

Friends For Life

SUMMER 2023

Building Our Legacy *with Hardt*



**Friends of Mercy
Foundation.**
A Dignity Health Member

Dear Friends of Mercy,



Geoff King

*Chairman of the Board,
Friends of Mercy Foundation*

As we move from spring into summer, we can see the efforts of the Friends of Mercy Foundation and all of its supporters in full bloom.

In particular, the Southwest Tower expansion is moving along with the ultimate goal to bring more services and health care options to the citizens of Bakersfield and Kern County. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our donors, staff and CommonSpirit Health.

Most recently, another donor in our community, Tom Hardt and The Hardt Family Foundation, gave to the Friends of Mercy Foundation a very generous donation of land with a value approximating \$5.5 million.”



On February 14th, Valentine’s Day, we held a press conference to recognize the Hardt family’s generous donation with the naming of the new Mercy Southwest Tower as the Hardt Foundation Tower.

While the Mercy Southwest campus continues to bloom, we recognize none of this would have been possible without the ongoing efforts

of the Foundation Board, its Directors and staff and the Mercy Board of Directors and Hospital staff along with all the generous support from our Community. We can hardly wait for our Southwest campus to reach full bloom all the while creating an even greater health care resource to our deserving community. Thank you all for your support and efforts.

Foundation Board of Directors



Geoff King
Chairman of the Board



Mark Mulkay
Vice Chair



Catherine Gay
Secretary



B.J. Predum
President/CEO



Toni Harper
V.P. of Philanthropy



Ben Locklear
Chief Financial Officer



Steve Anderson



Kevin Andrew
Honorary



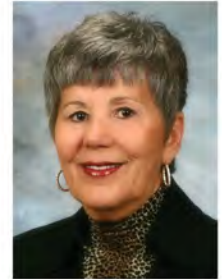
Tim Banks, II



Nik Boone



Greg Braun



Sharon Bush
Honorary



Michelle Chantry



Simona Dulcich



Montse Garcia-Castell



Janice Froehlich



Joe Hay



Valerie Lallo



Sister Judy Morasci



Timothy Osborn



Carolyn Pandol



Dr. Ravi Patel



Sandi Shepherd



Marcie Soper



Katie Werdel



Joseph Whittington

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Antonio Beccari
Pat Campbell
George Cappello
Mikie Hay
Randy Richardson



From Patient to Caregiver

— Sheree Johnson
Director of Home Health

Why do I work at Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield? Well, it just feels like home.

I became a new mom in 1992 and the birth center at Mercy Southwest helped me through a preterm pregnancy and a difficult delivery. I felt safe there, so I chose to have my next two children at Mercy Southwest as well. All three of my boys were born there.

I began working at Mercy in 2005 in the NICU and I knew I found my place to build my career. I was able to be present for the delivery of my



life long friend's triplets and care for them during their NICU stay. I transitioned to Home Health in 2007 and have truly found my family.

Since then I have had 3 grandchildren born at Mercy Southwest Birth Center and we wouldn't choose to go anywhere else. Mercy is home to me and I couldn't imagine working anywhere else.



Mercy Hospital was started from a philanthropic act in 1910, and since that time, Mercy Hospital employees have given generously to every campaign throughout the 113 year history.

In 2010, Mercy Hospital officially developed Our Spirit of Giving, a giving program where employees can donate from their pay check to the selected project in the hospital or an outreach project beyond our walls. Since then, employees have given \$1,852,057 back to the Foundation to support our mission. Included in this is \$441,000 designated toward the new Hardt Tower at Mercy Southwest. The listed employees give at the most generous level, 1% of their base pay. They are living out our values in word and in deed.

2023 Circle of Mercy Members

Tami Albitre
Hannah Ampey
Dereese Banks Aaron
Premilyn Barroga
Stacy Beeney
Ernestina Bermudez
Maggie Blue
Richard Boden
David Bohannon
Krissi Bond
Amy Brown
Herminia Camaclang
Lali Cardenas
Judy Chaidez
Karla Collins
Susana Copado
Susan Crane
Misty De La Torre
Jeanette de Loa
Lisa Demalade
Dottina Dixon
Amara Dobbs
Alisha Erbacher
Estella Estencion
Sergio Estrada
Julee Freeman

Silso Cantong
Adriana Garcia Perez
Angelica Garza
Denise Gonzales
Stacey Gonzalez
Nona Goossen
Monica Grady
Marisol Guillen
Valeria Gutierrez
John Hallum
Toni Harper
Kimberly Hodge
Melissa Howell
Ana Igoa
Cynthia Infante
Lisa Jacoby
Lisa Jauregui
Sheree Johnson
Erica Jones
Ramandeep Kaur
Racquel Kent
Theodore Krumm
Meghan Lansing
Myoshi Lee
Roy Libertino
Cherlly Lucero

Monique Lujan
Jack Marsh
Tara Martinez
Tracy McNatt
Susana Melendez
Noah Mitts
Angela Nichols
Kelliane O'Neill
Eliseo Orozco
Brandi Parsons
Maria del Carmen Perez
Lori Petrelli
Christine Pineiro
Jason Poe
Karisa Pruett
Irene Ramirez
Stephanie Ramos
Tracy Rea
Jerry Rice
Stacy Riddle
Mary Ann Rios
John Rogers
Mary Sack
Mary Salazar
Rosalia Salazar
Kristen Salinas

Ramiro Samano
RaeAnn Schmunk
Susan Sharp
Donna Sharp
Amanda Shaw
Delores Shine
Maura Skibinski
Scott Smith
Angela Smith
Claire Smithson
Sandi Thoennes
Morgan Topper
Connie Tramel
Jessica Turrubiates
Yanira Valencia
Rodrigo Vazquez
Maria Villalobos
Mathew Wallen
Carrie Wombacher
Michal Yniguez
Howard Young
Cesar Zepeda
Maria Zuniga



The Hardt Foundation was created and founded by Thomas M. Hardt in the spirit of enhancing our community. The mission of the foundation is to provide charitable contributions to the community by advancing education and assisting with social and economic needs. Mr. Hardt has a long-standing history of both local and national charitable involvement towards causes, including education, educational facilities, disaster relief and housing improvements for the impoverished. His participation always includes hands on involvement.

Newly Named 'Hardt Tower' will Revolutionize Healthcare in West Bakersfield

Mercy Hospital has been caring for the community of Bakersfield for more than 100 years. To complete this mission, we are working diligently to transform the landscape of healthcare in southwest Bakersfield with the addition of a new tower at Mercy Southwest Hospital.

Many generous donors have risen to the challenge, giving their time and resources to make this dream become a reality. It's this legacy of giving that moved a longtime Bakersfield business man and developer to donate \$5.5 million to the project, one of the largest donations in the hospital's history.

"Like many others in the community I have given to many deserving organizations over the years, but after I met Toni Harper and

learned more about the Mercy Hospital tower expansion, I really wanted to be involved in helping this worthwhile project come to life," says Tom Hardt, Founder, Hardt Foundation.

This transformational gift from Tom Hardt and the Hardt Foundation will help revolutionize healthcare services on Bakersfield's sprawling westside. In recognition of this generous donation, the new four-story, 142,000 square foot tower will be named Hardt Tower. The project will bring an unparalleled level of care to the area by adding 106 beds, new operating rooms and neonatal intensive care units, along with expanded emergency and cardiac care services.

for CSUB's baseball program, donating millions of dollars to help fund the university's first baseball field. He was inducted into the CSUB Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Hardt has been deeply invested in the growth of the community for the past 50 years due to his very successful career in the construction industry. During his time as president of Advantage Homes he oversaw the development of numerous residential and commercial projects throughout Bakersfield.

"I started building houses, one here and one there and that led to building entire communities, says Hardt. "All told I've built well

"Like many others in the community I have given to many deserving organizations over the years, but after I met Toni Harper and learned more about the Mercy Hospital tower expansion, I really wanted to be involved in helping this worthwhile project come to life," says Tom Hardt, Founder, Hardt Foundation.



"The expansion of Bakersfield is really in the southwest, which means there is a huge need to have more healthcare services on that side of town, says Hardt. "The completion of this project will allow patients to receive advanced, life-saving care close to home. It will eliminate the need for them to be transferred elsewhere to receive the care they need."

Since moving to Bakersfield in 1957, Mr. Hardt has established deep roots in the community, working diligently to advance the quality of life for its residents. Tom is a proud graduate of Cal State Bakersfield, a member of the university's third graduating class. In 2008, he went to bat

over 5,000 homes in Bakersfield, including the Tyner Ranch development in East Bakersfield."

Mr. Hardt decided to hang up his tool belt last year and make philanthropy his full-time job. In 2022, he founded the Hardt Foundation, a private non-profit organization, with the desire to continue his mission of enhancing the community. The Hardt Foundation provides charitable contributions to the community by advancing education and assisting with social and economic needs. It operates under the core belief that real change happens when people come together.

"I am honored and privileged to be able to work for Tom and share his vision. His experience, knowledge and dedication to the community know no bounds," says Adriana Sandoval-Morales, Executive Director of the Hardt Foundation. "Although the Hardt Foundation is very new, our vision and plans for the future through grants, scholarships and mentoring programs will continue to make a positive impact to the Bakersfield community."

The expansion project builds on a long legacy of impactful patient care in Bakersfield, beginning with the Sisters of Mercy, who founded the Mercy Hospital Downtown in the early 1900's. Their example of tireless dedication to their patients is something Mr. Hardt has experienced firsthand.

"The 'spirit of mercy' the sisters introduced truly lives on in the hearts of hospital employees," says Hardt. "My family have been recipients of their excellent patient care."

One of my brothers needed some extensive treatment when he was born, and he received vital care from the skilled doctors and nurses at Mercy."

For Tom Hardt and the Hardt Foundation the mission of meeting the needs of the community is far from over.

"I am very proud and humbled to be able to provide for such an expansion of the medical services here in Bakersfield," says Hardt. "I would ask others to consider the same. Regardless of the amount we all should be involved in providing medical services to the community."

"The Friends of Mercy Foundation is on a quest to strengthen the medical care provided to the Bakersfield community, and we are thrilled to be part of their quest," says Adriana Sandoval-Morales. And the Friends of Mercy Foundation gratefully welcomes them to the Mercy family.





In 2005, 56 women joined together to honor the legacy of Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

Now, 17 years later, the group of 148 women continue the tradition of meeting three times a year and using their combined \$1,000 annual gift to purchase cutting edge technology for Mercy Hospital. In total, \$2,028,000 enabled the hospital to get the first and only in the county Intraoperative Radiation Therapy Device for women with breast cancer, equipment for laboring women and babies in the NICU, and an advanced blue light cystoscopy to better diagnose bladder disease. In all, 113 pieces of equipment have been purchased. Just as Catherine McAuley noted, there is nothing more capable than a group of like-minded women.

2022/2023 Members

Cherie Aaron
Maureen Andrew
Kristina Andrew
Antonette S. Anich*
Rosemary Anspach*
Kathyrine Balfour
Sandy Banducci*
Olivia Bantz
Marie Batey
Edith Bianco
Lynda Bittleston
Tricia Bland
Annie P. Boehning, NP
Michele Borel
Alissa Buckey*
Vicki Burger
Sharon Bush*
Karrie Camp
Pat Campbell*
Debbie Cappello*
Naida Carlton
Kaye M. Carnal
Sylvia Cattani*
Susan Cerri-Buck
Jennice M. Cerrina
Julie Cesare
Michelle Chantry
Becky Clark
Terri Collins
Kathy Crettol
Sarah Crowley
Candace Cummings
Lisa de Pencier
Joan Dezember*
Fern DiNicola*

Joyce Downs
Jennifer B. Drake
Simona Dulcich
Kristina Elholm-Spitzer
Cherilee Ezell
Gina Fanucchi
Judith Fanucchi
Melissa Fortune
Marilyn H. Fowler
Judy Franconi*
Jan Froehlich
Sheila Fry
Sheryl Gallion
Lynette Gamez
Catherine Gay
Cynthia Giumarra
Keri M. Gless
Marily Grant
Carol Grumbles
Toni Harper
Catherine Haupt
Jane Haupt
Mikie Hay*
Lauren Helper
Kathy Hill
Beth Hoffmann
Patricia Houchin
Lisa Jacoby
Terri Jamieson
Nancy H. K. Johnson
Cindy Jones
Rishma Khurana
Germaine Kimm
Lisa King
Pam Klassen

Karen Krausse-Roesle
Diane Lake*
Valerie Lallo
Dee Ann Lantz*
Marianne Laxague
Patricia MacGuire
Lesia Mackessy
Robin Mangarin Scott
Mary Mazzei*
Ronda Mazzei
Louise McCarthy
Theresa McNally
Cynthia M. Meek
Mary Ann Mulkey
Marjorie Nixon
Cheryl Palla
Carolyn Camp Pandol
Beth Pandol
Mona Pankey*
Barbara Patrick
Jacqueline Powell, MD
Lila Ray
Mary C. Richardson
Monique Roberts
Sherie Roberts
Linda Rojas
Chris Romanini
Victoria Ross-Sanford
Alexis Roy
Barbara Sandrini*
Jolene Schoneveld
Joellyn Schroeder
Donna Sharp
Sandi Shepherd
Juliet Smith

Marcie Soper
Karen Stanley
Diane C. Sullivan
Mora Tang
Donna Toretta
Jane Uhalt*
Marilynn Unruh
Joan Wallace†
Lynn Ward
Kathy Wells
Katie Werdel
Sue Williams
Agnes Wu, MD
Dominique Zaninovich
Tammie Zaninovich*
Theo Zaninovich

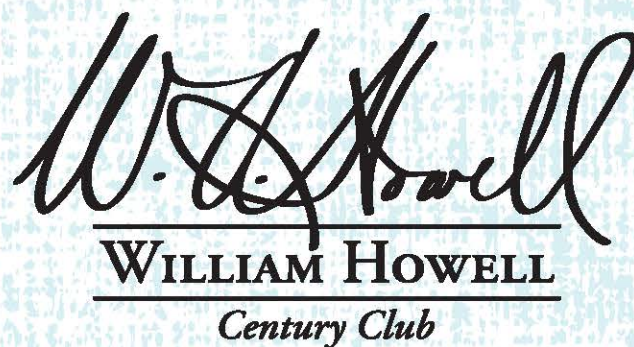
Honorary Members
Sister Cris Caballero
Sister Sherry Dolan
Sister Judy Morasci*
Sister Mary Hope Sanchez
Stephanie Weber*

Memorial Members
Marcelle Ansolabehere*
Patty Bass
Frankie Berchtold
Doreen Boylan-Abrams*
Bebe Burke
Beverly Camp
Jacqueline Coppola
Adel M. Durando*
Patricia Eagleson*
Sister Josie Gonzales*
Yolanda Griffiths*
Ann Hine
Ruth Ann Montgomery*
Margaret Philippe
Patty Plank*
Joan Pracy
Arlene J. Roland
Judith Schwebel*
Florence Schroeder*
Mary Lou Thomson
Jane Toller*
Caroline West

*Charter Member

The William Howell Century Club is a perfect example of how we are better, together.

Started in 2010, this group of more than 100 men gather for 3 dinners, enjoy friendship, fellowship and updates on the state of healthcare in our community. Moreover, they combine their \$1,000 with the gifts of other members giving them a powerful capacity to purchase equipment that otherwise would not be available at Mercy Hospital and potentially not in our community. In all, the William Howell Century Club has purchased 60 pieces of equipment, totaling over \$1,200,000 for the areas of respiratory care, orthopedics and robotic surgery, to name a few. In the words of William Howell, one of the founders of Mercy Hospital of Bakersfield in 1910, a visionary and a philanthropist, "I have done nothing more than what I felt was my duty."



2022/2023 Members

Hal Aaron
Atul Aggarwal, MD
Hasmukh Amin, MD
Steven C. Anderson
Kevin Andrew*
Sean Andrew
Robert Anspach*
Alan Lee Avery
Alex Balfour
Tim Banks, II
Bryan Batey
Antonio Beccari*
Michael Beckwith*
Leonard A. Bidart*
Scott Black
Greg Braun
Mike Burger
William Bush*
Jim Camp
Mike Campbell*
George Cappello*
Fred Carlisle
Jayaraman
Chandrasekhar, MD
Mike Clark
Alfred J. Coppola, Jr., MD*
Mark Costa
Steve Del Papa*

William DiNicola, MD*
Alan F. Doud
David C. Dougherty, MD*
William J. Farr, MD
Greg Gallion
John Garcia, MD
Ralph Garcia-Pacheco, MD
David Gay
Stuart C. Gentry
John S. Gless
Barry Goldner*
Raj Gopal, MD
Angelo A. Haddad
Christopher D. Hamilton, MD*
S.J. Hardy, MD
Bruce Haupt*
Steve Haupt*
Tom Hoffmann
Ross Hoffmann
Kamalnath Iyer, MD
Tom Jamieson*
Ray Karpe*
Ken Keller
Gurvur Khurana, MD
Geoffrey B. King
Hemmal Kothary, MD
Rick Kreiser
Wayne Kress

John Paul Lake
Ron Lallo
Bill Lazzerini
Tony Lazzerini
Angelo Mazzei
Livio Mazzei
Wilbur N. Montana, DO
Donald Montano, DDS*
Mark Mulkay
Chris Muxlow
Joe Nahama
Ron Ostrom, DO
Rodney Palla
Andy Pederson
Bruce Peters
B.J. Predum
Leopoldo Puga, MD
Amudhan Pugalenth, MD
Willy Reyneveld
Randy Richardson*
Joseph Roberts*
John A. Roesle
Vincent Rojas, Jr.
Jerrold Rothberg
Bob Severs*
Greg Sharp
David Shepherd
David Stanley

Tim Terrio
Charles H. Tolfree
Morgan Topper
Trevor Townsend
Larry Wells
Thomas H. Werdel, Jr.
Tim Werdel
David Williams
David Yeager

Memorial Members

Bob Abrams
George Ansolabehere
Romain Clerou, MD
Ray Dezember*
Harvey L. Hall*
Warren Haupt
Ed Hopple*
Robert Sheldon, MD*
Sandys Tang, MD
Uma R. Varanasi, MD

*Charter Member



In 2013, 23 men and women came together as emerging philanthropic leaders.

The Legacy Circle at Mercy was established in 2013 as a way for Bakersfield's emerging philanthropic leaders to connect with others, and continue the legacy of giving that Mercy Hospitals was built on. This group has experienced hands-on, behind the scenes opportunities for many of Mercy's service lines. In total, this group has purchased 37 pieces of equipment with \$206,000 of combined \$500 annual membership gifts. Some technology includes vein finders, Broselow carts for the ER and Neo-Blue LED phototherapy for patients in the NICU.



2023 Members

Ashley Anchordoquy*
Mike Anchordoquy*
Sean Andrew
Kristina Andrew
Steven Antongiovanni
Janet Antongiovanni
Frankie Arredondo
Annabely Arredondo
Jordan Bacot
Katie Bacot
Peter Bajwa
Myra Bajwa
Adam G. Belter
Kelly L. Belter
Stephanie Bouey
Hillary Boylan
Amy Brown, RN

Aaron Brown
K. Samantha Cardenas
Andreas Dauner
Misty De La Torre*
Emily Duran
Ralph Garcia-Pacheco, MD
Emily Gay-Dauner*
Francisco Gomez
Toni Harper LCSW, DBH*
George Hay
Joe Hay*
Sofie Hay, PhD
Loren Henderson
Matt Hornbuckle
Christy Hornbuckle
Steven Jelmini, DPT, OCS
Jennifer King-Wickensheimer*

Valerie Lallo
Anthony McNinch
Lauren McNinch
Doug Pierce
Megan Pierce
Justin Salters
Emily Salters
Katherine Thomas, MD
Laura Thomas
Jessica Turrubiates
Joel Turrubiates
Joseph Whittington
Michael Wickensheimer

**Charter Member*



**Friends of Mercy
Foundation.**

A Dignity Health Member

P.O. Box 119
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Tel (661) 663-6700

www.SupportFriendsofMercy.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Bakersfield, CA
Permit No. 294

Friends Of Mercy Foundation Staff



Left to Right: Toni Harper, Jessica Turrubiates, Misty De La Torre and Kristina Andrew