

# FOUNDATION FOCUS

Helping Redlands Community Hospital Care for Generations



## *Message from the President*

**JAN M. OPDYKE, RCH PRESIDENT**

I am excited to welcome you to our very first newsletter, *Foundation Focus*. Our goal is to connect our supporters with the good work that we do - made possible by your philanthropy. Every gift is important and in the coming issues, you will see how your philanthropic contributions make a difference in the life of Redlands Community Hospital (RCH).

The last eight months brought about unprecedented challenges, not only at RCH, but also in the delivery of healthcare around the world. We are grateful that in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, you stepped forward and supported the hospital through our COVID Fund. It was heartening to know that as we took on new challenges, you were right beside us.

I hope you find *Foundation Focus* interesting and inspiring. Significant and important work continues at RCH in order to meet the health needs of our community and enhance our ongoing programs and services. We look forward to sharing these and more with you throughout the year.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions to help us improve. Please reach out to me by calling (909) 335-5540 or simply send me an e-mail at [FoundationPresident@redlandshospital.org](mailto:FoundationPresident@redlandshospital.org). Until next time, keep in focus.

## *In This Issue*

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*2020 President's Luminary Award*

*RCH Employee Heroes Mosaic*

*Remembering Dr. Ted Shankel*

**RCH Foundation  
Board of Directors  
2019-2020**

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**The Nancy Varner Center for Women's Health**



**Lindsay B., Diagnostic Medical Sonographer of the NVCWH**

The Nancy Varner Center for Women's Health at Redlands Community Hospital recently received funding from Stater Bros. Charities and Inland Women Fighting Cancer for a patient navigator position. A key member of the cancer treatment team, the patient navigator guides patients through the cancer care process. Navigators help ensure timely diagnosis, treatment, and support. According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the U.S. medical community is seeing enormous successes through patient navigation programs.

Navigators provide the vision that gives women hope. There can be seen and unseen barriers to proactive cancer care, but the navigator helps overcome the challenges of cost, fear, and misinformation. They provide essential details that patients need about procedures or treatments and arrange for tests or other appointments.

Named to honor one of the founding members of Inland Women Fighting Cancer who lost her courageous battle to the disease in 2019, the Nancy Varner Center for Women's Health continues her legacy and works to promote the comfort and well-being of all who enter. This means an inviting space with refreshments, warm gowns, and soothing aromatherapy to envelope patients. This means using the latest technology including the SmartCurve mammography tool that reduces the discomfort of a breast exam. This means the welcome addition of a trusted resource - the patient navigator.

The center is committed to a high standard of excellence in technology and use of educational tools aimed at early detection through care, imaging, and osteoporosis screenings. The patient navigator helps deliver this excellence. We are grateful for this generous grant that will impact the lives of women right here in the Inland Empire. For more information call the Nancy Varner Center for Women's Health at (909) 793-4399

**RCH Staff Honored with Heroes Mosaic**

A short eight months ago, life changed for everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed our staff to the frontlines. The crisis was constantly evolving. Our patients needed us more than ever. Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) responded by undergoing a complete transformation.

Through a long Spring and Summer, RCH staff bravely faced new challenges and heroically conquered the required extra precautions to continue our mission of *Caring for Generations*.

To mark this period in the history of Redlands Community Hospital, the Foundation asked RCH employees, physicians and volunteers for a selfie. Over 550 photos were received and gathered into a mosaic that spells HEROES - a significant and symbolic word. This mosaic now hangs in the hospital lobby as a tribute to the solidarity, flexibility and compassion demonstrated by the RCH community who, in a global health crisis, focused completely on patient care. In the midst of the most significant health emergency in over a century, we placed the responsibility of our community's health on the shoulders of these women and men. They never buckled or turned away. They are indeed HEROES.



## And the 2020 President's Luminary Award Goes To...

### ...Bonita Aceto!

Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) relies on the generous support of the donors within the communities it serves. One special group of donors are our employees - truly leading lights.

In recognition of that support, each year Redlands Community Hospital Foundation honors an employee donor by awarding the prestigious President's Luminary Award.

This year, at its board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, the Foundation honored Bonita Aceto RN, MSN, CNOR, RNFA. "Bo" has worked at RCH for over 31 years and is the current Director of Perioperative, Infusion and Specialty Services. Along with her impressive nursing career, Bonita has been a donor to the Foundation for over 28 years and made her **600th** gift in August of this year.

"We can't thank Bonita enough for all she does for the hospital," said Kathy Meredith, chair of the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation board.

"It is employees like Bo that allow the foundation to help RCH continue Caring for Generations." Bo, thank you for lighting the way!



**James R. Holmes, RCH President with 2020 Luminary Award Honoree, Bonita Aceto.**

## Did you know?

Over 4,600 individual meals were received from the community to support RCH staff during the first 2 months of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Foundation received more than \$94,000 from generous donors to support the COVID-19 Fund. The Fund was established to support RCH's needs related to COVID-19.

To make a gift to the COVID-19 Fund, visit [redlandshospital.org/foundation](http://redlandshospital.org/foundation) or call us at (909) 335-5540

## Leaving a Lasting Legacy

**Margaret Frey Pierce**, former RCH volunteer during the 'Pink Lady' era of days gone by, was an active member of our community who believed in service to others. Although she passed away decades ago, last month, she helped a patient who needed funds to cover the cost of IV antibiotics.

Upon her passing in 1988, the RCH Foundation established the Margaret Frey Pierce Endowed Fund with the generous financial gift she left to the hospital. Each year through her visionary donation, we are able to help dozens of hospital patients and many others in our community who need assistance in covering medical treatments.

Inspired? Our planning team will work with you and your advisors to customize a gift that allows you to leave a legacy as Margaret did. For more information about how to make a planned estate gift of real estate or stock, please reach out to the RCH Foundation at (909) 335-5565. We can also help you make a gift directly from your IRA or assist you with a Charitable Gift Annuity.

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## *RCH Foundation Remembers Dr. Ted Shankel*



***Dr. Ted Shankel***  
***1961-2020***

Sadly, Dr. Ted Shankel passed away after a courageous battle against glioblastoma on July 11, 2020. He graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1988 and married his classmate Tami the very next day.

Dr. Shankel practiced pulmonary/critical care for over 24 years at Beaver Medical Group and Redlands Community Hospital. He was a colleague and friend to many. His steadfast care for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients was an inspiration to all who worked beside him.

The Redlands Community Hospital Foundation has established a fund in his memory and has contributed \$2,500 as a match to gifts from others who wish to remember Dr. Shankel. Gifts to this fund will make possible the Dr. Ted Shankel Fund for ICU Scholarships. All staff in the Intensive Care Unit will be eligible to apply for assistance for further training.

A plaque honoring Dr. Shankel will be placed in the ICU. Known for his desire to serve others, he sought excellence in all he did and inspired others to follow his example. If you would like to make a gift to the Dr. Ted Shankel Fund for ICU Scholarships, please contact the RCH Foundation at 909-335-5540. You can also make a gift online at: [www.redlandshospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give/donate-online/](http://www.redlandshospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give/donate-online/)