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St. Mary's Medical Center

February 2013

# FOUNDATION connection



# Tree of Life at the New Center for Women's Health



Next to the tree are Kelli Wilde and Laurent Champeau, the team behind Champeau & Wilde, Architecture and Interior Design firm from Paris. woman for the

The focal point of the new waiting and reception area in the Center for Women's Health at One Shrader is a beautiful Tree of Life, designed by Laurent Champeau of Champeau & Wilde, an architecture and interior design firm from Paris. The concept, originally presented by Susan Goodwill, the chair

Women & Medicine, Catherine McAuley Society, took shape after her discussion and meeting with Mr. Champeau. The tree, represented as a strong yet graceful woman, reaches 8 feet tall and her branches extend nearly 9 feet.

The donor recognition tree has already raised over \$110,000, with over 125 donors supporting the project. The leaves range in giving levels from \$250 to \$1,000, the branches are \$2,500 and the butterflies are \$5,000. It has been exciting to see patients, staff, and physicians all stepping forward to support the new Center through this effort. If you would like to support this project by naming a leaf, branch or butterfly please call the St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation.

## **Board Member Highlight: Sr. Susan Vickers**



St. Mary's Foundation has been more than honored to have Sr. Susan Vickers, Vice President of Community Health for Dignity Health, join our Foundation board for a second term. As a Sister of Mercy, Sister Susan has always been a great supporter of St. Mary's. Being a San Francisco/Bay Area native and receiving all her medical care at St. Mary's since a young age, she has always held the hospital near and dear to her heart.

Prior to joining Dignity Health, Sister

Susan was working as an elementary school teacher and principal. However, when given the opportunity to join Dignity Health in 1989, she was eager to use her experience and guidance to play an integral role in to shaping many aspects of the company to what it is today. From Director of Advocacy to Vice President of Community Health, Sister Susan has been through all the ups and downs of Dignity Health. Currently she oversees community benefits, the health committee, the grants committee, investments, shareholders advocacy as well as ecology. With all this experience and her commitment to St. Mary's we were more than thrilled when she joined the Foundation Board in 2007. Sister Susan is currently serving her second term and has taken a role in our nominating committee and Capital Campaign Cabinet.

Working with the Board for several years, she frequently mentions how wonderful it is to work with "such a wonderful group of people that are so energetic about finding ways to promote and serve St. Mary's." With the new changes in healthcare she is eager to continue working with enthusiasm, and cannot wait to see what new challenges she and the Foundation Board will face together.

### Going Above and Beyond



St. Mary's has always provided the best care possible for those in need. Compassion, support, and concern are to be expected when coming to St. Mary's for help. In 2009, St. Mary's Medical Center put in place a new service designed to give a boost to disadvantaged patients: Free legal help that can fix that which is contributing to ill health. The driving force behind this wonderful service is Mary Rotunno, Dignity Health's Legal

Counsel for all bay area hospitals.

Mary's interest in healthcare was sparked as a high school student, when working as a candy striper in hospitals. Through this experience she wanted to help more and decided that nursing would be a wonderful way to do just that. After working as a nurse for five years, Mary decided to further her education and obtained her law degree at the University of California, Hastings College of Law, while still working part time as a nurse. With a background in medical care as well as law, it was kismet for Mary to join Dignity Health in 2003.

Mary was compelled to do even more after joining the Ministry Leadership Program in 2008, she was inspired to provide free legal services to disadvantaged patients. Partnering with the Volunteer Legal Services Program of The Bar Association of San Francisco (VSLP), Mary worked to make the program available at the Sister Mary Philippa Health Center. She states, "It adds another service for the underserved clients who might not have otherwise known that they have a problem that can be addressed legally and would not otherwise know how to obtain or afford legal services". In its first two years alone, this amazing program was able to help 130 patients with 250 legal issues. Funding is provided by the St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation and, currently, four San Francisco law firms: Latham & Watkins; Paul Hastings; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman; and Manatt, Phelps & Phillips.

Even with all this on her plate, Mary has somehow been able to fit in volunteering at Glide Memorial. She started volunteering with her two children for their community service hours. However, she quickly grew to love it so much so, she even started recruiting from the legal department last December. Not only has she been successful in encouraging co-workers to volunteer, but also Dignity Health clients!

We are truly honored to have Mary and are fortunate to have her avid support. Mary is married to the Foundation's accounting staff, Kevin Bulivant, and has also served on our golf committee for the past three years. We look forward to "making a difference" with her for years to come.

# St. Mary's Becomes One of the Largest Contributors to the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program



December was truly a blessed time as the St. Mary's family, once again, joined together to gather toys to support the San Francisco Firefighters program.

With the success of last year's total of over 650 toys, Senior Director, Anthony Mistretta, surely did not want to disappoint as he led St. Mary's second annual participation in the Fire Fighters Toy Program.



Throughout the month of December, toy bins were placed around the hospital to collect toys

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Foundation Connection page three

#### St. Mary's Becomes...

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for children in San Francisco. Being the city's largest and the nation's oldest toy program, the SF Firefighters Toy Program continues to help over 40,000 children each year since 1949. The toys are distributed personally by the firefighters to burn units, schools and shelters for homeless families and battered women.



Through the generosity of staff, friends, patients, and visitors we were fortunate to have collected a total of over 750 stuffed animals, toy cars, board games, dolls, and books. To commemorate the collection of the toys, a ceremony was held on Thursday, December 13th, with honored guests Chief Joanne Hayes-White and the firefighters of Station 12. Many gathered around the lobby to listen as Sister Mary Waskowiak (past president of the Sisters of Mercy) and Sister Mary Haddad gave a brief highlight of the Sisters of Mercy followed by a blessing from Brother George Cherrie, St. Mary's Vice President for Mission and Community Services. At the end of the ceremony, the firefighters and St. Mary's staff packed the toys onto their fire trucks for transport to the main collection site. It was clear how happy it made everyone to assist those in need. Chief Hayes-White congratulated St. Mary's for helping the Department as they had just started to run low on toys. This donation came at a perfect time with the holiday season only a few weeks away.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the San Francisco Firefighters program!

## In Memory of Flora Komes



Flora Cabrial Komes, matriarch of Flora Springs Winery peacefully passed away on October 29, 2012 at the age of 100. Flora was truly an original–vibrant, inspiring, and engaging. Flora had always described her life as beautiful, from growing up in Hawaii to raising her family in her beloved San Francisco, to her final days in Napa Valley. She was a nurse and a nurturer who was always keen to help others whether it be a struggling plant or a wounded animal. After reading *Florence Nightingale* in the

fifth grade, Flora knew that her calling was for nursing. When she graduated from McKinley High School, she flew to San Francisco to attend and graduate from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing. After a quick 2 day move to Modesto, she hurried back to San Francisco and worked at St. Mary's Medical Center as a surgical nurse.

By Halloween of that first year, Flora had been set up on a blind date with her future husband, Jerry Komes, on a blind date. They quickly fell in love and he would frequent St. Mary's Hall to visit Flora, but not before he had to charm the House Mother to cajole her into approving his visits. Through his charm, dry wit, humor, and unrelenting pursuit, Jerry was able to woo Flora, bringing her favorite flowers—violets, a tradition that he continued throughout their marriage.

Beyond Flora's own valuable contribution to the community as a nurse, she was Jerry's partner throughout his career as he worked his way up from being a timekeeper to becoming President of the Bechtel Corporation. He was quick to contribute his success to his devoted Flora. Both Flora and Jerry maintained a strong commitment to St. Mary's with Jerry serving on the Board of Directors in the 1970's.

Flora always lived up to her name—she loved to garden and always had green plants thriving around her. In 1977, after a several years of searching, Flora and Jerry purchased property in St. Helena. She immediately fell in love with the land and quickly convinced her husband that this was the perfect place to "retire." When their son, John, proposed that the old winery building on the property be revived, and after Flora found a natural spring, it only made sense that the winery should be called Flora Springs. Instead of a retirement property, this became a new career for the Komes family.

Although much of the winery work was eventually left to her children, it never stopped her from pursuing hobbies, enjoying their winery, and continuing her commitment and connection to St. Mary's. Flora lived a beautiful and wonderful life and we are forever grateful for her support. For decades at St. Mary's, we had been honored to call her the most loyal of friends. From 1998-2012, Flora provided a series of contributions to St. Mary's Foundation and was even honored in our 2008 Spring Gala. Throughout the course of their giving, Flora and Jerry had contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars. Flora's commitment and generosity to St. Mary's have been unparalleled, and we are truly grateful.

# ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION 2013 SPEAKER SERIES

Your Financial Future

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

Savvy Social Security Planning: What Baby Boomers

Need to Know to Maximize Retirement Income

George M. Noceti, CRPS, Wealth Advisor

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

Estate Planning: Tips, Traps and Solutions

Paul Hunt, Attorney at Law

All sessions will be held from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm at

2250 Hayes Street, C level- Morrissey Hall

St. Mary's Medical Center

To reserve a space and for additional information, please call the Foundation office at (415) 750-5790 or email stmarysfoundation@dignityhealth.org



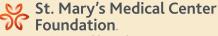
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