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**French Hospital Medical Center Foundation’s “Share the Hope” event raises \$440,000**

*Surpasses previously set record for most funds raised at a FHMC Foundation event*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, April 25, 2016 – The French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) Foundation is proud to announce that its ninth annual “Share the Hope” event, held on April 9, 2016 at Hearst Ranch, raised an astounding \$440,000. This exceeds the amount raised in prior years and now holds the record for most funds raised at any FHMC Foundation event. Over the past nine years, “Share the Hope” events have raised more than \$2,050,000 to benefit the programs and services offered free of charge to cancer patients and loved ones at the Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC) at FHMC.

A special call to action during the live auction raised more than \$195,000 for the HCRC’s Angel of Hope Fund, which provides immediate financial assistance for basic medical needs of cancer patients and their families. A cancer diagnosis, in addition to being physically and psychologically challenging, can also have a financial impact on patients. Financial assistance through the Angel of Hope Fund enables HCRC clients to continue cancer treatments uninterrupted by helping with day-to-day expenses such as medical supplies, transportation, medical insurance, co-payments and childcare.

The HCRC collaborates with community and physician partners to provide supportive and educational services necessary for cancer patients to understand their disease, manage treatment, and maintain dignity and quality of life throughout all aspects of their cancer experience.

More than 230 guests, the most ever to attend a “Share the Hope” event, were treated to an evening that featured a champagne reception on an ocean view terrace at Hearst Castle, a gourmet dinner at the Hearst Ranch Dairy Barn, live music, as well as live and silent auctions.

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“French Hospital would like to thank Steve Hearst for his ongoing support and dedication to the HCRC,” says Alan Iftiniuk, FHMC President/CEO. “The hospital greatly appreciates his many contributions that help make this event successful.” The Hearst Family was instrumental in providing the seed funding to construct and open the Center.

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

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, has been named one of the Nation’s 100 Top Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics, and is rated among the top hospitals in the nation for cardiac, orthopedic and GI services. French Hospital has achieved prestigious designation as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. 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. In addition, an expansion and modernization project is underway at French Hospital, including construction of the Copeland Health Education Pavilion, which will provide community access to comprehensive health care education resources free of charge. 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 <http://www.dignityhealth.org/frenchhospital/>