

## FOUNDATION FOCUS

Furthering the mission of Washington Hospital Healthcare System since 1983



### From the Desk of the Interim Executive Director



We are proud to share that as of today, **87%** of eligible Alameda County residents

have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and **73%** are fully vaccinated- considerably higher than the national average. Washington Hospital's COVID-19 vaccination clinic has administered nearly 66,000 COVID-19 vaccines to date. As you know, the vaccine is the best defense against the highly-transmissible Delta Variant, and we encourage all community members to please get the vaccine if you haven't already. We thank you for helping to keep our community safe and for all of your support throughout this past year.

The *Washington Hospital Legacy Society* is our Planned Giving Program, which allows donors to make a future gift to the Hospital through a Will or estate plan. Secondly, our *Honor a Caregiver Program* is a way for grateful patients of Washington Hospital to share their story with our community and make a gift in honor of the exceptional care they received. These new programs will enable our patients, friends and supporters to make a direct investment in the Hospital, and therefore in advancing the health and wellbeing of district residents.

Lastly, amidst the rise in Delta Variant cases, the Foundation has made the difficult decision to cancel the 35th Annual Top Hat Gala. While we were looking forward to welcoming you back for an in-person celebration, the safety of our community is our highest priority and we feel that the risk of COVID transmission is too great at this time.

As always, we're grateful to you, our donors, for your

Today, as we navigate a new reality, we see an exciting opportunity to set our sights on helping the Hospital best prepare for future needs and growth. We're thrilled to announce two new programs that offer our donors and patients simple and impactful ways to help us advance quality care in our community, now and long into the future.

continued support. You are the reason Washington Hospital was able to respond so quickly and effectively to the needs of our community during the pandemic. And you are the reason why we continue to be a pillar for quality health care in our community. Thank you for being part of the Washington Family.

Warm regards,  
*Sarah G. Gemski*

## The 35th Annual Top Hat

As a leading resource for health care services in Southern Alameda County, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 35th Annual Top Hat Gala, originally scheduled for October 9th. We are currently caring for an increasing number of COVID-positive patients at Washington Hospital, and feel that it is in the best interest of our community to eliminate the risk associated with in-person gatherings.

Top Hat's original beneficiary, Washington Hospital's new Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Center, remains a top philanthropic priority for the Foundation. This unit will fill a critical gap in rehabilitation care in our local district and surrounding communities by providing intensive, specialized treatment for patients with stroke, limb amputation and other major medical conditions. Through clinical collaboration and advanced technology including specialized lifts, patients will receive daily individualized physical, operational and speech therapy from Washington Hospital's talented team of physiatrists, certified rehabilitation nurses and therapists.

Without community support we are unable to purchase essential equipment and technology needed to help patients with stroke, limb amputation and other major orthopedic and neurological diagnoses achieve maximum recovery. **In lieu of a sponsorship or fund-a-need gift, we invite you to make a gift to directly support the Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Center.** The Foundation will also be hosting a silent auction and raffle, so please keep an eye out for additional information in the weeks to come.



[Give Today](#)

### The Auction is On!

It goes without saying that the auction is often the best part about Top Hat- and the opportunity for us to raise critical funds in support of Washington Hospital. While there will be no live Top Hat festivities this year, you'll still have the chance to bid





on fun silent auction items starting September 20th! If you have an idea for an auction item that you'd like to donate, or have anyone in your network who may be interested in helping us reach our goal, please let us know!

All donors will be recognized for their gift in Top Hat publications and social media, and bonus- **all donations are tax deductible!** Email

[tophat@whhs.com](mailto:tophat@whhs.com) for more information.

## New Foundation Initiatives



### Say *Thank you* in a meaningful way

**Honor a Caregiver Program** is a perfect way to recognize those who have provided exceptional care to you or a loved one while at Washington Hospital. Whether you choose to honor a physician, nurse, staff or an entire team, your donation is a meaningful way to show your gratitude while supporting advancements in patient care at Washington Hospital.

Your gift is a pledge towards enhancing patient care now and for years into the future by:

- Purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment & technology
- Supporting patient & family-centered programs
- Providing continuing professional education for nursing & medical staff



### Building Their Future

**Building Their Future** program allows parents, relatives or friends to honor a child in a very unique way. By making a charitable gift to Washington Hospital in their name, your little loved one will be honored and, at the same time, you will be helping thousands of other children receive the superior care they need to begin a happy and healthy life.

The gifts will be acknowledged with a personalized baby building block, which will become part of a beautiful collage located in the birthing unit. **All proceeds benefit the Maternal Child Health Department at Washington Hospital.**

Contact [foundation@whhs.com](mailto:foundation@whhs.com) to purchase a baby building block or to make a donation.

## Foundation Flashback

Clay and Barbara Pimentel, Foundation Members, shared that their favorite part of that first Top Hat was “dancing to the Earl Heckscher orchestra. It was a magical evening”. Marlene Weibel, Honorary Trustee, shared “Top Hat is an event that the entire community wants to attend. It has been an honor to be a part of Top Hat for all these



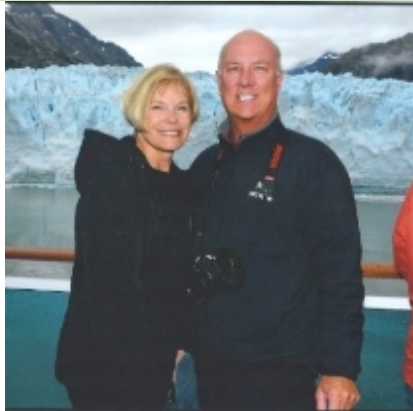
years.”

We hope you enjoyed this Foundation Flashback and ask for the support of each and every one of you to help ensure we can meet our goal for building a new Acute Rehab Center at Washington Hospital!

For the last 34 years, Top Hat has brought our community together to help advance quality health care initiatives at Washington Hospital. First held at the Top of the Mark in San Francisco in 1986, the dinner dance has grown to be an elegant annual celebration in Fremont, raising funds for clinical services in the Tri-City Area.



Fran Stone, Honorary Trustee, shared that her fondest memory of Top Hat was “how excited everyone was to be there. The hors d’oeuvres and cocktails at the Top of the Mark started the evening off in a grand way followed by a wonderful dinner all complimented with Weibel wines”.



**The Gallacher Family** generously awards scholarships to students pursuing higher education in a science related field, in memory of Dr. Douglas Gallacher who was a radiologist at Washington Hospital for 27 years. We are pleased to acknowledge this year's following winners and we thank all those who applied.

- Elaine Ho, American High School
- Shannon Ly, James Logan High School
- Serena Yeh, Irvington High School

**AmazonSmile** is a simple way for you to support Washington Hospital every time you shop, at no cost to you. Be sure to use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate *Washington Hospital Foundation* as your preferred charity.



## COVID-19 Booster Shots

In accordance with CDC guidelines, Washington Hospital is now offering third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines to **eligible individuals with moderate-to-severely compromised immune systems**. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 510.248.8200

Per CDC & FDA guidelines, we plan to offer booster shots for all vaccinated groups beginning Sept. 20, starting 8 months after an individual's second dose. We highly encourage people to talk to their health care provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate.





*Foundation Staff (left to right): Shannon, Sarah & Shobha*



**Give Today**

**2000 Mowry Ave.  
Fremont, CA 94538  
(510) 818-7350  
Foundation@whhs.com**

