

# FRIENDS FOR LIFE

SPRING 2021



Friends of Mercy  
Foundation.

A Dignity Health Member



In a unique and difficult year, the challenges created by the pandemic carved another path of service for employees and volunteers at Mercy Hospital and the Friends of Mercy Foundation.

We all have struggled with the addition of new hardships brought on by the pandemic and have met these challenges as opportunities to serve our community. Our nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, imaging, lab, registration, food service and environmental technicians worked tirelessly to ensure the needs of every person being served were being met, giving a new meaning to the word “unprecedented”. You, our donors and trusted partners, walked alongside us in an historic way. We want to take a moment of reflection over the past 12 months, and to recognize the successes of how the staff at Mercy Hospital and you, the community, journeyed together during this extraordinary year of heartache, healing and new found hope.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to support the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy and the mission of Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield.

We have now crossed the one year mark since the Covid-19 pandemic has dominated nearly every aspect of our lives.

We are hopeful that the light is at the end of the tunnel and we can return to more normalcy in our daily activities. Throughout this past year our staff at Mercy Hospitals has done a magnificent job responding to the demands of a pandemic that is unprecedented in our lifetimes. One of the reasons they have been able to sustain was the overwhelming generosity of you, our donors and supporters. I can't overemphasize how much this has meant to our staff, knowing that you have recognized their hard work and their sacrifices. I want to express my thanks on their behalf for the outpouring of support you have shown. God bless you and we appreciate you more than you know. Hope to see you all soon!



Geoff King,  
Chairman of the Board,  
Friends of Mercy Foundation

Toni Harper,  
Vice President of Philanthropy,  
Friends of Mercy Foundation



Bruce Peters  
President/CEO  
Mercy Hospital Downtown  
Mercy Hospital Southwest



# Friends of Mercy Foundation Leadership

## 2020-2021 Board of Directors



Geoff King  
*Chairman of the Board*



Mark Mulkay  
*Vice Chair*



Catherine Gay  
*Secretary*



Bruce Peters  
*Hospital President/CEO*



Toni Harper  
*V.P. of Philanthropy*



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Tim Banks, II



Greg Braun



Sharon Bush  
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Michelle Chantry



Simona Dulcich



Janice Froehlich



Montse Garcia-Castell



Joe Hay



Sister Judy Morasci



Timothy Osborn



Carolyn Pandol



Dr. Ravi Patel



Sandi Shepherd



Marcie Soper



Katie Werdel



Joseph Whittington



Jimmy Yee

### Community Committee Members

Antonio Beccari  
Pat Campbell  
George Cappello  
Mikie Hay  
Randy Richardson

# The Spirit



## Reflections Rooms

Understanding the importance of self-care and reflection, we wanted to ensure a space for our staff that allowed them to take a reprieve from the stresses of the pandemic. In collaboration with Mercy's Art & Spirituality Center, the Foundation added additional elements to engage all of the senses in two of Mercy's chapels, encouraging employees to pause, pray and reflect.

These spaces allow our employees to take time to enjoy a calming, relaxing environment while also focusing on the present through meditation, reflection, and prayer. Thank you to the Hay Family for allowing us to use the Jim Burke Chapel for this purpose during this challenging time for the staff.



Mercy Hospitals is made up of 2 hospitals, 58 departments, supported by more than 1,200 employees. Over the past year, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that our community received the best care possible. Each day they entered not knowing what the shift may bring. In the face of the new virus, their jobs evolved with new information and guidelines coming out nearly every day.

We often talk about the Spirit of Mercy – born from the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy and all of those employees who came before us in our 110 year history. Our employees are the Spirit of Mercy, and during these unprecedented times, the Spirit has never shined brighter. Each face is different, but they all have the same heart for our mission and dedication to the community. We are eternally grateful for all they do.

# of Mercy

On January 1, 2021, Sister Judy Morasci, RSM, officially retired as Vice President of Mission Integration after 26 years of dedicated service to Mercy Hospitals and the Bakersfield Community.

**Beloved by staff and all who entered our doors, Sister Judy truly embodied the spirit of Mercy.**

To honor her legacy, the Friends of Mercy Foundation established the Sister Judy Morasci Endowment for Women and Children. Annual proceeds from this endowment will benefit local organizations who serve women and children with the most critical need.



Please join us in honoring Sister Judy by making a gift to the endowment. Your support will annually bless women and children generations to come.



**Endowment for  
Women and Children**

**Thank you to the following  
donors who have generously  
supported the Sister Judy  
Morasci Endowment for  
Women and Children.**

Honorable and Mrs. Robert Anspach  
Sandra M. Banducci  
Bernard and Beatrice Bermann  
Dr. Thomas and Mary Berry  
Leonard and Susan Bidart  
Tom and Gail Burch  
Bill and Sharon Bush  
Mike and Pat Campbell  
Fred and Linda Carlisle  
Marydith Chase  
Morgan and Gloria Clayton  
Marcia Eyherabide  
Ron and Janice Froehlich  
Sister Toni Lynn Gallagher  
Dr. and Mrs. Raj Gopal  
Toni Harper  
Dan and Mikie Hay  
Janice Holder  
Gary and Cynthia Icardo  
Nancy H. K. Johnson

Rick and Cindy Jones  
Geoffrey B. & Lisa R. King  
The Laxague Family  
Gar and Marilyn McIndoe  
Cynthia M. Meek  
Mercy Auxiliary  
Stephen and Kay Nowatzki  
Timothy M. Osborn  
Jack and Carolyn Pandol  
Thomas and Mary Jo Pasek  
Barbara Patrick  
Ronald and Lori Petrelli  
Randy & Mary Richardson  
Al and Barbara Sandrini  
Bob and Donna Severs  
Mike and Marcie Soper  
Gene Tackett  
Doug and Stephanie Weber  
Lois Winston





Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield and the Friends of Mercy Foundation are pleased to announce the fruition of a gift from Mrs. Adelaide Karpe that was given in 1979. The proceeds from the 1167 acre contiguous piece of farmland valued at over 25 million dollars will be used to construct the expansion of Dignity Health's Mercy Southwest Hospital.

Mrs. Karpe's husband, A.H. Karpe, was treated at Mercy Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit in the 1970s. At the time, Mrs. Karpe was befriended by a Sister of Mercy, Marian Joseph, who was a nurse and the Director of the Intensive Care Unit. Mrs. Karpe was touched by the Sister's compassion and commitment to Mercy Hospital's mission that she wanted to honor her in her will.

Mrs. Karpe died in 1979 and left an 1167 acre contiguous piece of farmland to Mercy Hospital. The land was first purchased by the Karpe family in 1940 for \$10. When she passed, the land was valued at \$1,000,000. Recently, the ranch was valued at over \$25 million. Mrs. Karpe had the foresight to restrict the gift to be sold and used only to build hospital facilities.

Now, 42 years later, the Friends of Mercy Foundation has sold the land with the proceeds to be used for the construction of the Patient Care Tower at Mercy Hospital Southwest. For the first time, cardiac and neurosurgery will be available to Kern

County residents west of Highway 99, and additional intensive care unit, neonatal and patient care rooms, filling a critical need in the community. Mrs. Karpe's gift of generosity will literally change the landscape of healthcare in our community.

#### The Tower Expansion Project at Mercy Hospital Southwest will include:

- 106 Private Patient Rooms
- A New 24 Room Intensive Care Unit
- 18 Private Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Rooms
- State-of-the-Art Cardiac Catheterization Suites
- Expanded Neurosurgery Capabilities
- 6 additional Operating Rooms
- Specialized Oncology and Orthopedic Units
- Expanded Emergency Department
- Additional Parking and Campus Redesign

# Adopt A Unit

Last winter, Mercy Hospitals began to see a surge in COVID patients that lasted well into the New Year. In addition to the significant increase in patients (the most patients Mercy Hospital has ever had admitted during its 111 year history), those that were with us were extremely sick, many couldn't have visitors and during the holidays our caregivers stepped in as surrogate families.

Having battled with the pandemic for nearly ten months, the fatigue was setting in. Wanting to boost their spirits, we asked our trusted donors and Board Members to adopt units or prepare baskets to thank the staff in a personal way. The response was unbelievable! 39 individuals and businesses, many joining as a group or families, delivered over 60 baskets and meals to all areas of the hospital. The creativity and thoughtfulness was evident – and stood as a wonderful testament of your appreciation to Mercy Hospitals.





**Friends of Mercy  
Foundation.**

A Dignity Health Member

P.O. Box 119, Bakersfield, CA 93302

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# 31st Annual Mercy Charity Golf Classic

*Benefitting the Mercy Hospital Southwest  
Patient Care Tower Expansion*

Stockdale Country Club



Friday • June 11

**2021**



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