

# FOUNDATION FOCUS

Helping Redlands Community Hospital Care for Generations



## *Message from the President*

**JAN M. OPDYKE, RCHF PRESIDENT**

Redlands Community Hospital Foundation (RCHF) is the philanthropic voice of the hospital charged with upholding the mission and values of Redlands Community Hospital (RCH). Only a handful of stand-alone community hospitals can boast the range of sophisticated services, technology and equipment that RCH offers to patients. It is our duty to ensure those features continue to be a hallmark of our care.

As you read through this newsletter you will see that RCHF awarded more than \$6 million in grants to the hospital in 2020. We helped with the purchase of technology that accelerated stroke and prostate diagnosis. We remodeled the labor & delivery family waiting room and purchased sleeper chairs for spouses. We provided assistance to hospice patients and medical services for low-income families. The foundation provided for nursing wellness programs and advanced imaging for cancer patients.

Most recently, we responded to emerging hospital needs for COVID diagnosis and patient care. We provided Plexiglas shields for intubation and personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line personnel. We would not have been able to provide these grants, if it weren't for your generosity. In turn, RCH can count on us as we move to the next crucial phase of the pandemic. Our joint success is dependent upon the acquisition and utilization of philanthropic funding. Your giving makes it possible for our foundation to keep in focus.

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## Meet Frances Wilbur



Frances has a years-long history with Redlands Community Hospital that started in 1946. It was just after the end of World War II when Frances completed her nurses training. Unsure where she would put her new skills to use, she was browsing through the American Journal of Nursing and spied an advertisement that Redlands Community Hospital was hiring nurses. Frances, a South Dakota native who had never left her home state, thought it might be fun to move to California. Shortly after, she and a friend packed up and moved west.

In those days, unmarried nurses at Redlands Community Hospital lived in the nurse's quarters (now called the Miller Building). Frances took up residence and paid \$60 a month for room and board. Looking back, she feels it was a great bargain! Recently, she found a letter she received from her mother during those early years; the address was simply listed as "Nurses Home, Redlands, California." Ultimately, she lived at the "Nurses Home" until she married her husband Lynn.

Redlands Community Hospital continued to grow, and, after the RCH Foundation was formed, Frances made her first gift in 1991. Now age 95, she continues this legacy of support to RCH. After her husband's passing and with no relatives in California, Frances returned to her native South Dakota to be closer to her daughter. However, Frances is clear that "Redlands Community Hospital will always have a special place in my heart and I plan to support RCH as long as I can."

## Small Gesture Prompts Large Gift



During a routine check-up with RCH Urologist Dr. Robert Torrey, Dave Mitchell was touched by a small gesture. While chatting during the appointment, Dr. Torrey gave Dave his cell phone number. "We're so fond of Dr. Torrey" says Dave and his wife Nina, "how many physicians would do that?"

This seemingly small but incredibly personal gesture further solidified the Mitchell's affection for Redlands Community Hospital. With a long history of philanthropic giving and a previous significant contribution to the hospital's Emergency Department expansion, Dave and Nina felt moved to make another generous gift.

Years before Dave would become a patient of Dr. Torrey, Nina's son Scott Alden was diagnosed with prostate cancer in his 40's. An accomplished athlete, successful businessman and father of three, Scott heroically fought in the same manner he'd battled on the gridiron for the ASU Sun Devils, where he led the team to several conference championships and four Fiesta Bowls. Tragically, Scott succumbed to the disease at age 56. Fast forward to Dave's routine office appointment. Motivated by improving care for urologic patients like Scott and moved by the kindness of his doctor's personal gesture, Dave and Nina had one simple question for Dr. Torrey: "what do you need?"

Today, the RCH urology suite is armed with the UroNav Fusion Biopsy System, an advanced, mobile workstation that blends pre-biopsy images of the prostate with ultrasound guided navigation in real time to assist the physician in the immediate, precision targeting of suspicious areas. Driven by the fact that prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death of men in the United States and inspired by Scott's courageous fight against this formidable opponent, the Mitchell's vision also prompted others to action. Their good friends, Bob and Joanne Winefer, joined along in their pledge to secure this groundbreaking 'touchdown' for RCH. Dr. Torrey knew this innovative, multifaceted tool would provide quicker answers for patients. Dave and Nina, encouraged by the immense potential benefits, knew it would be a fitting way to honor the memory of Nina's son. Fast, powerful and smart - just like Scott.

Behold the impact of a small gesture.

## New Look for Labor & Delivery Waiting Room



**The newly renovated L&D waiting room made possible by Tim and Carol Rochford**

Quietly situated on the 2nd floor of the Maternity/Surgery Building is a special area where people eagerly gather to anticipate the miracle of new life. Over the years, the Labor & Delivery Family Waiting Room has been witness to countless family and friends spending anxious hours waiting for wee little ones to make their grand entrance. Ultimately, the years caught up to the waiting room and it needed a lift to match the joyous atmosphere of one of life's most exciting events.

Thanks to a generous gift from donors and Redlands community members Tim and Carol Rochford, the L&D Family Waiting Room received its well-deserved, loving makeover. "In speaking to the Rochfords, they wanted to give back to what means so much to them, and that is family and children. What better way to honor these individuals by giving the families and children a beautiful and fun place to wait and celebrate life's greatest miracle," said Jan Opdyke, President of Redlands Community Hospital Foundation. "We truly are grateful for Tim and Carol in providing the needed funds to reinvent this space."

The L&D Family Waiting Room underwent a full remodel. Old tile was replaced by beautiful wood flooring. Walls were painted in soft, soothing hues. All new furnishings allow more friends and family members to wait in a comfortable, inviting environment. Additionally, two custom art pieces painted by local artists, Jeff Skelly and Kathleen Robison now adorn the space. The subject of one honors the historic Burrage Mansion, a Redlands landmark lovingly restored by the Rochford's; the other depicts the whimsical imagination of a child. The most exciting aspect of the renovation is the designation of a separate space furnished entirely with small children in mind; this area includes a 'kid's corner' with smaller-scale furniture and playful artwork decorating its walls.

"Redlands means so much to us," Tim said, "Carol and I were raised here and although we moved away and planted roots elsewhere, this community will always be a part of us."

*Did you know?*

Redlands Community Hospital partners with LifeStream Blood Bank to host a monthly community blood drive in the RCH Weisser Education Pavilion. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our region is currently experiencing a blood shortage and you can help by providing an urgently needed donation. For details, dates and to schedule your life-saving donation appointment, visit [lstream.org](http://lstream.org).

# BY THE NUMBERS

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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 \$6,567,690 in services, equipment, and program related funds to Redlands Community Hospital. This number tells an inspiring story. These dollars directly provide thousands of patients with the best care, the most advanced equipment, the highest skilled staff using the most cutting-edge technology available, and the gift of financial assistance if needed. Thank you for helping RCHF continue its mission of supporting Redlands Community Hospital in *Caring for Generations*.

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



# \$6,567,691

of funds with direct patient impact including acquiring state of the art equipment, assisting indigent patients, providing continuing education to RCH staff and much more. Of the total amount granted...

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# \$239,571

to support RCH in the fight against COVID-19.



\$15,655

to directly support patients with financial need.



new donors **445** supporting Redlands Community Hospital.



**72** is the average age of an RCH Foundation donor.



\$33,714

to assist the RCH Hospice Program's mission to deliver compassionate, end-of-life care.



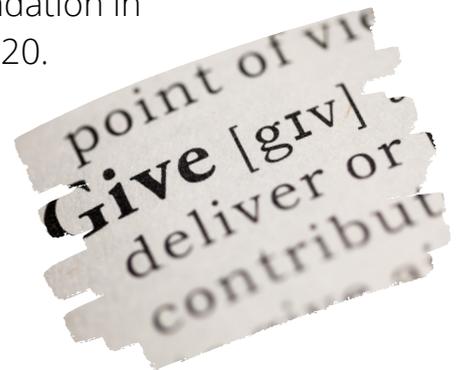
\$3,100,000

for purchase of a sophisticated CT Scanner that allows RCH to stay ahead of patient demand by increasing case flow efficiency.



**802**

donors gave in support to RCH Foundation in FY2020.



## Getting to Know the RCH Foundation Staff



### **Jan Forrester, Director of Development**

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

**A:** I joined the team in 2016. I knew this was a great place to work as my husband worked at RCH in the 1990's. When I saw a position open in the Foundation, I knew I had to apply.

**Q: How did you get started in Philanthropy?**

**A:** You might say I stumbled into it. A friend was working in the field and called me to see if I might be interested in a fundraising position. I reviewed the job description, had the needed skill set and was ready for a career change, so I applied. That was in the early 2000's. Long story short, I got the job and have been working in Philanthropy ever since.

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

**A:** No. When I was in college my parents wanted me to pursue nursing but I was not at all interested. At that time, I had a limited view of the world. As I matured and began to experience more of life, I came to greatly appreciate healthcare. Now, I can't see myself working in any other area.

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

**A:** As the Director of Development, I am responsible for cultivating major gifts, research and identification of grant opportunities and soliciting sponsorships for RCH Foundation events. I spend a big portion of my time on donor relations.

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

**A:** It may sound a bit cliché, but I love meeting our donors and getting to know them. I enjoy having the opportunity to hear their stories and share our hospital's story with them. I view myself as a people person who likes to help others. This position gives me the opportunity to do both.

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

**A:** I am married and have one grown son, a dog and a bird. In my free time, I enjoy several hobbies including pottery. Since the potter's wheel is a bit intimidating, my specialty is hand building. Hiking, walking and being outdoors helps keep me balanced - especially now that the gyms are closed due to the pandemic restrictions. I serve on the Highland Chamber of Commerce Board and on the University of Riverside, Guardian Scholars Steering Committee.

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If you are interested in making a gift to RCH Foundation please give us a call at 909-335-5540 or visit our website

[www.redlandshospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give/donate-online/](http://www.redlandshospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give/donate-online/)

## RCH Foundation Board of Directors 2019-2020

Betty Auton Beck  
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Katherine Meredith  
Dr. Phong Nguyen  
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Bryan Reid  
Kirk Shelby  
Dr. James Watson  
George Webber

## RCH Volunteer Sparks Creativity for Kids



A visit to the Emergency Department (ED) can be stressful, especially for young children. To help alleviate some of that stress and anxiety, Redlands Community Hospital (RCH) volunteer Suzanne Browning has supplied the ED waiting area with fun activity bags for kids.

"I've always wanted to do something to help entertain and educate young children," says Browning. "I have put together arts and crafts kits so kids who come to the ED will have something to do." Each kit contains activities that include writing a story about themselves, drawing and coloring materials, and even a glue stick so children can make their own collages. The creative bags are part of Browning's "The Purple Flamingo Art Project," a non-profit organization she formed with help from her 13-year-old granddaughter, Kaylee, to provide educational activities to young children.

As a retired educator, Browning worked for the "First 5" program for preschools in San Bernardino for many years where she used art and music to teach academics. She became a volunteer at RCH in 2016 and is still just as excited about her volunteer work today as when she started. "I love interacting with families and often people come into the hospital very anxious because the experience is so unfamiliar and new," she says. "They need people, like volunteers, who can help answer questions and be a comfort to them. It helps bring down their stress levels and is incredibly rewarding."

Browning understands the importance of volunteering and feels that donating her time to RCH is the best fit for her. "I believe everyone should have a place to go every day and the more we reach out and take care of each other, the better the world becomes," Browning says. "What brought me to RCH to volunteer is that there are so many ways to help others and so many opportunities to learn and grow as a hospital volunteer and human being." Seeing the need to help provide comfort, Suzanne channeled her passion for art and creativity and filled her art bags to promote calm and reduce stress for the ED's youngest patients.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted her in-hospital volunteering due to the temporary suspension of on-site service, Suzanne remains incredibly active continuing to support the hospital from her home. She has made liners for masks and cut cloths used for sanitizing; delivered meals, special treats and personalized notes to RCH staff; been a pen-pal with others in the community who remain safe-at-home; donated directly to hospital families suffering adverse effects from COVID-19 and driven countless miles to distribute and deliver projects and supplies to her fellow RCH volunteers. Her specialty, however, has been spearheading the creation of hundreds of creative, inspirational greeting cards designed especially for patients – whether at RCH or other skilled nursing facilities. These cards placed on meal trays, deliver an encouraging note directly into the hands of patients. Driven by a 'Patients First' mission and a heart for serving others, Suzanne is an inspiration!

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## Have an IRA Rollover Requirement?

Did you know that money from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) may be donated to charity? If you have reached the age where you must take the required minimum distribution from your traditional IRA, you may avoid tax liability on the distribution by donating that money to charity. The donation can also help meet all or part of the IRA's required minimum distribution.

Using an IRA to make a charitable donation to Redlands Community Hospital can be a win-win: it may help lower your tax obligation as well as provide valuable resources to RCH. Please note that distributions must be made directly to a charity - not to the owner or beneficiary. Distribution checks for RCH must be made payable to RCH Foundation to avoid being classified as taxable distributions.

To learn more about this provision and determine if it is appropriate for your financial situation, talk to your investment advisor or IRA custodian. As always, the RCH Foundation is available at 909-335-5540 to chat with you at any time.

