

FOUNDATION FOCUS

Helping Redlands Community Hospital Care for Generations



Message from the President

JAN M. OPDYKE, RCHF PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe another year has come to a close and we are off and running into the new year of 2023. As we start this new year I find myself reflecting on the proud moments that happened throughout last year at Redlands Community Hospital. The year brought many of them. The new Center for Cancer Care opened and is busy treating patients. The Foundation held the 40th Annual Golf Classic for the Ken Corwin Cup! The funds raised during the golf classic contributed to the successful Cancer Center construction and we cannot thank our donors and supporters enough for their generous contributions.

In this issue you will read about the generosity of several individuals and the meaning of philanthropy to them. You will see the impact of your gift in the *By the Numbers* page. Also, you will be able to plan for your giving over this next year and various ways on how to benefit through tax savings.

As we closed out another year and look forward to the start of a new one, I want to thank you for being a part of our hospital family as a generous supporter. Stay safe and until next time, *keep in focus*.

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For Hospital Recruiter, Philanthropy is Simply Means of Giving Back



When Sharon Ash began volunteering for the Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) Business Office, she had no idea it would turn into a career lasting more than two decades. That's exactly what happened. Now, 26 years later, she's a dedicated employee who still enjoys volunteering, loves to support RCH financially, and simply enjoys being a part of the hospital family. "I'm so proud to be a part of representing RCH," said Sharon, the hospital's recruitment specialist, adding: "Giving back to the hospital is very important to me."

Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Sharon moved with her husband and young boys to California in 1986 and began attending California State University, San Bernardino. She has now been married for 44 years, her three boys are grown and she has nine grandchildren.

Sharon's tenure as an employee at RCH officially began in 1996 when, as a volunteer, she was asked to apply for a position in what is now the Patient Access Department, working in Admitting, PBX, Financial Counseling and ER Registration. She then transferred to Human Resources as a clerk and worked her way up to become the hospital's recruiter. She has been employed as the hospital's only recruiter for more than 20 years.

Sharon began giving to the hospital at about the time she became a recruiter, mostly through payroll deduction and occasionally with special gifts. "Payroll deduction is a wonderful way to donate," she said. "The hospital set up a payroll donation drive to help raise money for the new Emergency Room, and I loved that. We also committed for a few years of direct donations, and it was painless to give."

Many supporters of the hospital donate after undergoing excellent care at the hospital. While Sharon was a patient after already having given for many years, the care she received reinforced her commitment. "My support to the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation began long before I was ever a patient," she said. "I have had family members who have been patients and I have been hospitalized twice in the past three years and I couldn't have asked for better patient care. Because of the wonderful compassionate care that I received, it makes me want even more to give back by donating to the Foundation."

She also gives by participating in a variety of activities within the community. "I'm the only recruiter so I've gotten involved in many aspects of the hiring process—coordinating and hosting job fairs, creating job recruitment ads, assisting with new hire orientation, and representing the hospital at local high school and college events," she said "I've also served on a high school committee that helps prepare students for the working world by reviewing resumes and holding mock interviews. My picture is even on the elevator banners and on a street banner in front of the hospital."

It doesn't stop there. "I support local law enforcement, our local American Legion, the American Cancer Society and my church." Sharon's motive through all this is simple: to help others. "I think most people have a soft spot in their heart and enjoy helping, and no donation is too small. Donating where you work every day is a great way to give back to your employer. "We should all be proud of where we work and want to be involved in helping the hospital prosper. Community hospitals truly need our donations."

Areffi's Generosity Is All About Taking care of Their Neighbors



When Carolyn Areffi joined Redlands Community Hospital, she had no idea the journey there would last, in one form or another, for 41 years. Neither did her husband, Pat, who along with his wife has given generously to the RCH Foundation for decades.

For Carolyn, 33 of those years involved employment, first as a nurse and later as a manager. For most of that time she gave through payroll deduction, and since retiring in 2014 she has continued to give. Pat has given of his time as a volunteer while supporting the Redlands couple's continued generosity toward the hospital.

"We started giving shortly after I joined the hospital," said Carolyn. "There was a need and the easiest way to do it was through payroll deduction."

Carolyn was born and raised in Enid, Oklahoma, while Pat was born in Detroit and raised in Coral Gables, Florida. Carolyn's tenure with the hospital began in 1981 when she was hired as a staff nurse on call and she retired as patient care coordinator for the Intensive-Care Unit and the Clinical Observation Unit. Pat, meanwhile, spent 20 years as an Air Force pilot, eventually flying C-141 aircraft before retiring to serve at the hospital as a volunteer patient ambassador and greeter.

Through the years, Pat has steadfastly encouraged the couple's giving. "We always had an annual gift that we gave the hospital," he said. "The hospital is a special place in Redlands. It's nestled in a neighborhood—I always felt that the hospital is not really taking care of patients, it's taking care of our neighbors. I wanted to take care of our neighbors."

Indeed, nowadays there are many worthy causes that need assistance. To Pat and Carolyn, it's a pleasure to support a hospital where the two of them have been treated, where two of their grandchildren were born and where they know they'll receive exceptional care of all kinds long in the future. "For example, I sit on the Auxiliary board and we just gave the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation \$100,000 to support the new Cancer Center," Pat said. "That's something that's very important to this community."

As the couple have given, it has certainly occurred to them that their generosity could inspire others to support the hospital as well. If that were to happen, they would consider it a bonus. "We think about that," Carolyn said. "If I'm talking with someone who might need to go to a hospital for treatment, I don't hesitate to 'advertise' the care that's provided at Redlands Community Hospital." Pat agreed. "When I was a patient ambassador, I often heard patients say that they'd been treated at one hospital or another but that they always enjoyed coming back to Redlands because of the outstanding patient care. It's really top notch."

To the Areffis, that's what it's all about: excellent patient care. "Redlands may be a small hospital, but it has a big impact on the community," Pat said. "People know, the word spreads. Let's face it—no one wants to go to a hospital. But sooner or later we're all going to have to. And if I have to go to the hospital, Redlands is the one I want to be in."

Former Chief of Staff Sets An Example of Selflessness With Gift



Like many people, Dr. Pranav Mehta has lost relatives to cancer. That alone might explain the former chief of staff's recent generous gift in support of the Redlands Community Hospital cancer initiative; however, there's more.

Although shy about his giving, Dr. Mehta hopes that opening up about his willingness to support the hospital will inspire others to give as well. "I realize that's a better purpose than my being shy," he said. "I hope that people will see my name and be inspired to give as well."

Born in Mumbai, India, Dr. Mehta immigrated to the U.S. with his family at the age of 15, settling in Santa Barbara. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, and earned his medical degree at New York Medical College.

In August of 1995 Dr. Mehta joined the Redlands Community Hospital medical staff as a family practice physician, eventually progressing to serve as chief of staff from 2020-2021. He also has served on the hospital board since 2005.

Through the years he has given often, supporting the hospital's Emergency Department renovation several years ago and more recently the cancer initiative. He also joined with other physicians in his medical group to sponsor a room in the new Emergency Department and funded a patient bed at the hospital.

"I trust this hospital," said Dr. Mehta, whose mother spent three weeks in the Redlands Community Hospital Intensive-Care Unit before passing away in 2003. "She was at another hospital and wasn't doing well. I thought, 'If she's going to leave this earth let it be at my hospital.'" He added, "I wasn't a senior physician at the time but there was an outpouring of love. This is really a special hospital. I had enough sense of brotherhood at the time to wonder, 'Wow—who does that?' It was very touching, it was nice."

Additionally, his father has been treated at the hospital and Dr. Mehta was hospitalized at RCH with Covid. Still, cancer has been a prime mover for Dr. Mehta, who has watched several relatives suffer with the disease. "Cancer runs deep in my family," he said. "I have lost two people to cancer and three others have survived. Cancer affects so many people, it's the great equalizer. If I and others can do our due diligence with regard to cancer, then why not?"

In giving to support the cancer initiative, Dr. Mehta hopes a "jewel" of a cancer center will emerge. "Cancer is such a dreaded disease," he said. "If we can have a jewel of a facility focusing on cancer, then my drop in the bucket and lots of drops in the bucket will fill the bucket." It boils down to love for community. "We're a community hospital, not a for-profit hospital. When we're asked to rise to a challenge, we do it. If I can help other people in their time of need and make them happy, that will fulfill my life mission."

So Long, 2022! Celebrate With Tax Savings

As you toasted 2022 behind you, consider these smart ways to start 2023 on a financial high note. Not only can you save on your taxes, but you can also make a huge impact at RCHF.

Contribute appreciated stock instead of cash.

If you have owned a stock for more than one year and it has grown in value, you may be in line for two tax benefits: avoid taxes on the appreciated value and qualify for an income tax charitable deduction based on today's market value when you itemize.

You receive the same tax saving as if you wrote a check, but with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes.

Sell depreciated assets and donate the cash.

Unfortunately, 2022 wasn't good for all portfolios. If you would like to support RCHF but your stocks or cryptocurrency have fallen in value, it is best to sell them first and then donate the cash. This allows you to record the loss as a tax deduction and qualify for an income tax deduction for the gift.

Open a donor advised fund account.

Contribute to a donor advised fund and enjoy a tax savings on that amount when you itemize.

Make a qualified charitable distribution of IRA assets.

If you are 70½ or older, you can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to Redlands Community Hospital Foundation. You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use this transfer to satisfy all or part of your obligation.

Help offset the tax liability on a retirement account withdrawal.

If you are 59½ or older, you can take a distribution from your retirement plan account and then make a gift to Redlands Community Hospital Foundation without an early withdrawal penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount.

How to Make a Tribute Gift

Any year-end gift can be made in a loved one's name. This can be a heartfelt way to celebrate someone important in your life or to remember someone.

The Countdown Is On

As we approach the end of the year, we are happy to help ensure that you realize the greatest benefit for your hard-earned assets. Please contact the Foundation at 909.335.5540.

Did you know?

Redlands Community Hospital has a Wound Care Center. Many factors can slow or stop wound healing: infections, nutritional deficiencies, physical disabilities, immune system suppression, diabetes, or chemotherapy or radiation. Our Wound Care Center offers a full range of wound treatment services including hyperbaric oxygen therapy and limb preservation.

For more information please call the Wood Care Center at 909-335-5616.

Redlands Police Officers Association Delivers Generous Gift



From left to right: Officer Kenny Cao, Bengt Gustavsson (RCH Foundation), Detective Eric Strobaugh, Renee Gray (Manager Nancy Varner Center), Officer Jeremiah Hotchner, Officer Matt Knudsen, Sergeant Wil Goff

On October 27th members of the Redlands Police Officers Association (RPOA) stopped by the Nancy Varner Center for Women's Health at Redlands Community Hospital. According to Sergeant Wil Goff, "This center does amazing work each and every day in the fight against all types of cancer. The courageous specialists at this clinic are always extremely busy and the lobby is never empty." During their visit the RPOA donated two brand new 50 inch 4K, smart TV's to the facility to mount in their lobby, replacing very outdated TV's. Sergeant Goff adds, "It is the Police Officers Association's hope that this donation will benefit the brave patients and employees of the Nancy Varner Center on a daily basis." The members of the RPOA felt the month of October was the perfect time to make a donation to this fabulous facility and reinforce their continued partnership with Redlands Community Hospital.

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/

BY THE NUMBERS

The mission of Redlands Community Hospital Foundation (RCHF) is to advance the delivery of exceptional healthcare in the Inland Empire through the acquisition, management and utilization of philanthropic funds for Redlands Community Hospital. We endeavor to build resources that help RCH hire top clinicians, purchase leading technology, provide essential services, maintain buildings and infrastructure and fund construction and additional staff when the need arises.

Last fiscal year, your contributions to RCHF help grant more than \$1,407,000 in services, equipment, and program related funds to Redlands Community Hospital. This number tells an inspiring story. Here are some highlights of your gifts at work.

THE DIRECT IMPACT OF RCH FOUNDATION'S FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY TO SUPPORT RCH:



\$2,550,000 raised to fund construction of the new Center for Cancer Care at 245 Terracina Blvd.

\$75,000 to help fund an oncology nurse navigator for the RCH cancer program.



\$29,540 to fund RCH clinical staff education opportunities.

\$9,810 to assist the RCH Hospice Program's to deliver compassionate, end-of-life care.



\$7,958 to directly support patients with financial need.



Helping RCH Care for Generations.

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

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*On behalf of the Redlands Community
Hospital Foundation Board of Directors,
we want to thank you for your
continued support and wish you a Happy
New Year!*

2023