French Hospital
Medical Center Foundation
A Dignity Health Member



Your kindness in action

2025 - 2026 Impact Report

Our mission

As a part of CommonSpirit Health, our mission, vision and values inform every aspect of our work each day, and remind us that we serve our patients and their families, our community, and each other.

CommonSpirit's mission is to make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

French Hospital Medical Center Foundation is committed to supporting the charitable and community healthcare mission of French Hospital Medical Center through fundraising and relationship building. The Foundation solicits philanthropic gifts, provides stewardship of these gifts, and grants funds to the hospital to advance the community's access to healthcare.

Our vision

A healthier future for all, inspired by faith, driven by innovation and powered by our humanity.

Our values

Compassion

Care with listening, empathy and love.
Accompany and comfort those in need of healing.

Inclusion

Celebrate each person's gifts and voice.
Respect the dignity of all.

Integrity

Inspire trust through honesty.
Demonstrate courage in the face of inequity.

Excellence

Serve with fullest passion, creativity and stewardship.
Exceed expectations of others and ourselves.

Collaboration

Commit to the power of working together.
Build and nurture meaningful relationships.

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Cover photo: French Hospital Medical Center caregivers celebrate receiving distinguished national recognition for patient safety from The Leapfrog Group and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (see page 10).

A message from our leadership

Dear Friends,

Our impact report serves as a chance to pause and reflect on our critical work. It is our opportunity to express gratitude for your unwavering support and celebrate the collective achievements we've made in the past two years.

At French Hospital Medical Center, our leadership, medical professionals, and team members all recognize the pivotal role philanthropy plays in upholding our hospital's high standards of excellence today and in pioneering innovative approaches to patient care for tomorrow.

With the support of nearly 1,000 donors, we raised over $5,700,000 in fiscal year 2026 to further our mission and enhance access to quality healthcare for all. Your inspiring contributions have propelled groundbreaking programs and equipped our clinicians with the advanced tools and technologies needed to provide the highest quality care to our community.

Through our shared vision of providing exceptional healthcare locally, we've made significant progress on our Hospital Expansion Project that will bring a new Patient Care Tower and single-patient rooms to our campus. We will also be opening a comprehensive cancer center in early 2027. French Hospital has continued to receive national recognition for excellence in patient safety and quality care, something that could not be accomplished without the support of our donors.

As you read the uplifting stories of gratitude and achievements in the pages ahead, remember that it's your dedication and generosity that enable French Hospital to deliver high-quality, compassionate care. Medicine will always continue to evolve, and our work remains unfinished. Together, we will continue making a meaningful impact and actively transform the lives of the patients we serve—through elevated care delivered with humankindness.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your confidence, collaboration, and steadfast support.

With gratitude,

Tessa Espinoza

Sue Andersen



Tessa Espinoza
Chief Philanthropy Officer



Sue Andersen
President and CEO

Celebrating 80 years of care and 20 years of philanthropy

Since 1946, French Hospital Medical Center has stood as a beacon of hope and progress in our community. Since becoming a nonprofit hospital 20 years ago, the Foundation has aided that mission, thanks to the unwavering generosity of our donors.

As we celebrate the hospital's 80th anniversary (2026) and the Foundation's 20th anniversary (2025), we reflect with immense gratitude on the extraordinary impact we've achieved together. Over the past 20 years, your contributions have fueled our mission to enhance access to healthcare, improve patient outcomes, and advance medical innovation right here on the Central Coast. Together, we have raised an astounding $75 million, a testament to our community's commitment to building a healthier future.

Donor support has been instrumental in fueling the transformation of healthcare at French Hospital, as well as the physical hospital itself. From funding innovative medical equipment and technology to supporting vital patient care programs and services, your generosity has touched countless lives. Because of you, our hospital has been able to expand its services, recruit top medical professionals, and provide cutting-edge treatments that were once unimaginable. We've witnessed firsthand how community support has eased the burden on families facing medical challenges, provided comfort and support to patients in need, and empowered our healthcare providers to deliver the best possible care.

The impact of your giving extends far beyond the walls of our hospital. Through your support, we've been able to launch community outreach programs that promote wellness, prevent disease, and address health disparities in underserved populations. Your generosity has not only improved the health of individuals but has also strengthened the overall well-being of our community.

As French Hospital and the Foundation embark on the next chapter of our journey, we remain deeply committed to our mission of transforming healthcare through philanthropy. With your continued support, we can achieve even greater milestones in the years to come. Thank you for being our partners in this vital work. Together, we are making a difference that will resonate for generations.



Left: The original French Hospital on Marsh Street in 1946. Right: French Hospital today.

A history of innovation and compassion













1946: Edison French, MD (pictured right), founded French Hospital. The hospital's legacy of compassion and innovation started with Dr. French, whose vision was to bring big-city medical care to San Luis Obispo. Dr. French was the first surgeon in San Luis Obispo County to use intravenous anesthesia, to perform a lung resection, and to perform a total hip replacement, all while recruiting top specialists to join him at French Hospital.

1972: Dr. Edison French's dream of a larger hospital that could bring advanced care to San Luis Obispo County became a reality with the opening of French Hospital on Johnson Avenue. Within the walls of this new and expanded facility, innovative and bold healthcare practices continued, just as Dr. French envisioned.

1981: French Hospital launched the first cardiac surgery program in San Luis Obispo County. By 1996, the program was ranked as the number one cardiac surgery program in California. Since the opening of the Copeland, Forbes, & Rossi Cardiac Care Center in 2007, French Hospital has remained a nationally recognized leader in cardiac care. This achievement continues due to continual investment in advanced, innovative technology, as well as recruitment of top cardiac specialists.

2015: French Hospital took steps to further health education by opening the Copeland Health Education Pavilion. The Pavilion provides the most advanced education resources available and includes classrooms, an auditorium, and the James R. Flanagan Simulation Learning Center, which features two full-size hospital patient rooms with simulation manikins for training medical professionals.

2020: Just two months before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived on the Central Coast, French Hospital opened the doors to the Oppenheimer Family Center for Emergency Medicine. This expansion elevated local emergency medicine by providing advanced facilities and additional capacity to meet growing care demands.

2024: The Swanson Family Interfaith Chapel and Martin-Hulburd Family Healing Garden opened, offering peaceful and welcoming settings for patients and families to find solace and comfort.

2026: Today, advancements at French Hospital continue, honoring Dr. French's original vision. We now look to the future and focus on efforts to continually elevate the excellence of French Hospital.

Advancing care for our community

Phase One of French Hospital's Expansion Project to break ground in 2027

French Hospital has been a cornerstone of health and healing in our community for 80 years. As a nonprofit hospital, this legacy has been built by the commitment of people who believe that exceptional local healthcare is worth investing in. We are proud to share that one of the most significant chapters in that legacy is taking a substantial step forward.

The French Hospital Expansion Project has been years in the making. After overcoming the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital continued to work diligently behind the scenes to bring this transformational project to fruition—expanding the project's scope to meet growing community needs, completing a multi-year environmental impact review, updating architectural plans, and securing necessary approvals.

The work was complex, methodical, and at times invisible to the outside world, but every step was deliberate, and the moment we have been working toward is now within reach.

With final plans submitted to the State of California in late 2025, the hospital anticipates groundbreaking for Phase 1—a new parking structure—in late summer 2027. Following completion of the parking structure, Phase 2 will begin in 2028 with groundbreaking for the centerpiece of this project—a new Patient Care Tower.

The three-story, 77,000-square-foot Patient Care Tower will bring the first single-patient hospital rooms to our community, as well as an expanded Intensive Care Unit to double critical care capacity, an advanced Imaging Center, and much more.



Rendering of the new Patient Care Tower

Project Highlights

Three-story, 77,000-sq-ft Patient Care Tower

108 single-patient rooms, with ability to take care of 166 patients if needed

Intensive Care Floor with an expanded Intensive Care Unit and Progressive Care Unit

Medical/Surgical and Telemetry floor

Advanced Imaging Center

New hospital main entrance, lobby, and waiting area

Expansion of supportive hospital departments

Significant enhancements to the existing hospital

Indoor and outdoor healing spaces for reflection and meditation

Two-story parking structure

Scan the QR code to give or learn more. supportfrenchhospital.org/expansion



The third and final phase of the project now also includes extensive renovations throughout the existing hospital building, converting multiple-patient rooms into single-patient rooms, and expanding supportive departments such the pharmacy.

Currently, our hospital often accommodates up to our maximum capacity of 98 patients within just 51 rooms, frequently requiring multiple patients to share a room during their care. This expansion project will fundamentally transform the care we offer by creating 108 private, single-patient rooms. If ever needed, we will have the ability to expand care up to 166 patients.

Beyond the ability to serve more of our neighbors, this shift to single-patient rooms provides the quiet, personal environment essential for healing, ensuring that every patient receives care with the utmost dignity, privacy, and comfort.

The hospital expansion will significantly increase patient capacity and critical services, while providing a better patient experience, enhanced privacy, and comfort. This transformative effort reflects French Hospital's enduring commitment to elevating excellence in healthcare for every person we serve.

Elevating excellence through philanthropy

The expanded, $290 million project would not be possible without the incredible generosity of our community, and is a testament to the power of collective impact. With $22 million already donated to the project, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to date.

To bring Phase 2 to life and break ground on the Patient Care Tower in 2028, **the Foundation is working to raise an additional $17 million** to build the comprehensive, state-of-the-art facility our community deserves. We invite you to join us on this endeavor to build the future of healthcare for our community—a future defined by elevated care, innovative medicine, and unwavering compassion.

Offering hope with a new comprehensive cancer and specialty care center

In early 2027, San Luis Obispo County will welcome a new, state-of-the-art comprehensive cancer and specialty care center, a collaboration unifying Dignity Health's Central Coast oncology services and several local physician groups in one location. This unprecedented facility will bring all cancer care under one roof—streamlining team-based care, enhancing patient convenience, and elevating local cancer care and treatment to a new level.

Offering a seamless patient experience, services will include medical oncology, hematology, infusion, diagnostic imaging, radiation oncology, general and oncology surgery, urology and a comprehensive surgery center. Partnering physician groups included in the center are Urology Associates of the Central Coast, Associated Surgeons of San Luis Obispo, Coastal Surgical Institute, and SLO Oncology & Hematology.

French Hospital's Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC), currently located next to the hospital, will be relocated to the new comprehensive cancer center.

The new, central location will provide patients with easy access to the HCRC's no-cost services.

"Together, we are creating a healing environment where every patient receives the personalized care they deserve, delivered promptly in one comprehensive location," says Edwin Hayashi, MD, a key collaborator on the cancer and specialty care center.

Located near the corner of Tank Farm Road and Broad Street in San Luis Obispo, the two-story, 58,650-square-foot facility is in the final phases of construction and is anticipated to be fully open in early 2027.

We express sincere gratitude to the many donors who have contributed more than $3,000,000 to support advanced cancer care technology and the HCRC in the new center.

To learn more or to support the new cancer center or HCRC, scan the QR code.





Left: Rendering of the new infusion center located in the comprehensive cancer center.
Right: Hospital, Foundation, and construction project leaders onsite in the infusion center in August 2026.

Hearst Cancer Resource Center

All programs and services are offered at no charge, thanks to community donations

Provides 32 programs focused on patient navigation, support, and well-being

More than 14,800 patient contacts were made in Fiscal Year 2026 alone

7,669 instances of Spanish-language translation services were provided at medical appointments in Fiscal Year 2026

Scan to learn more or support the HCRC.



Holly Taylor, RN
HCRC Breast Cancer Navigator



Pictured above: The Hearst Cancer Resource Center team. Left to right: Ashley Hahn, LCSW, Eloisa Medina, Shauna Soltero, Jessica Reyes, Lisa Steinbeck, and Julie Neiggemann, RN, MSN, OCN

The Hearst Cancer Resource Center expands to meet the needs of a growing community

Since opening in 2008, the Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC) at French Hospital has provided cancer support services, education, and outreach to tens of thousands of patients. This one-of-a-kind resource in San Luis Obispo County offers more than 32 programs and services at no cost to patients, thanks to generous donor support from our community.

With the HCRC set to relocate to the new comprehensive cancer center in 2027, we anticipate a significant increase in demand for services. As the hub of the new center, the HCRC will be more visible, and the team is preparing to expand offerings to a larger number of patients.

The HCRC team brings decades of expertise to their work, offering guidance, support, and hope. Led by director and registered oncology nurse Julie Neiggemann, the HCRC team has expanded to include an oncology nurse navigator focused on guiding patients throughout all aspects of their cancer journey; a dedicated breast cancer nurse navigator; two bilingual Lay Patient Navigators for Spanish-speaking patients; a Licensed Clinical Social Worker focused on mental support; a clinical dietician; a cancer registrar; and a support coordinator.



French Hospital leadership and team members celebrate continued national recognition for patient safety.

Celebrating excellence: A national leader in patient safety

French Hospital Medical Center continues to shine as a national leader in patient safety. We are proud to be **one of only four hospitals nationwide, and the only hospital in California,** to simultaneously hold two prestigious distinctions for patient safety: a Five-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and 29 consecutive 'A's' in Hospital Safety from the Leapfrog Group.

CMS evaluates hospitals annually based on five key quality categories including mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care. The Leapfrog Group assigns grades to all general hospitals based on patient safety performance measures, for which French Hospital has earned an 'A' for 29 consecutive grading cycles.

"These awards reflect our commitment to patient safety and healthcare excellence, driven by the dedication and expertise of our team," said Sue Andersen, President and CEO. "We are incredibly proud."

These distinctions are not just accolades; they represent a tangible impact on the health and well-being of our community. By consistently exceeding national standards in patient safety and quality care, we are ensuring that our community can receive top-tier care close to home.

Moving forward, French Hospital remains committed to upholding the highest standards of patient safety and quality care, delivered with compassion and humankindness. We will continue to invest in innovative technologies, evidence-based practices, and experienced caregivers to ensure that French Hospital remains a beacon of excellence.



French Hospital leadership and clinical cardiac team at the ribbon cutting for the newest heart catherization lab.

Continued cardiac excellence enhanced with new facilities

In 2025, French Hospital proudly celebrated a landmark moment in local cardiovascular care—the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a second upgraded heart catheterization lab, marking the second major investment in advanced cardiac technology in less than two years. This step further solidifies our commitment to providing exceptional cardiovascular care locally.

Located within the Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center at French Hospital, the newly upgraded cath labs feature state-of-the-art imaging technology that enables more accurate diagnoses and treatment of complex cardiac conditions. Remarkably, **French Hospital is the only coastal facility between Los Angeles and San Francisco to offer such advanced capabilities**—meaning patients on the Central Coast can access world-class cardiac care and a broader range of minimally invasive procedures close to home.

As San Luis Obispo County's only designated STEMI (heart attack) receiving center, French Hospital remains a lifeline for patients, delivering timely, life-saving interventions when every second counts. In addition to the new cath labs, the Cardiac Center also features the George Hoag Family Advanced Hybrid Surgical Suite, which supports more complex cardiovascular cases as part of our comprehensive heart program.



French Hospital's upgraded heart catheterization lab

These achievements reflect what becomes possible when community generosity and medical excellence come together. Thanks to our donors, French Hospital continues raising the standard of cardiac care for every patient who walks through our doors—and continued advancements for the Cardiac Center are already on the horizon.

Grant funding supports community well-being and patient programs

The Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust has been a generous philanthropic partner of French Hospital for over a decade, fueling innovation and enhancing patient care. This partnership has empowered the hospital to launch and sustain programs that touch lives both within our hospital walls and across the greater San Luis Obispo community. The Miossi Trust recently provided grant support for two impactful programs.



Pet Therapy Program

The Miossi Trust has supported the hospital's beloved Pet Therapy Program for many years. This program brings comfort and joy to our patients by providing visits from certified therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers. In hospital settings, therapy animals are shown to lessen pain perception, reduce physical and mental stress, and promote healing. Support from the Miossi Trust has been instrumental in program growth, which now includes more than a dozen dedicated therapy dogs offering visits to patients five days each week. These gentle companions provide a unique, healing touch that is cherished by patients, visitors, and team members alike.



Top: Pet Therapy handler Caryn with her therapy dog, Happy. Bottom: Fremont Theater employees with their new AED.

Automated External Defibrillator Program

The Miossi Trust's impact also extends into the community through the hospital's new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program, launched in February 2026. Recognizing that many large gathering spaces and businesses lack these critical devices unless legally required, the program provides AEDs to qualifying organizations in the City of San Luis Obispo. Twenty AEDs will be placed through this program in local businesses and community spaces, significantly increasing the accessibility of emergency, life-saving equipment in the event of cardiac arrest.

"One of the goals of the Miossi Trust is to make grants that provide meaningful impacts to the residents of our community," says Howard Carroll, Trustee of the Miossi Trust. "The AED Program helps save lives and the Pet Therapy Program provides immeasurable comfort to those in the hospital."

The Miossi Trust's long-standing commitment to French Hospital exemplifies the true meaning of partnership, helping French Hospital build a healthier community. We extend our gratitude to the Miossi Trust for their support and for the positive impact they make on the patients we serve.

Partners in Patient Care

The Foundation's Partners in Patient Care program provides local business and organizations the opportunity to make a meaningful impact by supporting a key hospital initiative with an annual, tax-deductible philanthropic contribution to the Foundation.

Partners in Patient Care contributions play a vital role in the hospital's enduring legacy of delivering nationally recognized, top-tier healthcare delivered with compassion and humankindness. Organizations can select an area of impact to support, such as advanced technology, cardiac care, programs for local cancer patients, or urgent hospital needs.

The Foundation expresses the utmost gratitude to our current Partners in Patient Care:

Executive Partner
Dignified Hope Care

Leadership Partner
Gymnazo

Benefactor Partners
The Human Bean—Central California
Peregrine Hospitality

Affiliate Partners
DiBuduo & DeFendis Insurance Brokers
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Promega Biosciences

We invite organizations that believe in a healthy community and thriving workforce to join us as a Partner in Patient Care today. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Partner Spotlight: Dignified Hope Care



"Dignified Hope Care is honored to support French Hospital's commitment to advancing exceptional healthcare, strengthening our community, and enhancing the well-being of those we proudly serve."

—Ranelle Baldwin
President & Founder, Dignified Hope Care

Partner Spotlight: Gymnazo



"We selected French Hospital's Partners in Patient Care program, seeing profound value in contributing to patient navigation and well-being services that foster enduring health, renewed independence, and vibrant lives post-recovery."

—Michael Hughes
Founder & CEO, Gymnazo

Your impact: Humankindness in action

Our deep commitment to the well-being of our patients inspires us to continually explore systems and technology to elevate the care we provide. Philanthropic contributions by our community enabled many advances in fiscal years 2025-2026, including the following.

Philips IntraSight System

In cardiac care, imaging plays a vital role in our ability to diagnose and treat patients. The IntraSight is a digital intravascular ultrasound imaging system designed for vascular and cardiac procedures. It provides high-resolution imaging, allowing interventional cardiologists to assess disease markers, identify types and sizes of blockages such as blood clots and plaque buildup, and take measurements of arteries.

Thanks to donor support, French Hospital was able to add two new IntraSight systems to our new cath labs. This essential tool helps determine the severity of a blockage and what type of intervention or treatment is required. Used daily, the IntraSight systems are essential to patient care. Multiple units allow procedures to be performed simultaneously in each cath lab, simplify complex interventions, increase procedure speed and availability, and improve patient care and outcomes.



"Philanthropy is a key driver of innovation in patient care. With your support, we can access the most advanced technology and interventions, empowering us to push the boundaries of what is possible and ultimately save more lives."

—Tom Vendegna, MD
Chief Medical Officer,
French Hospital Medical Center



Moses Pulse Surgical Laser

Thanks to donor support, French Hospital's surgical department now has an advanced Moses Pulse Laser. Using shock waves or ultrasonic energy during surgical procedures, the laser breaks up hardened masses, such as kidney stones. It can be used for urology, gynecology, gastroenterology, thoracic, and pulmonary surgical procedures. The new laser is more efficient and effective than its predecessors, shortens procedure times, reduces wait time for procedures, and allows us to treat more patients.

Left: Christopher Johnson, MD with the Moses Pulse Laser



Breast Cancer Fund provides 267 screenings and diagnostic tests

Early detection of breast cancer saves thousands of lives, but many underserved patients face a barrier to screenings due to financial challenges. To help uninsured, underinsured, and low-income patients access screenings, French Hospital offers no-cost monthly breast cancer screening clinics to qualifying patients. Additionally, patients are referred by local clinicians for screenings on an individual basis.

This impactful program is fully funded by donor support through our Robin O'Connor Breast Cancer Early Detection Fund. For those patients whose results warrant further testing, the fund also covers the cost of additional diagnostic tests.

In fiscal years 2025 and 2026, 189 mammograms and 78 follow-up diagnostic tests were provided through the fund. By offering these lifesaving screenings and tests at no cost, donors increase the likelihood of early detection and better outcomes for local patients. Scan the QR code to learn more or to donate to the Breast Cancer Early Detection Fund today.

Specialized chest compression system aids emergency care

Thanks to donor contributions, French Hospital's Emergency Department now has a LUCAS Chest Compression System, shown below on a simulation training manikin. This compact, portable device aids emergency clinicians by providing chest compressions, which are necessary to maintain blood flow during a cardiac emergency. The LUCAS is particularly impactful when a patient requires compressions for an extended time.

The benefits of this advanced system are many: it provides consistent, quality compressions at a precise rate, depth and rhythm; reduces fatigue and strain from extended manual compressions for caregivers; and frees up an additional caregiver for other critical care tasks such as airway management and defibrillation.

"Our emergency care team is grateful to have the LUCAS," says Emergency Department Director Breanne Davis, RN, BSN. "It is inspiring to see firsthand how the generosity of our community translates into innovative technology and care, benefiting patients and caregivers."



Inspired philanthropy enables clinician education with high-tech manikins



French Hospital Clinical Educator, Cherie McKinley, RN, with our newest mobile manikin.

The James R. Flanagan Simulation Learning Center at French Hospital remains at the forefront of simulation learning technology since opening in 2015. Located in the Copeland Health Education Pavilion, this advanced facility mirrors the capabilities of major metropolitan teaching hospitals, offering our caregivers realistic, hands-on training using sophisticated simulation manikins that mimic a variety of patient health conditions.

The Simulation Learning Center stands as a testament to the power of philanthropy, made possible entirely through the generosity of the late Jim Flanagan (pictured right), as well as several other donors. A retired local educator, Jim's commitment to lifelong learning led him to fund the hospital's first simulation manikin nearly 15 years ago. Today, the Center includes two simulation hospital suites and houses eight state-of-the-art manikins—including adult, obstetric, newborn, and juvenile models—that allow clinicians to practice and master complex procedures and emergencies in a controlled learning environment.



Shortly before his passing in late 2025, Jim made a final gift to acquire four new manikins. Two of these are mobile, allowing the Education Department to conduct "in-situ" training directly within our cardiac cath labs, operating rooms, and birthing center. These realistic drills—such as Code Blue simulations involving multi-disciplinary teams from the ER, ICU, Telemetry, and Respiratory Therapy—ensure that our staff is always prepared.

We express our deepest gratitude for Jim Flanagan's vision and legacy. His dedication to clinical excellence through ongoing education has benefited thousands of patients and will continue to elevate the standard of care at French Hospital for years to come.





Bottom left and right: Simulation manikins in the James R. Flanagan Simulation Learning Center.



Empowering community health through free education

Empowering our community with knowledge is one of the most powerful tools available to improve long-term health outcomes. In Fiscal Year 2025, the Foundation was proud to launch a new, free community education series featuring French Hospital physicians and clinical leaders. These informational sessions provide a direct connection between our clinical experts and the public, covering vital topics such as advancements in cardiac, vascular, and orthopedic care, as well as mental health and oncology services. The overwhelming attendance at these events demonstrates our community's desire to take an active role in their own wellness, turning information into actionable steps for a healthier life, and increasing awareness of the care available locally.

Beyond this education series, the Foundation also supports cancer-specific education through the Martin-Hulburd Cancer Education Fund. The Hearst Cancer Resource Center offers a free monthly education program, where clinicians present information on topics ranging from cancer prevention, to diagnosis-specific treatment options and advancements, to the complexities of survivorship.

By providing health education at no cost, we are working to remove barriers to high-quality health information, fostering a more informed and empowered community. We extend our gratitude to our donors for making this vital bridge possible between our hospital's expertise and our community's needs. Scan the QR code to learn more about the Foundation's Education Series.

Creating a lasting legacy



Carol & Les Moss

Impressed with her own positive experience as an emergency room patient in 2018, Carol Moss decided to give back to French Hospital by becoming both a hospital volunteer and a donor. As a volunteer, Carol discovered more about the dedication of our caregivers towards patients, and her admiration for the hospital and staff grew. She and her husband, Les, have made a number of generous gifts, including providing emergency support during the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting the Hospital Expansion Project.

While recently updating their estate plans, Carol and Les added a significant planned gift to the Foundation.

“I am always inspired by the care that French Hospital provides to their patients, both in terms of quality and the compassion shown to everyone—humankindness isn’t just a tagline,” says Carol. “Seeing this level of care firsthand, I’m confident that our planned gift will make a positive impact on patients for years to come.”



Deborah & Scott Smith-Cooke

Deborah and Scott Smith-Cooke recently created an estate plan that includes a generous gift to the Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC). Having discovered the HCRC through their own individual cancer journeys, they have remained involved with the center since it opened nearly 20 years ago, first as clients and then as volunteers.

Over the years, they have had the opportunity to watch the HCRC expand services to meet the needs of the community, witnessing firsthand the impact it has on the lives of local cancer patients.

“During our own cancer journeys, we gained a level of support from the HCRC we didn’t even know we were looking for, yet are so grateful to have found,” says Scott. “For us, it was an easy decision to give back to the HCRC when creating our estate plan and help support our cancer community—to ensure that our community continues to benefit from this valuable resource.”



Robin O'Connor

When Robin O'Connor and her husband Patrick Copps moved to Los Osos in 2020, they found their forever home. Two years later, Robin's breast cancer returned and they found something unexpected—support and community at French Hospital's Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC). Sadly, Robin lost her battle with cancer in 2024.

"Robin felt truly seen and supported by the HCRC during one of life's most difficult times," says Patrick. "A legacy gift was the natural extension of everything Robin believed in, so I followed her wishes and updated our estate plans to leave a significant gift to the HCRC."

Robin had always lived to help others, especially those in need. As an active volunteer, helping people gave her a sense of purpose.

Today, Robin's dedication to helping others lives on through the Robin O'Connor Breast Cancer Early Detection Fund, which provides breast cancer screening mammograms at no cost to underserved patients. Because of Robin and Patrick's generosity, patients in our community will receive life-saving screenings—a beautiful and enduring reflection of Robin's legacy.

Create a will, and make other tax-smart gifts, with our free tool

We've partnered with FreeWill to provide you with a simple online tool that allows you to create a will, estate plan, or make a tax-smart, non-cash gift—all at no cost. With our free, easy-to-use, planned giving tools, you can ensure that compassionate care, vital community programs, and humankindness continue for generations to come. Explore planned giving options and gifts of non-cash assets so that you can have a bigger impact at no cost to you:

Planned giving options:

- Naming our Foundation in your will, which you can create at no cost
- Gifts that provide you with income during your lifetime
- Gifts of real estate

Tax-smart giving:

- Stocks
- Qualified charitable distributions from your Individual Retirement Account
- Donor-advised funds
- Cryptocurrency

Scan the QR code below or call 805.542.6496 to learn about creating your free will, planned gifts, or making a tax-smart gift.

Foundation events





Left: Jack and Steve Hearst. Right: Share the Hope guests at the Hearst Castle Neptune Pool

Share the Hope

On April 18, 2026, the historic Hearst Ranch and Hearst Castle provided an unforgettable backdrop for our 17th annual Share the Hope event, which brought together more than 200 guests for an evening of generosity and shared purpose. Together, we achieved a remarkable milestone, raising more than $592,000 to support advanced imaging technology for the new comprehensive cancer and specialty care center, as well as vital programs and services at the Hearst Cancer Resource Center. We extend our deep gratitude to our hosts, Steve and Barbara Hearst, whose family has been an instrumental supporter of the HCRC since 2008, and to all the sponsors, contributors, and attendees who made this one of the most impactful years yet.





Left: Gathering for Good guests at The White Barn. Right: Edwin Hayashi, MD, accepts the 2025 Humanitarian Award.

Gathering for Good

On October 18, 2025, our community came together at The White Barn in San Luis Obispo for our “Gathering for Good” event—formerly known as the “Celebration of Caring.” The evening united 270 guests for a common cause, raising more than $473,000 for critical patient programs and cancer services. A special Call to Action for the Breast Cancer Early Detection Fund will help ensure that cost will not be a barrier to breast cancer screenings for our most vulnerable patients. We were also honored to present the 2025 Louis Tedone, MD, Humanitarian Award to Dr. Edwin Hayashi and Dr. Howard Hayashi, recognizing their commitment to their patients and a healthier Central Coast. We are profoundly grateful to our attendees, sponsors, and contributors.

Community-led events support patient programs









Top left to bottom right: The Human Bean–Central Coast, Cal Poly SLO Men's Rugby Team, Hearst Ranch Winery and The Foundation at Hearst Castle, and the Sea Pines Ladies' Golf Club

Inspired by the work of French Hospital, numerous local organizations, businesses, and individuals host community-led fundraisers to support the hospital programs they are passionate about, such as the Hearst Cancer Resource Center. These fundraising efforts range from golf, bocce ball and pinball tournaments, concerts, business sales proceeds, t-shirt sales, and more.

Thank you to the following organizations that raised over $150,000 in fiscal years 2025 and 2026 through their community-led events: Ambiance Luxury Boutique, Atascadero Police Officers' Association, BA Start Arcade and Taproom, Brittingham Financial Group, Bull's Tavern, Cal Poly SLO Men's Rugby Team, The Foundation at Hearst Castle, French Hospital Gift Shop, Grover Beach Police Officers' Association, Hearst Ranch Winery, The Human Bean–California Central Coast, Morro Shores Bocce League, Morro Shores Sandbaggers, Movement for Life, San Luis Obispo County Farm Supply Company, Sea Pines Golf Course, Sea Pines Ladies' Golf Club, San Luis Obispo High School Girl's Volleyball Program, San Luis Obispo Police Officers' Association, Sunset Honda, Surfing for Hope Foundation, UkeLadies, and more.

We encourage others to join the above list of participating organizations. By championing one of our hospital programs, local businesses not only create impact but strengthen their brand, engage employees, and build customer loyalty by showing dedication to local healthcare. Here are a few simple ways to get involved: Host an event, donate a percentage of your sales during a select time (a day, a week or a month), add a round-up option for customers, or make a simple tax-deductible donation. For more creative, easy ideas on how your organization can get involved, contact the French Hospital Foundation at 805.542.6496.

Giving by the numbers

$10,283,000

Total dollars raised in FY25-26

Each year, our donors come together to realize the power of generosity and gratitude in our community. The results have been inspiring.

$5,753,000 | 2026
$4,530,000 | 2025

$7,183,000

Transfers to hospital in FY25-26

Transfers by the Foundation to French Hospital show collaboration as monies are transferred only after the obligations of donor intent have been met. In other words, the Foundation transfers charitable funds to the hospital only after the hospital has demonstrated that related expenses have been incurred. This ensures that all charitable dollars are used exactly as the donor intended.

$3,443,000 | 2026
$3,740,000 | 2025

1,897

Total donors in FY25-26

Donors bolster innovation, bring together our community and serve the vulnerable. Together we accomplish what none of us could do alone.

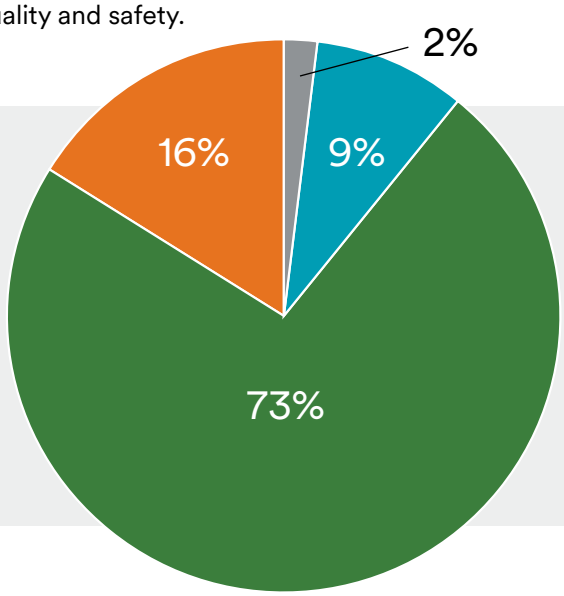
959 | 2026
938 | 2025

Together we heal.

How funds are raised

At the French Hospital Medical Center Foundation, a diverse group of donors support our work through a variety of ways—annual donations, grants, planned and estate gifts, and attending events. We, and the patients we serve, are forever grateful for their support.

Donations, both large and small, enable the Foundation to provide cutting-edge technology, build and sustain health education and community outreach programs, and support those who cannot afford the costs of healthcare. Contributions also enable us to provide vital patient programs at no charge, while improving patient care quality and safety.



Fiscal Year 2026

- Annual, non-major gifts & other support
- Grants
- Major gifts, campaign gifts & planned gifts
- Special events

What does it mean to be a nonprofit hospital?

The Foundation is a mission-driven organization that exists to improve the health of everyone in our community. Philanthropy is an important way to connect those with resources to those in need, offering an opportunity to express gratitude for the expertise, care, and kindness experienced throughout our ministry. Together, we continue to advocate for those who are poor and vulnerable, and innovate how and where healing can happen—both inside our hospitals and out in our communities.

While for-profit organizations distribute surplus revenue to shareholders or owners, nonprofit organizations invest these earnings back into their organizations to further achieve their mission and goals. As a nonprofit hospital, French Hospital reinvests profits back into the hospital and into our community by providing community benefits programs and charity care.

100% of your donations benefit the cause you choose

Through an operating grant, French Hospital covers all Foundation operating costs, which means that donor funds are never used to pay for any Foundation administrative costs. That means that 100% of your donation stays local and is directed to your chosen designation, with no gift fees. Thank you for working with us, connecting your purpose and passion with our mission to build a healthier and more resilient community.

Your support at work

During fiscal years 2025 and 2026, donors fueled critical advancements and programs at French Hospital. Below are the top 10 areas supported by donor gifts to the Foundation. To ensure the highest level of fund stewardship, all donated funds are distributed to the hospital only after specific project expenses are realized.

French Hospital Expansion Project
$3,537,935

Cancer Programs and Technology
$1,889,258

Area of Greatest Need
$613,633

Copeland, Forbes & Rossi Cardiac Care Center
$310,564



Stroke Program
$232,710

Bob and Debbie Wacker Technology and Innovation Fund
$228,247

James R. Flanagan Simulation Learning Center
$139,684

Employee Giving Fund
$94,597

Oppenheimer Family Center for Emergency Medicine
$71,503

Employee Assistance Fund
$29,619

French Hospital Medical Center Fiscal Year 2026 by the numbers

Hospital

80 years serving the community

5,384 inpatient visits

157,895 outpatient visits

31,207 Emergency Department visits

3,850 surgeries performed

773 babies delivered

Community Benefits

32 Cancer Center programs

14,817 cancer patient contacts through the Hearst Cancer Resource Centers

32 Community Wellness Programs

50,573 persons served with Community Wellness Program

$15,163,739 in patient financial assistance, unreimbursed costs of Medicaid, community health improvement services, community grants, and other community benefits

Team Members

743 team members

437 affiliated physicians with privileges and allied professionals

362 nurses

Foundation

$5,753,000 total amount raised

$3,740,000 provided to support hospital

959 donors

5 team members

Volunteers

207 volunteers

17,643 hours donated by volunteers

$708,190 value of hours donated by volunteers

Why is French Hospital Medical Center so special?

Top 10 reasons why we rise above the rest

1 French Hospital is San Luis Obispo's **original non-profit hospital** and has proudly served the community for 80 years.

2 Renowned for its **exceptional culture of humankindness and compassion,** French Hospital consistently receives high patient experience scores. This caring atmosphere, combined with top-tier medical care, sets French Hospital apart as a truly remarkable healthcare facility.

3 **Quality care and patient safety are a top priority.** French Hospital stands out as the only hospital in SLO County to have consistently exemplary high scores in patient satisfaction, quality care, and safety. A team of focused professionals ensures that we annually rank among the top hospitals nationwide for the lowest number of safety incidents.

4 French Hospital is **one of only four hospitals nationwide and the only in California** to hold two prestigious patient safety designations simultaneously: 29 "straight-A" ratings for patient safety by The Leapfrog Group and a Five-Star Rating from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

5 French Hospital has been consistently recognized as a **Newsweek Best Maternity Hospital** in recent years, making it the only hospital in SLO County to achieve this honor.



6 As a **Center of Excellence for Cardiac Care,** French Hospital is the **STEMI Receiving Center for SLO County.** This means that when a STEMI event (acute heart attack) occurs, first responders bring patients directly to French Hospital, bypassing other facilities. This designation reflects our outstanding cardiac outcomes, swift door-to-balloon treatment times, and a dedicated 24-hour cardiac response team.

7 With two new, state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterization Labs, **French Hospital is the only coastal facility between Los Angeles and San Francisco to offer such advanced cath labs.** This enables us to provide a broader range of minimally invasive procedures than are otherwise available locally, enhancing our ability to meet the growing needs of our community.

8 French Hospital has partnered with local medical groups to open San Luis Obispo County's first and **only comprehensive cancer center** in early 2027.

9 French Hospital will soon break ground on the **French Hospital Expansion Project,** becoming San Luis Obispo's only hospital with single-patient rooms and much more.

10 **100% of donor contributions stay local and go directly to the donor's chosen designation.** There are no gift processing fees or administrative costs deducted from gifts, ensuring that donations have an even greater impact.

French Hospital team members give back

Our incredible team members are making a significant impact! Since 2006, French Hospital employees have generously supported the Foundation, raising more than $1,000,000 to benefit the hospital programs, services, and technology that they are most passionate about. Their philanthropic giving allows us to continually enhance our facility and bring the most state-of-the-art technology for patient care. Our employees are advancing the French Hospital Expansion Project; offering support to colleagues in need; and delivering vital programs to cancer patients and their families through the Hearst Cancer Resource Center. This profound impact on the care we deliver—and our community's health—is truly appreciated.

"Our team's commitment to advancing local healthcare is truly remarkable," shares Sue Andersen, President & CEO of French Hospital. "The fact that our staff members—who already dedicate their lives and skills to our patients—choose to also provide philanthropic support is a testament to their deep-rooted passion. This collective spirit within our French Hospital family is a profound inspiration, demonstrating our unwavering devotion to the community we serve."



"I support the Foundation to assist in purchasing equipment, ensuring we have the latest technology available for our patients."

Paula Smith, RN
Data Analyst, Cardiac Catheterization



"I believe and trust in French Hospital to take care of my family and community. Donating to support our hospital allows me to give back to the community in an important and vital way."

Greg Blishak
Director, Imaging Services



"I donate to support French Hospital because it is more than just my place of work. It's where my family is cared for."

Cherie McKinley MSN, RN
Med-Surg & Telemetry Unit Based Clinical Educator

Meet the Foundation

Foundation Team



Left to right:
Jenny Meyers, *Director of Philanthropy, Operations & Communication*
Tessa Espinoza, *Chief Philanthropy Officer*
K. Samantha Cardenas, *Manager of Philanthropy*
Holly Leighton, *Development Coordinator*
Val Vaz, *Director of Philanthropy, Major Gifts*

Contact Us

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Lorlie Leethan
Secretary/Treasurer
Retired, Cal Poly Corp.



Sue Andersen
President & CEO
French Hospital
Medical Center



Tessa Espinoza
Chief Philanthropy Officer
French Hospital
Medical Center



Matt Richardson
Chief Financial Officer
French Hospital
Medical Center

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Pacific Gas and Electric



Ty Safreno
Trust Automation



Matt Scales, MD
Chief of Staff
French Hospital



Marcia Scott, MSN, RN
Retired
Cuesta College



Debbie Wacker
French Hospital
Volunteer Guild



Kristen Yetter
Retired
Promega Biosciences

Additional French Hospital Medical Center Leadership 2026-2027

Foundation Committees

HEARST CANCER RESOURCE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hospital President & CEO
Sue Andersen

Chief Medical Officer
Tom Vendegna, MD

Chief Philanthropy Officer
Tessa Espinoza

Chief Financial Officer
Matt Richardson

HCRC Director
Julie Neiggemann, RN, MSN, OCN

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Sandy Dunn

Committee Members
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Leslie Coe
Edwin Hayashi, MD
Jack Hearst
Stephen Hearst
Carter Henderson
Stephen Hilty, MD
Cathy Johnson
Robert Johnson, MD
Noreen Martin
Susan Minker, MD
Debby Nicklas
Lauren Rava
John Ronca
Colleen Russell, DPT
Tom Spillane, MD
Jackie Starr
Kathleen Sullivan, PhD, RN

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hospital President & CEO
Sue Andersen

Chief Philanthropy Officer
Tessa Espinoza

Chief Financial Officer
Matt Richardson

Committee Chair
Lorlie Leetham

Committee Members
Carolyn Herzog
Tamara Holst
Russ Levanway
Dave Marshall
Chris Russo
Brooks Wise

Hospital Leadership

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Hospital President & CEO
Sue Andersen

Chief Financial Officer
Matt Richardson

Chief Nursing Executive & Chief Operating Officer
Candice Monge, MBA, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Chief Medical Officer
Tom Vendegna, MD

Chief Philanthropy Officer
Tessa Espinoza

BOARD OF COMMUNITY ADVISORS

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Sue Andersen

Chief Financial Officer
Matt Richardson

Chief Medical Officer
Tom Vendegna, MD

Chief of Medical Staff
Matt Scales, MD

Chair
Boyd Carano

Vice Chair
Margaux Snider, MD

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Holly Edds, EdD
Daniele Feldman, MD
Aaron Hanke
Carolyn Herzog
Sister Ellen McCabe, OSF
Wyatt Mello
Ijeoma Ofiaeli, MD
Ke-Ping Tsao, MD
Kevin Wilkinson

COMMUNITY QUALITY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Central Coast Market President, CommonSpirit Health
BJ Predum

Hospital President & CEO
Sue Andersen

Chief Medical Officer
Tom Vendegna, MD

Chief Nursing Executive & Chief Operating Officer
Candice Monge, RN

Chief of Staff
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Director of Quality
Sandy Volchko

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Wyatt Mello
Dale Rowland, MD
Chris Russo
Todd Tuggle

MEDICAL STAFF OFFICERS

Chief of Staff
Matt Scales, MD

Vice Chief of Staff
Mike Ryan, MD

Secretary/Treasurer
John Avery, DO



Friends of the Foundation

French Hospital Foundation believes every act of humankindness is worthy of celebration and every expression of gratitude deserves recognition.

The Foundation's Caring Circle of Donors supports a wide variety of hospital programs. It is our pleasure to recognize and celebrate the generosity of those donors who have made significant investments in their community hospital. Scan the QR code or visit supportfrenchhospital.org to view a full list.

French Hospital
Medical Center Foundation
A Dignity Health Member

1911 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Tel 805.542.6496
SupportFrenchHospital.org

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Address service requested

Thank you!



Hello humankindness®