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French Hospital Medical Center Foundation Receives \$50,000 Donation for Intensive Care Unit

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – September 15, 2015 – The French Hospital Medical Center Foundation is proud to announce the generous donation of \$50,000 made by Joan Gellert-Sargen to support the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC). In recognition of this gift, the ICU nursing area will be named the Joan Gellert-Sargen Nurses Station.

The recent expansion and remodel of the ICU is part of the “*French - Well into the Future*” modernization project underway at FHMC. Other projects include the addition of a new Specialty Patient Care Wing and the expansion of the Stollmeyer Family Birthing Center.

The new ICU includes 11 intensive care beds, expanded Nurses Station and the latest technology to care for critically ill patients. The higher volume of cardiac patients being experienced at the hospital drove the need to renovate and expand the unit. Additional donations will continue the efforts to enhance ICU services and medical equipment.

Recently, the Foundation launched the “Grateful Hearts” giving program. Grateful patients may make donations in recognition of the outstanding care received during their hospital stay.

Gellert-Sargen was impressed by the technology available in the ICU and the commitment of the nurses. “I understand the importance of having the latest and greatest technologies available, and the impact of compassionate care. I want to help French Hospital provide the best possible health care for San Luis Obispo County,” says Gellert-Sargen.

Sargen is a very involved and prominent philanthropist in the community, and this most recent donation further illustrates her passion and commitment for giving back.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact the FHMC Foundation at 805-542-6496 or visit SupportFrenchHospital.org.

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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.