

# Foundation Focus

Helping Redlands Community Hospital Care for Generations



## Message from the President

**BENGT GUSTAVSSON**

As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support of Redlands Community Hospital Foundation. Your generosity makes a profound impact on the lives of our patients and their families. In this issue of Foundation Focus, we celebrate the incredible legacy of one of our longtime clinical laboratory scientists, whose dedication to healthcare has been matched by their generosity to our foundation. We also honor a remarkable individual who has devoted many years to fundraising for our mission and retired in late 2024, leaving behind an inspiring legacy of philanthropy and service.

This edition also highlights the transformative grants awarded to our foundation by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians as well as Stater Bros. Charities, and Inland Women Fighting Cancer through the Believe Walk. These generous contributions will directly benefit the Laura and Jack Dangermond Center for Radiation Therapy, furthering our commitment to providing advanced cancer care for our community. None of this would be possible without you—our dedicated donors—who continue to invest in the health and well-being of others. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.

We hope you enjoy this issue and find inspiration in the stories of generosity, dedication, and impact. As always, we remain committed to our shared vision of enhancing healthcare in our community. *Stay in focus!*

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## RCH Foundation Board of Directors 2024 - 2025

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## Life Insurance: Expand Your Charitable Reach

Life insurance is a tool with many purposes. Perhaps when your children were young, you purchased policies to provide them with financial protection. But if your situation has changed, you might be interested in one of the more satisfying uses for life insurance you no longer need—donating it to Redlands Community Hospital Foundation.

A gift of life insurance has many perks:

### Cost Efficient

You can make a significant gift even if your means are limited today. By making small premium payments each year, you can leave a sizable gift.

### Tax Beneficial

For existing policies, you may receive an income tax charitable deduction if you itemize. For a new policy, with Redlands Community Hospital Foundation as owner and beneficiary, premiums may be deductible.

### Secure and Confidential

Life insurance is a contract and can't be changed by heirs. If you make Redlands Community Hospital Foundation policy owner and beneficiary, it's not included in probate and remains confidential.

### Helpful to Our Mission

Life insurance gives you a low-cost option to make a gift, helping you to make a bigger impact on our work than you may have thought possible.

## 3 Ways to Arrange a Life Insurance Gift

### 1. Give an Existing Policy

When you name RCHF as the policy owner and beneficiary, you qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction for the lower of the policy's fair market value or your cost basis. For paid-up insurance, the fair market value is the cost of replacing the coverage with a new policy issued today based on the current age of the insured at the same face amount as the original policy.

If premiums are still payable on the policy, the fair market value is usually close to the cash surrender value. You may stipulate to us that you wish to no longer make future premium payments, allowing us to access the surrender value immediately for our cash needs.

An alternative, however, may be even more attractive. The policy can remain ours and will stay in force so that someday we receive the original face amount. You pledge to make yearly cash gifts to RCHF, which we will use to pay the premiums. The gifts are deductible if you itemize, and the policy is thereby kept in force with pre-tax instead of after-tax dollars for a lower actual cost.

### 2. Retain Ownership of an Existing Policy and Name Us as a Beneficiary

If you would rather retain ownership of a policy for your own financial security or that of others, you have the following options:

- Name us as the sole or partial primary beneficiary of the policy, leaving any balance to your heirs. Because you retain ownership of the policy, you have the right to change the beneficiary at any time in any way you wish.
- Name RCHF as the contingent beneficiary, so we receive the death benefits only if your primary beneficiary predeceases you.
- Create a separate trust named to receive the death benefits, with terms providing for the financial support for one or more named loved ones for a specific term of years or for life, after which the trust terminates and its assets pass to Redlands Community Hospital Foundation.

### 3. Purchase a New Policy for Future Charitable Gifts

In most states, you can enter into a new insurance contract with a qualified organization such as RCHF as the beneficiary and owner of the policy.

## Redlands Community Hospital Receives a \$100,000 Grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for its New Center for Radiation Therapy



Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) has received a \$100,000 grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) to purchase a PET/CT scanner, which can detect cancer in its earliest stages, for its new Center for Radiation Therapy.

To provide patients with access to the latest innovations and technologies in cancer radiation treatments, RCH will build its new Center for Radiation Therapy directly across the street from the main hospital, located at 245 Terracina Blvd. The new 7,364 sq. ft. facility will house an innovative linear accelerator machine, along with a special space for a new PET/CT scanner. This new space, which is expected to open in 2026, will allow for the expansion of radiation therapy as the demand for cancer treatment in the region grows.

"We thank the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, an organization with deep roots in San Bernardino County, for their generous grant that will help us purchase a new PET/CT for our new facility," said Bengt Gustavsson, president of the RCH Foundation. "We are committed to providing our patients with the highest level of care and this grant will help our patients receive advanced treatment in their own community."

For more than 20 years, SMBMI has supported health organizations in the Inland Empire region as part of the Tribe's giving pillar of Reinforcing Healthy and Resilient Communities.

San Manuel's charitable giving program, San Manuel Cares, is committed to supporting education, self-determination for all and community development – primarily in its ancestral

lands. Since 2003, the Tribe has awarded more than \$400 million to tribal governments and tribal nonprofit organizations throughout the United States, and qualified nonprofits providing services in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

To learn how to support the construction of the new Center for Radiation Therapy, contact the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation at 909.335.5540 or visit: [www.redlandshospital.org/foundation](http://www.redlandshospital.org/foundation).

### About Redlands Community Hospital

Redlands Community Hospital is a 211-bed, independent not-for-profit, stand-alone facility located in Southern California.

### About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is a federally-recognized Indian tribe located on the San Manuel Indian Reservation near Highland, California. San Manuel exercises its inherent sovereign right of self-governance and provides essential services for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services, and promoting social, economic and cultural development. As the Indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, mountains and high deserts, the Serrano people of San Manuel have called this area home since time immemorial and are committed to remaining a productive partner in the San Bernardino region. For more information, visit <http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov>



## For 49-year Lab employee Dorene Cohen, Giving has become second nature



### Dorene Cohen

There are many ways to make the world a better place.

One way is by financially supporting your local community hospital. Another is by supporting it many, many times during a period of years or even decades.

Dorene Cohen is one such supporter. An employee of Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) since 1975, she began giving—mostly through payroll deduction—almost from the get-go. Since then she has donated more than 550 times—and she shows no sign of letting up.

"I've tried to give consistently," she said. "Way back then you had to sign up periodically in order to continue your payroll deduction. I think one or two years I just forgot to do it."

Born near Pittsburg in McKees Rocks, PA, Dorene moved to Southern California as a toddler and her family settled in Garden Grove and later Corona, where she graduated from high school. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree at Loma Linda University and passing the state medical technologist licensing exam, she soon found her way to Redlands Community Hospital.

"A close friend of mine from college was hired as a lab assistant, and the Lab really liked her," the Yucaipa resident said. "She told them, 'I have a really good friend who's just as good as I am.' She recommended me and they took both of us."

Initially hired as a medical technologist in the Laboratory, Dorene, who later earned a master's degree in medical technology, rose through the ranks and is now a clinical laboratory scientist. She continues to give faithfully.

"I always thought that giving was important," she said, adding that. "And I've always let the RCH Foundation use the money where it was needed. A lot of people do directed giving, but if everyone did that, what would be available to meet the other important needs?"

According to Dorene, it's vitally important to support one's own work place, especially within a community hospital.

"I do it for the patients, for the people in the community," she said. "They're the ones who are benefitting. The improvements that giving enables might mean that people don't have to travel to Los Angeles or the desert or to wherever it is that they might have to go in order to receive the specialized care they need if they couldn't get it here. The administration has been very good about thinking about the community and understanding their future needs."

She added, "The more you advance a service, the more valuable you are to the community."

Indeed, it's all about caring and creating value. Dorene, whose son was born at RCH and who has been treated there herself, encourages others to support the hospital as she does.

"If you work here and are concerned about the patients, you want to do everything you can to help provide more services for them, especially in your own department," she said. "If you were in a position to help open up your department, enable the hiring of additional personnel for it and purchase new equipment, why wouldn't you?"

## Stater Bros. Charities, Inland Women Fighting Cancer join hands With a major gift supporting the new Center for Radiation Therapy



Stater Bros. Charities, one of Redlands Community Hospital's (RCH) most generous and consistent donors, has joined hands with Inland Women Fighting Cancer to present the hospital with a \$250,000 gift in support of its planned new Center for Radiation Therapy. This gift was funded by the Believe Walk proceeds, an annual cancer walk that raises funds to support the fight against cancer.

The grant marks the largest gift ever provided to the hospital by the two groups. It was presented to the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation on Sept. 26, 2024.

"Cancer remains a formidable challenge within the Inland Empire, and we know without a doubt that Redlands Community Hospital is committed to meeting that challenge," said Annie Sellas, Co-Founder of Inland Women Fighting Cancer. "The hospital has demonstrated its commitment over many years through its innovative efforts to enhance cancer care with new facilities and technology. We're pleased to partner with Stater Bros. Charities as the hospital takes cancer care to the next level."

When completed across the street from the main hospital, the Center for Radiation Therapy will provide patients with access to some of the most advanced innovations and technologies available in radiation therapy. The Center will be part of the hospital's 8,000-square-foot Center for Cancer Care, which opened in 2022, with completion scheduled for 2026. Planned are rooms to house cutting-edge PET/CT and linear accelerator technology; examination, consult and uptake quarters; office space; and a reception area/waiting room. The new Center will also be equipped with beam quality assurance devices and stereotactic radiosurgery.

"Stater Bros. Charities is committed to the well-being of San Bernardino County residents and is pleased to support organizations such as Redlands Community Hospital that are committed to providing high-quality services close to home," said Nancy Negrette, Chairman and President for Stater Bros. Charities. "A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming and complicated and we understand the importance of having access to diagnostic and treatment options within our community. This grant will go a long way toward helping the hospital build its new Center for Radiation Therapy."

The generous gift marks the 13th consecutive year that Stater Bros. Charities and Inland Women Fighting Cancer has provided significant financial support for technology and programs designed to bolster Inland Empire communities by improving access to advanced health care at RCH, often in the form of new technology. That technology has included a two-dimensional digital mammography unit, a 3D mammography system, a high-definition ultrasound system, a linear accelerator, breast biopsy and a wire-free breast localization system, and other important innovations.

"We thank Stater Bros. Charities, Inland Women Fighting Cancer and the Believe Walk community for their generous grant in support of our new Center for Radiation Therapy," said Bengt Gustavsson, president of the RCH Foundation. "The new center will help many people within our growing community gain access to the latest lifesaving cancer treatments and clinical trials without having to travel far from their homes. We are deeply grateful for their generosity."

## 'Compassion Unites Us' campaign Raises \$180,000—nearly twice the goal

At Redlands Community Hospital (RCH), compassion is contagious. So is giving.

That has become clear during the course of our long history and it became even more clear in mid-October when our employee giving campaign, dubbed Compassion Unites Us, came to a successful close. After the final push a grand total of \$180,000 had been raised during the three-day campaign—almost twice the amount of the original goal.

The giving campaign ran from Oct. 9-11. The original goal was \$100,000, so the final total was considered a huge success by organizers. Funds will be used to support the hospital's planned new Center for Radiation Therapy, which will open in 2026.

"We've always known we have the finest employees anywhere, and their generosity is one of the things that makes them stand out," said James R. Holmes, President and CEO. "Selfless giving is a hallmark of dedicated employment, and our employees are among the most dedicated and caring that I've seen. We're grateful for each and every one of them."

A total of 140 employees are now actively giving in support of Redlands Community Hospital, representing an almost 300% increase in employee giving; one group organized to pledge \$25,000 for a naming opportunity in the Center for Radiation Therapy. Approximately 95% of all employees who participated in the campaign gave through payroll deduction and in doing so joined the 30-Minute Club, which brings together staff who generously contribute at least 30-minutes of their base pay each pay period via payroll deduction.

The money pledged will support a Center for Radiation Therapy that will provide patients with some of the most advanced technology and therapy innovations available. Part of the Fight Against Cancer Initiative that included the hospital's almost 8,000-square-foot Center for Cancer Care, which opened in 2022, the Center will include rooms that will house a cutting-edge PET/CT scanner and linear accelerator; examination, consult and uptake quarters; space for offices; and reception and waiting areas.

To show the hospital's appreciation, a celebration ceremony was held in December whereby employees were recognized on a special banner and thanked for their generous support. Additionally, a recognition plaque with the names of those employees who joined the campaign will be installed in the new Center for Radiation Therapy.

"This was not a surprise, and it certainly was gratifying," Bengt Gustavsson, president of the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation, said of the campaign. "Our employees have a heart for giving, and their generosity warmed all of our hearts as the campaign came to a successful close. We're thrilled and delighted with the effort."



**COMPASSION  
UNITES US**

Redlands Community Hospital Employee Giving Campaign

 **Redlands Community Hospital Foundation**  
Helping RCH Care for Generations



## Foundation Director of Development Jan Forrester retires, brought a smile and a giving attitude to RCH each and every day



### Jan Forrester, Foundation Director

The past year has been a challenging one for the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation.

Not that there weren't many important successes—there were. However, in December 2023, beloved Foundation President Jan Opdyke passed away following a long battle with cancer. Then, in October 2024, Director of Development Jan Forrester retired after eight highly productive years with the hospital, leaving another large void.

Despite her departure, Jan remains very much a part of the Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) family, visiting former colleagues on occasion and wishing the best for initiatives she once was deeply involved with.

"I'm a helping person, and I really enjoyed helping the hospital be the best that it could be by enabling it to realize a financial boost in whatever areas possible," she said of her time at RCH.

Born and reared in Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan remained in the city and graduated from College of Mount St. Joseph. She married her late husband there before leaving Ohio and heading for California, eventually settling in Mentone.

Once in California Jan entered the vocational rehab field, in 1996 becoming a rehab counselor at a vocational rehab company owned by Jan Opdyke. Their friendship flourished.

The Opdykes eventually sold the company and Jan joined Jan Opdyke as development director at the University of California Riverside. When Jan Opdyke joined Redlands Community Hospital in 2015, a high priority was hiring Jan the following year.

"I did a little bit of everything," said Jan, who managed the Foundation's efforts to develop new donors and maintain existing ones. "It's a small foundation so we all did a little bit of everything."

Everything changed several years ago when Jan's husband, Terry, was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. After his passing in 2023, Jan began reflecting on retirement.

"It did," she said. "He wanted me to retire when he got sick, but I didn't because that's what kept me sane. When he passed away and I went back to work I decided to stay a minimum of another year, and I actually stayed a little longer. Work was a good diversion, but life is short and it was time."

His passing served another purpose: it helped her to better empathize with the sick and dying and to fully understand the importance of a community-based hospital foundation and the good that it could do.

"When I returned to work I did meet people who had lost their spouses and I suddenly had another way to bond with these donors," said Jan, who supported the hospital financially during her time at RCH. "It gave me a new perspective on what they had gone through."

Indeed, being able to relate to current and prospective donors was essential to her and the Foundation's success. She looks back on her time at RCH with great fondness.

"The hospital is like a big family," she said. "It consists of people who all come together for a common goal, so we have things in common. And, we look out for each other because we want to help others. I do miss my hospital family."

In retirement, Jan has kept busy. Her son, Jon, who also once worked at RCH, recently married. She participates in water aerobics at the local YMCA, works out with mat Pilates, line dances, and makes pottery. She also assists the Mentone and Highland chambers of commerce.



Helping RCH Care for Generations

350 Terracina Blvd.  
Redlands, CA 92373  
[redlandshospital.org/foundation](http://redlandshospital.org/foundation)

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the donors who joined us at the recent groundbreaking—thank you for being part of this milestone.

