

Friends of Mercy Foundation Celebrates 25 years of Giving!



The Friends of Mercy Foundation marked 25 years at an event on Monday, September 9th at Mercy Hospital Southwest. Donors, physicians, community leaders and Mercy's management team gathered to celebrate 25 years of gratitude, legacy and achievement.

Over the past 25 years, the Friends of Mercy Foundation, together with thousands of donors, has raised \$25,000,000 in support of technology, equipment and construction projects for Mercy Hospitals, as well as support for our outreach efforts, which extend beyond the walls of Mercy, meeting the needs of the poor and underserved of Kern County.

The Friends of Mercy Foundation was founded in 1988, to raise and administer philanthropic funds that support the healthcare facilities and outreach efforts of Mercy Hospitals, Bakersfield. The tradition of philanthropic giving began more than 100 years ago, when William Howell, Sr. and other community leaders had the vision to ensure that quality healthcare be available for the residents of Kern County long into the future. Mr. Howell was instrumental in bringing four Sisters of Mercy to Bakersfield to establish Mercy Hospital, the first private hospital in Kern County. Today, community support continues to be at the heart of the success of the Friends of Mercy Foundation.

The Friends of Mercy Foundation also received a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, September 10th proclaiming it Friends of Mercy Week throughout Kern County. Mercy Hospital President - Russell Judd, Friends of Mercy Board Chairwoman - Pat Campbell, Friends of Mercy Board Secretary - Catherine Gay, VP of Fund Development - Stephanie Weber, VP of Mission Integration- Sr. Judy Morasci and the entire Foundation staff were present to receive the honor.

For pictures of the evening, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

Mercy's Spirit of Giving Club begins 4th Year!

The Friends of Mercy Foundation kicked off the fourth year of The Spirit of Giving Club, an annual employee giving campaign for Mercy Employees on Monday, September 30th. Last year 370 Mercy employees joined to raise more than \$112,000. We hope to surpass that goal this year.

Each member is able to choose from 3 different projects to fund:

- **The Mercy Park at Mercy Hospital Southwest**
- **Patient Family Centered Care - Comfort Carts at both campuses**
- **Community Outreach: Children in Poverty**

We are just beginning the start of a month long campaign. Sign up today to take advantage of all the weekly lunch activities including:

- **The Snack Bar - Nachos & a Drink: 10/2 at Southwest & 10/3 at Downtown**
- **Dewar's Sundae Bar: 10/8 at Southwest & 10/9 at Downtown**
- **Spirit of Giving Sliders: 10/15 at Downtown & 10/16 at Southwest**
- **La Rosa Bars: 10/23 at Downtown & 10/24 at Southwest**
- **Don't forget we will be rounding for the night shift!**

Pledge Cards are available in each cafeteria, Administration offices or by contacting the Foundation at 663-6700. Thank you to all of our Spirit of Giving Members!



Legacy Circle at Mercy funds brand new technology!

Nearly all of the Charter Members of the Legacy Circle met on Wednesday, September 25th for dinner and to choose what to fund with their cumulative gift. Following dinner, there were two demonstrations of funding opportunities. The first was an EKG demonstration from Randy Hunter, Director of Respiratory Therapy & Jonathan Settles, Supervisor of Respiratory Therapy. The second project was presented by Jeanette Smart, Director of Materials Management and Mike Clark, sales representative from Accu Vein. After seeing first hand how the Vein Finder device illuminated veins with infrared technology, the majority of members voted



to select this as the project to fund. Mercy will be the only local hospital with state of the art technology that allows better access to veins for IV insertion.

By chance, several Emergency Room staff were close by for a meeting and were able to see the new technology first hand and thank many of the Legacy Circle members for their gift. Members will gather for a third and final dinner of the year in early December.

For information about joining the Legacy Circle at Mercy, please contact us at (661) 663-6700 or visit us at our [website](#).

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Friends of Mercy Foundation Board of Directors

At the September Board Meeting, Board Members voted to fund the purchase of a MRI for the Mercy Hospital Southwest Campus. The plan is to locate the new MRI in a modular building that will be installed adjacent to the Imaging Department. The new fixed site unit will permit imaging of all peripheral parts, which will enhance orthopedic and neurological exams. The Foundation will fund the refurbished state of the art equipment as well as the modular building at a cost of approximately \$1.3 million.

Board members also voted to support the Community Care Clinic and the new Inpatient Cancer Unit at Mercy Hospital Downtown. All 3 projects were funded for a total of \$2.2 million.

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