

FOUNDATION FOCUS

Helping Redlands Community Hospital Care for Generations



Message from the President

JAN M. OPDYKE, RCHF PRESIDENT

As we near the end of another fiscal year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our generous donors. Because of your gifts we are able to support Redlands Community Hospital and its many service lines. Some patient care areas that have benefited this year from your generosity include oncology, emergency services, intensive care, hospice, home health, wound care, and surgery services.

The RCH Golf Classic celebrated its 40th year! Yes, you read that right... the 40th Annual Golf Classic for the Ken Corwin cup took place in June. Thanks to the support from sponsors and individual donations, the Foundation was able to give over \$200,000 to RCH for the Cancer Center Initiative.

In this issue of Foundation Focus you will meet our newest staff member, Nemesis Contreras. You will also get to read about friendships coming together in philanthropy, hear about one of our generous RCH employee donors, and meet Tom Kaney, one of the most giving and talented Redlands community member. 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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Friends Dedicate Room in Memory of Deborah Carlson



If giving is contagious, then Olivia and Jim Knudsen are nine times blessed.

The Knudsen's story began in January 2018 when their daughter, Deborah Carlson, passed away from cancer. The couple—Olivia is a Redlands Community Hospital Foundation board member—eventually joined a “Great Quarantine” Zoom social group, sharing regular conversation with nine other people, each of whom was involved with the hospital and keenly aware of the Knudsen's loss. They eventually decided to do something important: the friends gave a significant contribution toward an examination room at the hospital's new Cancer Center, one that bears Deborah's name. The plaque outside the room reads, simply, “Deborah Marmolejo Carlson.”

“They're dear friends, wonderful friends, caring friends,” Olivia said. Those special friends include Helma and George Webber, Dr. Jim and Vicky Watson, Kirk and Caryl Shelby, Stan and Ellen Weisser, Bud and Jan Opdyke, Jim Holmes and Betty Beck. “I was stunned,” Olivia said. “I was happy and sad, I cried a lot. I was blessed and grateful, it was just an honor. It was a total and complete surprise. I'm so fortunate to have these friends.”

How she learned about the memorial took Olivia quite by surprise as well. She attended what she thought was going to be a ceremony at the Cancer Center honoring the Webbers. While touring the facility and its various rooms, several of which were named for members of the dinner group, they came to an exam room that had no dedication plaque at its entrance. It was then revealed that Olivia's daughter was to be memorialized there.

Olivia understands the importance of giving. A native of Redlands and a retired nurse, she began giving to the hospital in 2018 when she was invited to join the Foundation board. Having grown up in the area she was well aware of the hospital's reputation for providing excellent care in a warm, caring environment. She readily accepted. Since then, she has given philanthropically many times, contributing to the hospital's Emergency Department expansion and renovation project and most recently to the ongoing cancer initiative.

“It's been a wonderful experience. I've learned a lot about what's happening within the hospital, the Foundation and the community,” said Olivia, who is well connected and encourages her many friends to generously support the hospital as she has. To her, it's a labor of love. “The cancer initiative in particular is very important,” she said. “I am a cancer survivor and my husband and I had to drive quite a distance for my treatment. The Cancer Center is going to be great for our community and for our adjacent communities, a place where excellent treatment is finally available close to home.”

Info Systems Analyst Finds Giving Is Easy—Over & Over & Over



After more than two decades supporting the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation, Kathi Kwappenberg knows the true meaning of giving.

The Lynwood native, who attended high school in Beaumont and is now a longtime Redlands resident is someone who has given to the hospital over and over again for the past 24 years. To her, it's a joy she gets to repeat many times each year.

It all began in 1998 when Kathi joined the Human Resources Department at RCH, later transferring over to Information Systems where she now works as a business systems analyst. Her giving to the hospital began almost immediately and over time she has become a very faithful donor. "Every pay period," she laughed. In fact, Kathi has provided more than 635 gifts to the hospital over the past quarter century, making her one of the most consistent friends the Foundation has.

Most of the time Kathi lets the Foundation decide how her money should be spent. Other times, she earmarks her gifts toward a specific project, such as the newly expanded Center for Cancer Care. "I've done both," she said. "When the Cancer Center was expanding, I pointed my gifts toward that. Now, I let the Foundation determine where the needs are greatest." To Kathi, that just makes sense. It makes sense, too, Giving to a hospital where her three children were born and where she may eventually require treatment herself as the years pass and she gets older.

"I live in Redlands, and I have a lot of pride working for Redlands Community Hospital," she said. "I think they have a great mission statement and I believe in their values. If I can help, that's why I do it."

There are other reasons why she gives, reasons that define the hospital as one that provides family-centered care. "I think our staff is very caring and compassionate," she said. "They hold a lot of the same beliefs that I do and employees have a sense of pride working here. I don't think I would ever go anywhere else."

Indeed, Kathi would encourage any employee to consider giving to the hospital as she has, either through payroll deduction or individual gifts. "I would tell them to search within, and if they want to give a charitable gift, the hospital makes very easy through payroll deduction," she said. "It's a personal decision but I would encourage it."

Certainly, there are many nonprofit organizations seeking donations. While Kathi has also supported local police and fire agencies, she gives to RCH for one overriding reason. "I feel a strong sense of commitment to this hospital," said Kathi, who enjoys bicycle riding at the beach and attending concerts and professional football games. "For me, it was an easy choice."

If you are interested in making a recurring monthly 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/

Making Something Beautiful Out of Wood In More Ways Than One



Tom Kaney and Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) share an important commonality. Both strive to create beauty in the lives of people. The hospital's "beauty" takes the shape of exceptional healthcare that is changing the lives of Inland Empire residents, while Tom's beauty is in his woodworking. He makes high-quality cutting boards, lazy Susans and charcuterie trays, mostly made out of old wine barrels. The money he raises goes directly to charity, and the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation is a recent recipient of his generosity.

Born and raised in Rialto, the longtime Redlands resident developed an interest in woodwork nearly a decade ago when he built a wood shop at his home. After completing the shop and outfitting it with custom cabinets and several tools his interest in wood grew and he started making cutting boards for relatives.

Somewhere along the line "I got the idea to start using them for fundraisers," Tom said. "I would set up a little table at fundraisers, taking donations and thanking people by giving them a cutting board. I have made more than 500 cutting boards. From there he expanded to charcuterie trays made from old wine barrels and other serving trays. Indeed, it's a labor of love, with 100 percent of the proceeds from sales going to charity. The only way you can purchase one of Tom's creations is by making a donation to the charity of Tom's choice.

Tom's interest in Redlands Community Hospital began in 2014 when he was asked to join the Foundation's Golf Classic for the Ken Corwin Cup planning committee. During the Classic's recent post-tournament dinner, Tom did his thing once again, setting up a table and raising more than \$8,700 for the hospital. Through the years his wood products over \$16,000. Tom has now raised over \$275,000 for local charities with his wood products. "Redlands is a local hospital and unfortunately I've had to use the facility a few times, but fortunately they've done a great job," he said. "I've had three surgeries there myself, my aunt had cancer treatment there, and I have two brothers who have used the hospital. It's a great local hospital and they do nice work."

While Tom is modest about his work and his giving, it has not gone unrecognized. In 2019 he was named Community Champion of the Year by the Inland Empire Association of Fundraising Professionals after being nominated by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside. The honor put him in good company. Other recipients have included Rochford Foundation founders Tim and Carol Rochford, also longtime RCH supporters. "My biggest focus is on kids, and everyone needs a hospital," Tom said of his giving. "Unfortunately, you can't help every charity. I tell people I've needed the hospital myself and they've always done an excellent job. They have a great staff and great volunteers and I'm happy to be able to help out."

Redlands Community Hospital Foundation Golf Classic Raised \$200,000



Nearly 140 golfers participated in the 40th Redlands Community Hospital Foundation Golf Classic for the Ken Corwin Cup in June to raise \$200,000 for the Redlands Community Hospital Center for Cancer Care. The tournament was held at the Redlands Country Club.

The annual tournament has evolved into Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) Foundation's largest and most visible fundraising event. The event raised vital funds through sponsorships, a live auction, raffles, and participant fees. The tournament was managed by 60 volunteers from the Redlands Community Hospital Auxiliary, hospital staff, the community at-large, and the Redlands Country Club.

The live auction items included Los Angeles Angels tickets donated by Tom Rochford and his wife Carol and the Rochford Foundation, and a Lake Arrowhead cabin getaway donated by Golf Classic committee member Tom Cutler and his wife Julie, and golf-related gifts including clothing and equipment. The daylong event was co-chaired by Redlands residents Craig and Michelle Kavanaugh.

"The Golf Classic presents the people in our community with a great opportunity to give back to Redlands Community Hospital," Craig Kavanaugh said. "The Redlands Community Hospital Center for Cancer Care, which the tournament supports, is emerging as a great facility. For many years, people had to travel far outside the community to receive cancer care that was second to none—there was nothing local that served their cancer needs. Now, that is changing. The money raised in the 2022 Golf Classic will go a long way toward ensuring that the communities we represent will be served by one of the finest centers of its kind in southern California."

Many sponsors supported the tournament, including SEI, Lockton Insurance Brokers, the Redlands Community Hospital medical staff, and Dr. Richard and Elizabeth Wilson. As it has in recent years, Hatfield Buick served as the Hole-in-One sponsor, and offered a chance for golfers to demonstrate their excellence and win a new Buick on the par-3 third hole.

"This tournament is so important to the hospital," said Jan Opdyke, president of the RCH Foundation. "Not only does it give the community and hospital staff an opportunity to enjoy a day of golf and friendship, but it raises a significant amount of money for vitally important hospital programs that ultimately save lives. We look forward to it with anticipation each and every year, and this year is certainly no exception."

The Ken Corwin Cup memorializes Kenton W. Corwin, longtime president of the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation and a prime mover in the tournament's creation. Forty years later, his dedication and commitment continues to be reflected in the Golf Classic's success.

**RCH Foundation
Board of Directors
2021-2022**

- Betty Auton Beck
- Don Berry
- Luann Bangsund
- Caryl Clover
- Bill Emmerson
- Dr. Edwin Gomez
- Crista Hatfield
- James Holmes
- Olivia Knudsen
- Patricia Kohlmeier
- Katherine Meredith
- Michelle Mok
- James Odlum
- Jan Opdyke
- Bryan Reid
- Judith Scull
- Kirk Shelby
- Cherie Towers
- Dr. James Watson
- George Webber

Blood Supply in the Inland Empire Critically Low

In the past few weeks the Inland Empire has experienced a critical level of blood supply shortage. This is putting a vast variety of patients from accident victims, to cancer patients, surgery patients, and newborns who are in need of critical procedures at a high risk. A recent press release from Lifestream's Bloodbank president and medical director, Rick Axelrod states the situation the community is in. "The situation is extremely serious," said Axelrod. "We are very, very low on all blood types; surgeons can only do so much without an ample blood supply. On behalf of patients they assist, I implore the community to come forward and help."

The current situation affects Redlands Community Hospital as well. The current level of supply of blood products for transfusion is critically low. One of RCH's pathologist, Dr. Jeffrey Virgin reached out to all employees earlier this month sharing the blood shortages facing the community and RCH. He encouraged employees who are able to donate blood to do so as a great service to our patients.

Redlands Community Hospital partners with Lifestream Bloodbank to help support the demand of blood in the community. Every month Lifestream is on RCH's campus to provide a blood drive for donations. We encourage if you can, please help the the community by donating blood at our next blood drive.

Scan the QR code below to view next available blood drive appointments.

Upcoming Blood Drives:
September 6
October 4
 Noon - 5:45 pm
 in the Weisser Pavilion



Did you know?

Redlands Community Hospital provides Home Health Services. Their staff work with the patient and their doctor to develop a personalized care plan suited for the patient's needs. A team of specialists including registered nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, medical social workers and home health aides work together to help patients recover from an illness or adapt to a new health condition. For information on this service you can contact the Home Health Dept by calling 909-335-5647.

Getting to Know the RCH Foundation Staff



Nemesis Contreras, Foundation Administrative Assistant

Q: How long have you been with Redlands Community Hospital Foundation?

A: I joined Redlands Community Hospital Foundation in March 2022. I have only been working here for a few months but I've enjoyed meeting all of our amazing donors and learning more about them.

Q: How did you get started in Philanthropy?

A: In truth, I just happened to stumble into the fundraising world. I did not go to school with the intention of working for an organization raising money. After graduating from UCR with a BA in Creative writing, I became intrigued with an open position at the Foundation. As I began reading the different newsletters and articles about the donors and hospital I decided I wanted to become a part of it. I wanted to get to know these people who were contributing and making changes to other people's lives.

Q: Did you always want to be involved in healthcare?

A: I never thought I would be involved in healthcare. It was not until I saw the opening position at Redlands Community Hospital, that I started thinking more about healthcare. When I began reading the Foundation newsletters I loved reading about the different donor stories that were featured and the impact generous individuals make. I grew up in a world where no one gave to others unless they received something in return, but as I read each donors story I learned that they gave because they wanted to make a change.

Q: What is your current role for Redlands Community Hospital Foundation?

A: As an Administrative Assistant I am the main support for the President of the Foundation. My primary tasks include gift entry, database management, correspondences between the board and foundation staff, and any other areas of the Foundation that they need an extra hand in.

Q: What is it about fundraising that you like the most?

A: I love getting to interact with our donors and growing a genuine relationship with them. I love seeing the positive impact that donors make by providing better care opportunities for our patients at RCH.

Q: What do you enjoy doing when you are not busy working?

A: My partner Randy and I enjoy camping and visiting new restaurants. Meanwhile our daughter Nyssa and I enjoy reading books and baking all kinds of different desserts.

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/

CHANGE THE WORLD WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR INCOME

Do you want to support Redlands Community Hospital Foundation, but feel overwhelmed by everyday living costs, such as the latest home repair, the food expenses and escalating gas prices?



There's a solution that doesn't involve writing a check. You can designate a gift in your estate plan. There are two main benefits to this meaningful step:

1. Your current income or assets remain the same.
2. You can change your mind at any time.

The easiest and most popular way to support Redlands Community Hospital Foundation while putting your current financial needs first is to include a gift in your will or revocable living trust. It takes as little as one sentence to complete your gift.

Best of all, you have the option to leave a percentage of your estate or an asset so that no matter how the size of your estate changes, gifts to your family and nonprofits remain proportional.

Imagine how that single sentence can impact the future.

We Have the Language You Need

Please contact Jan M. Opdyke today at 909.335.5565 or jmo@redlandshospital.org for the simple language to add to your estate plan. We've helped many supporters like you take this important step. We'd love to help you extend your legacy as well.