INSPIRING!
HEART TREATMENT SUCCESS
CONNECT YOURSELF TO THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE THAT BRING YOU JOY
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e hope you and your loved ones are doing well and staying safe during these challenging times. Like you, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) and our dedicated Physicians and Associates continue to adapt each day as the rules and guidelines for the coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to change. We are prepared to care for your family’s healthcare needs with extraordinary teamwork, competence and compassion.

As our Clinicians and Associates continue to work selflessly to care for our patients, we have been overwhelmed by the support we’ve received from individuals, organizations and local businesses that recognize that PVHMC is a vital member of the community. We’re deeply moved by the kindness and generosity we’ve received from all walks of life and all corners of our community.

There has been such an outpouring of giving that the Hospital opened a designated drop-off site for personal protective equipment and disinfectant products. Here, we gratefully accept surgical and N95 masks, gloves, wipes, goggles, hand sanitizer, face shields and other much-needed supplies.

Our healthcare workers – heroes working on the front lines throughout the pandemic – have been incredibly thankful for the many donations of meals, gifts, and more. We’re especially touched by the generosity of the Gordon DesCombes family, who supported the Hospital and several local restaurants with a $114,000 donation that enabled the restaurants to provide take home meals for our Associates.

We’re also deeply appreciative of an unsolicited grant of $105,000 we received from the California Community Foundation in recognition of the critical role our Hospital plays in treating COVID-19. This grant has helped cover expenses for the COVID-19 testing site we are helping to staff at the Pomona Fairplex.

There’s no greater comfort than knowing our community recognizes that we are all in this together. The generosity and many expressions of thanks our caregivers are receiving is incredibly inspiring. The support of our friends and donors is vital to our success in beating this virus in the weeks and months to come.

As our needs keep changing, we encourage anyone who wishes to support the Hospital to donate to a special PVHMC Foundation COVID-19 Fund that has been created to further support our response to the healthcare needs of our community. When you designate your gift to this fund as “unrestricted,” it enables us to allocate funds to areas in which the need is most urgent. We are thankful for gifts of any amount.

As a Hospital serving this community for the past 117 years, we thank you for your support and in turn stand ready to support you during these unprecedented times. Together, we will get through this.

To contribute to the PVHMC Foundation COVID-19 Fund, go to pvhmc.org and click on Make a Donation. To donate supplies, call the Material Management Department at 909.630.7410.

Dr. M. Hellen Rodriguez
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is constantly planning and training for unforeseen situations to ensure we are providing the highest quality care to our patients under any circumstances. Even so, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has stretched all of us. Our Associates and Physicians quickly mobilized to prepare to care for patients with COVID-19. We have witnessed many extraordinary acts of collaboration, problem-solving and innovation in all areas of the Hospital. Our Associates and Physicians are constantly pivoting as guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health evolve.

We are incredibly proud of our Associates and Physicians for truly putting the health and well-being of our community first. And we celebrate the hundreds of patients we have cared for who have recovered from COVID-19 and have been reunited with their loved ones.

While we continue to rise to the challenge of COVID-19 every day, our hearts are also heavy. We offer our deepest condolences to those who are mourning the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We are deeply saddened that patients who passed were unable to have family at their bedsides. We have tremendous admiration for our Associates and Physicians who stay with patients nearing end of life offering comforting words, but we recognize the emotional toll this may have taken on our caregivers.

Just as we care for the community, we must also care for our Associates who have been forever changed being on the frontlines of the most challenging public health crisis in recent history. Our Associates and Physicians are our most important resource, so we ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The Hospital has been the beneficiary of vital support from Supervisor Hilda Solis and her office, which assisted us in acquiring rapid testing kits. The Fairplex Child Development Center opened its doors to the children of our Associates who need care while their parents work. The Pomona Valley is a special place where we lend a hand, when needed, to lift others up. We are grateful for the tremendous leadership in our community and partnerships with the city and county.

COVID-19 is still being transmitted. Until there is a vaccine, we must continue to battle this virus together by using the tools we have to prevent the spread – hand washing, social distancing and covering our faces when in public. We thank you for the steps you are taking to protect yourself and others from contracting COVID-19.

We are incredibly honored to be on the frontlines caring for our community. Please take care and stay safe. •

To donate to our COVID-19 Fund, visit pvhmc.org. To learn about other giving opportunities, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659.
For more than 117 years, delivering safe, high-quality patient and family-centric care to the community Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) serves has always been our top priority. Protecting our patients and providing an excellent patient experience has never been more important. PVHMC’s Emergency Department and Hospital, as well as the Pomona Valley Health Centers, are safe. In fact, the Hospital received the Healthgrades 2020 Patient Safety Excellence Award™ for the second consecutive year, placing PVHMC among the top 10 percent of all hospitals in the nation evaluated by Healthgrades.

PVHMC is adhering to all guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and California Hospital Association. We are committed to universal precautions to protect both our patients, as well as our Associates and Physicians. “PVHMC Protects” are the extra steps we’re taking to ensure patient safety.

Our PVHMC Protects core principles:

**ASSOCIATE AND PHYSICIAN SAFEGUARDS**
Associates and Physicians are self-monitoring their health to ensure they are symptom-free and able to work. Strict hand-hygiene measures and physical distancing are observed.

**MASKING FOR ALL**
Associates and Physicians are required to wear masks at all times. Patients may be required to wear masks at times. All others entering our facilities must wear cloth face coverings or masks and will be provided one, if needed.

PVHMC needs your support now more than ever. To donate to our COVID-19 Fund, visit pvhmc.org. To learn about other giving opportunities, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659.
PROPER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
PVHMC has sufficient PPE, such as isolation gowns, gloves, N-95 respirators, masks, head and shoe coverings, and we are ensuring that Associates and Physicians are using appropriate PPE at all times.

RAPID PATIENT TESTING
PVHMC is proud to have the ability to provide FDA approved rapid testing for COVID-19 on our Cepheid and BioFire Platforms. Results are available in about an hour with the highest degree of accuracy. Rapid testing ensures that patients testing positive are quickly isolated.

ENHANCED INFECTION PREVENTION AND DISINFECTION
Our highly-trained Environmental Services Associates are dedicated to infection prevention. They are enhancing PVHMC’s already rigorous standards for cleaning and disinfection focusing on frequently touched surfaces such as phones, doorknobs, elevators, nurses’ stations, waiting room furniture, stairwell handrails, and more. In addition to thorough disinfection processes, PVHMC uses ultraviolet (UV) light systems to disinfect patient discharge/transfer rooms for all patients in isolation or the intensive care unit and surgical suites and other procedural areas such as the Women’s Center operating room, Cath Lab and Interventional Radiology. If a patient with COVID-19 has received medical services in procedural areas such as CT Scan, MRI, Interventional Radiology or Cath Lab, cleaning is followed by UV light disinfection.

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS
For the safety of our patients and Associates, visitor restrictions are in place. We know this is hard for our patients and their families and we look forward to the time when we can lift restrictions. However, there are some exceptions. For example, women in labor and delivery may have one healthy person with them during their entire stay. This person must remain in the Hospital with the patient — no in/out privileges. And patients undergoing elective procedures can bring one healthy person with them to the appointment (e.g., someone who can drive the patient home after the procedure). Know that you are never truly alone when visiting our facilities. Our caring Associates will be there for you. For a complete list of visitor restrictions, visit https://www.pvhmc.org/patients-visitors.

PATIENT/FAMILY COMMUNICATION
PVHMC recognizes the importance of having loved ones at the bedside to support the healing process. To keep our patients and family members safe, the Hospital provides patients with access to iPads during their stay, so they can have friends and family with them virtually.
n response to the Hospital’s great need and an overwhelming number of community members contacting the Hospital with offers to donate protective and disinfectant supplies to support our response to COVID-19, we began collecting donations in late March at a drive-through location at 360 Vinton Avenue in Pomona.

Donations can now be coordinated through our Materials Management Department. Call 909.630.7410.

• MASKS – ALL TYPES
• GLOVES
• ISOLATION GOWNS
• HEAD AND SHOE COVERS
• HAND SANITIZER
• DISINFECTING WIPES
• BLEACH
• CLEANING TOWELS

We’re deeply moved by the kindness and generosity of more than 400 community members, children, local businesses and long-time friends of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center – from as far away as Los Angeles, Irvine and China – who have donated protective and disinfectant supplies. Some have been grateful patients who are donating to say thank you for the exceptional care they received when they delivered their babies. Another grateful patient, now living in Beijing, shipped masks.

We’ve received literally hundreds of thousands of donations including surgical masks, medical masks, N95 masks, goggles, shields, gloves, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. More than 100 community members, including church groups and sewing clubs have sewn cloth masks that are being used in non-clinical/non-patient contact areas and for Associates to use when they leave the Hospital.

Our Associates are appreciative of the nourishing meals provided by restaurants and community members. We are grateful to our local restaurants who have remained open to serve our community and have been feeding our frontline healthcare workers.

Your generous philanthropic gifts are directly supporting the Hospital’s safety and quality measures including the purchase of additional personal protective equipment to keep our Associates and patients safe. Time and time again, our faithful donors have stepped up to champion the healthcare needs of our community. Our hearts are full.

Thank you for your support and encouragement over the past six months. From the handwritten letters to the comments posted on social media, you inspire us with your kind words and remind us that we will get through the COVID-19 pandemic together.

PVHMC appreciates your support during this pandemic. To donate to our COVID-19 Fund, visit pvhmc.org. To learn about other giving opportunities, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659.
Convalescent plasma therapy is an experimental treatment that is being used for people with severe COVID-19. While no drug has been proven safe and effective for treating COVID-19, researchers hope that convalescent plasma, blood components from people who have recovered from COVID-19, can boost the ability of patients to fight the virus.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) is one of the sites participating in Mayo Clinic’s National Clinical Trial providing access to convalescent plasma for the treatment of patients with COVID-19. Patients infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, who have severe or life-threatening COVID-19 or who are at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening disease are candidates for convalescent plasma.

“We began infusing eligible patients with convalescent plasma on April 20, 2020 and we’ve now treated more than 200 patients” said Daniel Gluckstein, MD, Medical Director of Infectious Disease. “We are in uncharted waters with this virus and we have very few treatment options. While it is too soon to know the full efficacy of convalescent plasma in treating COVID-19, we are grateful to be participating in this vital research and to have access to it for our patients, many who have had encouraging outcomes.”

There is a great need for convalescent plasma, so all patients who might benefit from it have access to it. Those who have recovered from a verified diagnosis of COVID-19, are symptom free and fully recovered can donate convalescent plasma through the American Red Cross. Prospective donors can complete a COVID-19 convalescent plasma donor eligibility form online at redcrossblood.org.
Kaylee Hartung, a Southern California-based correspondent for ABC whose stories often appear on Good Morning America, donated convalescent plasma through the American Red Cross after recovering from her battle with COVID-19.

She reported on her COVID-19 journey, including her plasma donation. Kaylee hoped to one day meet a COVID-19 survivor who had received a unit or two of her plasma – to know that something good came from being isolated for weeks at home fighting the virus. Working through the American Red Cross, Kaylee learned that one of her plasma units had gone to PVHMC.

For 33 days, Daniel Macias was on a ventilator battling for his life at PVHMC. At one point, doctors told his family that he had a 20 percent chance of survival – and then he received some of Kaylee’s “golden” plasma. One day later, Daniel began improving. Three days later, he was breathing on his own and taken off the ventilator.

Shortly after Daniel returned home, the family hosted a drive-by parade to celebrate his miraculous recovery with friends and loved ones. Daniel’s family invited Kaylee, so he could meet his angel plasma donor. Daniel, who says he’s “feeling really good,” told Kaylee, “You have another dad. He’ll be watching over you. You come over. You visit. This is your home.”

Kaylee’s and Daniel’s inspiring stories were broadcast May 18, 2020 on Good Morning America.

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After being an emergency department and trauma nurse for ten years, I had a deep longing to travel on a healthcare mission for the learning experience. But with five children and a busy career, the timing just never seemed right.

Then the call for healthcare workers willing to travel to New York to support the COVID-19 response came from Krucial Staffing. With my children now grown and the blessing of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and Pomona Valley Health Center, I set off for Harlem Hospital, where I would work 12-hour shifts for 21 days straight caring for patients with COVID-19.

I was beyond excited for the opportunity to be part of this important healthcare mission. I was hungry to learn and stretch myself professionally. I kept telling myself, “If I can just bless one life, this will be worth it.”

Every morning at 6 a.m., we would wait outside our hotel in Manhattan, where the streets were eerily deserted, for the charter bus that would take my fellow visiting healthcare workers and me to Harlem Hospital. I was part of a team of six physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners caring for about 20 patients with COVID-19 at a time on a medical floor, not an intensive care unit. At the time, about 90 percent of the hospital’s patients were battling COVID-19. I would come in for my shifts and be energized by patients who were showing progress.

Many of the patients on our floor were alert and able to use their own mobile devices to stay connected with their family members. For others, I would talk to their family members every day to give them updates — and I would reassure the patients that I had talked to their family who sends their love and prayers.

Even in these early days of the pandemic, before they were using convalescent plasma and Remdesivir to potentially accelerate recovery, we saw many patients improve and be discharged. But we also witnessed the lives lost by many who fought brave battles against this beastly virus.

I was never nervous about contracting COVID-19 because we had a sufficient supply of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), which I was grateful for every
day when I donned my PPE. I also knew that my mother, a prayer warrior, as well as my family and friends at Faith Inspirational Baptist Church in Compton, was making sure the Lord watched over me.

By day 15, I was truly exhausted, but I persevered for six more incredibly rewarding days – bolstered by the love and support of New Yorkers. There is nothing quite like hearing New Yorkers cheering, banging pots and pans and ringing cowbells out of their windows in honor of healthcare workers every night at 7 p.m. They never missed a night!

On our last day, our charter bus received a police escort from the New York Police Department to the hospital. What a deeply moving experience. Before heading into the hospital for our final shift, another colleague and I went into a gourmet cupcake shop to treat ourselves to celebratory cupcakes. Another woman purchasing cupcakes said, “I’d like to buy those for you.” I said, “Are you sure? Because I’m getting four of them.” She said, “I’m sure.”

As I got ready to leave New York, I tested negative for both COVID-19 and the antibodies – it was time to reunite with my family in Southern California. It feels good to be back home and to see my grown children, who are so proud of me. And it feels good to ease back into work treating nothing more serious than an ingrown toenail.

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. Anyone who has ever thought of going on a medical or disaster relief mission – jump at the chance when the time is right.

I recently received a phone call from the sister of the first patient with COVID-19 that I had to pronounce. Her 70-year-old brother had a do not resuscitate order. She asked for my address because she wanted to send me a personal thank you for caring for her brother. I knew right then that I had blessed one life. Mission accomplished.

But the truth is, I was the one who was blessed many times over for the privilege of caring for patients with COVID-19 during the most significant public health crisis of our lifetimes.

JANAE HARRIS is a Nurse Practitioner with Premier Family Medicine Associates at Pomona Valley Health Center in Claremont

PVHMC appreciates your support during this pandemic. To donate to our COVID-19 Fund, visit pvhmc.org. To learn about other giving opportunities, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659.
PVHMC AWARDED FIVE 5-STAR QUALITY AWARDS IN HEALTHGRADES’ REPORT to the NATION
Today, hospital quality matters more than ever. According to Healthgrades, the leading online resource for information about physicians and hospitals, patients have a lower risk of dying when they’re treated at top-performing hospitals. Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) is proud that it has been named a Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award recipient for the second consecutive year. This distinction places the Hospital among the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide. Hospitals whose outcomes are statistically significantly better than expected receive Healthgrades’ 5-star quality ratings. The Healthgrades 2020 Report to the Nation, which identifies top performing hospitals, has awarded 5-star quality ratings to PVHMC in five specialty care areas.

**Coronary Bypass Surgery**
PVHMC has received a Healthgrades 5-star rating for coronary bypass surgery for three years in a row (2018 to 2020). “I had a credible diagnosis of heart failure before I was referred to Dr Reddy, Dr. Gao, and the Pomona Valley Hospital heart center,” said patient James Borer. “My diagnosis was confirmed and I was given the confidence to go ahead with a serious and lifesaving surgery. My family and I never wavered in our confidence about the level of my care. Fifteen months later, I am walking 45-50 miles a week on the horse trails and fire roads in my neighborhood.”

**Heart Failure**
PVHMC received a 5-star rating for its treatment of heart failure in 2020. When Sue Pollock needed the best physician, support and rehabilitation programs for her rapidly failing heart, she moved her care to PVHMC. “The Stead Heart & Vascular Center’s award-winning cardiac care unit, specialized 5-Star cardiologists and heart care team, ongoing cardiac education, impressive cardiac rehabilitation, and the many support groups all work together to provide patients a complete package to feel better and have a healthy and active life,” she said. “I’m so thankful I found PVHMC.”

**Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**
PVHMC has earned 5 stars for its treatment of COPD for two years in a row (2019 and 2020). “After my diagnosis of COPD and discharge from the Hospital, I started Pulmonary Rehab,” said Barbara Huss. “Now, I breathe and feel better than I have in a long time. This program has improved my quality of life and I’ve made several friends who also benefit from this program.”

**Gallbladder Removal**
PVHMC has also earned 5 stars for gallbladder removal surgery for two years in a row (2019 and 2020). “I was apprehensive about having my gallbladder removed but I had absolutely no problems and my recovery was quicker than I thought it would be,” said patient Tamara Barto. “I am very grateful for the expertise of everyone at PVHMC.”

**Treatment of Sepsis**
Sepsis is a life-threatening illness caused by the body’s response to infection. PVHMC received Healthgrades’ 5-star rating for treatment of Sepsis in 2020. “I’ve never felt so sick,” said Francisco Garcia, Sr. “In the Emergency Room, I was told I had sepsis. I was scared and I didn’t know what that meant. They explained everything to me and I got better each day. I really feel the Hospital saved my life.”

These Healthgrades achievements are evidence of the dedication and passion that our team members bring to their work as they care for our community. I’m incredibly proud of our Physicians and Associates for ensuring quality outcomes that have earned the Hospital these latest accolades.”

RICHARD E. YOCHUM, FACHE
PRESIDENT | CEO

To support the exceptional patient care at PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or go online at pvhmc.org/foundation.
CHRISTIE & DR. ALBERT CHONG

A MEDICAL
When you have a near brush with death, you learn what’s really important in life. Albert Chong, MD, an Orthopedic Specialist at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), and his wife Christie gained a new appreciation for their friends, family and community and a strengthened faith in God. Along with the knowledge that even during periods of the deepest despair, there is hope.

On Monday, January 14, 2019, Albert, then 43, awoke at 2 a.m. with pain in his chest and a feeling of unease. He got up and took some aspirin, but then woke Christie and asked her to drive him to the Hospital.

“He barely let me change from my pajamas,” Christie said. “I knew it was a serious emergency when Albert told me to leave our girls home alone, sleeping in their beds, speed-drive and even run red lights.” (The girls, aged 8, 6 and 3, had Wifi monitors in their rooms and Albert’s mother got to the house well before they awoke).

Christie and Albert, who lived nearby, arrived at PVHMC in record time. Albert had called from the car and an Emergency Department (ED) team was waiting. In minutes he lay in an ED bay, receiving medication for the severe pain in his chest. The first electrocardiogram (EKG) of his heart was normal.

But the pain in his chest worsened. Then, about 30 minutes after arriving at the Hospital, Albert suffered a massive heart attack and full cardiac arrest. Christie was ushered out of the room as monitors sounded, lights flashed and the team rushed into action to save Albert’s life.

“Stuck in the waiting room down the hall, I kept hearing the ‘cardiac alert’ announcement and I knew it was Albert,” Christie said. “I sneaked back a few times to peek through the window and all I could see was Albert’s toes sticking out at the end of the bed and people crowded around him. They were giving him CPR, doing chest compressions, shocking him and passing medicines back and forth. I couldn’t bear to keep watching.”

Teams worked to resuscitate and re-resuscitate Albert for 20 minutes, as his heart stopped beating again and again. He received life-saving electric shocks from a defibrillator 12 times, while a tube inserted into his airway supplied oxygen.
Finally, Albert was stabilized and at 4:15 a.m. He was taken to the Cardiac Catheterization Lab, where Physicians found a 100 percent blockage of his left anterior descending artery. This artery is dubbed "the widowmaker" because it is a major blood pipeline and a blockage of it is almost always fatal without immediate emergency care. Physicians placed a stent that successfully opened the blockage and determined that Albert’s heart was otherwise strong.

But Albert’s fight for life wasn’t over. Before he awoke from the stent procedure, his body began shaking abnormally. His Doctors feared that Albert hadn’t received enough oxygen through the breathing tube while being repeatedly resuscitated in the ED and now had brain damage. How much damage and how permanent it might be was impossible to know.

To reduce any further damage to his brain and give it a chance to rest, Physicians gave Albert medication that placed him in a medically-induced coma. Then they began the process of placing his body into therapeutic hypothermia, using a process called Targeted Temperature Management. Slowly, they lowered his core body temperature to 33 degrees Celsius (91 degrees Fahrenheit). On a ventilator, heavily medicated and closely monitored, Albert was kept in a hypothermic coma for 24 hours. Christie and the rest of Albert’s family could only wait and pray.

The next day, Doctors slowly began to re-warm Albert’s body to bring him out of hypothermia. But when his temperature was just one degree away from normal, Albert exhibited abnormal brain wave activity. Doctors quickly administered anti-seizure medication and held Albert steady in a mild hypothermic state for another 18 hours.

But prolonged hypothermia can cause other problems in the body, including the heart. Yet Albert’s brain still needed rest. To give him the best chance of recovering brain function, Albert was brought out of hypothermia but given different medication to keep him in a medically-induced coma. “I was so unsettled and unsure if we were doing the right thing,” Christie said. “We could only trust the doctors and ultimately, God, who is always in control.”

The next day, Albert had an MRI that showed no structural damage to his brain and no swelling or fluid build-up, the best possible result. At about 1 p.m., the coma-inducing medication was stopped. Doctors cautioned Christie that it could take hours or even days for Albert to wake up.

It took five agonizingly long days. Christie sat at Albert’s bedside as the ventilator breathed for him, with tubes of every type sustaining him and monitors tracking his brain activity and other functions. Doctors were not sure why Albert was not waking. “Because it was taking him so long to wake up, they thought something was definitely wrong,” Christie said. “It was an awful waiting period of not knowing.”

Christie was keeping a health journal on the CaringBridge website to share information on Albert’s condition each day with friends, family and members of their church. Quickly, the prayer requests went out to their faith community and beyond. Even PVHMC Associates who were caring for Albert had asked others to pray for him, without revealing Albert’s name or medical details. Friends and strangers from around the globe were praying for Albert 24/7, in places including India, Croatia, Japan and the Philippines. Local people offered to babysit and drop off meals. It was an amazing outpouring of support for Christie, just when she needed it most. She felt peace and a sense of anticipation, for what God might do as a result of all this fervent intercession on behalf of their family.
A MESSAGE of HOPE

in UNCERTAIN TIMES

Albert and his wife Christie believe it’s no coincidence that Albert was asked to tell the story of his heart attack and miraculous recovery as the COVID-19 coronavirus swept through the nation in March and every industry not deemed essential was suddenly ordered to close.

“So many people are feeling helpless and hopeless because they’re suddenly without a paycheck, the stock market was tanking and there’s no treatment or vaccine yet for the virus,” Albert said. “But I remain optimistic and I have hope because I know God is still in control. And I hope that my story encourages people as they struggle with anxiety, depression and life’s circumstances. At a time when people are afraid and clinging to temporal things to try and find peace, maybe my story can inspire them to ground themselves in something more eternal.”
Finally, eight days after his heart attack, Albert woke up. Although he was groggy, disoriented and confused, he could recognize people, communicate with short phrases and shakes of his head and even sit up with help. Two days later, "God gave Albert back to me," Christie said. "I could see the awareness in his eyes. It was truly a miracle."

Though Albert initially had big gaps in memory, tests revealed no significant brain damage. After several more days at PVHMC, followed by nine days of inpatient rehabilitation, Albert finally came home to his family on February 6, 2019. Slowly, his brain filled in the gaps in his memory. Everyone around the world who had prayed for Albert and Christie now celebrated with them.

"Those who entered into our suffering with us – who cried, worried, and prayed with us – now were able to rejoice all the more with us!" Christie said. "We’ve never been the recipients of such generosity before. We usually like to be the ones helping others, especially Albert as a Doctor. For us to be in such a vulnerable position ourselves and dependent on other people was quite humbling, but it made us appreciate our community in Jesus Christ even more."

In March 2019, Albert and Christie returned to PVHMC’s ICU to thank the Doctors, Nurses and everyone who had cared for him. "We had presents and they were cheering and everyone was so happy to see him back to normal," Christie said. "Everyone wanted pictures with him; he was like a celebrity!" Albert and Christie have nothing but the deepest gratitude for the expertise and compassion of the many Doctors, Nurses and medical professionals who saved his life and brought him back to his family.

In early June 2019, four months after he came home, Albert went back to work consulting and seeing patients in the office. "I couldn’t remember everything that happened to me in the hospital but I retained my medical knowledge and remembered my patients," Albert said. "As of now, I am not planning on going back to surgery but I am able to do almost everything I was doing before my heart attack."

Today, Albert and Christie, a stay-at-home mom who uses her background in music and education to homeschool their three daughters, say the experience has put into perspective what’s truly important. "Spending more time with family and friends and nurturing relationships means more than material things," Albert said. "We’re so grateful for all we’ve been given. This experience has solidified my faith and my belief that God is in control. My story is amazing and miraculous, but my hope is that it makes people think more about the purpose of life and what happens after death.

"A lot of people struggle with depression and anxiety tied to their circumstances in life," Albert continued. "But Christie and I would like to encourage people to ground themselves in something more eternal. Because despite what’s happening around us, there is always hope."
Q: What is a medically induced coma and why is it used
A: A medically induced coma is when we give a continuous infusion of medication to achieve a deep state of brain inactivity – a comatose state. Any time somebody has a cardiac arrest and there’s a lack of blood flow and oxygen to the brain for a certain period of time, damage occurs to the brain tissue. The longer the duration of cardiac arrest, the more likely there is to be brain damage and a greater intensity of damage. A medically induced coma slows brain activity and gives the brain a chance to rest and heal.

Q: What is Targeted Temperature Management/therapeutic hypothermia?
A: It’s a carefully managed reduction of the core body temperature that is used to slow the body’s metabolic functions and give the brain a chance to rest and recover. We cool the body to 91-93 degrees Fahrenheit and maintain that temperature for 24-36 hours, and then gradually rewarm them over another 24-hour period.

Q: How is someone put into therapeutic hypothermia?
A: There are different forms of Targeted Temperature Management. At PVHMC we use internal cooling. What that involves is placing a catheter into a large vein of the body. Cold fluid flows through this catheter, into the body and then back out; kind of like a radiator. As the blood flows around the catheter, the blood cools and the fluid in the catheter warms. The warm fluid in the catheter then flows out of the body.

Q: When someone is put into a medically induced coma and hypothermic state to slow the body’s metabolism, how does that help the brain?
A: The body’s natural response to any injury is an inflammatory response. It’s no different than if you bruise your skin tissue. This inflammation can further aggravate brain injury. When we put someone into a medically induced coma and therapeutic hypothermia, we’re slowing the metabolism of all tissues, including the brain. This halts some of the harmful reactions that can occur after a brain injury.

Q: Why can therapeutic hypothermia only be sustained for 24-36 hours?
A: There’s no likely benefit beyond this timeframe. The most vulnerable time after brain injury is between an hour or two of the event to the first 36 hours. Keeping somebody at a low temperature for longer than that is probably not going to provide any additional benefit, while it heightens the likelihood of things like infection.
THE 4TH ANNUAL NEUROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM was held on October 5, 2019 with over 150 attendees. Pictured left-right: Raquel Rulloda, NP; Karen Tse-Chang, BSN, RN, Stroke Program Manager; Dr. Bhupat Desai, Medical Director; Kimberly Jones, BSN, RN and Katrina Woolfolk, BSN, RN.
More than 400 guests Leaped into the ‘20s, the theme of the 26th annual Heartbeat Gala, on Saturday, February 29, 2020 — leap day.

Held once again at the Ontario Doubletree Hotel, the event honored major benefactors Carole and Bill Stead, whose generous financial gift in 1985 helped create the Stead Heart & Vascular Center at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC).

“Bill and Carole, your visionary and generous philanthropic support made our dream of building a nationally recognized cardiovascular center in our community a reality,” said PVHMC President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, as he presented the Steads with a plaque that now hangs in the Stead Heart & Vascular Center waiting room.

“This unselfish act will continue to have a beneficial impact on many generations to come.”

The elegant black-and-white Gala began with a cocktail reception that featured a strolling violinist and a “selfie bot” robot that snapped digital and instant photo prints of guests. After perusing raffle baskets and bidding on silent auction items, guests enjoyed a delicious dinner accompanied by live music. The evening’s program followed, emceed by Gala Co-Chair Don Kendrick, First Vice Chair of the PVHMC Foundation Board of Directors. A lively paddle auction and dancing to the sounds of NRG Music completed the festive evening.

Each year, the Heartbeat Gala raises funds for the Stead Heart & Vascular Center Endowment Fund, allowing PVHMC to provide the best heart and stroke care to the community, saving lives every day. More than $3.6 million has been raised since the first Heartbeat Gala 26 years ago.

“We thank all of our many sponsors, underwriters and guests for their continued generosity,” said Don. “Your support allows us to continue our mission of providing the very best healthcare, making a difference to so many lives in our community.”

To learn more or make a gift to the Stead Heart & Vascular Center, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
The biggest benefit is patient protection. The room also helps reduce patient anxiety before a procedure because it looks and feels so clean and high-tech.

MARTHA SOTO, MSN, RN, CNOR, DIRECTOR OF PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) is the first Hospital in Southern California – and perhaps the nation – to install cutting-edge, infection-fighting, stainless steel walls throughout one of its operating rooms.

Called EASE – Efficient and Safe Environment – the walls have a powdered finish to reduce glare and a special antimicrobial treatment to inhibit the growth of microorganisms. The walls are strong enough to avoid damage – and infectious breaches – if hit with equipment. They also provide a pleasing environment for patients, Associates and Physicians, with an ultra-modern look and a soothing mural that extends along one wall. Rounded corners and monitors installed flush with the walls prohibit the growth of microbes and make the room easy to clean. Airtight sealing doors with hands-free activation allow staff and surgeons to come into the room without touching, reducing the possibility of introducing outside germs.

The newly remodeled operating room opened in late January 2020. It is expected to be used for a large number of “open” procedures, such as orthopedic surgeries, which carry a higher risk of infection than minimally invasive techniques.

For information on how you can help support the advanced care and technology 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) is one of just 53 hospitals in California – and the only one in the area – to offer a new approach through a grant funded by the California Bridge Program for people suffering from opioid use disorder.

“It’s a patient-centered program that uses medication-assisted treatment to bridge people from opioid dependency to treatment and follow-up,” said Sherrie Cisneros, RN, PVHMC’s new Substance Use Navigator. “Before this, the most we could do at the Hospital for those with an opioid addiction was treat their medical needs and refer them to a recovery program. Now we can give them buprenorphine, a medication that’s proven to reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms and prevent relapse. With this medication, they’re more likely to actually go to a clinic or rehab facility for counseling and recovery.”

PVHMC views opioid use disorder as a treatable chronic illness, like diabetes or heart disease. This creates an environment that welcomes, instead of judges, disclosure of opioid use and allows patients to receive evidence-based treatment.

“We’re removing the stigma and biases surrounding substance use,” Sherrie said. “People dependent on opioids come from all walks of life. They’re your neighbors. They’re somebody’s mother, son or daughter.”

The program began at PVHMC in March 2020, after six months of preparation. When someone dependent on opioids seeks help at PVHMC’s Emergency Department, they are first assessed by a Physician for medical issues. Then they’re referred to Sherrie, who works with each person individually to determine what support they need and the best options to help them. Those who are ready and willing to beat their addiction receive buprenorphine and are referred to an outpatient clinic or inpatient rehabilitation facility, depending on their wishes. There they receive additional treatment and counseling to help them successfully overcome their dependence.

The nearest other hospitals in the California Bridge Program are in San Bernardino and Los Angeles.

“I’m very excited about this program,” said Sherrie. “It gives me the opportunity to provide a 1:1 focus in making sure people succeed in their journey. It’s really going to make a difference in people’s lives.”

To support the lifesaving programs offered at PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org or 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
When they’re in the Hospital, patients and their families are often at their most vulnerable. As Bob Fagg and Isai Ramirez know well, something as small as a warm smile or a kind word can make an enormous difference during what can be a stressful time.

Bob and Isai are two of about 1,000 Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Volunteers who deliver crucial support by providing an extra touch of customer service for our patients and visitors. “Every small offering of help is huge,” Bob said. “We touch people’s lives in small ways, but it has a big impact.”

Bob, who lives in Claremont, has volunteered at PVHMC for about 14 years. He also serves on the Board of the PVHMC Auxiliary. He and his wife Sonja Stump own a local business and have been widely involved in the community for many years. Sonja and their younger daughter Rachel also offer their skills and talents to PVHMC.

“I’ve loved being at the Hospital from day one,” Bob said. “It’s quite rewarding. There’s such a wide variety of ways to contribute. Whether you’re driving a shuttle to bring people to the Hospital from their cars, working in the Gift Shop or supporting patients, you’re using your gifts to both give and to receive.”

Currently volunteering in the Tender Touch Gift Shop, Bob spent his first eight years volunteering in the Emergency Department. “I did whatever they needed me to do; running errands, taking something to the Lab, cleaning gurneys or getting a warm blanket or a cup of water for a patient,” he said. “The thing I loved most was being able to spend time with patients and family members who were alone or afraid. Just to be there if they needed somebody.”

Isai, 18, is a Student Volunteer with a different, but just as important role. During his four years as a Junior Volunteer while in high school and now into his first year as a College Volunteer, he’s supported the Hospital in a myriad of ways. These include selling gifts in the Tender Touch Gift Shop, manning the Tender Touch Too Kiosk located in the Women’s and Children’s Center Lobby, and assisting with providing directions and transporting patients and visitors in wheelchairs from the Hospital’s lobby. He currently assists in the Human Resources Department, ensuring new hire paperwork has been correctly completed and benefit packages are ready, and observing the hiring process.

While he was a Junior Volunteer, Isai also mentored his peers as a shift leader and served in the Junior Volunteer Leadership CORE. The CORE plans and facilitates Junior Volunteer activities with guidance and oversight from the Volunteer Department. His positive leadership experiences led Isai to an important career realization.

“Originally I wanted to be a cardiac doctor,” he said. “But now my ultimate career goal is to be CEO of a hospital – preferably Pomona Valley Hospital.” Isai, who lives in Pomona, is studying business administration at Cal Poly Pomona, with an emphasis in human resource management.

It’s clear that Volunteers are an essential part of PVHMC, supporting Associates and giving patients extra comfort. But that’s just one reason Bob and Isai urge others to consider volunteering. “Volunteering is something everyone should do,” said Isai, who started giving back after PVHMC saved his mom’s life when she experienced cardiac arrest nine years ago. “I live a better life than most people around the world and I want to help make the world a better place. I know I’ve made a lasting impact on some people and that will stay with me my whole life.”

“The payback is tenfold,” Bob agreed. “It’s wonderful to see that by giving in small ways, you can change people’s lives.”

To find out more about volunteer opportunities at PVHMC, visit pvhmc.org/volunteer or call the Volunteer Services Department at 909.865.9669.
The qualities needed to serve a cause larger than one’s self – courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty and integrity – are shared by healthcare professionals and members of the United States Armed Forces. So it’s no wonder that many Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Associates are also veterans or active service members.

The Hospital honored all Associates, Volunteers and Board Members who have served or are currently serving in the military, and their families, at its second annual Veterans Day Luncheon on Monday, November 11, 2019. At the event, held in the Pitzer Auditorium, more than 50 veterans attended. Each was recognized with a commemorative Challenge Coin for the value of their military service, which is often in evidence as they go above and beyond for patients and families.

The event also included singers, videos, a slide show of the veterans, and a special presentation of the Patriot Award by a representative of the U.S. Department of Defense (see sidebar).

“We are grateful to each of our Associates who have served or are still serving this country,” said President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE. “We respectfully thank them for all they do to protect us and enable us to live in freedom.”
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BESTOWS

Patriot Awards on PVHMC Leaders

To find out more about volunteer opportunities at PVHMC, visit pvhmc.org/volunteer or call the Volunteer Services Department at 909.865.9669.

Johanna Boone, MSN, RN-NIC and Juanita DuBon, DNP, FNP-C, who work in the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, are just two Associates who are proud to serve their nation as members of the United States military. Johanna, who is in the Air Force, and Juanita, who is in the Army, are also jugglers: they continuously balance their work of providing care to PVHMC’s tiniest, most fragile patients with their military commitments and their personal lives.

Johanna and Juanita recently showed their appreciation for the support they receive in their challenging dual career roles by nominating PVHMC President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, and Michele Atkins-Young, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Director of Children’s Services, for U.S. Patriot Awards.

The Patriot Award reflects the efforts an individual has made to support employees who depart from civilian life to serve in the military or reserves. This support encompasses a wide range of measures, including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed. Patriot Awards are only given to individuals, not an entire staff or organization.

Reginald Fields, representing the United States Department of Defense and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, presented the awards to Michele and Rich – who is a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War – at this year’s Veteran’s Day Luncheon (Rich’s award was accepted by Executive Vice President Michael Nelson).

“I appreciate Johanna, Juanita and all of our many Associates who are Veterans or active service members,” Rich said. “These incredible men and women are truly selfless.”

Michael Nelson, Executive Vice President, accepting for Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO; Michele Atkins-Young, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Director of Children’s Services; Reginald Fields, Representative from the Department of Defense and Employers Support of the Guard and Reserves and Johanna Boone, MSN, RN-NIC.
We love giving back to our community!

Thank you to the office of Supervisor Hilda Solis, SoCal Gas Company, God’s Pantry and the Azusa Unified School District for the opportunity to participate in the AZUSA COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR! Our nursing team enjoyed connecting with the hundreds of families and providing free blood glucose screenings and diabetes education.

PVHMC Community EVENTS

On March 5, 2020, Claremont High School hosted its bi-annual EVERY 15 MINUTES event, in partnership with the California Highway Patrol and the California Office of Traffic Safety. As part of the program, our Trauma and Emergency Department staff spent time with the students to educate them on the consequences of driving while under the influence.

On January 25, PVHMC participated in the city of Chino Hills’ Healthy Hills annual HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR! at the Chino Hills Community Center. Associates from the hospital and Pomona Valley Health Centers provided free blood glucose screenings and diabetes education to guests, including Miss San Bernardino!
PVHMC hosted its 2nd Annual WOMEN’S HEART WALK at Washington Park, in partnership with Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia. Cecilia Silva, exercise physiologist for the cardiovascular rehabilitation program, led the group in a warm-up dance, one-mile walk and conversation about heart disease and promoting a heart healthy lifestyle. Our staff teamed up with students from Western University of Health Sciences’ CPR Club to teach hands-only CPR to participants. Did you know that 1 in 16 women ages 20 and older have coronary heart disease? In fact, heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in America.

The Annual Tree Lighting celebration was held on December 3, 2019 for our community. It was a festive evening of photos with Santa, cookies, and music from Garey High School’s Symphonic Band.

PVHMC sponsored the 2ND ANNUAL STEA2M FAIR on March 5 & 6 – a free experiential event at Fairplex designed to inspire students from grades K-12 to explore and pursue learning and careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Agriculture, and Mathematics. Students from across the County stopped by our booth to see how our Biomed team manages medical technology, learned how to perform hands-only CPR, played interactive diabetes education games on a tablet, and had a chance to interact with our vein finder.
Twenty-five years after successful treatment for breast cancer in the left breast, Nancy Cook, 61, was shocked when her latest mammogram revealed a new cancer tumor in her other breast. And she was even more devastated when a subsequent MRI revealed a second tumor in the same breast.

But Nancy, who lives in Pomona, has a message for every woman with breast cancer. “Cancer is not a death sentence,” she said. “This is just a bump in the road and you’ll get past it and be stronger in the end for it.”

Nancy and her husband Leroy discovered her first cancer together in 1994, when she was just 35. “We didn’t know what it was at first, because there was no history of cancer in my family,” she said. “It was very scary.”

They sought care at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s (PVHMC) Robert & Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center. PVHMC was the Hospital Nancy’s grandparents had always used and long trusted, and where one of Nancy’s three children was born. “It was a wonderful Hospital,” Nancy said. “There was no thinking that I could have gone to a hospital with a better name or reputation.”

After a lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiation treatments at the Cancer Care Center, Nancy was declared cancer-free. Because her cancer was hormone-sensitive, she took an anti-hormone estrogen blocker for the next seven years and was careful to have a mammogram each year. She faced other health issues as well; doctors determined she needed both a hysterectomy and part of her thyroid removed.

“My body was pretty messed up for a while with surgeries and fixings,” she said. “But it was comforting to be at Pomona Valley, a Hospital I’ve known all my life and trust completely.”

Then, in September 2019, a mammogram revealed what Nancy had hoped to never hear again – she had a small tumor, this time in her right breast. “Women with hormone-sensitive breast cancer are at higher risk of getting cancer in the other breast because unless you are completely suppressing estrogen, your body still produces it,” said medical oncologist Swarna Chanduri, MD, one of Nancy’s doctors. “That’s one reason why it’s so important to carefully continue mammograms until age 65 and beyond.”

In November 2019, Nancy had another lumpectomy to remove both of her new tumors. Because the tumors were small, she didn’t need chemotherapy, but she did need radiation therapy.

Nancy’s family rallied to support her. “My biggest support was my husband,” she said. “I could not have done it without him, or my children; Lee, Jim, Casey and their families.” Additionally, their daughter, a teacher in Idaho, sought information from a college classmate who was studying about cancer and radiation treatments.

Nancy also took comfort in her twin passions, sewing and quilting. “I do patchwork quilts that are a bit more traditional, and I sew things that are needed like little pouches and purses, and bedding, bibs and blankets for the grandchildren. It’s creativity that lets you express where your mind is for the day or during a particular time in your life.”

After a long journey through 33 radiation therapy sessions, Nancy completed her treatment on February 26, 2020. And while she’ll need another five years of estrogen blockers, her attitude is positive.

“God never gives you more than you can handle,” she says. “During the last 26 years, I’ve heard from a lot of women going through what I went through and I want to encourage them. If I can just give them a little bit of positivity, I can be part of their happy ending. No matter what you’re going through, try to wake up in the morning and know it’s a brand-new day and you’ve got another chance at life.”

To support other happy endings through the excellent care at The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
Nancy Cook with her Robert & Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center team.
Q & A WITH

Sri Gorty, MD

Radiation Oncologist and President of the Medical Staff at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC)
Q: Why do some women receive radiation therapy treatment for breast cancer and not others?
A: Every woman’s treatment is different. In most cases, women who have had a mastectomy don’t require radiation therapy, unless they have high-risk features such as cancer that has spread into the lymph nodes, a tumor that was bigger than five centimeters or cancer that was not completely removed. Most women who have lumpectomies will need radiation, although there is a small population that will not require it. It depends on each woman’s individual circumstances, including her overall health, age, the stage of her cancer and other factors.

Q: Is radiation therapy ever used as a stand-alone treatment for breast cancer?
A: Rarely. The standard of care includes surgery and/or chemotherapy in addition to radiation. Radiation therapy may be used as a palliative treatment to relieve pain and other symptoms in breast cancer patients who are not candidates for surgery or chemotherapy because of their health or age. In these cases, we can shrink their cancer, and sometimes eliminate it.

Q: How does radiation therapy work to help kill cancer cells after surgery?
A: There’s a 20–30 percent chance that breast cancer will come back after surgery, because of cancer cells that may still present but which we can’t see – even if margins are negative. We use radiation therapy to sterilize those cells. Cancer is like the palm of our hand. What we can see, and what they remove during surgery, is the palm of the hand. What we’re trying to remove during radiation therapy are the finger-like extensions of the cancer. Radiation attacks the DNA of cancer cells, so the cells can no longer divide.

Q: Can radiation therapy be used on all stages of breast cancer?
A: Yes, we use radiation therapy on all stages of breast cancer. It’s almost always used after lumpectomy, and occasionally after mastectomy.

Q: Does radiation therapy make you lose your hair?
A: Not the hair on your head, unless you’re receiving radiation therapy to the head. Radiation therapy for breast cancer will cause you to lose your armpit hair, which most women welcome!

Q: Are there some women who should not get radiation therapy as part of their breast cancer treatment?
A: Women who have advanced metastatic breast cancer, which means the cancer has spread widely, may not benefit from radiation therapy to the breast. And women with some medical conditions, including lupus, are at higher risk for complications when receiving radiation therapy. So we have to monitor them more closely. These complications may include more pronounced fatigue and more severe skin reactions that can look like a bad sunburn.

Q: What are the possible side effects to radiation therapy treatment for breast cancer?
A: There’s a range of side effects; most women fall somewhere in the middle. The main short-term side effects are breast swelling, mild to moderate fatigue and skin changes in the area being treated, such as peeling or darkening of the skin.

Q: What is the biggest misconception women have about radiation therapy treatment for breast cancer?
A: One of the biggest misconceptions is that they’re not safe to be around their family. They think they can’t be around their kids or someone who’s pregnant. That’s not true. When we give radiation for breast cancer, the treatment only affects the patient, they’re at no risk to anybody else.

Q: What else should women know?
A: Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers in women, but don’t take it lightly. If you have a breast mass that you feel, see a doctor as soon as possible. And if you feel something but the mammogram is negative, push for further diagnostic tests like ultrasound or MRI. If you feel something, and feel that it’s growing, there may be something in the breast even if the mammogram shows nothing.

If it has been over a year since your last mammogram, call 909.469.9395.
When her sister was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999, Dolores “Dee” Lancia-Ketner of Chino Hills reached out to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) for educational materials and information. Dee was grateful for the assistance she received from The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center. But she was shocked to discover that hats, wigs, scarves and other support resources were not covered by insurance. From her sister’s experience, Dee knew how important these items were to helping women maintain their dignity and emotional well-being during cancer treatment. She was troubled to think that some women in her local community might have to do without them because of cost.

Determined to help, Dee, who worked in the plastics industry, approached six other women and founded the Ladies Plastics Golf Organization (LPGO) charity golf tournament. The $500 in proceeds from the first event — and every tournament since — went to PVHMC’s Breast Health Fund. The fund provides free wigs for women in cancer treatment, emergency biopsies for women who can’t afford them, transportation to and from the Cancer Care Center for patients in treatment, physical therapy and exercise classes, and education and support programs for patients, family and children.

2019 marked the 20th Anniversary of the LPGO golf tournament, which has now raised $525,000 to benefit the Breast Health Fund and help men and women in need throughout the community. The milestone tournament was held on November 6, 2019 at the Coyote Hills Golf Course in Fullerton. After an outstanding day of golf, players enjoyed a celebratory awards dinner, raffle and silent auction. A highlight was the presentation of a commemorative plaque by PVHMC Director of Development Glenda Ferguson, honoring Dee, her sister Nancy and the LPGO’s 20 years of support. The plaque hangs in the Cancer Care Center’s newly remodeled wig salon.

“The LPGO has made a significant difference in the lives of countless women and men touched with cancer,” Glenda said. “We continue to be enormously grateful to the LPGO, its founders, sponsors, players, volunteers and guests for their ongoing generosity and support of PVHMC.”

For information on how you can help support the Breast Health Fund at The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center, please contact Glenda Ferguson at 909.865.9659 or glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org or visit pvhmc.org.
LPGO

20 YEARS
OF SUPPORT FOR
PVHMC’S BREAST
HEALTH FUND
When Eryn Peeler, 25, heard about Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Foundation’s second annual Singing for Survivors competition, she knew she had to be a part of it. Erin lost both of her grandmothers and two aunts to cancer and has close family friends who are in cancer remission or close to it.

Erin, a Pomona resident and physical therapy doctoral student at Western University of Health Sciences, sang to honor the important women in her life and to remind everyone to cherish time with those they love. Her powerful rendition of Never Enough by Loren Allred (from the movie The Greatest Showman) won her first place in this year’s event.

Singing for Survivors, an “Idol-style” competition, raises vital resources for The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center Endowment Fund. The fund allows The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center to provide cancer patients and their families with access to no-cost educational, wellness and psycho-social programs.

After a day of auditions and preliminary judging, seven finalists were chosen to compete at the Singing for Survivors event, held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Fox Theatre in Pomona. The evening began with a VIP reception, raffle basket opportunities, and a live auction. It also included a Pink Patch Program presentation by the Pomona Police Department (see page 40).

When the vocalists took the stage, each was judged by backup singer and 1970s musical pioneer Claudia Lennear, accomplished jazz and classical guitarist Mark Hammond and performer Braxton Gohde, who won last year’s Singing for Survivors competition. Audience members also voted electronically for their favorite performer.

Jessica Montecinos of Redlands won second place and the third-place finisher was Adrienne Catuara of Rancho Cucamonga. The other finalists were PVHMC’s Accounting Manager Andrew Dire, of Fontana; Manager of Academic Affairs Jonathan Langley of Loma Linda; PVHMC Trauma Physician Hugh Chung, MD, of Fullerton; and members of the group “RewYnd: Sisters in Song” – Cheryl Johnson-Hall of Pomona, Tedmenia Hardaway of Corona and Lorie Madison of Hesperia.

“We thank everyone who took time from their busy lives to support this competition and help raise funds for the Cancer Care Center Endowment Fund,” said Event Chair Brenda Grani. “Some of the free services made possible by the fund – regardless of whether someone is receiving care from our Hospital – include wigs for women in cancer treatment, cancer support groups, wellness classes and materials for the Cancer Care Center’s patient and community library.”

Many thanks also go to The Lewis Family Charitable Foundation, the event’s title sponsor, and many other underwriters and sponsors for their ongoing support and generosity in partnering with PVHMC Foundation to provide comprehensive cancer care to surrounding communities.

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 or 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
Robin and Richard Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO with granddaughter, Cooper

Susan and Dr. Ken Nakamoto, Vice President of Medical Staff Affairs

Nancy and John Todd

Judges: Braxton Gohde, Mark Hammond and Claudia Lennear with the quartet, RewYnd, Dr. Hugh Chung, Andrew Dire, Jonathan Langley, Eryn Peeler (1st place winner), Andrienne Catuara (3rd place winner), and Jessica Monticenos (2nd place winner)
During October 2019, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Pomona Police Department (PD) once again demonstrated its deep support of the community by partnering with Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) to help women with breast cancer through the Pink Patch Project.

The Pink Patch Project is a national campaign in which local law enforcement and public safety agencies collaborate to raise breast cancer awareness and funds to support breast cancer research, treatment and education. This is the second year Pomona PD has partnered with PVHMC.

Through its huge efforts, Pomona PD raised an amazing $20,000 for The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center’s Breast Health Fund. The Breast Health Fund helps low-income women with financial assistance for biopsies, wigs and much more. In addition to holding a community fundraiser, the police department sold special pink uniform patches and other items that were available throughout the community and in PVHMC’s Tender Touch Gift Shop and Cancer Care Center.

This year, the police department added the “Patch for a Purpose Program.” Three officers volunteered to provide support and companionship to three women undergoing breast cancer treatment at PVHMC. Their moving stories were included in a special video that was shown at this year’s Singing for Survivors event (see page 38). Several other officers wore patches in honor of patients at the Cancer Care Center. All of the officers gave the pink patches they had been wearing to each of their cancer survivors as a reminder that they are not alone.

“We’re honored that the Pomona Police Department chose once again to partner with us, and we’re thankful to them and all others who helped support this fundraiser to benefit women going through breast cancer treatment and recovery,” said Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO.

To learn how you can support The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center Breast Health Fund, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org or 909.865.9659, or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
After a beautiful renovation, the wig salon in The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center is more inviting than ever. The makeover, unveiled in December 2019, was made possible by generous donations made to the Breast Health fund through the annual LPGO Charity Golf Tournament.

Staffed by Volunteers and supported by the Breast Health Fund, the salon provides free wigs to women throughout the community who are undergoing cancer treatment.

The revamped salon features a new vanity area, with an adjustable chair, mirrors and lights, where women can try on different wig styles. The wigs themselves are displayed throughout the salon. New cabinets, chairs for friends and family, bright lighting and a warm color palette make the salon a welcoming place for more than 100 women a year who seek help with hair loss during cancer treatment.

“It’s open to all women in our community who are undergoing treatment, not just those receiving care here,” said Shellee Reese, Director of the Cancer Care Center. “Looks and self-image are important to us all and these wigs really help women during a very scary time in their life.”

A commemorative plaque was also hung in the salon as part of the renovation. It thanks the LPGO for its 20 years of support and honors Nancy Thompson, the sister of Dolores “Dee” Lancia-Ketner, founder of the LPGO golf tournament. When Nancy was diagnosed with cancer in 1999, Dee discovered that wigs, scarves and other items were not covered by insurance. She started the tournament to provide these and other support resources to local women who were fighting cancer and needed help.

The plaque includes a well-known and inspiring cancer support message: “Supporting the fighters, admiring the survivors, honoring the taken and never, ever giving up hope.”

For information on how you can help support the Breast Health Fund at The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center, please contact Glenda Ferguson at 909.865.9659 or glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org or visit pvhmc.org.
Around the Cancer Care Center

On December 5th those currently undergoing cancer therapy and those no longer in treatment enjoyed photos with Santa, delicious refreshments and festive songs from a ladies’ quartet at their annual Holiday Open House.
SMILE
WHEN YOU’RE ON AMAZON AND SUPPORT PVHMC

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If so, there’s a simple and automatic way for you to support Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) – at no cost to you. It’s called AmazonSmile.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select “Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center” or “Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation” as your charitable organization. Then shop as usual. The AmazonSmile Foundation will automatically donate 0.5 percent of all your eligible purchases to the Hospital.

AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon, with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. Every item available for purchase on Amazon is also available on AmazonSmile. And when you sign in to your account, your orders, lists and all of your account information are accessible as usual.

“Once you’re set up, you don’t have to do anything more – just shop!” said Sue McGrath, PVHMC Foundation Database Administrator. “If you purchase online at Amazon, this is an easy but powerful way you can support PVHMC.”

To make shopping and donating easier, you can bookmark smile.amazon.com on your computer, or set up a shortcut on your mobile device.

FOR IPHONES:
• From the internet browser on your phone, go to smile.amazon.com.
• Click on the “share” icon (the square with an upward arrow sticking out of it).
• Select “Add to Home Screen.”
• Click “Add.”

You may need to first delete the Amazon app, if you have it installed.

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• Open your browser, go to smile.amazon.com and add it as a bookmark.
• Press and hold on the home screen you want to place the AmazonSmile bookmark on. Select “Widgets.” (You may need to tap “Apps and Widgets” or a similar menu option).
• Press and hold on the Chrome bookmark widget and drag it to the home screen.
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For more details on AmazonSmile, go to smile.amazon.com or pvhmc.org/amazonsmile.
KEEP UP WITH RETIREMENT LAW CHANGES TO SAVE TAXES
At the very end of 2019, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act became law. This legislation radically changes some critical tax planning strategies with regard to individual retirement accounts (IRAs). The SECURE Act:

• Allows for contributions to IRAs at any age. While you can only make an IRA contribution if you have compensation (in general, earned income), you can now add to your IRA past age 70.5. Before SECURE, you could not contribute after age 70.5. This can save you taxes now and allow older workers to build up their IRAs steadily.

• Raises the age at which you are required to start taking minimum IRA withdrawals, from 70.5 to 72 years. While this change is effective only for those who turn 70.5 in 2020 or later, for many people it represents an opportunity to continue growing their IRA for another year and a half, tax-free.

• Requires most non-spouse beneficiaries of tax-deferred IRAs and retirement plans to use up inherited accounts within 10 years after the account owner’s death. This could mean higher taxes for some of your heirs. Historically, beneficiaries could minimize taxes by spreading the income over many years. That’s no longer possible. There are some good ways to minimize that problem, however; talk to your tax advisor about solutions.

• DID NOT CHANGE the ability to make qualified charitable distributions from an IRA at age 70.5. IRA owners or beneficiaries who are 70.5 or older may donate up to $100,000 annually from their IRA directly to non-profits. The distribution is counted as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and can be excluded from your taxable income. This is a powerful tax-saving strategy if you are required to receive a fully taxable distribution from your IRA.

As with all things related to finance and tax planning, consult your individual advisors for specifics on how the SECURE Act changes may impact your planning.

For more information on how best to include a gift to PVHMC Foundation in your tax planning, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or go online at pvhmc.org/foundation.
Each year, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation (PVHMC) honors its retired Physicians for the lasting impact their leadership, patient care excellence and service have on the Hospital and community.

The fifth annual Retired Physicians Luncheon was held on September 27, 2019 at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona, with more than 100 Physicians and their guests attending.

The event is also a way for retired Physicians to keep up to date on exciting advances being made at the Hospital. This year, PVHMC’s Vice President of Information Technology/CIO Kent Hoyos, presented the latest information on CareConnect 2.0, the Hospital’s electronic health record (EHR). Another highlight of this year’s luncheon was the presentation to the Hospital of OneLegacy’s Let Life Bloom campaign’s Platinum Recognition for organ donations (see page 47).

Thank you to radiologist Harold D. Damuth, Jr., MD and retired Physician R. Melvin Butler, MD, who once again chaired the event, and to our many Physicians and retired Physicians who make a difference to our Hospital, patients and community every day.

To learn how you can help give back to PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.

Asoka Jayaweera, MD; John Campbell, MD; Bao Tran, MD; R. Melvin Butler, MD; Mort Sajadian, MD; James Meriwether, MD; Gerald Rude, MD; Frederick Knudsen, MD; Sam Salen, MD; Yin Lai, MD; Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO.
One person is added to the organ transplant wait list every 10 minutes and 20 people a day die while waiting for an organ transplant, according to the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) has been awarded for its efforts to save lives through organ donations with a Platinum Recognition from HRSA and OneLegacy, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organ, eye and tissue recovery organization.

The HRSA Let Life Bloom campaign presents bronze, silver, gold and platinum recognition to hospitals that create a donation-friendly hospital culture. PVHMC’s platinum award was received at this year’s Retired Physicians Luncheon (see page 46).

PVHMC educated Associates, patients, visitors and the community about the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donation and encouraged them to sign up as donors. Professionals from Nursing, Social Services, Palliative Care Service, the Medical Staff, Patient Relations, Patient Family Advisors and Marketing worked together with OneLegacy to raise awareness and improve processes for organ donation Hospital-wide.

That included establishing a Walk of Honor to respect the donor’s generosity to others and provide a gesture of spiritual and emotional gratitude for the donor’s family and Hospital staff. A "Code Honor" announcement is paged throughout the Hospital 30 minutes before an organ procurement. Associates, donor family members and friends then line the hallway, standing respectfully with their hands over their hearts, as the donor is transported past them to the operating room.


“Matthew’s gift of life gave light to those on the wait list for lifesaving organs,” said Susanne Kulesa, Donation Development Coordinator for One Legacy. “We thank everyone at PVHMC who works hard to raise awareness about the crucial need for organ donations and encourages more people to sign up as donors.”

Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO; Susanne Kulesa, OneLegacy Donation Development Coordinator; Eileen Spallino, OneLegacy Donation Development Manager, Belen MacKenzie, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Director of Critical Care, Organ Donation Council Co-Chair, Linda Lopez, sister of Jim Langley, OneLegacy Donation Recipient; Jim Langley, Maintenance Mechanic, Facilities; Paola Millan, BSN, RN, CEN, MICN, PVHMC Organ Donation Council Chair; Dorian Venditto, brother of Paola Millan, OneLegacy Kidney and Pancreas Donation Recipient.

PVHMC Honored for SAVING LIVES THROUGH ORGAN DONATION

"DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT"
Alan Jack, 79, knows Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) as well as anyone could. His son, daughter and granddaughter were all born there. More than 50 years ago, he worked as the Hospital’s Chief X-ray Technologist. Since then, he’s been treated at the Hospital as a patient and is currently both a Volunteer and PVHMC Foundation donor. Of all his experiences at PVHMC throughout the years, the most impactful was the day the Hospital saved his life.

“I thought that was my last day,” Alan said. “When I was in my 50s, I used to get upset when my plans got changed at the last minute. Now it doesn’t bother me. I have a whole new outlook on life.”

Alan was at The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center in October 2017 for a routine procedure he undergoes periodically to draw off excess blood cells produced by his body. That day, about halfway through the procedure, Alan knew something was wrong. “I was getting very dizzy and all of a sudden my lips and fingernails turned blue,” he said. “I was cyanotic. When that happens, you’re possibly minutes away from dying. I was dying right in front of my doctor. The last thing I remember is my doctor saying ‘I think we’re losing him.’”

They stopped the blood draw and called paramedics, who rushed Alan to the PVHMC Emergency Department. He was stabilized and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. A few days later, an angiogram revealed that his aortic heart valve was calcified so badly that only one of the valve’s three leaflets was working properly. With each beat of his heart, his body was not getting enough blood.

Alan underwent a successful open-heart valve replacement surgery at PVHMC. “Had I not already been at the Hospital to get my blood drawn that day, I probably would have died,” he said. For several years, Alan, whose hobbies include pottery, painting and sculpture, had been...
creating a wood and metal garden art sculpture to be donated to the Hospital and auctioned off at the Heartbeat Gala event. After his heart surgery, he vowed to create and donate one a year for the rest of his life, as a token of his immense appreciation.

“Each metal and wood art sculpture takes about four to six weeks to produce. I get a great deal of joy out of making them for the Hospital because they’re helping other people.” 2020 was Alan’s sixth year creating these sculptures for the Gala; this year’s piece was a koala bear hugging an eucalyptus branch that the PVHMC Foundation had requested.

Alan and his wife Beverly are very active in the Claremont community where they live. Anyone who knows Alan would not be surprised to hear him say that his philosophy is to be kind to people and to give rather than receive. “If you see somebody in your travels who needs help, stop and help them. You’ll get it back when you least expect it,” he said. “Treat everyone as if they were your family.”

Those who climb aboard Alan’s PVHMC shuttle experience this firsthand. After he retired in 2006, Alan began Volunteering as a shuttle driver at the Hospital. Each Friday morning, he transports patients and visitors from PVHMC’s parking lots to the front door of whichever Hospital building they need to visit.

“A lot of them have no idea where they’re going and many of them don’t use English as their first language,” he said. Alan keeps a binder of English-Spanish translations in his shuttle to support his rusty high school Spanish. He recalled a woman he encountered recently who spoke no English whatsoever; not even “hello.” “She was terrified because her mother, 90 years old and with dementia, had been admitted the night before for a heart attack,” Alan said. “I drove her to Emergency, walked her inside and asked them to check the admission logs. They couldn’t find the mother’s name and the woman became even more distraught, thinking her mother was dead. I calmed her down and told her I would stay with her until we found her mother.”

Alan drove the woman to the Hospital main entrance and through an interpreter asked the woman if her mother had been married more than once. It turned out that the mother had given the last name of her third husband, instead of her current name, when she was brought to the Hospital. Alan walked her up to the Hospital’s fifth floor, where a nurse confirmed her mother was there, resting comfortably.

“The woman’s body language was ‘thank you, you listened to me and you helped me,’” Alan said. “I did it because it was the right thing to do. I’ll do anything I can to help someone because I want them to be treated as I hope someone in my family would be treated.”

In addition to PVHMC, Alan volunteers with Beverly at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, tutors children as a volunteer with the Claremont After School Program, and supports local businesses in Claremont Village by handing out flyers. He also sings in his church choir. And he has no plans to slow down any time soon. “You never know what’s going to happen but I’m thankful for all I’ve been given and I want to keep giving back.”

To learn how you can help give back to PVHMC, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
When Bill Kearney was born at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) on January 1, 1949, he was the first baby of the New Year. Bill fondly remembers his boyhood years growing up in Pomona, during which he was treated at the Hospital for “the typical things that would happen to a kid.” Today, Bill and his wife Elise, who live in Ventura County, are pleased to give back to the Pomona community by donating to PVHMC Foundation.

“I enjoy keeping the connection to Pomona alive, and the Hospital is the center of the community,” Bill said. “Our donations have come with a small amount of financial success and a large amount of gratitude. It’s nothing fancy and it’s not very much, but it’s something that makes us feel good.”

After graduating from Pomona High School, Bill attended UCLA and then worked in Orange County before he and Elise settled in Ventura County more than 40 years ago. They own two small businesses and are philanthropically active in their own community as well as at PVHMC.

“When I had some spare time to volunteer and sit on various boards, I felt privileged,” Bill said. “And when I got a little bit of extra income and could donate money to some worthy causes, it felt good.”

The Kearneys have been participating in PVHMC Foundation’s annual appeal for about six years, but their first gift to PVHMC was about 20 years ago. “I had the privilege of getting to know Beverly and Bob Lewis,” Bill said. “So when they put up the Cancer Care Center and a number of other things, I thought that was quite nice.”

The legacy of the Lewis’ and their family, who were committed to PVHMC in many ways for more than 40 years, lives on today at The Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center and the Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion.

“It’s been very rewarding,” Bill said. “My hope is that our kids, when they’re comfortable, will do the same thing.”

To learn how you can help give back to PVHMC and the community, please contact Glenda Ferguson at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org, call 909.865.9659 or visit pvhmc.org/foundation.
The generosity of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) Foundation donors makes an immense impact on patients and the community by enabling the Hospital to provide state-of-the-art technology and services that otherwise might not be possible.

And while the Foundation welcomes every donation large and small, it gives special recognition to supporters who donate $1,000 or more, year after year. These committed donors become members of the President’s Society. Their names are inscribed on the donor wall in the Hospital main lobby and elsewhere, and they are invited to attend programs, special events and luncheons throughout the year to learn about the latest advances in healthcare from distinguished guest speakers.

This includes the annual President’s Society Luncheon, which was held for the 17th year on December 10, 2019 at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona. The theme of the event, which honors President’s Society members for their support, was “Happiness.”

PVHMC President/CEO Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, greeted each of the 125 guests and thanked them for their ongoing support. After a delicious lunch, he introduced motivational speaker Jean Steel, who engaged the audience with inspiring and helpful tips on how to be happy and live life with a positive focus – an especially uplifting message in today’s tumultuous times. Each guest also received a copy of her book, I’d Like to Run Wild!

“President’s Society members help PVHMC Foundation fulfill its mission of providing our Hospital with vital resources that make a difference in people’s lives and we appreciate their ongoing generosity and commitment,” Rich said.

To learn how you can become a President’s Society member, contact Glenda Ferguson, Director of Development, at glenda.ferguson@pvhmc.org or 909.865.9659.
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.

Mary Kernodle recognized JOE BAUMGAERTNER, MS, PT, OCS, Director of Rehabilitation Services and his Team.

LIZZEL CASTRO, BSN, RN, (center) was honored by Jerry and Shannon Glavaz. Pictured left to right with Cecilia Serafini-Smith, CCRN, CMC and Mimi Sarmiento, BSN, RN, CCRN, CVICU Nurse Manager.
KATRINA WOOLFOLK, BSN, RN, Stroke Coordinator was honored by the “New Beginnings – Life After Stroke” support group.

Seated: LISA KOLBER, MSN, RN, CCRN was honored by Jerry and Shannon Glavaz.
Also seated: MYRA ESTRADA, BSN, RN and CRYSTAL RIVERA, NA were honored by Mr. Craig Gaul.
Pictured standing left-right: Divina Borzillo, BA, RN; Jeanette Kirley, RN, Erik Nuez, BSN, RN, Mimi Sarmiento, BSN, RN, CCRN, CVICU Manager; Juliet Jones, BSN, RN and Maureen Girgis, RN.

Ann Mendoza, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Director of Clinical Education recognized JEFF MACKENZIE, BSN, RN, Educator; FROILAN LIRIO, MSN, RN, CCRN, Educator; GEORGIA PAPOUTSAKIS, MSN, RN, CPAN, Educator; SISKA UTAMA, MSN, RN, Educator; GAYLE SHARP, MSN, RN-BC, CEN, TCRN, Educator; SHARON KAITZ, Education Department Coordinator and FRANCES (PATTI) LIRIO, MSN, RNC-OB, LDRP Supervisor.
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