Strasser, President of the Volunteers of Mercy. "Our commitment to partner with the Foundation is important, and we feel proud to be able to make a difference for the Mercy community; we make these contributions with a kind and giving heart."

This support ensures that we are able to sustain our current programs and create new ones, like the 3-D mammography campaign or helping to bring a da Vinci Surgical System to Merced.

"So much of the Mercy Foundation's success can be attributed to the ongoing, generous investment from the Volunteers of Mercy," says Jacob McDougal, Vice President of the Mercy Foundation. "Our two organizations are fueled by the desire to provide the highest quality of care for our patients and our community."



Above: The Volunteers of Mercy have an enduring philanthropic partnership with the Mercy Foundation.

## INVEST IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Exceptional health care saves lives, but it is also expensive. New technologies and facilities are needed on an ongoing basis to ensure our community has access to advanced medicine at the local level. The da Vinci Surgical System means moving into the future of medicine and ensuring our patients get the highest quality of care. All proceeds from the 2017 gala, A Night in Tortuga, will benefit the da Vinci project. Please call the Foundation at 209.564.4200 or email MercyFoundationMerced@Dignity Health.org to find out how you can help.







## THE HERITAGE CLUB, THEN AND NOW

Left: Back row, Skip George, Betty Stewart, and Marilyn Reese; front row, Barry McAuley and Doris Gonella at the first Heritage Club social in 1992.

**Right:** Current Heritage Club members Ralph Busby, Suzanne Zopolos, and Annetta Meyer at a 2016 gathering.

## Celebrating Our Heritage

## The Heritage Club marks 25 years of giving back

ercy Medical Center has been a key part of health care in the Merced area since its beginnings as a 20-bed community hospital nearly 94 years ago. While the administration has changed and the hospital has grown in size and sophistication, Mercy's commitment to the highest level of care has remained steadfast.

An integral factor in Mercy's evolution in recent years is the Mercy Medical Center Merced Foundation Heritage Club.

Started in 1992 by a small group of community-minded residents, the Heritage Club is now celebrating 25 years of supporting health care solutions for those in need.

"The Heritage Club began because we wanted to find ways to have a big impact on people who can't afford medical care," says Cyril Lawrence, one of the club's charter members and Heritage Club Committee Chair. "When we have our socials, we get to share a glass of wine and maybe an hors d'oeuvre or two, and we all have a common goal: We are here to help the hospital survive and prosper—to try to make things better as a collective."

Projects funded by the Heritage Club over the years have included support of Mercy's spine program, the purchase of Panda Warmers and Biliblankets for pediatric services ("When we showed up with those baby warmers, all the mothers just perked up," recalls Lawrence), and most recently, the upcoming construction and installation of a 10-foot cross on the Medical Center chapel.

(See timeline for an extended look at Heritage Club initiatives.)

As the region continues to change, Lawrence sees the role of the Heritage Club evolving as well. The club, which currently has close to 150 members, is returning to its financial roots this year, establishing an endowment and using the income to support smaller projects with maximum community benefit.

"We're doing what we can to support the hospital in the hopes that someone else will pay it forward in the future.

That's the underlying philosophy of the Heritage Club," Lawrence says. "We have made a difference. If we can provide an extra thermometer, or a blanket to make someone more comfortable while he or she is going through a medical emergency, it's worth it."

## BECOME A MEMBER

The Heritage Club is always welcoming new members. A simple \$100 annual donation goes a long way to supporting local health care. Says Lawrence: "The area is changing. UC Merced is making a difference; we have bright young people joining our workforce. If we can get those intellectual movers and shakers to join us in trying to improve the quality of medicine here, it will go a long way to improving life in Merced for everyone." For more information about the Heritage Club, call 209.564.4200 or email MercyFoundationMerced@DignityHealth.org.

## HERITAGE VOICES

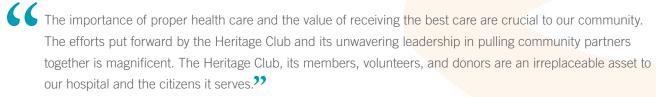
Members share what the club means to them and to health care in Merced



The Heritage Club is a way to both financially support and thank the efforts of our local health care system. When health care is improved by access to newer equipment and medical personnel trained in the latest techniques, our entire community benefits."

— Katie Favier, charter member of the Heritage Club and current Foundation board member





— Christine Bernardo-Rodrigues, RN, Emergency Services at Mercy Medical Center Merced



The Heritage Club gives people the opportunity to provide financial support to help improve the health care we deliver to all those in need. You also get the opportunity to learn firsthand what Mercy is doing to further improve health care in the community."

—Walt Adams, charter member of the Heritage Club and current community board member; his wife, Barbara, is a Foundation volunteer



As an employee of Mercy Medical Center, it's important for me to ensure that the future health care needs of our community are exceptionally met and served here locally. I have the privilege and opportunity to be part of a great cause; I want to be part of making a difference in someone else's life."

—Carrie Xiong, new Heritage Club member and Director of Performance Excellence at Mercy Medical Center Merced

## **HELPING HISTORY**

## A timeline of club milestones

The Heritage Club is established to 1992 provide a permanent source of funding for the Foundation's planned giving programs through annual membership. The Heritage Club Fund grows to more The goal of the group is to create an 1997 than \$50,000. endowment fund to benefit Mercy Hospital well into the future. The first social is held on Sept. 10, 1992, at the 2001 Merced Golf & Country Club. The Heritage Club Fund grows to more than \$200,000. The Heritage Club Fund continues to 2008 grow, surpassing \$100,000. The Foundation board designates funds The Heritage Club Fund grows to more raised by the Heritage Club to pediatric 2010 than \$318,000 since its inception services. These funds help purchase two 18 years earlier. Panda Warmers (comfort and warming incubators used post-delivery) and two Biliblankets (used in treating newborns 2011 The Foundation board votes to transfer with jaundice). \$300,000 of the Heritage Club Fund to the Medical Center to help finance the new spine program. Also, funds raised 2012 by a Heritage Club campaign go toward Funds raised by the Heritage Club go to the purchase of a Trimano Arm Support support the Continuous Ambient for Mercy's Surgical Services. Relaxation Environment (C.A.R.E.) 2013 Channel—therapeutic television programming that has been shown to Funds raised by the Heritage Club are designated to go toward the purchase of improve patient outcomes. a digital retinography system for 2014 Mercy's rural health clinics. Funds raised by the Heritage Club are The Heritage Club supports the 2015 used to purchase an ambulatory EEG construction and installation of the system for Mercy's respiratory services. 10-foot cross that will be erected atop the chapel at the Medical Center. 2016

## Festivities and Fundraisers

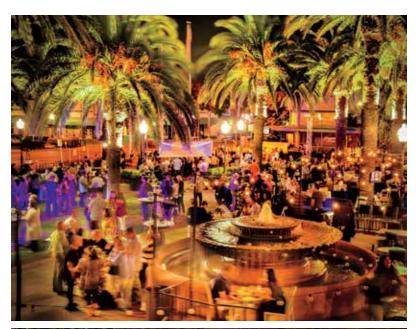


From celebrating the best tastes and sounds Merced has to offer to running for stroke awareness, the community showed its support of local health care at a variety of events this past year—and had a lot of fun doing it



Residents turned out to support the Medical Center at the Taste of Merced on Sept. 23. **Top:** Twenty-one area restaurants offered samples of their most delicious dishes. **Middle:** Armaan and Parminder Sidhu, MD. **Below:** From left, Malavalii Seetharam, MD; Jyothi Seetharam; Nadia Sattar, MD; and Atif Quereshi. **Top right:** The event at Bob Hart Square raised more than \$94,000 for Mercy's Surgical Services. **Bottom right:** Back row, Steve Koenig and Jacob McDougal; front row, Michael Strasser, Philip Brown, Katie Favier, Marilyn Reese, Ric Kirby, Cyril Lawrence, Dan Holmes, and Parminder Sidhu, MD.









Mercy's fifth annual 5K Stroke Awareness Run on May 14 included a variety of participants who ran as creatively named groups. **Top:** The Rhythm & Blues team kept the beat. **Middle:** The Phlegm Busters earned race honors for Best Team Costume. **Bottom:** Members of Total Joint Attraction stayed loose while running.











Picture-perfect moments from the Foundation's Celebrate a Life event in December. **Top:** James and Judy Noumov got into the spirit of the season. **Middle:** Participants hung ornaments in honor of loved ones. **Bottom:** Foundation board member Marilyn Reese brought the holiday cheer.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2016

## \$50,000+

Volunteers of Mercy Medical Center Merced

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**Above:** Parminder Sidhu, MD; Let's Fight Cancer Together co-founder Teresa Stinson; and Kanwar Singh, Director of the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center.

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**Above:** Carina Davis, pictured center with her family, raised \$2,065 through her "Carina Wears Pink" raffle, lemonade, and bake sale.

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