SAVE the DATE

POWER OF RED
Thursday, February 21, 2019 | Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, Pomona

HEARTBEAT GALA
Saturday, March 23, 2019 | DoubleTree, Ontario

WINE TASTING
Friday, May 17, 2019 | Sheraton Fairplex Hotel and Conference Center, Pomona
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Featured on the cover:
Carlos Lemoine,
Heart Attack Survivor
with his Steady Bear
Each new year brings opportunities for growth and innovation. As another year begins, I look forward to what philanthropy will help us accomplish at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC).

As a not-for-profit community Hospital, PVHMC has been blessed for many years by the wonderful generosity of its donors. During the past five years, the Foundation has been able to transfer more than $20 million to the Hospital to fund important projects that have made a significant impact on the health of the community. This impact is felt as funds are used by PVHMC to invest in important healthcare advances, such as 3-D Tomosynthesis mammography units, the expansion of the Emergency Department and Trauma Center, the construction of The Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion, the purchase of Giraffe Omni Beds for our most vulnerable patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the NicView camera system that allows parents and extended families to watch their babies in the NICU when they are not at the Hospital, and much more.

I continue to be gratified by this ongoing outpouring of support. More than just “giving,” our donors are “investing” in PVHMC as a valuable asset. People who give to PVHMC are making an investment not just in PVHMC’s future but in their own future and the future of healthcare for the entire region.

The true measure of philanthropy is the difference gifts make in the lives of people. In this – and every – issue of our magazine, you will read stories of people whose lives were changed because of the care they received at our Hospital. Philanthropy supports this care by keeping PVHMC on the leading edge of medical advances and helping us maintain, expand and improve healthcare services.

I couldn’t be more proud to be part of this Hospital and I am excited about the possibilities ahead. Thank you for supporting PVHMC’s mission to improve the health of the community.

For information on the many philanthropic opportunities available to support PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) is 5-star rated for five key procedures/conditions, and ranks among the top 10 percent of hospitals in the nation for cardiac surgery, according to a study released by Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

For the second year in a row, PVHMC received Healthgrades’ 5-star rating for coronary bypass surgery, back surgery and carotid vascular procedures. This year the Hospital also received new 5-star ratings for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and gallbladder removal surgery.

And for the second year in a row, PVHMC received the Healthgrades Cardiac Surgery Excellence Award and was ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation for cardiac surgery.

These achievements are part of new findings and data featured in the Healthgrades 2019 Report to the Nation. The new report demonstrates how clinical performance continues to differ dramatically between hospitals regionally and nationally. Every year, Healthgrades evaluates hospital performance at almost 4,500 hospitals nationwide for 32 of the most common inpatient procedures and conditions.

“These honors recognize our ongoing commitment and achievements in consistently providing state-of-the-art care to patients throughout the region,” said PVHMC President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE.

“Clinical quality varies significantly between hospitals, so it’s important for consumers to use information about outcomes to assess where to receive care,” said Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Healthgrades. “These awards showcase the expertise and commitment of PVHMC to its patients.”

For more information on PVHMC’s Healthgrades rankings, visit www.healthgrades.com/PVHMC. To learn how you can support clinical excellence at PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.

*Statistics are based on Healthgrades analysis of MedPAR data for years 2015 through 2017 and represent three-year estimates for Medicare patients only.
SURVIVING A HEART ATTACK WITH A TEAM OF ANGELS AND A CUDDLY BEAR
Carlos Lemoine, 72, of Chino has been a skier all his life. In the 1980s, he worked for two major ski manufacturers, testing skis in France and topping out at 87 miles per hour in a 4,000-foot vertical drop. He declined an invitation to join the 1982 United States Olympic ski team. He is such an experienced skier, it was a shock when he fell during an easy recreational run with friends in Wrightwood in 2017. The event changed his life forever.

"On my fourth run, I caught some ice under the snow and because of the skis I was using, I fell hard at about 35 miles an hour," Carlos recalled. "I hit some pipes in the ground that they use to make snow and broke my right shoulder, broke my leg in two places and dislocated my left wrist."

His right arm and hand were paralyzed; all the nerves, muscles and tendons were affected by his broken shoulder. He was treated at a nearby hospital, which put rods in his leg to stabilize it. But insurance and other complications delayed the surgery he needed. Finally, in March 2017, he had surgery on his leg at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC).

While waking up from anesthesia in PVHMC's recovery room, Carlos felt pain in his chest. The nurse rushed to bring in a Cardiologist and tests revealed that Carlos had three blocked coronary arteries. He had just suffered a heart attack. A day later, he underwent open-heart, triple bypass surgery at PVHMC.

"I've never been sick in my life, so when they told me I needed open heart surgery, it was a shock," Carlos said. "But the best place to have a heart attack is in the Hospital."

After successful heart surgery, Carlos underwent several weeks of cardiac rehabilitation at PVHMC and said that today his heart is as good as new. He also underwent seven weeks of physical therapy for his leg at a rehabilitation facility and is able to walk again. After that, he received intensive outpatient physical therapy at PVHMC for his paralyzed arm, which has regained about 80 percent of its function. But his right hand may never heal, so he is learning to use his left hand instead. His left wrist has completely healed.

"Everyone I've come into contact with at PVHMC during the last year and a half are part of my life. They live in my heart," Carlos said. "I don't call them my nurses; I call them my angels. When you have open heart surgery, they give you a Steady Bear to hug to your chest when you cough. My bear is full of signatures and well-wishes from all of my Doctors, Nurses and Therapists. And that bear is with me wherever I go. It's like my angel that keeps me safe from harm, because all the angels kept me safe in the Hospital."

In March 2018, the one-year anniversary of his leg and heart surgery, Carlos visited the Associates in PVHMC's Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) who cared for him.

"I wanted to thank them for everything they did for me," he said. "They told me I was family and that I was welcome to visit any time. It was really nice to feel the love and that they remembered me. I would never go anywhere else for care but Pomona Valley Hospital."
Q: Can people of normal weight and who have exercised regularly all their lives have heart attacks?

A: There are multiple risk factors for coronary artery disease. They are hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, overweight or obesity, smoking, lack of physical activity, unhealthy diet and stress. These factors can be controlled by taking appropriate medication, exercise and lifestyle modifications to minimize the risk of getting coronary artery disease. But there are other risk factors, like aging and genetic factors, such as a strong family history of coronary artery disease or cardiovascular disease.

Q: Does family history outweigh the fact that you lack other risk factors?

A: Patients who have a strong family history of cardiovascular disease should be aware that this is a signal they may develop it too and should take steps to reduce or eliminate other risk factors. If they experience chest pain, they need to see a cardiologist as soon as possible. A stress test can determine whether they need additional tests, such as an angiogram, to look for coronary artery disease.

Q: Can you describe the “beating heart” technique that is sometimes used during open-heart surgery and who is a candidate for this?

A: Yes. Coronary artery bypass grafting surgery could be done without using a heart-lung machine. We call these “off pump” or “beating heart” coronary artery bypass grafting surgeries. We use medication to slow down the heart and we use what looks like a rubber band to temporarily block the blood flow to the blood vessel we are working on. The benefits include less bleeding, no impact on the lungs, a shorter stay in the intensive care unit, and a shorter stay in the hospital overall. The best candidates for this technique are people whose lungs are damaged and cannot tolerate the heart-lung machine. For most patients, standard coronary artery bypass grafting surgery with the heart-lung machine is a good approach; I believe it is more accurate and controlled. Studies have shown that the long-term outcome using both techniques is similar.

Q: What are the benefits of using blood vessels in the chest instead of the leg during coronary bypass surgery?

A: The conduits used for bypass grafting surgery include the internal mammary artery behind the chest bone, the greater saphenous vein in the leg and the radial artery in the forearm. The mammary artery is the best; it lasts longer than any other conduits. Here we use the mammary artery for every patient who undergoes coronary artery bypass grafting surgery.

Q: Are there other treatments for heart attack besides open-heart surgery?

A: Yes, heart attacks can be treated by percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), which is performed by an interventional cardiologist in the cardiac catheterization lab. The cardiologist places stents in the coronary artery to open the blockage, thus resuming the blood flow. This is a minimally invasive procedure compared to open-heart surgery. Unfortunately, not all coronary artery disease is amenable to stent placement. When the stent is not an option, coronary artery bypass grafting surgery is needed. Studies show that patients with three-vessel coronary artery disease, diabetes, and decreased ventricular systolic function have better long-term outcomes with coronary artery bypass grafting surgery than with stent placement.

Q: Are there other advanced treatment options for heart attacks?

A: Patients with a heart attack are usually treated with either stent placement or coronary artery bypass grafting surgery. Patients with a heart attack may have severe complications; these patients are critically ill and require an intra-aortic balloon pump, a left ventricular assist device, or Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support followed by open heart surgery. Heart transplant is also an option for patients with end-stage heart failure and no optimal bypass targets.
The days are full for Kathy Soderlund, BSN, RN, CCRN, the Cardiac Coordinator for all heart surgeries at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC). Once a patient is scheduled for surgery, Kathy meets with the patient and their family at the Pre-Admitting office or Cardiac Catheterization Lab to provide education on what to expect before, during and after surgery. Kathy is a warm and caring person who connects easily with everyone she meets. Her calm, confident manner eases the stress and fear that her patients and their loved ones often feel when undergoing heart surgery.

Before surgery, Kathy answers her patient’s questions and relieves their anxiety. During surgery, she gives progress updates to family in the ICU waiting room with a bright smile that provides comfort that all is well. She also tells the family how long it will take for the patient to be settled into the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) after surgery and when they’ll be able to go in. While her patients recover in the Hospital, Kathy makes daily rounds to check on them, answering questions and providing more education on what to expect next.

When patients are ready for discharge, Kathy coordinates the transition from Hospital to home. She provides detailed discharge instructions, ensures follow-up appointments are scheduled, and provides her phone number so the patient or family can get answers quickly if any concerns arise once they’re home.

Healthgrades has ranked PVHMC among the top 10 percent of Hospitals in the nation in cardiac surgery. Kathy and the work she does are a big part of that success. Thank you, Kathy, for the outstanding care you give daily and for all the lives and hearts that you help heal!

To make a gift supporting the Stead Heart & Vascular Center, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or go online at pvhmc.org/foundation.
Wilkins Melian, who lives in Rancho Santa Margarita, California with his wife and four children, has enjoyed shooting as a hobby for about 10 years. In June 2018, the 48-year-old was shooting at a local firing range when the unthinkable happened.

“The third person on my left was shooting an old revolver and the bullet exploded inside the cylinder,” Wilkins said, “A piece of the cylinder flew out and hit me in the chest, narrowly missing one of the main arteries near my heart.”

Paramedics rushed Wilkins to PVHMC’s Trauma Center, where a full trauma team was waiting. They immediately swung into action, pinpointing the exact location of the metal in Wilkins’ chest with an x-ray, calling Wilkins’ family to the Hospital, and whisking him into surgery.

Michael Jimenez, MD, PVHMC’s Medical Director of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Services, performed the surgery. “He told me I was alive by a miracle, because that piece of metal was so close to one of my arteries and 80 percent of people don’t survive an injury like that,” Wilkins said. “Dr. Jimenez is just incredible. It’s unbelievable the way he treats his patients.

“I’m 100 percent sure that the trauma team at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center saved my life,” Wilkins continued. “They saved my life and my family. My family is very, very close. When they got to the Hospital, my daughter asked me if I was going to be okay and that was extremely difficult for me.”

Today, after physical therapy and follow up with physicians near his home, Wilkins is about 80 percent recovered.

“I still have a little pain, but I’m back to work and back to my normal life,” he said. “When I tell my story to other people, I tell them Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is amazing. I thank everyone there from the bottom of my heart.”

PVHMC is Los Angeles County’s newest designated Trauma Center. To support the Trauma Center’s 24/7 advanced critical care services, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or go online at pvhmc.org/foundation.
Q: Is it typical to have an entire trauma team standing by when a trauma patient comes in?
A: We are a regional trauma center, and this is the standard for trauma centers with an in-house trauma medical staff that is ready to respond 24/7 for patient needs. Our pre-hospital providers launch an alert to the trauma team that gives us key details of the trauma so that we are prepared when the patient arrives. All the staff and equipment needed to optimize our care of the traumatically injured patient are ready when the patient arrives.

Q: What medical professionals make up a 20-25 person trauma team?
A: The team varies contingent upon the level of trauma, but can include a Trauma Surgeon, Trauma Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, Emergency Department Nurses and Techs, an Anesthesiologist, Operating Room Techs and Nurses, Radiology Techs, Blood Bank personnel, Medical Assistants and unit clerks, a Trauma Pharmacist, Intensive Care Unit Nurses and Emergency Department scribes. Our highest levels of trauma response include all of these staff, and we downscale as we eliminate life-threatening injuries.

Q: Do you ever have more than one trauma come in at a time? If you have two or more at the same time do you treat them simultaneously?
A: Very often we get consecutive traumas at one time. At the PVHMC Trauma Center, we are prepared to treat all these emergencies. If there is more than one trauma at the same time, we triage the patients from the most urgent need to the least. If a patient needs surgery, we take that patient to the Operating Room and our back-up trauma surgeon takes over. If there are multiple traumas that require multiple surgeons, we will activate our Mass Casualty Incident Team to prepare for large scale patient arrivals. We train for this quarterly, and sometimes monthly.

Q: If you get more than one trauma in the middle of the night, how do you ensure you have enough staff?
A: Trauma centers in the Los Angeles County are required to function at the highest level of care. All facets of the trauma team are in-house at all times in order to optimize our patient care and treatment of life-threatening injuries. When seconds matter, an expert team of trauma-trained staff is in house to meet our community needs.

Q: Do you keep following your patients after the trauma is taken care of?
A: Absolutely. Whether patients are admitted to the floor or to the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, they are cared for and managed by the Trauma and Acute Care Surgery team, which manages all aspects of their care from admission to discharge. Our Trauma and Acute Care Surgery office also sees them for follow-up outpatient visits, wound checks and treatments.
hospital
OUTREACH
at this year’s
LA County Fair

CPR DEMOS

DIABETES EDUCATION

INFECTION PREVENTION
n September 2018, just 18 months after opening as Los Angeles County’s newest trauma center, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s (PVHMC) Adult Level II Trauma Center received national accreditation, with no deficiencies, from the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

“ACS verification is required by Los Angeles County,” explained Aimee Castillejo, BSN, RN, CEN, Trauma Program Manager. “We received a preliminary survey before we opened in March of 2017 to verify our ability to perform as a trauma center. Now that we’ve received full accreditation, we must be re-verified every three years.”

“We had to be running as an active trauma center to collect the data to show we are providing the best care possible to trauma patients,” said Sarah Cline, CSTR Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator.

The two reviewers who led the ACS survey team in their on-site survey of PVHMC are both trauma surgeons. “They were impressed with how we were able to coordinate all aspects of care among different departments so quickly,” Aimee said. “Being a Trauma Center takes collaboration throughout the entire Hospital, whether it’s the Operating Room, the Emergency Department, the Intensive Care Unit, the Lab, Radiology or other departments. Having a trauma program elevates the care throughout the entire facility.”

Back row: Dr. Matthew Singer, Surgeon and Alex Padilla, Registrar. Middle row: Aimee Castillejo, BSN, RN, CEN, Manager; Dr. Michael Jimenez, Medical Director and Lauren Gurrola, BSN, RN, CCRN, TICU Manager. Front row: Emily Chuang, Registrar and Sarah Cline, CSTR, Performance Improvement Coordinator.
PVHMC’s newest injury prevention program is Stop the Bleed, a national awareness campaign that encourages bystanders to assist in a bleeding emergency until professional help arrives.

“Just like sidewalk CPR, this is another piece of knowledge our community can learn to help save lives,” said Aimee Castillejo, BSN, RN, CEN, PVHMC’s Trauma Program Manager. “A person can die of blood loss in as fast as five minutes. No matter how fast first responders are, bystanders on the scene are always faster.”

PVHMC offers Stop the Bleed classes to businesses and organizations who request the one hour of didactic classroom work combined with hands-on teaching. Participants learn how to stop bleeding using tourniquets, dressings and other life-saving techniques.

“You’ll see Stop the Bleed kits with tourniquets and dressings attached to AEDs (portable defibrillators) at malls, airports and other public places,” Aimee said. “Knowing how to use them empowers people to act.”

To support the Trauma Center’s 24/7 advanced critical care services, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
PHYSICIANS NOW TRIAGE

ALL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PATIENTS UPON ARRIVAL

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) is the first hospital in the region to use certified Emergency Department Physicians to triage all patients arriving at the Emergency Department (ED) for care.

Since the Provider on Arrival program launched in September 2018, a Physician has been stationed at the triage desk 24 hours a day to quickly assess patients and determine what level of care they require and how immediately they need to be treated. The program builds on PVHMC’s commitment to provide the highest quality care and an excellent patient experience to the community it serves.

“People coming through the doors are immediately relieved when they see that they’re going to see a doctor right away,” said Angela Besiant, Director of PVHMC’s ED. “It’s very innovative.”

Since the program launched, wait times in the ED have dropped from more than 40 minutes to an average of nine minutes – far surpassing the national average of 20-30 minutes. Additionally, the time from arrival at the ED to discharge has dropped from three hours and 20 minutes to two and a half hours.

“Provider on Arrival improves the Emergency Department patient flow, expedites treatment and improves patient satisfaction,” said James Kim, MD, Medical Director of the PVHMC ED. “The patient feedback has been extremely positive.”

To support clinical excellence at PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Associates, Physicians, Volunteers and members of the Hospital and Foundation Boards of Directors who passed away during the last two years were honored at the Hospital’s “Celebration of Life” event.

Held on Thursday, September 20, 2018, in Pitzer Auditorium, the “Celebration of Life” provides an uplifting setting in which to reflect on the lives of those who gave themselves to help others and are with us in memory. The ceremony featured bagpipes, a harpist, a soloist and poems read for many of those remembered. The names of all 25 honored at the event have been added to the Hospital’s Celebration of Life Memorial Wall.
Early intervention is critical for children with developmental delays. In response to an increased need for pediatric rehabilitation services close to home, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) opened its second Milestones Center for Child Development location in Chino Hills on December 3, 2018.

Located at the Pomona Valley Health Center – Chino Hills, the Milestones Center is dedicated exclusively to the rehabilitative needs of infants and children, including treatments for conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, hearing loss, cleft lip and palate, muscle imbalances, scoliosis, developmental delays and more. Services include comprehensive pediatric physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy.

“Our focus is to help children have success in reaching the specific milestones in their development that will allow them to enjoy more independence as they continue to grow,” said Joseph Baumgaertner, MS, PT, OCS, Director of Rehabilitation Services. “We also offer education to the family so they can provide support at home between treatments.”

The first Milestones Center for Child Development opened in Claremont in 2010. Since then, it has experienced rapid growth, with care to children doubling in the last five years. In 2018, there were more than 10,000 visits to the Milestones clinics.

“With the opening of the second location in Chino Hills, PVHMC doubles its capacity to serve the community,” said Joseph. Milestones is certified by the Joint Commission and California Children’s Services (CSS). All of the therapists at Milestones are licensed PVHMC Occupational, Physical, and Speech Language Pathologists. The new center is located at 2140 Grand Avenue, Suite 135 in Chino Hills, 909.630.7877.

To learn more, visit pvhmc.org/milestones. To support the Milestone Center’s pediatric rehabilitation services, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.

Pictured (l to r): Jessica Castro, OTR/L, Pediatric Occupational Therapist; Dani Jasso, PT, DPT, Pediatric Physical Therapist; Jim Carey, PT, MS, Manager, Rehab Services – Chino Hills and Connie Milan, Administrative Assistant.
While hospice and palliative care are often confused because they share similar goals of providing symptom relief and obtaining a better quality of life, their role in patient care is different, said Lisa Raptis, MD, Medical Director of Palliative Care at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC).

A good example is a cancer patient who is receiving chemotherapy from an oncologist while the palliative care Physician manages any discomfort. “Palliative care manages symptoms such as pain, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, anxiety, depression and lack of appetite while the patient continues to be followed by physicians for disease-specific treatments,” Dr. Raptis said. “Palliative care works concurrently with the patient’s other physicians with the goals of improving quality of life throughout their chronic, life-limiting disease. In contrast, hospice focuses on providing comfort management when other treatments have been proven to be more burdensome to the patient than beneficial. Hospice allows patients to die peacefully, comfortably and naturally.”

Palliative care is an interdisciplinary service provided to patients who have a chronic, life-limiting illness like congestive heart failure, kidney or liver disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), dementia, cancer, respiratory failure, trauma and many other conditions. While PVHMC currently provides palliative care only while patients are in the Hospital, it works with external agencies if a patient transitioning out of the Hospital wishes to receive palliative care outside the Hospital.

“Palliative care can begin at any stage of the illness,” Dr. Raptis said. “We work collaboratively with the patient’s other treating physicians and medical team to provide the best care for the patient and support for their families.”

PVHMC’s palliative care team includes a Physician, Nurse, Social Worker, and Chaplain. The team supports the comprehensive management of physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families. “We have an extensive discussion with the patient and family about their disease, the
expected disease trajectory, treatment options, and prognosis,” Dr. Raptis said. “We
explore with patients what their goals are through this difficult disease process. We
also have very difficult conversations about what their specific wishes would be at
the end of their lives.”

“We want to optimize the quality of the patient’s life, however they define that,”
said Debra Blankenship, RN, PVHMC’s Director of Utilization Management. A portion
of PVHMC’s Palliative Care patients do eventually transition to end of life, she said.
The Palliative Care team talks with the patient and family about what they can
expect based on the facts of their individual medical condition.

“If you want to be treated with every piece of high-tech equipment we own in the
Hospital, then that’s what we support,” Debra said. “But if you want to die peacefully
at home, then we support that as well.”

Many times the team becomes familiar with patients because of readmissions to
the Hospital. “It’s an ongoing conversation,” Dr. Raptis said. “If they want to change
their treatment goals and go in a different direction, we’re there to support decisions
they make along the way.”

Debra said PVHMC encourages everyone to have an advance directive, which
outlines what kind of care they want to receive in the event an illness or injury
renders them unable to express their wishes.

“A lot of people, especially young people, don’t think an advance directive is
necessary,” Debra said. “But we see catastrophic injury and illness in people of all
ages. An advance directive makes it clear what you want and don’t want and takes
the decision-making burden off your loved ones.”

Palliative care services are not reimbursed by insurance. “PVHMC sponsors
our half-million-dollar a year Palliative Care program so that it is available to all
patients, regardless of their ability to pay,” Debra said. “Our mission supports the
program because we recognize the value of it to our patients and community.”
PVHMC’s Palliative Care program was the third in California to be certified by The
Joint Commission. To date, there are only six certified programs in the state.

To learn how you can support the Palliative Care program at PVHMC, please contact
Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit
pvhmc.org/foundation.
In football, the quarterback initiates the action, leads the team and knows the responsibilities of every player on the field. When you’re admitted to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), the person quarterbacking your care is the Hospitalist.

To support PVHMC’s Hospitalist program, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
The Hospitalist determines what is wrong and what specialists you need, and then coordinates your care so everyone is working together as a team to get you better and out of the Hospital as quickly as possible,” said Heather Davis, MD, Medical Director of PVHMC’s Hospitalist program. “The Hospitalist also communicates the details of your care with you, your family and your primary care physician.”

Just as some physicians specialize in pediatrics or cardiology, Hospitalists specialize in caring for patients while they’re in the Hospital, explains Debra Blankenship, RN, PVHMC’s Director of Utilization Management. The Hospitalists movement, which began more than a decade ago, has evolved because of many factors: changes in physicians’ private practice demands; timeliness and care efficiencies; patient safety; cost effectiveness for hospitals; the need for more personalized, coordinated care; and better communication, which can lead to shorter hospital stays for patients.

Because Hospitalists are in the Hospital 24/7, they can respond to a patient’s condition quickly. They are also available in the Hospital to meet with family members, follow up on tests, answer nurses’ questions and handle any problems that may arise. In many instances, Hospitalists may see a patient more than once a day to assure that care is going according to plan.

Hospitalists are also familiar with the Hospital’s policies and procedures. Many Hospitalists are involved in Hospital committees and assist in improving patient safety, insuring medical accuracy, promoting effective communication between physicians and staff and enhancing cost-effective patient care.

“Hospitalists are dedicated to making sure patients get the highest possible quality care as efficiently as possible,” Debra said. “The benefit is you’re likely to be in the Hospital for less time with less risk of complications.”

The Hospitalist is your primary contact and bridge with the rest of your Hospital team. Because specialists may be in and out very quickly, you may not completely understand—or be able to later articulate to your family—what the specialists tell you. “The Hospitalist can sit at your bedside for 20 minutes and explain what the specialist’s plan is,” Dr. Davis said. “They’re focused on making your experience in the Hospital as good as it can be under the circumstances. They’re your go-to person.”

Davis said she is proud of how PVHMC’s Hospitalist program supports the expansion of other services at PVHMC to help the community. “We help other programs that are so important for the community to flourish—for example, the stroke and trauma programs,” Davis said. “We work collaboratively with all the other care teams to make sure patients are cared for efficiently and effectively throughout their Hospital stay.”

So next time you or someone you know are admitted to the Hospital you can rest assured that the Hospitalist has the qualifications to provide you with optimal care during your stay.
One of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s (PVHMC) greatest strengths is its Auxiliary, which supports the Hospital and community through an average of $100,000 raised each year for the Sick Baby and Hospital Assistance Fund.

The Fund provides equipment, educational supplies and materials for the Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Pediatrics Department, Perinatology services and Medical Library. This includes the Hospital’s Care-A-Van Program, which provides free van transportation between the high desert and PVHMC for disadvantaged mothers and families with babies in the NICU.

The Fund also helps support families who need assistance paying medical bills, provides clothing for Emergency Department patients, provides car seats for new babies born at the Hospital when parents can’t afford one, and gives college scholarships to Hospital student volunteers studying to enter the medical field.

In 2017, the Auxiliary purchased a shuttle to transport families with children between Hospital parking lots and entrances and presented the Hospital with $125,000 to complete its $1 million pledge toward construction of the Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion, made in 2008. In 1998, the Auxiliary completed their pledge of $1 million for The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center.

The Auxiliary raises funds through the Hospital’s Tender Touch Gift Shop, annual fundraising events, memorials and donations.

“We’re honored to uphold the same goals that were created when the Auxiliary was established 81 years ago; to support the Hospital through volunteer service, fundraising and community assistance,” said Pat Holt, 2017-2018 Auxiliary President.

“Our Auxiliary members, who include Hospital Volunteers, provide a caring touch to every person they interact with,” said PVHMC President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE. “And the funds they raise help us continue to provide an exceptional level of care and service to our patients.”

To support the PVHMC Auxiliary Sick Baby and Hospital Assistance Fund, contact the Volunteer Office at 909.865.9669.

A few of the items the Auxiliary has purchased for the Hospital include the Family Shuttle, The Invisible String, Journey Home Gift, Hooks to Giraffe bed for transport, Avaiator Transporter to Hospital, Car Seats, DVD portable player, and a Neo Twin Cribette.
Early in 2019, there’s still a lot of confusion over the impact of the new tax law on what you owe for 2018. There may be a lot of surprises in store, both good and bad, as you get ready to file your 2018 return.

Avoid surprises in 2019. If you are over 70.5 and take a monthly distribution from your IRA, you can start saving on your 2019 taxes right now!

You can have your IRA custodian make a direct payment from your IRA to the PVHMC Foundation. So long as this gift is equal to or more than the money you are required to take (Required Minimum Distribution or RMD), you will pay no taxes on your IRA income in 2019 since it went directly to the charity of your choice.

In 2018, people who took a monthly IRA distribution were often disappointed that they learned about this strategy too late in the year to take advantage of it. They’d already received their RMD.

Plan now to take advantage of an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD in 2019. Making a gift to the PVHMC Foundation or other charities this way, are not taxed to you AND so long as the transfer is at least equal or greater than the required minimum distribution (RMD), you are not required to take any income out of the IRA that year.

The bottom line is that if you do not itemize deductions, you’ll come out ahead making charitable gifts this way. There are no taxes on that income.

If you do itemize, this gift is not deductible but you will probably be better off. Taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, paying income taxes, and then making a gift to charity is not the same as the direct distribution using a QCD.

Your required minimum distribution (RMD) is generally, fully taxable income. Receiving it makes your tax bracket increase and your income is taxed at a higher level.

Using the QCD to eliminate your RMD is a smart tax strategy that may save you a significant amount of tax. Talk it over with your advisors!

In addition, by making a gift of an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, you qualify for membership in the Foundation’s Circle of Friends, a distinguished group of donors who have made a commitment to our future. For information on making a 2019 qualified charitable distribution to the PVHMC Foundation, and saving your tax dollars, please talk to Glenda Ferguson at 909.865.9659, glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our critical mission!
PVHMC DEDICATES GIFT OF THE VALLEY MURAL WITH CEREMONY HONORING DONALD DESCOMBES
On August 29, 2018, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) friends, Associates, dignitaries and supporters gathered on the ground level of the Hospital's new parking structure to formally dedicate “Gift of the Valley,” the large-scale custom mural that adorns the structure’s southeast side.

The dedication was a special celebration to honor the late, longtime PVHMC Board Member Donald R. DesCombes, in whose memory the mural was commissioned. Don’s wife Elizabeth “Betty” DesCombes and her children gifted the mural to PVHMC Foundation in 2017. Betty served on the PVHMC Foundation Board for 11 years, from 2007-2017, and now serves as an emeritus member to the Board.

At the dedication event, Betty unveiled a memorial plaque to her late husband. The mural’s artist, Tony Sheets, presented Betty with a framed picture of the artwork, which depicts golden oranges, blossoms and leaves inspired by the once-thriving citrus industry that defines the origin of this region. Pomona City Councilmember and Vice Mayor, Rubio Gonzalez presented the DesCombes family with a Certificate of Recognition.

Event attendees included PVHMC President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE; Hospital Board Chair Richard Fass; PVHMC Foundation Board Chair, M. Hellen Rodriguez, MD; and PVHMC Auxiliary President, Pat Holt.

“It’s so very fitting that we honor and remember Don DesCombes, who tirelessly devoted many years of his life to serving Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center,” Rich said. “He was indeed a gift to our organization. And we are deeply grateful to Betty and her children, who underwrote the artwork and its installation.

“This beautiful mural complements the work of the City of Pomona’s Cultural Arts Commission to bring more public art to the community,” Rich continued. “Patients, their families, Hospital visitors and all who pass by can enjoy this artwork for many years to come.”

To support PVHMC Foundation, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or go online at pvhmc.org/foundation.
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Foundation was tickled pink to receive $18,500 by the partnering of the PVHMC Security Department and Pomona Police Department in the Pink Patch Project (PPP), a national breast cancer public awareness and fundraising campaign held in September and October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This is the PVHMC Security Department’s first year participating in the PPP, in which local law enforcement and public safety agencies throughout the nation collaborate to increase awareness about the importance of early detection and treatment of breast cancer and to raise funds to support breast cancer research, treatment and education.

PVHMC’s Security Department designed a special pink patch that was sold at the Tender Touch Gift Shop in the Main Lobby, The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center and the Hospital’s Security Department. The Pomona Police Department designed and sold its own pink patch, which was worn in October by Police Department officers and employees.

The Police Department was on-site at PVHMC on September 26, 2018 and October 1, 2018 to promote and sell patches, T-shirts, tumblers and other pink patch merchandise. PVHMC patients, visitors and Associates enjoyed taking photos with officers and their special pink motorcycle. The Police Department donated all proceeds from its pink patch sales to PVHMC Foundation’s Breast Cancer Fund.

“The pink patches help start conversations that can raise public awareness about the importance of early breast cancer detection,” said Derek Webster, PVHMC Director of Security. “It’s another way to unite our community under a common theme with the goal of fighting breast cancer.”

To learn how you can support clinical excellence at PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
(left) City of Pomona Chief of Police Michael Olivieri supporting the Pink Patch project held in front of the Women’s Center on October 1, 2018

(Below) Timothy Doonan, Security Manager; Sgt. Alyssa Bostrom from the Pomona Police Department; Director of Security Derek Webster; Vice President of Administration Leigh Cornell, FACHE

(Far left) The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center Associates supporting the Pink Patch Project
The legacy established by Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s (PVHMC) Physicians sets the stage for even greater things to come. PVHMC Foundation recognized its retired Physicians (and some close to retirement) for their many years of service to the Hospital and community at the 4th annual Retired Physicians Luncheon, held Friday, September 14, 2018 at the Fairplex Conference Center.

The approximately 60 Physicians and guests who attended the event heard updates on the Hospital’s Trauma Program, presented by Michael Jimenez, MD, and on the Family Medicine Residency Program, presented by Lynne Diamond, MD. As in previous years, the program was chaired by Radiologist Harold D. Damuth, Jr., MD and retired Physician R. Melvin Butler, MD. The event keeps our retired Physicians up to date on the exciting things happening at the Hospital.

Above: Richard Fass, Hospital Board Chairman and R. Melvin Butler, MD.

Above: Eugene St. Clair, MD, Claire Mc Quillan, Charlene Martin, Diann Ding, Jackie Donin, James Meriwether, MD.

Left: Victor Pappoe, MD; Bao Tran, MD; Harold Damuth, Jr., MD, Event Chairman; Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO.

Right: Richard Fass, Hospital Board Chairman; Lynne Diamond, MD, Medical Director, Family Residency Program; Michael Jimenez, MD, Medical Director, Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Services; Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO.
The 13th annual Power of Pink party was held on Sunday, October 7, 2018. All funds raised are donated to the Breast Health Fund for The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center. We thank all those who participated for their ongoing support.
SINGING for SURVIVORS

Claudia Lennear, Judge with Vivian Ridgway, 2nd place; Braxton Gohde, 1st place; and Ryan Wirtz, 3rd place
When Braxton Gohde’s mother was pregnant with him, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Her doctor suggested she terminate the pregnancy, but she refused. On October 27, 2018 Braxton, 23, won first place in Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Foundation’s first annual Singing for Survivors event, an American Idol-type competition that replaces the Celebrating With Style Fashion Show to raise funds for The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center Endowment Fund.

Braxton, who lives in Covina, sang “Back to Black” by Amy Winehouse in honor of his mother, a cancer survivor, without whose unselfish decision Braxton would not be here today.

“Our bond is so strong,” Braxton said. “She’s my world, my biggest supporter.”

Thirty talented singers from the community auditioned and eight finalists were chosen to compete. The event was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario and was emceed by comedian and actor Jeff Garlin, who is widely known for playing Jeff Greene on the HBO show “Curb Your Enthusiasm” as well as other roles.

Musical celebrity Claudia Lennear, Gerald Ishibashi and Cheryl Dale, judged the vocalists, while audience members texted in their votes. The event was also live-streamed on Facebook.

Vivian Ridgway, 23, from Chino Hills, won second place. Ryan Wirtz, 32, also from Chino Hills, whose mother is currently being treated for stage IV breast cancer at the Cancer Care Center, was the third-place finisher.

In addition to the singing competition, the day included a welcome reception, recognition of PVHMC’s oncology physicians, a video celebrating the Cancer Care Center’s 25th anniversary, lunch and a live auction.

“PVHMC Foundation is grateful to everyone who participated in and supported our Singing for Survivors event,” said Mike Gregoryk, Foundation Board Member and Event Chairman. “Their contributions helped us honor our community’s cancer survivors and raise funds for our patients and families who have been touched by cancer.”

To learn how you can support The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center Endowment Fund at PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.

PHOTOS (FAR LEFT TO RIGHT)

Barb Damuth with Richard and Robin Yochum; Sharon Statler; Leigh Cornell, FACHE, Vice President of Administration; John Todd with Jane Goodfellow and Jeff Lewis; Our Judges: Claudia Lennear, Gerald Ishibashi and Cheryl Dale.
DO YOU HAVE a Guardian Angel?

Honor a special Doctor, Nurse, Volunteer or Hospital Associate who became your Guardian Angel by providing exceptional care or service. Make a charitable donation to PVHMC Foundation in their name and they will be recognized with a special presentation, commemorative certificate, letter from the President/CEO, and a Guardian Angel lapel pin and badge holder. All donations support PVHMC Foundation.

Visit pvhmc.org/foundation, use the attached envelope, or call the Foundation office at 909.865.9139.

LINDA PARRY-CLARK, PHLEBOTOMIST, was recognized by Dennis Dinga and Yasuyuki Morishita and DANilo SARMIENTO, CLS was recognized by Mimi Sarmiento, RN. Far left is Gwen Bosman Sanchez, Lab Supervisor and on far right is Eli Kamrekian, Lab Director.
M. HELLEN RODRIGUEZ, MD, was recognized by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Israelitt and Mr. Jim Dale, VP of PVHMC Foundation (left). Harold D. Damuth, Jr., MD, Foundation Board Member, is pictured on the right.

(Not pictured) From Chino Hills Physical Therapy; JAMES CAREY, P/T, MANAGER; DONALD KUY, P/T; RICHARD SANCHEZ, PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT AND RUDY TRUJILLO, PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT were recognized by Jean Garrett.

MERIDEE SCHINCKE, RN, Administration Nursing Supervisor (shown with her fellow Associates) was recognized by Nazil Janjua, MD.
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**Women's and Children's Services**
Some classes are available at our Chino Hills location. Registration is required for most classes. Call 909.865.9858, or e-mail ferc@pvhmc.org.

**FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**

**Maternity Orientations** | **Free** (every Wednesday at 7 pm and one Saturday per month at 9 am)
- Orientaciones en español disponibles dos veces al mes (Por favor llame para más detalles)

**Childbirth Preparation Classes** | **$60**
- Three-week series (Mondays, 6:30 – 9:30 pm)
- Weekend Express (one Saturday & Sunday or two consecutive Sundays, 9 am – 2 pm)
- One-day class (Thursday or Friday, 6 – 9 pm or Saturday, 9 am – 12 pm)

**Cesarean Birth Preparation** | **$20** (second Wednesday of every month, noon – 1:30 pm)

**Baby Express** | **$20** The basics of baby care. Saturday class, once a month, 9 am – 12 pm or Thursday class, 6:30 – 9:30 pm)

**Breastfeeding Class** | **$20** (one Thursday a month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm)

**Pregnancy & Postpartum Stress Group** | **Free** (every first & third Wednesday, 12:30 – 2 pm)
Now held at PVHMC in the Women’s Center, 1798 N. Garey Avenue. This is an emotional support group for Pregnant and New Moms. Lunch and Childcare provided. Call Family Education Resource Center (FERC) at 909.865.9858 for more information.
- Grupo de apoyo durante el embarazo y postparto en español disponibles el primer y tercer (Miercoles del mes, 10:30 am – 12 pm)

**FOR NEW MOTHERS**

**Safety Seat Checkup** | **Free** (once a month – call for date and time)

**Lactation Center** | **Free** (Monday, Thursday & Friday, 9 am – noon; Tuesday & Wednesday, noon – 3:00 pm). Walk-ins welcome. You must arrive 30 minutes before closing. Breastfeeding information line 909.623.6455.

**FOR DADS OR DADS-TO-BE**

**Boot Camp for New Dads** | **$20** (one Saturday a month, 9 am – noon)

**DADvice** | **Free** (every second and fourth Monday, 6:30 – 8 pm). Offers help for dads with stress, anxiety, and other issues related to their partners. Walkins welcome.

**FOR CHILDREN**

**Big Brother Big Sister Class** | **$10** (one Saturday a month, 10 – 11:30 am)

**Safe Sitter Class** | **$40** (two-day class). Call for date and time.

**FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/FAMILY/FRIENDS**

**CPR** | **$20** (one Saturday a month, 9 am – noon – this is a non-certified class)

**FOR WOMEN**

**Every Woman’s Journey** | **Free** (monthly, in Chino Hills and Claremont). This free program offers women timely topics on health and wellness. To be added to our mailing list, please call 909.865.9858.
The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center
All programs are free and registration is not required (except for a wig fitting).
Call 909.865.9907 for questions and to confirm meeting day/time.

FOR WOMEN
Women with Cancer (second Monday of each month, 4:00 pm)
Breast Prosthesis Display Call 909.865.9907 to schedule an appointment.
Wig Program (one free wig for women undergoing cancer therapy. Call 909.865.9907 to schedule an appointment)

FOR THOSE WITH CANCER AND THEIR LOVED ONES
Leukemia/Lymphoma/Myeloma Support Group (first Wednesday of each month at noon)
Pomona Valley Ostomy Association (fourth Monday of each month, 7 – 8:30 pm)
When Cancer Enters Your Life (first Thursday of each month, 6 – 7:30 pm)
Newly Diagnosed Orientation For those with breast or lung cancer. Call 909.865.9691 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES
Bereavement/Loss Support Group (every Wednesday, 7 – 8:30 pm)
Expressive Arts (second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 9:30 – 11 am)
Stretch & Yoga (every Monday at 3 pm, Wednesday at 11 am and Thursday at 5 pm, except the first Thursday of each month)
Patient/Community Library (open Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm)

The Stead Heart and Vascular Center
Heart Smart Education Classes (every Tuesday, noon – 1 pm. Lunch provided). Educational topics focus on reducing the risk of having or repeating a cardiac event. The Heart to Heart support group is held the second and last Tuesday of the month. In conjunction with the Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation department. Reservations are required. Call 909.865.9831 for questions, reservations and to confirm meeting day/time.
Life After Stroke – New Beginnings (every second and fourth Thursday of the month, 10 – 11:30 am).
This is an educational support group designed to enhance the quality of life and independence of those affected by a Stroke through self-help education, supportive discussions and community resources. Held at Pomona Valley Health Center in Claremont. For more information call 909.865.9823.
Life with Heart Failure – New Beginnings Having heart failure is a life-altering experience for the patient and their loved ones. Learn from others at this support group. Call 909.865.9983 for dates and times.
Diabetes 101 (second Tuesday of each month, 6 – 7:30 pm). For those with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Attending this free educational class will help you gain a better understanding of living well with diabetes. Held at The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center. Call 909.865.9858 to RSVP or for more information.

Orthopedics
Joint Replacement Preparation Class For those who are considering or are scheduled for a total hip or knee replacement surgery. In English (every Wednesday, 10 am – 12:30 pm) and in Spanish (second Wednesday of every month, 3 – 5:00 pm) at the Robert & Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion. For the English class, please call 909.630.7403 to register. For the Spanish class, please call 909.865.9858 to register.
Her needs are our focus

Milestones Center for Child Development – Now in Chino Hills

At Milestones, children with special needs have always been our top priority. Now, with the opening of our new pediatric rehabilitation facility in Chino Hills, we’ve doubled our capacity to help children with developmental delays. We offer physical, occupational, speech and language therapies to help these children build the skills that allow a more enjoyable and independent life. By working with both the child and their whole family, we turn small milestones into big results!

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