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French Hospital Medical Center Foundation Earns Top Honors at Annual Dignity Health Philanthropy Meeting

SAN LUIS OBISPO, February 26, 2016 – The French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) Foundation was recently named “Foundation of the Year” at the third annual Dignity Health Philanthropy ‘Phillies’ Awards held on February 4, 2016 in Anaheim, California. The Foundation attained this honor by exceeding numerous strict measures for its performance in fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015).

The “Foundation of the Year” Award is based on results in five categories which include lower cost per dollar raised, transfers to hospital of approximately two times operating expenses, well-balanced fundraising programs, innovation in fundraising practices and a significant increase in fundraising revenue over the previous year.

The FHMC Foundation raised close to \$6 million in FY 2015 with a cost per dollar raised of \$0.15.

“I am extremely proud of the Foundation board members, volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to support French Hospital Medical Center. Their efforts to connect with our donors are making a huge difference in caring for our patients every day,” said Alan Iftiniuk, FHMC President and CEO.

The Dignity Health Central Coast Service Area Foundations also received the “Top Performing Philanthropic Service Area of the Year” Award which includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation, FHMC Foundation, Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation and St. John’s Healthcare Foundation.

These annual awards were established to showcase philanthropic management excellence within the 31 Dignity Health hospital foundations.

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Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) met overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for facilities located in its own service area; for details, contact your Local Blue Plan. Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+) also met cost measures that address consumers' need for affordable healthcare. Each facility's cost of care is evaluated using data from its Local Blue Plan. Facilities in CA, ID, NY, PA, and WA may lie in two Local Blue Plans' areas, resulting in two evaluations for cost of care; and their own Local Blue Plans decide whether one or both cost of care evaluation(s) must meet BDC+ national criteria. National criteria for BDC and BDC+ are displayed on www.bcbs.com. Individual outcomes may vary. For details on a provider's in-network status or your own policy's coverage, contact your Local Blue Plan and ask your provider before making an appointment. Neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Plans are responsible for non-covered charges or other losses or damages resulting from Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers.

For more information about the FHMC Foundation, please visit www.supportfrenchhospital.org or call 805-542-6496.

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 the new Copeland Health Education Pavilion, which provides the 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/>