

FOUNDATION FOCUS

Helping Redlands Community Hospital Care for Generations



Message from the President

JAN M. OPDYKE, RCH PRESIDENT

This time two years ago the world was just learning about the COVID-19 virus. Little did we know how the next two years would impact all of us in one way or another. Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) has been able to face the difficult challenges of COVID-19 head on. The outlook is bright. Today, there is a sense of normalcy as we return to our daily routines.

Even through the challenging past two years, RCH has been able to plan for expanded cancer care. In 2022 RCH will open the doors to a new 8,000 sq. foot Cancer Center located at 245 Terracina Blvd. I am so grateful that Redlands Community Hospital Foundation was able to help fund over \$2.5million of the project thanks to the generous donors in our community.

It is exciting to announce that the Foundation will hold the 40th Annual Golf Classic for the Ken Corwin cup on June 16 at the Redlands Country Club. This year we will return to a full field. Activities that were limited during the last two years of the pandemic will return.

In this issue of Foundation Focus you will read about several of our supporters and how their gifts make a true impact on the lives of our patients in the community. It is with a grateful heart that I thank each one of you for your generous giving to Redlands Community Hospital Foundation. Until next time, keep in focus.

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Generous Gift Underscores Couples Commitment to Enhance Cancer Care

Thank you, Susie!

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2021-2022**

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Redlands Community Hospital Foundation board of directors extends their sincerest thank you to Susan (Susie) Henehan for her 9 years of service on the Foundation Board. Susie served on the Foundation Board from 2013 to 2022. Her leadership serving on the board has been instrumental in growing philanthropic support for Redlands Community Hospital and helping RCH Care for Generations throughout our community.

During Susie's 9 years on the board she helped with several major projects that included Vital Campaign - the Emergency Department renovation expansion project, the long term Foundation strategic plan, and most recently the Cancer Center Initiative to expand cancer service at Redlands Community Hospital. Susie was presented with a engraved vase honoring her service to the board. Thank you Susie!

Did you know?

Over \$140,000 in work hours were donated to the Hospital by over 210 active volunteers in 2021. Interested in volunteering for Redlands Community Hospital? Contact the volunteer services department by calling 909-335-5526.



Donor Gift to Cancer Initiative Ensures Patients Receive Care Close to Home

It was years of living and working in the community that led Betty Auton Beck to Redlands Community Hospital (RCH), first as a patient and then as a donor. It was something far greater than local longevity that caused the longtime estate and transactional attorney to remain a valued member of the RCH family: the realization that she could make a difference.

Born in Santa Monica and raised in West Los Angeles, Betty graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara before earning a law degree from the University of Idaho College of Law and a Master's degree in Taxation Law from the Boston University School of Law. She launched her private practice in 1993 and has been a familiar face in Redlands since moving there in 1987.

"I was always impressed with how the hospital was run," Betty said of RCH. "My late husband was always impressed with the fact that everyone there took personal responsibility for what they were doing."

Active in the community for many years, Betty embraced those perceptions and eagerly joined the RCH Foundation Board in 2019. She recently supported the hospital's multimillion-dollar cancer initiative with a generous gift, a donation that came on the heels of a generous gift in support of the hospital's Emergency Department expansion.

"I've not been touched by cancer personally, but I've had a number of very close friends and family who have been and who have had to trek into Los Angeles for their infusions," said Betty, who chairs the cancer initiative as well as the Foundation board's Planned Giving Committee. "To have a cancer center right here in the community, one that enables the hospital to meet a whole new set of community needs, is so important."

The multi-phase initiative includes numerous exciting components, including a recently-completed 8,000-square foot Center for Cancer Care that connects patients with physicians, social workers and others. An infusion center that more than quadruples the number of infusion chairs from five up to 21 also has been completed, along with expanded medical offices and treatment rooms. More than \$2.5 million has been raised in support of the project.

Why support a local community hospital such as RCH?

"Because a local community hospital serves this community," Betty said. "I like the fact that it's local and I know where the dollars are going. Dollars that are given to the Foundation are actually going to support what I want them to support rather than for overhead and salaries. And, they're going to help the community."

Certainly, these days cancer care is the focal point of many donor dollars, and rightfully so, Betty said.

"Almost all of us either know of or are close to someone who has been struck by cancer," she said. "To know that you can get the best care right here in your own community without having to travel out of the area is a great comfort. It's huge."

If you are interested in making a gift to the RCH Foundation, please contact us 909-335-5540 or visit our website at www.redlandshospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give/donate-online/

Redlands Couple Find Philanthropy to Their Liking



After many years giving to a charitable organization, some people pause and take a step backward, perhaps redirecting their philanthropy altogether. Not so with Don and Lisa McCarty.

The McCartys began giving to Redlands Community Hospital as they saw a need, perhaps to support the purchase of an x-ray machine or some other piece of medical technology. They began giving on an annual basis in 2006 and 14 years later changed their giving from yearly to monthly. To them, giving to the hospital—their hospital—is a labor of love, something they’ve done more frequently as time has passed—not less.

“It’s our hospital, it’s our community,” Lisa said. “I don’t see us not giving to Redlands. We’re happy to give back.” Don was born in Hanford, CA, and raised in Westminster. The Air Force retiree recently retired again after a second career as an automobile inventory manager. Lisa, who was born in Syracuse, NY, and raised in upstate New York, retired after 32 years teaching school. The two have lived in Redlands for 40 years.

Both Don and Lisa credit the hospital with saving their lives following serious medical issues. “We’ve always had a deep gratitude for the hospital and we wanted to give back,” Lisa said. “I truly believe that both of us wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for Redlands Community Hospital.”

The two solidified their “sometimes” giving journey with yearly gifts. “Whomever we gave to we really wanted most of the money to go to the hospital—not to television commercials or free Christmas cards,” Don said. “One of the things we actually looked at was how much money actually goes to the cause to help patients.

About the time that Covid came along the couple decided to give to the hospital more frequently. So, they began offering a monthly gift. Again, the money was to be used however the hospital saw fit. “We’d be paying our bills and we’d ask ourselves, ‘When was the last time we gave to the hospital?’ Eventually, every month we’d do our part to make sure the hospital had what it needed.” She added, “We appreciate them very, very much, particularly knowing how difficult it has been for them during the pandemic.”

They appreciate the hospital so much that they now urge others to give regularly as well. It’s one way they can help to keep the community they live in strong and vibrant. “If people we know are looking for a place to give we’ll tell them that we give to the hospital,” Lisa said. “We find that for us it’s very rewarding and it makes us feel like we’re giving back to the hospital and to the community.

“We sure know how the hospital has been overwhelmed the past two years. Maybe whatever we’re doing by giving helps in some small way.”



Giving Over the Long Term Really Adds Up

If you hesitate to support Redlands Community Hospital because you're not certain how important smaller gifts are, meet Mike Hix, Pharmacist.

Mike began giving to the hospital through regular paycheck deductions shortly after coming on board in 1989. To date, he has given more than 600 times in 33 years, usually comparatively modest amounts. As he happily attests, smaller amounts add up over time, truly making a difference in the lives of patients.

Raised in Whittier, Mike became a pharmacist in 1981, eventually moving to Redlands and joining the hospital eight years later. That affiliation came about through his friendship with Stan Weisser, a hospital board member for whom the Stan and Ellen Weisser Education Pavilion is named. "They needed a pharmacist and Stan asked if I would consider applying for an open position," said Mike. "I said 'yes' and the rest is history, as they say."

Mike's giving began pretty quickly after signing on, although he chuckles, "They're never going to put my name on a building any time soon." It doesn't matter. While major gifts are important in the scheme of things, so are smaller ones—especially when they're given over a long period of time. "I've been giving pretty consistently, although I couldn't exactly say how long," he said. "It comes out of my paycheck. Over the years it's totaled a few thousand dollars, I'm sure."

Doing the math, 600 gifts given over three decades of service averages out to about 20 gifts per year, an impressive number considering there are 26 pay periods. "Smaller gifts really can make a difference," Mike said. "The hospital has been very good to me, it's really very well run, it has supported my aspirations, and management there has always allowed me to pursue things I'm interested in so that I can do what I do better and make things safer for the people I serve."

A self-described "altruist," Mike at first only wanted to support the institution like any grateful employee might. "I do believe in supporting worthy causes that benefit people," said Mike, who has been treated a few times in the Emergency Department but never for something major. Over time, it became a mission of love, with Mike also supporting the hospital by speaking at occasional community events there. "I see the value of the institution from the inside and I don't see it as primarily profit driven," he said. "It's driven by care for the community and quality, and that's something I appreciate."

Those qualities are packaged in a family-centered community hospital that strives—quite successfully—to provide the same level of care that major medical centers do. "We really are a community hospital," Mike said. "It is people who live and work locally who are on the board. The community focus is huge."

"For more than 100 years the hospital has survived and thrived because of the community support it receives. I would tell anyone that if you want it to continue and flourish, then you should definitely support Redlands Community Hospital."

Generous Gift Underscores Couple's Commitment to Enhance Cancer Care Locally at Redlands Community Hospital



With any mining endeavor, good fortune is essential. Good fortune certainly visited Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) when mining engineer George Webber joined the Foundation board of directors. He and his wife, Helma, eventually offered a generous gift in support of our multimillion-dollar cancer initiative.

The Webbers, both of whom have been treated at RCH, are no strangers to giving. They also supported the hospital's \$20 million Emergency Department expansion and have generously given to other non-profits. Their kindness knows no limit.

Longtime residents of Redlands, the Webbers became involved with the hospital through a nurse who had cared for Helma in the early 1980s. The two reconnected several years ago and the woman urged George to join the Foundation board, which he did in 2017. He currently serves as board treasurer as well as chairman of the Finance Committee.

After the Emergency Department project, his attention quickly turned to the cancer initiative.

"My father had prostate cancer and Helma had melanoma in 2000," said the Missouri native, adding that, "We wanted to support cancer treatment here in Redlands. It's important to have a cancer center here because people are starting to realize that as you age it's not always easy to travel long distance for your care. We wanted to help people and this was one way we could do that." Of particular interest to George was the opportunity to help establish a cancer center locally from the ground up. He and Helma plan to support the center during the coming years as it grows to serve patients in the Inland Valley.

"It's our hospital," George said of RCH. "It's different than some of these massive hospitals you see. We're basically supporting our own hospital, which is very important for the community. And, of course, having the capability to treat cancer patients locally is vitally important to Helma and me, and a lot of our friends feel the same way."

The Cancer Center initiative includes several important components, including a recently completed 8,000-square foot Center for Cancer Care that connects patients with physicians, social workers and others. An infusion center that quadruples the number of infusion chairs up to 21 also has been completed. Future plans are underway to expand treatment modalities and facilitate participate in clinical trials. Through the efforts of the Webbers and others, more than \$2.5 million has been raised.

"There are other cancer hospitals, but they're not nearby," George said. "That's a big deal. If you can do something to help take care of the needs of your local hospital, then that's what you should do. Cancer is one area where people can give and really make a difference." With that in mind, the Webbers urge others to make a difference by supporting the cancer initiative. "I just tell people about the potential hardships they will face if they ever get cancer and have to drive to Pasadena, Los Angeles or someplace else for treatment. It's a drudgery to do that. We need a local cancer center, we have one now, and we need to support it."

Second Largest Auxiliary Gift Helps Kick Off a New Phase of RCH's Cancer Initiative



The Redlands Community Hospital Auxiliary welcomed the beginning of a new chapter in the hospital's multi-phase Cancer Initiative by generously providing the second largest gift in its 91-year history. A \$100,000 pledge was made official during a special check-presentation ceremony held at the hospital and attended by the director of Volunteer Services, several representatives of the RCH Foundation Board and 10 members of the Auxiliary board.

The Auxiliary's gift was the result of Gift Shop revenue. The Auxiliary staffs the Gift Shop and prides itself each year on donating proceeds to the Foundation. "The money was given in response to the development of our planned new Cancer Center," said Cherie Towers, Director of Volunteer Services. "The Auxiliary gave \$180,000 for the Emergency Department renovation during that campaign several years ago, so this is the second largest pledge they have made."

She added, "It is a sizable gift. Each year, the Auxiliary donates funds to the Foundation in support of hospital programs and services. — this is one of the many reasons the Auxiliary is here. The Auxiliary was established in 1931 and its Mission is to assist the hospital in providing quality care and service to patients. One way this is accomplished is through financial support for special projects and new services. Over the years the Auxiliary has been highly successful at doing that, giving some \$2.3 million since the group's inception. That total includes \$65,000 in 2020 and \$60,000 in 2019.

"The Auxiliary feels strongly about this service (cancer care) being available locally to patients within our community," Towers said. "Many of our board members have been touched directly or indirectly by cancer and they're excited to see expanded care in Redlands."

The Cancer Center initiative includes several important components, including a recently completed 8,000-square foot Center for Cancer Care that connects patients with physicians, social workers and others. An infusion center that quadruples the number of infusion chairs has also been completed. Medical offices and exam rooms are housed in the building at 245 Terracina across from the hospital. Through the efforts of the Auxiliary and others friends, the center will serve patients here in our community.

"Our volunteers work hard in the Gift Shop to raise funds and provide a respite for customers," Towers said. "This gift is a reflection of their dedicated commitment and the overwhelming good that they're able to provide."



Helping RCH Care for Generations.

350 Terracina Blvd.
Redlands CA 92373
redlandshospital.org/foundation

SAVE THE DATE

**The Redlands Community Hospital's 40th
Annual Golf Classic for the Ken Corwin Cup**

**Thursday, June 16, 2022
Location: Redlands Country Club
Format: 4-Man Scramble**

**100% of net proceeds to benefit Redlands Community Hospital's
Cancer Center Initiative**

**For sponsorship information contact:
FoundationManager@redlandshospital.org or call (909) 335-5540**