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## **French Hospital Medical Center Foundation Receives Donation From Local Swim Club**

*Annual swim meet raises funds for the Hearst Cancer Resource Center at French Hospital*

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, February 3, 2015** – The French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) Foundation recently received a generous donation from the PUMA Aquatic Team for the Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC).

The swim club raised \$11,000 for the HCRC during their seventh annual swim meet at Arroyo Grande High School in October. Hundreds of swimmers from the Central Coast, Central Valley, and Southern California participated in the event. This brings PUMA's seventh year total donation to the Hearst Cancer Resource Center to \$70,000. The meet raised money through local sponsorships, entry fees, a silent auction, and the concession stand.

PUMA Swim Team Coach Jud Clark believes that having swimmers swim for a “cause” helps build strong community support with the young swimmers. Clark and his team recently presented the check to the HCRC Director Beverly Kirkhart and FHMC President/CEO Alan Iftiniuk.

“On behalf of our patients, their families and the staff at Hearst Cancer Resource Center, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the PUMA Swim Team and Jud Clark for once again selecting the Hearst Cancer Resource Center as the recipient of this generous donation,” says Iftiniuk. “This donation will help us continue to provide important resources to cancer patients and their loved ones.”

The Hearst Cancer Resource Center provides free supportive and educational services necessary for cancer patients to understand their disease, tolerate treatment, and maintain dignity and quality of life throughout all aspects of their cancer experience. The HCRC collaborates with its community and physician partners to bring San Luis Obispo County a comprehensive epicenter of knowledge and empowerment.

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It is staffed by oncology professionals, houses the latest information on cancer treatment options, nutrition, pain management and stress reduction.

PUMA is a year-round competitive age group swim team offering practices at three locations in San Luis Obispo County. PUMA is an affiliate club of Southern California Swimming, one of 59 local committees of USA Swimming. PUMA offers a variety of competitive programs for all ages and skill levels from novice through high school and national caliber swimmers. For more information on Puma Aquatics please visit [www.pumaswim.org](http://www.pumaswim.org).

For more information on the Hearst Cancer Resource Center or to make a donation, call the FHMC Foundation office at 805.542.6496 or visit [www.supportfrenchhospital.org](http://www.supportfrenchhospital.org).

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

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, is rated among the top hospitals in the nation for cardiac, orthopedic and GI services. The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center provides the latest innovative cardiac and imaging technology. 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 Central Coast hospital which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in Arroyo Grande, CA, Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, CA, St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, CA and St. John's Pleasant Valley in Camarillo, CA. Dignity Health 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. To learn more go to [www.frenchmedicalcenter.org](http://www.frenchmedicalcenter.org).