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**French Hospital Medical Center Foundation Gala raises more than \$373,000 to support patient services and cancer patients**  
*Noreen Martin honored with the 2017 Louis Tedone, MD Humanitarian Award.*

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – September 15, 2017** – The French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) Foundation is pleased to announce that the Twelfth Annual Celebration of Caring Gala raised more than \$373,000 to support patient programs and services at FHMC, a not-for-profit community hospital.

The themed event, *Haute Havana*, took place August 19, 2017 at the Madonna Expo Center in San Luis Obispo. The annual event’s remarkable success is due to the incredible generosity of its sponsors, contributors, and 500 registered guests. The French Hospital Medical Center Medical Staff has been the major Event Sponsor for the past four years. Since 2006, the Gala has raised more than \$2,500,000 to support FHMC patient programs and services.

Event highlights included the presentation of the Louis Tedone, MD, Humanitarian Award to Noreen Martin, Martin Resorts Board Chair, for her exceptional dedication to San Luis Obispo County through leadership and philanthropic efforts. The award was established in 2006 to recognize the contributions of those who strive to enhance the health and well-being of our community. Past recipients of the Humanitarian Award include Dr. Louis Tedone, Dr. Ke-Ping Tsao, Rob Rossi, Stephen Hearst, Dr. Jac Pedersen, Phyllis Madonna, Frank and Betsey Kelton, Jim Sargen, John and Sandy Dunn, Jim Copeland, Bert and Candace Forbes and Dr. Gilbert H. Stork.

More than \$60,000 raised from the Call to Action will support the Angel of Hope Fund at the Hearst Cancer Resource Center at FHMC. This fund provides immediate financial assistance for basic medical needs of local cancer patients



Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) and overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. All local Blue Cross require additional criteria for facilities to claim their own services area. For details, contact your local Blue Cross. Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) also meet measures that address consumers' readiness for a total health care. Each facility's list of cases is evaluated using data from its local Blue Cross. Facilities in CA, IL, NY, PA, and WA may list on local Blue Cross' areas, resulting in two evaluations for cost of care, and their own local Blue Cross does whether one or both of cases evaluations must meet BDC's national criteria. National criteria for BDC and BDC+ are displayed on www.bdc.com. Individual outcomes may vary. For details on a provider's in-network status or your company's coverage, contact your local Blue Cross and ask your provider before making an appointment. Neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Cross are responsible for non-covered charges or other losses or damages resulting from Blue Distinction or other providers' information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers.

and their families. Many cancer patients face financial difficulties due to treatment costs and other expenses that are beyond their ability to pay. Financial assistance enables patients to continue their cancer treatment uninterrupted by helping them with day-to-day expenses such as medical supplies, co-payments, transportation and childcare.

To learn more about supporting French Hospital, visit [www.SupportFrenchHospital.org](http://www.SupportFrenchHospital.org) or call the FHMCF office at 805.542.6496.

### **About French Hospital Medical Center**

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, is rated one of the Top 100 Hospitals in the nation and one of the Top 50 Cardiac Hospitals in the nation by Thomson Reuters. The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center provides the latest innovative cardiac and imaging technology on the Central Coast. The hospital's current modernization and redesign project is an example of the commitment to meet the growing needs of the community with lifesaving advancements in medicine coupled with excellent, compassionate care. The hospital is home to the unique Hearst Cancer Resource Center offering free education, resources and support to cancer patients and their families. French is a Dignity Health member of the Central Coast which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in Arroyo Grande, CA and Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, CA. Dignity Health of the Central Coast is an integrated network of top quality hospitals, physicians from the most prestigious medical schools, and comprehensive outpatient services including primary care offices, premier ambulatory surgery centers, technologically-advanced laboratories and imaging centers and a full service home health agency; all recognized for quality, safety and service. Each hospital is supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to help meet the growing health care needs of our communities.