

**A NOTE FROM...
Brent Hodson,
Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

The past few months have been a busy time for Foundation Trustees, staff and volunteers. With the support of other friends and community members who volunteered their time and energy during the holidays, our tree lighting events and the Children's Holiday Breakfast with Santa and Ronald McDonald were a great success.

I'd like to offer a special thank you to Mark and Gaby Bernardin, the Bernardin Family McDonald's employees, and to Lonnie Robinson of R.K. Electric for their generous support. We wouldn't have been able to pull it all off without you.

Once again, our Trees of Angels campaign benefiting hospice care in the Tri-City area brought a meaningful close to the year. On behalf of Washington Hospital Healthcare System and the Foundation, I wish you all an especially prosperous new year.

— Brent Hodson

Thirteenth Annual Trees of Angels Events

Close to two hundred guests attended Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation's annual Trees of Angels events in Fremont, Union City, and Newark. For the thirteenth year, the Foundation held tree lightings and a holiday breakfast to support hospice care in the Tri-City area. Al Bernardin, owner of several local McDonald's restaurants, and the Foundation began Trees of Angels in order to safeguard the comfort of local residents needing end-of-life care.

Washington Hospital partners with Pathways Hospice to serve residents and their families through palliative care, bereavement support, and home health care.

The 2008 Trees of Angels events commenced with a tree-lighting ceremony on December 1st at the Bernardin Family McDonald's located on Mission Boulevard and I-680. Fremont Mayor Bob Wasserman lit the tree and students from the Mission San Jose High School Chamber Chorale sang Christmas carols for the assembled crowd. Wanda DeValle, R.N., a Washington Hospital Birthing Center nurse, spoke on behalf of her parents, Claire &



Top photo (left to right): Wanda DeValle, R.N., Fremont Mayor Bob Wasserman. **Bottom photo (left to right):** Maria Huezco, Emily Ashley, Mrs. Claus, Kirsten Ashley, Santa Claus, Ellen Cuzzo, Brent Hodson.

Leonard Flieger, who both received care from Pathways Hospice.

The second ceremony, on December 3rd, was held at the Nakamura Clinic in Union City. Union City Councilmember Carol Dutra-Vernaci did the honors, lighting the tree for an enthusiastic audience. Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation sponsored this event along with the Union City Chamber of Commerce, providing attendees the chance to support Trees of Angels, bid on raffle prizes donated by Chamber of Commerce members, and mingle over food and refresh-

ments generously donated by local restaurants.

The third Trees of Angels lighting ceremony took place on December 4th at the Silliman Center in Newark. After Newark Mayor David Smith lit the tree, the Newark Symphonic Winds entertained the crowd with a selection of seasonal tunes.

The Children's Holiday Breakfast was the final event on December 6th. More than 200 attendees enjoyed breakfast donated by the Bernardin Family McDonald's, as well as a show featuring Ronald McDonald. Families also had the opportunity to have a photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

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Foundation Welcomes New Trustees and Members

The following Trustees and Members were recently appointed at the Foundation's annual meeting on January 26, 2009:

New Trustees



Janice Futch-Claridge

was introduced to the Foundation by a close friend and board member, Tina M. Sankoff. Tina invited Janice to a meeting where they

discussed Washington Hospital's Gamma Knife program, and Janice decided to make a donation to the Foundation. Janice was very impressed by the mission of the Foundation and says, "I choose to give to the Hospital because of the large number of patients and diverse populations they serve. I believe it has been the best way to give back to a community that had given me so much over the years." Originally from Florida, Janice has lived in the Fremont area since 1981. With her then husband, Janice owned and operated a car dealership for over 25 years, until they sold it in 2005. Janice spends as much time as she can volunteering for organizations such as Life ElderCare and the Foundation. Janice was the Presenting Sponsor at Top Hat XXII last October, and she encourages others to become more involved: "It's the perfect time and way to pay it forward to give back for all our blessings," she adds.



Anmol Mahal, M.D.

has been in private practice in gastroenterology and internal medicine since 1979. Dr. Mahal first became involved with the Foundation when

he served as a Trustee in 1991 and again in 1994. Dr. Mahal was President of the California Medical Association (CMA) from 2006 through 2007 and served as the Chair and Vice Chair for the CMA Board of Trustees in the prior years, dat-

ing back to 1997. The California Medical Association represents 35,000 physician members and is the voice of medicine and patients in Sacramento and at the federal level. Dr. Mahal served as the Chief of Staff at Washington Hospital from 1986 to 1987. Dr. Mahal is currently President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in Northern California, Pacific Regional Director for the American Association of Physicians in India, on the Board of Trustees at the Sikh Foundation in Palo Alto, and on the Board of Directors at the Indian Community Center in Milpitas. Dr. Mahal's wife Surjit is a family physician, and they have two children. Their daughter and son-in-law practice family medicine in Fremont and their son attends the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.



Rodney Silveira, P.T., M.S.

became involved with the Foundation through the Hospital's working relationship with Professional Home Care Associates (PHCA)

and Neurosport Rehabilitation Associates. Neurosport is a privately owned physical therapy practice specializing in both outpatient and home healthcare services. PHCA provides home-based nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy services. PHCA has supported the Foundation fundraisers including Top Hat and the spring Golf Tournament for many years. A memory Rodney holds close to his heart from his time as a Foundation member is his daughter's performance on the harp at the Foundation's Medical Musicales in 2006. Rodney has been a practicing Physical Therapist with Neurosport and Professional Home Care Associates for 26 years. He is very involved in community activities with the Hospital and he volunteers his time to the Mission Valley Athletic League. He is married with a nine year old daughter.

New Members



David J. Benoun is an attorney specializing in Estate Planning and Family Law. Raised in Newark, David is a Newark Unified alum who graduated from

Newark Memorial High School. David then attended UC Berkeley where he majored in Political Science and later earned a Juris Doctorate degree at the University of San Francisco School of Law. David is a Board Member at Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments (S.A.V.E.) and the Newark Educational Foundation. He also serves as a Trustee for the Ohlone College Foundation and is a member of the Newark Rotary Club. In his spare time, David enjoys cooking, wine tasting, and reading.



Deborah O'Meara, a breast cancer survivor, started a campaign in 2006 to raise funds for the WHHS mammography fund through her church.

Every year, Deborah and her friends make pink ribbons to raise donations to support the program. Deborah and her family are originally from England and have lived in Fremont for almost 12 years now. She works both as a medical-surgical and hospice nurse. She's married with two sons, ages 16 and 13, where she encourages them to become involved in community outreach whenever possible. Deborah enjoys reading, knitting, swimming, writing, crafts and time at the beach.



Vandana Sharma, M.D. has been a member of the Washington Hospital Medical Staff since August 2004. Her specialty is Hematology/Oncology and she is

Board Certified in Oncology, and Internal

Medicine. Dr. Sharma's research has focused on the molecular biology of breast cancer, tumor biology and cancer genetics. At the Foundation Annual Meeting in 2008, Dr. Sharma led the educational session with a presentation on her research in oncology. She presented findings on medical studies relating to breast cancer and cancer genetics. Dr. Sharma lives in Menlo Park with her husband, Arvind, and their two sons.



Brian Smith, M.D. started practicing at Washington

Hospital in 2004. Over the past four years, he has been impressed by the close, emotional connection between the community and the Hospital. He decided to get more involved and discovered that the Foundation provides support for multiple

medical programs that are critical to the health of the community. Dr. Smith is the chairman and medical director of Anesthesiology at Washington Hospital and a member of Northern California Anesthesia Associates. His wife is an Emergency Physician at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and they have three daughters. He enjoys playing tennis in his free time.

Become a Washington Hospital Service League Volunteer!

This is an exciting time to join Washington Hospital's Service League. The Service League has been around for over 50 years and you are invited to be part of the next 50!

Sign up for the next informational session to learn about the variety of positions available. To find out the date of the next session, please call Volunteer Services at (510) 791-3465 or visit the volunteer page on the Hospital website at: www.whhs.com/giving/volunteeroportunities.

Thank You to Our Generous Trees of Angels Donors

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Gerry's Grill
Hometown Buffet
Paddy's Coffee
Roses, a Chinese Café
Texas Roadhouse
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Wingstop

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James Logan High School Jazz Singers
Mission San Jose Chamber Chorale
Newark Symphonic Winds
Ronald McDonald
Santa & Mrs. Claus

Please note: The Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of donor names. If you are aware of any errors, please contact Amanda Loza at (510) 791-3428. We are committed to maintaining current, up-to-date information as it becomes available to us.

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Save the Date!

24th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, May 18, 2009

Registration: 10:15 a.m.

Castlewood Country
Club, Pleasanton



Benefiting local hospice care
and cancer services at WHHS

In memory of Gene Angelo Pessagno

\$275 per golfer (includes lunch, dinner and auction)

For further information or to learn more about
sponsorship opportunities, please contact the
Foundation at (510) 791-3428 or email
foundation@whhs.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, May 18, 2009

Castlewood Country Club

Top Hat XXIII Dinner Dance

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Grounds of Washington West



Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation

2000 Mowry Avenue

Fremont, CA 94538-1716

Website: www.whhs.com

E-mail: foundation@whhs.com

TREES OF ANGELS EVENTS cont. from page 1

“The Foundation would like to thank all of the people who have volunteered their time to help make these events possible,” said WHHF Executive Director Brent Hodson.



From left to right: Gaby Bernardin, Mark Bernardin, Mrs. Claus, Santa Claus, Pat Gorman and Ronald McDonald.

“Thank you also to everyone who attended the events in support of local hospice care.” Hodson notes that people who still wish to contribute to this important community service may still do so.

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