

Friends For Life

SUMMER 2022

Special Mercy Hospital Southwest Tower Expansion Groundbreaking Edition



Building on Our Legacy



**Friends of Mercy
Foundation™**

A Dignity Health Member

Dear Friends of Mercy,



Geoff King

*Chairman of the Board
Friends of Mercy Foundation*

Twenty twenty-two has started like gangbusters for the Friends of Mercy Foundation.

We have all been awaiting to see progress on the Southwest Tower Project and finally, on Friday, March 11, 2022, Mercy Hospital had the official groundbreaking to kick off the long awaited construction project. Getting to this point has taken much patience and effort on the part of constituencies supporting this Project. The perseverance of Bruce Peters, the Hospital's recently retired President, along with leadership and support of CommonSpirit Health, finally made this project a reality.

In addition, I must give a big shout out and thank you to all of our Foundation's generous supporters. One major requirement to get this project going was to have financial support from the community. With the Friends of Mercy Foundation leading the fundraising charge, our community and many generous donors rose to the challenge and met the established local fundraising goals to help make the Southwest Tower Project a reality.

On behalf of the Friends of Mercy Foundation Board, I would like to thank Toni Harper, her staff and all of our donors and supporters for their hard work and commitment in helping this project come to fruition.

Toni Harper

*VP Mercy Hospitals
Philanthropy*



For 110 years, Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield has been central to the life, health and pulse of Bakersfield and Kern Country.

Now, amid a time of great growth in our community, Mercy Hospital Southwest must expand to keep pace. Gratefully, we have a rare opportunity to do so with help from those who share our vision. Thank you eternally to our Chairman, Geoff King, and the entire Board of Directors of the Friends of Mercy Foundation; as well as our Campaign Co-Chairmen Jim Camp and Craig Harrison, and Beverly Camp, who we hold dear in our hearts. Finally, read on and join me in honoring those in the community who have already given to the Mercy Hospital Southwest Tower, and are leading the advancement of healthcare in our community.

By expanding vital service lines such as cardiology, neurosurgery, and intensive care for babies and adults, Mercy Hospital will remain positioned to care for all in our community, close to home. We are excited to share with you the future of Mercy Hospital Southwest, and we welcome you to join us by supporting this vital project.

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Building on Our Legacy

The story of the Tower began nearly two decades ago as physicians began opening their practices in close vicinity to Mercy Southwest Hospital in anticipation of expansion. Additionally, the area surrounding the Southwest campus continues to be the fastest area of growth in our community. Together, we will make the expansion a reality for our gifted physicians and their patients.

The 142,617 square foot tower will be built on the existing Southwest campus, consisting of four floors and 106 additional patient beds. The newly designed larger, private rooms will feature an efficient design, with a focus on creating a peaceful and healing environment. We are remodeling the campus to accommodate for an increase in volume and procedure types in the operating rooms, imaging, admitting, and public areas. A new entry point off Stockdale Highway and additional parking spaces are being implemented to improve easy access and visitor convenience.

The new Tower will allow the hospital to expand existing services such as the emergency department, women's health, orthopedics, oncology, intensive care and neonatal intensive care; as well as add new vital service lines, including cardiology and neurosurgery.

The official ground breaking was March 11, 2022. Since then, we have met several milestones such as completion of the new helipad. We can't wait to share successful completion of additional milestones over the next two years.





Expanded Family Birth Center & Neonatal Intensive Care

Mercy Southwest has one of the largest OB/GYN practices in Kern County. Our Family Birth Center delivers more than 230 babies monthly, with the number increasing each year. Mercy Southwest Hospital will be the only hospital in Kern County with 18 private family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit suites. These state of the art rooms afford quiet for our tiniest patients to rest and grow, as well as privacy and space for parents, grandparents and siblings to bond.

Expanded Medical/Surgical/Telemetry & Intensive Care Units

Over the past year, Mercy Southwest has exceeded 49,272 emergency visits, treating 140 patients per day. Additional beds are needed in order to provide an outlet for our emergency department, thus creating a more efficient flow into and through the emergency room. The additional rooms will all be private, designed using best practices that allow for the most efficient use of space and creation of a truly healing atmosphere.

New Cardiovascular & Neurosciences Services

The addition of medical and interventional cardiology services will be transformational to the Southwest campus and our community. The construction of two state of the art cardiac catheterization laboratories will allow physicians to intervene quickly if a patient has an emergent cardiac condition.



Mercy Southwest Hospital is a stroke receiving center, however if a patient requires intervention, they have to be transferred to Mercy Hospital Downtown. In instances like this, we know minutes matter and we will have the capability to do neurological interventions on the Mercy Southwest campus.

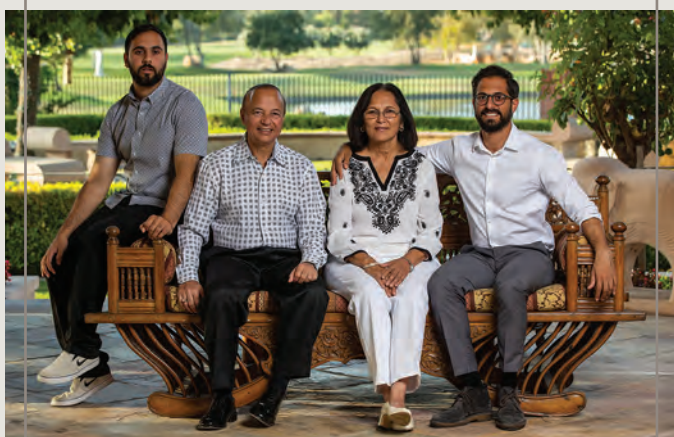
Expanded Orthopedic & Oncology Services

We are home to the largest orthopedic center in Kern County. More than 80 procedures are performed monthly, and this number is expected to increase. Technology enhancements, including the state of the art O-arm for advanced 3D spine mapping, will allow additional orthopedists in the region to care for their patients at our facility.

Mercy's inpatient oncology unit is the only one in Kern County and brings patients with cancer together with specialized nursing care in a single dedicated space. This enhancement allows for improved coordination of care and a better overall experience for our patients and their families. Together with our partners at Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center (CBCC), we offer a comprehensive range of cancer treatments and therapy options close to home including GYN oncological surgery in the SA Camp Robotics Surgical Center, urogynecology robotics surgery, and other state of the art interventions.

Local Families Building Their Legacy

The Lazzerini Family Foundation
Bank of America
The Hay Family and Jim Burke Ford
Bill & Sharon Bush and Family
Geoffrey B. and Lisa R. King



Drs. Ravi & Naina Patel Oncology Floor

"This project is critical and goes to the heart of our community. The Southwest area is underserved and the project is going to be vital as it applies to cancer, emergency and other necessary services. We need significant community support because it is only together that we can meet the needs of those who are deeply underserved."

— Dr. Ravi Patel



Leonard Anton Bidart & Family Surgery Waiting Area

"I give out of gratitude for the care Mercy has shown my family since the sisters arrived in Bakersfield in 1910."

— Leonard A. Bidart



Beverly Camp Women's Cancer Program

While courageously fighting her own battle against breast cancer, Beverly and Jim Camp often reflected on women with limited resources and how their journey would be even more challenging. The Camp Family is committed to these women, whom they will never know, but will forever be changed because of their generosity.



Mercy Southwest Patient Care Tower Expansion Project Donors

Ron and Valerie Lallo
David and Sandra Shepherd
Gary and Cynthia Icardo
John and Chris Romanini
Dr. Agnes Wu

Bakersfield Rotary Waterman Foundation
Timothy M. Osborn
Craig Harrison
Randy & Mary Richardson
Tim and Rana Banks

Morgan and Gloria Clayton
The Katie and Tim Werdel Family
Mercy Employee Giving Campaign
Mercy 2021 Christmas Appeal
Mercy Charity Golf Classic



Wright Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

"I am humbled to be able to partner with Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield to make this gift in honor of the incredible patriarchs of our family, Bill Wright, Sr. and Stephen Downs. They were both champions for the children of Kern County in their lifetimes. As I walked through the NICU and saw the miracles of healing at work, my heart knew that this gift is how we continue their legacy for generations to come."

— Cassie Wright



David & Catherine Gay Family Intensive Care Unit

"Mercy Hospital has been there to care for our parents, family, and friends in their time of need. When this opportunity was presented to us, we realized it was a great way to give back to our community by supporting its health care needs. In turn, we are continuing the legacy started over a century ago by the Sisters of Mercy."

— David & Catherine Gay



Pandol Main Lobby In Honor of Jack & Winifred Pandol and Don & Izetta Camp

"Our four parents supported Downtown Mercy Hospital as well as Mercy Southwest over the course of many years. They believed in the importance of vital healthcare facilities in our community as well as The Sisters of Mercy's compassionate outreach efforts. We are honored to continue our parents' legacy of supporting the mission of Mercy."

— Jack and Carolyn Pandol



Gathering of the Friends

After almost two years of being apart, we were able to gather together with our Friends of Mercy. We are grateful for everyone who has supported us these past two years. You are our advocates, advisors, and most importantly, our friends.







Paging all Dog-tors!

A new team of dog-tors will be making their rounds at Mercy and Memorial Hospitals, thanks to Friends of Mercy Foundation creating a partnership with Marley's Mutts® Dog Rescue. Certified therapy dogs from Marley's Mutts provide comfort and support to patients, visitors, and staff at Dignity Health's three Bakersfield hospitals. Studies show that patients and staff who receive visits from pet therapy dogs experience less stress and anxiety, feel calmer, happier, and more relaxed. With this partnership, we will expand our staff of 2 dog-tors to over a dozen!

At Mercy Hospital, we treat every person who comes through our doors with compassion and excellence regardless of their station in life or ability to pay. We can't think of a better partner than Marley's Mutts — whose "all breeds, all creeds" motto is the extension of hello humankindness to our furry friends. If you have a dog who you think could spread love and healing to our patients, please call us at 661-663-6700.



Investing In Tomorrow



In 1979, grateful patient Adelaide Karpe left an 1167 acre ranch to Mercy Hospital which was sold in 2021 for \$26 million — we recognize this as the first gift to the new tower at Mercy Southwest Hospital.

This gift, born out of the relationship between Mrs. Karpe and a Sister of Mercy, Sister Marian Joseph, is a demonstration of how HumanKindess can change our world. For the first time in history, residents west of Highway 99 in Bakersfield will have access to state of the art cardiac and neurosurgery — right in your neighborhood.

In honor of this relationship, Friends of Mercy created Adelaide's Circle of Caring, a group of donors who have included the Friends of Mercy Foundation in their wills or living trusts. By becoming a member, you will join other visionary individuals who want to ensure everyone in our community has high quality, compassionate healthcare — exactly what Mercy Hospital has provided since 1910.

It is simple to include Mercy Hospital in your financial plans, and any size of gift will ensure your legacy is recognized for generations to come. For more information call the Friends of Mercy Foundation at (661) 663-6700.

Adelaide's Circle of Caring Members

- Mildred Ablin†*
- Robert Abrams†*
- Mary Abrunst†*
- Emily Bidart†*
- Betty Bidart†*
- Bill and Sharon Bush*
- Pat Durando Campbell*
- Dolores F.† and Victor S.† Cerro*
- Phillips Dunford, MD†*
- Ray Eyherabide†*
- Francis D. Foley†*
- David and Catherine Gay*
- Frank Ghezzi*
- Kathleen V. Guiney†*
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- Mary Hoskins†*
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- Judy Michelt† and Chuck Michelt†*
- Katharine Mitchell†*
- Vivian Niskanen†*
- Dorothy Parra†*
- John† & Louise† Patterson*
- Mr.† and Mrs.† Robert A. Potter*
- Joan S. Pracy†*
- Paul Riley†*
- Leo Edward Suck†*
- Dr. John† and Alice† Vaughan*
- Florence Ziemann*

†Deceased Members
*Charter Members



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