



French Hospital Medical Center

A member of CHW

Points of Excellence

A quarterly newsletter for friends of French Hospital Medical Center

January–March 2010

FHMC Celebrates Outstanding Accomplishments and Accolades

ON JANUARY 7, 2010, about 200 people gathered at the French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) **Commitment to Quality Awards Reception** to celebrate being honored by three of the nation's leading and most respected health care ratings organizations.

Alan Iftiniuk stands with individuals who accepted the awards on behalf of all staff, volunteers, and board members.



(Left to right) **Alan Iftiniuk**, FHMC President and CEO, **John Dunn**, FHMC Community Board Chair, **Luke Faber, M.D.**, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, **Jim Lawler, M.D.**, Orthopedic Surgeon, and **Michael Famularo, M.D.**, Cardiologist.

Thank you

Major Gift Establishes Endowment for Cardiac Care

THE FHMC FOUNDATION is proud to announce the establishment of a **Cardiac Care Endowment Fund** with a gift of \$500,000 by an anonymous donor. The endowment fund will provide new technology, equipment maintenance, and supplies to ensure that San Luis Obispo County has access to the highest caliber of cardiac care.

The Cardiac Care Endowment Fund is the first of its kind in support of the award-winning **Copeland, Forbes & Rossi Cardiac Care Center** at FHMC. It was established in recognition of the excellent reputation of the hospital's cardiac care program and the need to assure that its excellence continues for years to come. The Cardiac Care Endowment Fund welcomes additional donations; for details, please contact the FHMC Foundation Office at (805) 542-6496 or visit www.supportfrenchhospital.org.

From **Thomson Reuters** FHMC received:

- Recognition as one of the Top 100 hospitals in the nation for Cardiac Care, 2 years running

From **HealthGrades** FHMC received:

- Best in the Region for Cardiology
- 5-Star rating for the Treatment of Heart Attack (the only hospital in the region for this recognition), for the second consecutive year
- Ranking among the top 15% in the nation for Treatment of Heart Attack, 2 years running
- Joint Replacement Excellence Award™ - ranking among the top 10% in 2010
- 5-Star rating for Total Hip Replacement, 8 years running
- Ranking among the top 15% in the nation for Joint Replacement, 8 years running

From **National Research Corporation (NRC)** FHMC received:

- 2008/2009 Consumer Choice Award in the San Luis Obispo County market area for the third consecutive year.

Thomson Reuters examines the performance of nearly 1000 hospitals by analyzing clinical outcomes for patients diagnosed with heart failure and heart attacks and for those who received coronary bypass surgery and angioplasties.

HealthGrades grades the performance of every hospital in the United States for 28 different procedures and treatments, from hip replacement to heart bypass surgery.

NRC surveys 250,000 consumers regarding their hospital of preference for overall quality and image. **FHMC is the only hospital in San Luis Obispo County to have received this award!**

That FHMC has received these unsolicited awards using statistical, third-party data is a source of great pride for us and is a testament to the dedication of our staff, physicians, donors, volunteers and community leaders.



(Above, left to right): **Alan Iftiniuk**, FHMC President and CEO, **Julia Cook**, Bank of America San Luis Obispo Branch Manager, and **Greg Bland**, Senior Vice President, Bank of America.

FHMC Foundation Receives Bank of America Grant

IN DECEMBER, the FHMC Foundation received a \$7,500 grant from Bank of America in support of the **Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC)**. The HCRC will use this grant to expand its outreach efforts for low-income Latino families throughout San Luis Obispo County by providing outreach activities and support groups, maintaining ongoing training efforts of the promotoras team, implementing cancer prevention education and screenings for the Latino population, and translating educational materials.

Since 2006, Bank of America has donated more than \$50,000 to the FHMC Foundation in support of its programs and services. For more information on the HCRC, or to make a donation, please visit www.supportfrenchhospital.org or call the Foundation Office at (805) 542-6496.

(Below) **Patricia Wilmore**, local area manager of Government and Public Relations, and FHMC President and CEO **Alan Iftiniuk**.

PG&E Gives Grant for Eco-Projects

FHMC RECENTLY received a \$5000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to support the hospital's **Energy Conservation Project**. The money will be used to upgrade lighting throughout the hospital with more efficient bulbs that use less energy and last longer. The Energy Conservation Project is a part of the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) which promotes environmental consciousness at FHMC. For more information on the Energy Conservation Project and FHMC's environmental efforts, please visit our website at www.FrenchMedicalCenter.org.



(Left) **Emily Flachman**, Kids4Kures entrepreneur, and **Alan Iftiniuk**, FHMC President and CEO.



FHMC Awards \$37,000 in Grants to Community Nonprofit Organizations

FHMC AWARDED \$37,000 in grant funding to six community nonprofit organizations at a luncheon on January 15, 2010. These grants will help provide critical health and human services to residents of San Luis Obispo County. Grants are awarded through a Community Grants Program created by FHMC's parent company Catholic Healthcare West. The intent of the annual community grant program is to help nonprofit organizations with an interest in building healthier communities by improving health and living conditions. Since FHMC began awarding community grants four years ago, it has given \$118,500 to non-profits in San Luis Obispo County.

This year, the FHMC Community Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- **Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens**
- **El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO)**
- **Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.**
- **Enhancement, Inc.**
- **Friends of Prado Day Center**
- **Transitional Food and Shelter**

Young Girl with Big Heart Makes Big Donation

IN DECEMBER, 11-year-old **Emily Flachman**, donated the proceeds from her successful greeting card business, Kids4Kures, to the Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC). A year after its inception, Kids4Kures is now a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization which raises money for cancer charities. Peaches Olson, a HCRC advisory committee member and cancer survivor, produced the artwork seen on the cards which are sold at the FHMC Gift Shop. Flachman, who calls herself the CEO (Creative Enthusiastic Organizer) of Kids4Kures, says her goal is to help people who have been affected by cancer worldwide. For details please visit www.kids4kures.org.





FRENCH HOSPITAL PEOPLE... MAKING A DIFFERENCE



This year's honorees are two individuals who exemplify our Mission and our Core Values: Nursing Supervisor **Lorraine "Lo" Budge, R.N.**, (left) and **Tom Vendegna, M.D.** (right)

FHMC Pharmacist Travels with CHW Mission to Guatemala

IN 2006, CHW ESTABLISHED the **Foundation for International Health** which supports the international ministries of the CHW Sponsoring Congregations by traveling to many developing countries to help serve the poor and disadvantaged. FHMC Pharmacist **Janet Hofmeister** traveled on the latest trip in late 2009 to bring medical care, consultations, medications and supplies to Esquipulas, Guatemala. This was Hofmeister's second mission to Guatemala with the CHW team where she set up supply rooms, filled prescriptions and was kept busy with common cases of hyperglycemia and hypertension. "I got more out of it than what I gave," she said, reflecting on how truly appreciative the people of Guatemala were. For more information, visit the website at www.chwHEALTH.org/international.

Values-in-Action Awards Honor Our Healthcare Providers

FHMC RECENTLY held its annual Employee Recognition Dinner which concludes with the announcement of our **Annual Values-in-Action Award** winner(s). This award honors individuals who exemplify our hospital's Mission and our Core Service Values; honored were **Lorraine Budge, RN**, and **Tom Vendegna, M.D.** Past recipients include: FHMC Social Worker Drew Washer, Ke-Ping Tsao, M.D., Eugene Keller, M.D., Randy Scott, RN, and Rachel May, M.D.

Lorraine Budge was honored for her collaboration, compassion and empathy toward patients, and her team spirit with hospital staff. She does her job with a rare dedication shown in her absolute love for helping others.

Dr. Tom Vendegna is a physician in Critical Care Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pulmonary Disease, and the Hearst Cancer Resource Center Advisory Committee Chair. His nominations reflected on how Dr. Vendegna used his own cancer experience to recognize an unmet community need and he was honored for his help in developing and founding the Hearst Cancer Resource Center at FHMC.

Carol S. Judd Scholarship Fund Established in Honor of Local Physician

FHMC IS PROUD to announce the establishment of the **Carol S. Judd Family Scholarship Fund** in honor of the physician who performed her cardiac surgery so many years ago, **Luke Faber, M.D.** A longtime volunteer at FHMC, Judd had heart surgery at French Hospital in 1991. The year after her surgery, she became a volunteer at the hospital as a way to give back to those who took such great care of her during her hospital stay. Today, 17 years have passed and Carol has volunteered nearly 9000 hours of service! The Carol S. Judd Family Scholarship will help advance the education of cardiac nurses and technicians working in French Hospital's award-winning Copeland, Forbes & Rossi Cardiac Care Center. Carol's legacy, both in her commitment and generosity, continue to inspire all of us at French Hospital.



The Foundation for International Health is a natural extension of the CHW mission and commitment to social responsibility as we support and promote self-sustaining communities in developing countries. Pictured above, children from Esquipulas, Guatemala, during the latest mission in October.



French Hospital Medical Center

A member of CHW

1911 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Your Award-Winning Community Hospital

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 7
San Luis Obispo CA



LEADERSHIP

Medical Staff Officers 2010/2011

SEVEN PHYSICIAN leaders have been selected as Medical Staff Officers for FHMC with a two year term starting January 2010. Their role is to provide leadership for the FHMC medical staff in the areas of quality assurance, credentials, and patient safety.

- James Malone, M.D.**, Chief of Staff
- J. Trees Ritter, D.O.**, Vice Chief of Staff
- Lorianna Fletcher, M.D.**, Medical Staff Secretary and Treasurer
- Christian Voge, M.D.**, Department of Medicine Chairman
- Paul Christensen, M.D.**, Vice Chairman for the Department of Medicine
- Scott Smelser, M.D.**, Department of Surgery Chairman
- James Lawler, M.D.**, Vice Chairman for the Department of Surgery

FHMC Welcomes New Board Members

FHMC IS PROUD to announce the recent appointments of three community leaders to its Community Board.

Patricia Gomez is a local attorney and San Luis Obispo resident for more than 2 decades. Gomez brings an acute awareness of local human services and health related challenges facing our community. **Ben Kulick** is a San Luis Obispo native and successful entrepreneur in many business ventures. Kulick has a strong background in modern physics, engineering, and finance and has been a research fellow at California Institute of Technology and Montana State University. **Jim Lokey** is the former President of the Community Banking Division for Rabobank. Lokey has been very active as a community volunteer for several local and state organizations: Director and Past President of the Foundation for the Performing Arts; Director and Past President of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project; Director, California Banker Association; and a member of the FHMC Foundation.

Current Board Members include: Chair of the Board **John Dunn** • Vice Chair **Jim Copeland** • Secretary **Ann Grant, RN, PhD** • Foundation Board Chair **Bill Thoma** • **Luke Faber, M.D.** • **Sister Pius Fahlstrom, OSF** • **Alan Iftiniuk**, President, FHMC • **Richard J. Macias, M.D.** • **James Malone, M.D.** • **Rabbi Norm Mendel** • **Greg Morris** • **Cornel Morton, PhD** • **Sister Marianne Rasmussen, OSF** • **Kevin Rice** • **Sister Jeanne Rollins, OSF** • **John Ronca Jr.** • **Mark Soll, M.D.** • **Ke-Ping Tsao, M.D.**