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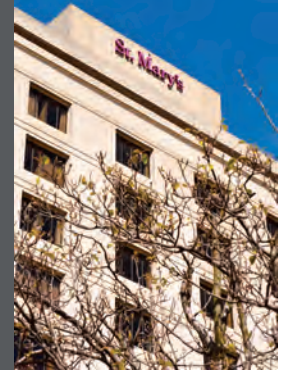
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St. Mary's Medical Center

Volume 4, August 2012

# FOUNDATION

## connection



### Letter from Executive Director



After an extraordinary capital campaign, the Foundation looks forward to growth and positive changes in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. We are now poised to reinvigorate our fundraising with new ideas and fresh faces on the Foundation Board of Directors.

With the recent appointment of Charles Higuera as Board Chair, we are already well underway to strategize our next

big project. Higuera, who previously served as Vice Chair has been an instrumental member of our team the past 8 years. He and his wife, Nuria were an integral part of the Capital Campaign, served on the 2011 Gala Committee, designed the Palliative Care Suite, envisioned Women & Medicine, and are always responsive to our calls to action.

As we look to the future, the Foundation plans to focus on raising funds for various service lines, such as orthopedics, oncology, and other hospital initiatives. Our challenge is to provide ongoing support of excellent patient care and respond to the needs of older buildings and facilities.

It is our primary mission to carry on the traditions and dedication of St. Mary's to promote kindness and compassion to all. And, our greatest assets are the meaningful relationships with our many grateful patients, their physicians, and the St. Mary's employees.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to serving you this year!

Margine Sako, Executive Director

### Meet New Foundation Board Chair



He is a native San Franciscan and alum of UC-Berkeley. He is a husband and dad. He is tall in stature and has a delightful sense of humor. He is Charles Higuera, the Foundation's new Chair of the Board of Directors.

Higuera, who was born at St. Mary's sister hospital Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, joined the Board more than 8 years ago and was instrumental in the success of the recent capital campaign. He is an architect by profession and currently manages the City of San Francisco's Justice Facilities Improvement Program. Higuera also enjoys serving in civic activities outside of his profession, believing that such involvements are essential to his commitment to making a difference.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish while serving as Chair, Higuera says, "I hope to better establish St. Mary's identity in the community and help our physicians build a stronger affinity to the hospital."

With his animated personality, it is no doubt that Higuera will accomplish these goals, among many others over the next few years. Most importantly, he wants to help this legacy institution to continue to thrive in this unique city, where he also raised his two children. He is already beginning to blaze a path of excellence at St. Mary's.

## **Hospital Accredited Breast Imaging Center of Excellence**



St. Mary's Breast Imaging Center achieved a remarkable award, the accreditation as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence (BICOE)! This designation is awarded to breast imaging centers that achieve excellence by seeking and earning accreditation in all of the American College of Radiology's voluntary breast-imaging accreditation programs and modules.

The Breast Imaging Center offers state-of-the-art imaging to facilitate early diagnosis, when breast cancer treatment is most effective. The center provides routine screening for women after the age of 40 or earlier, as recommended by your physician. Patients are examined in a comfortable, supportive environment by our friendly, knowledgeable staff.

In the 1950s, women with breast cancer had as high a risk of dying as people with lung cancer, but mammography and the science of breast imaging have cut the death rate and saved women's lives by detecting breast problems. By achieving BICOE status, St. Mary's shows the level of commitment we have in fighting breast disease, a social cause and movement that has grown significantly in the Bay Area.

## **Learn More About the Advanced Wound Healing – Amputation Prevention Center**

Did you know that diabetes affects 26 million people in the US and more than 250 million people worldwide? Or that every 30 seconds a limb is lost due to diabetes?

Statistics like these are what led St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC) and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) to join forces in opening The Advanced Wound Healing – Amputation Prevention Center and the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine in 2011.

The Center is located at SMMC, and is dedicated to preventing amputations and healing even the most difficult chronic wounds. Studies show that wounds that do not heal by at least 50% in four weeks, or have not healed completely in 12 weeks, are unlikely to heal without specialized treatments like those available at SMMC. SFMH's Center for Hyperbaric Medicine plays an important role by providing highly effective hyperbaric oxygen treatment to speed the healing time of complex wounds.

With the most advanced tools, treatment approach and commitment to healing, the teams at both clinics play a vital role in returning their patients to normal daily life. Patient education is a vital part of the wound treatment program. Patients and their families are taught the causes of their wounds, how to care for them, and how to reduce the risk of wound recurrence.

The World Health Organization and the International Diabetes Federation state that more than half of lower limb amputations could be prevented with adequate detection and care. At the Advanced Wound Healing – Amputation Prevention Center at St. Mary's Medical Center, and the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, dedicated teams of specialty-trained surgeons and staff work to reduce unnecessary amputations as a result of diabetic foot ulcers, infections, and traumatic injuries, while preserving limb function and quality of life.

## **SMMC's Employee "Health Care Hero"**

*Abridged version by SMMC Marketing Dept.*

Kati Konersman, the Diabetes Program Coordinator at St. Mary's, has been named the recipient of the Health Care Heroes Award in the field of allied or non-acute care. The prestigious honor was presented July 25 and is sponsored by the San Francisco Business Times.

The Health Care Heroes Award recognizes inspiring individuals who go above and beyond to improve the health care system and the lives of patients. Konersman has played the integral role in the rebuilding and enhancement of St. Mary's Diabetes Program. Under Konersman's direction, St. Mary's Diabetes Program gained certification from the American Diabetes Association. It is awarded to programs that demonstrate excellence in the education of diabetes patients.

"Kati's work with our diabetes program exemplifies the commitment St. Mary's has to providing quality patient care for everyone," said President Anna Cheung. "On behalf of everyone at St. Mary's, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for what she does to help us achieve our mission of offering high quality, safe and compassionate care."

## **33rd Annual Golf Classic The Olympic Club – Home of the 2012 US Open**



Were you one of the 140 golf players who had the chance of a lifetime on August 27 to play on the very course that the US Open players walked on this year? Or were you one of the volunteers who helped deliver the *best hamburgers* in San Francisco to the players on the course? If not, you sure missed an unforgettable tournament that benefitted St. Mary's Medical Center's Sister Mary Philippa Clinic, which provides

services to the comprehensive needy.

The morning started with the sounds of bagpiper, John Carlin in the background, while players registered and began their clinics taught by golf pros Roger DeSouza and Matthew Kilgariff. After a fun-filled day on the greens, which included visits by the 'specialty beer golf cart,' and ice-cream handed out by the Sisters of Mercy, players headed in for a buffet dinner and silent auction. The delightful day concluded with many guests taking home luxurious auction items, such as a vacation in Tahoe, a VIP NASCAR weekend, or the 2013 Sharks vs. Detroit hockey game.

St. Mary's Foundation thanks all the golfers, volunteers, and staff for their support and commitment to this tournament and most of all to the sponsors for their philanthropic giving.

### **Diamond Sponsors - \$10,000**

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### **Golf Sponsors - \$5,000**

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*Partial List*

## **More Than \$65,000 Raised for 'Tree of Life'**



**Leave a Lasting  
Impression at the new  
Women's Health Center**

The Women & Medicine, Catherine McAuley Society has raised over \$65,000 through their 'Tree of Life' campaign in support of the new Women's Health Center. This philanthropic group of women meets three times a year to share ideas and review the most pressing needs for women at St. Mary's. As a group, they vote to direct their funds to a specific area, which this year is the new Women's Health Center.

The 'Tree of Life,' is a beautifully created piece of art, which will be prominently featured in the new registration and reception area of the Women's Health Center. Gifts ranging from \$250 - \$5,000 and represented by a leaf, branch, or butterfly on the Tree, will be inscribed in honor of the donor or in memory of a loved one.

If you are interested in leaving a lasting legacy of excellent health care, please contact Mary Poppingo in the Foundation at 415-750-5790.

### Lucky Donor Wins a Week Trip to Maui



Did you hear what a lucky winner received during the Grand Prize drawing at the 33rd Annual Golf Classic on Monday, August 27?

**A 7-day stay in Maui at a luxurious condo with airfare included!**

The prize included 7-days, 6-nights for up to four people at the Hono Koa Resort.

If you did not get a chance to enter, make sure to get your raffle ticket next year!



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