$2 Million Gift to Transform Neurosciences, Stroke Care

St. Jude Medical Center is pleased to announce a $2 million gift which will fund the establishment of the first endowed medical directorship in the hospital’s history—the Marvin Blaski Endowed Medical Directorship for Stroke. The gift comes from the estate of the late Marvin Blaski, a former patient who dedicated the gift in appreciation for the care he received after his stroke in 1996.

“This is an extraordinary gift for which we are deeply grateful,” said Brian Helleland, Chief Executive, St. Jude Medical Center. “The creation of an endowed medical directorship allows us to recruit and retain the nation’s best physicians, aggressively pursue research and innovation, and create improvements in care that will benefit hundreds, if not thousands, of families in the community.”

Hamed Farid, M.D., M.B.A., the inaugural appointee of the endowed position, is Medical Director of St. Jude’s Neurointerventional Radiology Program, and is widely recognized for his expertise in preventing, treating and reversing the effects of stroke.

“This gift opens the doors for research and capabilities that will transform our ability to foster successful outcomes for stroke patients. We are eternally grateful to Mr. Blaski for this gift which will benefit patients today, and well into the future,” said Dr. Farid.

Mr. Blaski dedicated an additional $1 million to future funding priorities for the hospital, making his combined estate gift $3 million. Those interested in leaving their own legacy of support and making a lasting impact on the future of patient care through an estate gift can contact the St. Jude Memorial Foundation at (714) 993-3033.

‘I was a hopeless cause—yet here I am.’

You helped Joni beat the odds

Jo Ann “Joni” Feldman was used to her husband Don getting migraines, but she was surprised when she found herself with one for several days straight. A visit to her doctor lead to an MRI which turned into something no one expected—a trip to the ER. Joni had a ruptured brain aneurysm. For a condition that can claim a life in just hours, Joni had survived it for five days.

That night marked the first of many occasions where Joni would cheat death over the next six months. After her diagnosis, Joni was rushed to St. Jude where Dr. Hamed Farid repaired the ruptured blood vessel through a complex procedure, which by nature ran the risk of stroke and permanent brain injury. The operation was successful, with Joni responding cognitively the next day.

Their relief was short-lived however, as the Feldmans soon found themselves facing complication after complication, and several occasions where Joni could have taken a turn for the worse.

(CONTINUED INSIDE)
Celebrating Our 60th Anniversary

As St. Jude Medical Center celebrates 60 years of service to our community, I am reminded of just how far we’ve come.

What began as a noble undertaking by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and a group of visionary citizens—who dreamed of building a state-of-the-art hospital for their community—has evolved into one of Southern California’s most respected and technologically advanced medical centers.

As proud as I am of our past, I am excited by our vision for the future. St. Jude is entering a momentous time in its history. Thanks to your philanthropic investment, we have upgraded our facilities to offer capabilities unmatched in other community hospitals; we are attracting the nation’s finest specialists and physicians; and we have earned some of the nation’s highest accolades in areas such as nursing excellence, neurosciences/stroke, orthopedics, rehabilitation, cancer and cardiac care.

We are poised to reach the next level of excellence for our hospital. We are turning our focus from bricks and mortar to building up the heart of our organization: the programs and services that improve and save lives.

I look forward to sharing more in future publications, but for now, I thank you for journeying with us as we embark on another 60 years of providing exemplary patient care.

Sincerely,

Mike Hernandez
Board of Directors Chair
St. Jude Memorial Foundation

Thank Your Doctor, Make a Difference

National Doctors’ Day is March 30

We often rely on physicians during our most vulnerable moments, as we place our complete trust in their hands. If you’ve ever felt that saying “thank you” wasn’t enough, this is your opportunity.

Join St. Jude in the worldwide day of recognition for physicians and their contribution to patient health and medical advancements.

Celebrated annually on March 30, National Doctors’ Day allows the community to praise their physicians and make a contribution in their name to their local medical center. On their special day, your physicians will be showered with gratitude as we send them your personal notes of appreciation and a message indicating you’ve made a gift in their honor.

Your gift toward National Doctors’ Day will provide St. Jude and its physicians with the most advanced tools needed to deliver exceptional patient care.

Make a difference in your physician’s life, as they have made a difference in yours! Call (714) 992-3033 or visit donate.stjudememorialcenter.org/DocsDay.

3D Mammography Project Update: 1 Down—5 to Go!

Hope for breast cancer patients
Imagine being told by your doctor that you have six months left to live. Yet, here you are 14 years later, healthier than ever—that is the story of Cindy Wilman.

Two weeks before her 50th birthday, Cindy discovered a large indentation on her right breast that turned her world upside down. She sought answers at St. Jude’s Kathryn T. McCarty Breast Center where it was confirmed she had stage 2 breast cancer. The malignant tumor had grown into her rib cage, concealing it from routine mammogram screenings. Determined to beat this disease, Cindy underwent a mastectomy in September 2003 asking doctors to, “Take my body part in order to keep my life.”

Cindy’s hopes for a bright future became cloudy once again during her first checkup appointment after surgery. The results discovered that Cindy had progressed into stage 4 breast cancer and terminal bone cancer due to the developed tumor in the rib cage. Devastated but optimistic in God’s plans, Cindy’s new normal became radiation sessions five times a week and monthly appointments with her oncologist.

With hope, faith, expert care and the most advanced technology, Cindy overcame both cancers and is thriving more than ever. Because of the community’s continuous support, St. Jude was able to provide Cindy the resources she needed for her survival. “Every penny makes a difference in this fight to beat cancer,” she stated. “Every donor is helping another patient. These donors don’t realize they helped me 14 years ago.”

These days, Cindy is back to her busy everyday life, working as a freelance agent in the music industry and ‘rocking out’ at concerts with friends. She recently wrapped up a five-day project for The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Show, the world’s largest event for the music products industry.

But in her spare time, Cindy expresses her gratitude for the compassionate care she received by devoting her time and knowledge. After every quarterly doctor appointment, Cindy visits the St. Jude infusion center to provide inspiration to current cancer patients. She sits with strangers and shares her story as a motivation to stay strong and hopeful.

“I am so appreciative of my life, to see my family grow, for the memories I would have missed,” said Cindy. “I am here by the grace of God first, and by the staff of St. Jude second. They walked me through the biggest storm of my life, and I am forever thankful.”

Like Rock n’ Roll: She’s Here to Stay

We’re off to a strong start in our mission to fund six new 3D mammography (or digital tomosynthesis) machines—the latest advancement in breast cancer screening—for the St. Jude Crosson Cancer Institute! Since the 3D mammography project kicked off in July 2016, donors have helped us raise $749,000 (and counting!) of our $4.1 million goal, allowing us to fully fund 1 of the 6 mammography machines. The new machines significantly improve detection rates, ensuring cancers can be treated at the earliest stage possible and give patients the best chances for survival.

Join the fight by donating to the project or spreading the word! Visit donate.stjudemedicalcenter.org or call (714) 992-3033.
"She must have gone through 10 or 11 different procedures. They drained blood from the brain and ventricular fluid, she had an abdominal infection, at one point she was on a breathing tube and at-risk for a tracheotomy," said Don, recalling stressful moments from Joni’s six-month stay in St. Jude’s Critical Care Unit—one of the longest in hospital history.

“They later told me that there were a number of times they didn’t think Joni was going to make it through the night—but she did, thanks to St. Jude.”

St. Jude can offer hope to patients like Joni thanks to its multidisciplinary team of medical, surgical and research specialists coupled with one of the nation’s most advanced surgical settings—which was funded through philanthropy. Beyond treating the initial condition, St. Jude ensured Joni completed the circle of recovery through its neurological rehabilitation program, one of the few CARF (Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities) accredited programs in California.

Don hopes the neuroscience program can continue to grow to help people like Joni. “The more research they can do, the more doctors they can have, the more education they can get—my wife is a living example as to why this department needs to be supported,” said Don.

Don also credits his wife’s miraculous recovery with the compassionate care she received while at St. Jude. “If St. Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes, then he belongs in the CCU unit. The nurses and the doctors in that unit don’t quit. They make impossible situations into success stories, and we are so thankful for everything they did for us,” said Don.

Joni has little memory of her half-year stay at St. Jude, but she does remember coming back to visit the CCU staff that took care of her. “When the nurses and doctors saw me walking the halls, they looked at me like they were looking at a ghost,” laughs Joni. “I guess I was a hopeless cause, yet here I am—and I thank them with all my heart.”

St. Jude Memorial Foundation welcomed six new board members—Dennis Buchanan, MD (not pictured), William Lawler, MD, Dorothy Lippman Saloves, Kathy Salter, Cathy Shircliff and Mike Verity.

The St. Jude Memorial Foundation welcomed six new board members—Dennis Buchanan, MD (not pictured), William Lawler, MD, Dorothy Lippman Saloves, Kathy Salter, Cathy Shircliff and Mike Verity.

Thanks to donors who gave to “where the need is greatest,” St. Jude acquired new technology called NICO Brainpath which provides neurosurgeons safer access to treat high-risk intracranial bleeding or tumors.

Seniors from Norwalk High School chose St. Jude as one of nine charities to receive the proceeds from their annual senior class fundraising project, Charity for Charities.

Philanthropy is allowing St. Jude to replace one of its 18-year-old mobile health clinics with a new one, improving our ability to deliver health services to the underserved.

St. Jude Medical Center is committed to fostering successful patient outcomes even in the most complex cases, but it can only do so through continuous support from the community. Contact us to learn how you can help advance St. Jude’s neurosciences programs.
St. Jude Golf Classic Celebrates 40 Years

St. Jude Medical Center will host its 40th annual Golf Classic on Monday, May 15 at Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park.

The Cause
Proceeds from this year’s tournament will support the 3D mammography project, an initiative to bring the latest breast cancer screening technology to St. Jude.

The Day
Registration opens at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. Join us for a great day of golf, food and camaraderie featuring on-course contests, continental breakfast, lunch, hosted cocktail reception, dinner, silent auction and a grand prize raffle.

Registration
The cost is $450 per golfer or $2,500 per corporate foursome. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available. To participate, visit donate.stjudemedicalcenter.org/golf or call (714) 992-3033.

Critical Care Unit Receives National Recognition

St. Jude was recently honored with the Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), a distinction earned by only 24 of California’s approximate 420 hospitals.

The award distinguishes critical care units who exemplify excellence in clinical practice and utilize today’s best evidence-based practices to create superior outcomes for critically ill patients and families. St. Jude is one of only three hospitals in Orange County to be recognized by the AACN for providing this level of care.

Serving the Community Through Shared Vision & Values

When like-minded organizations partner together to increase access to health care and promote healthier futures for all residents, the possibilities are endless. The González Reynoso Family Foundation, charitable arm of Northgate González Markets, generously donated to St. Jude’s Care for the Poor program—Move More, Eat Healthy—which focuses on implementing changes to promote healthier lifestyles in low-income neighborhoods. These types of philanthropic partnerships are valuable in expanding our efforts to serve the most vulnerable.

Through collaboration with others, St. Jude can expand care to medically-underserved neighborhoods, including those outside its primary service area. “By partnering with other organizations, we are able to have a greater outreach allowing maximized results for a greater and lasting impact within the communities,” said Tracy Bryars, Healthy Community Initiative Manager at St. Jude Medical Center.

The González Reynoso Family Foundation’s gift will directly expand the physical education program at Olive Street Elementary School, located in Anaheim, impacting a total of 630 students. The gift will support the school’s Padres en Acción program which provides monthly nutritional workshops to parent volunteers who assist with increasing physical activity for students during recess and lunch. The program is now able to expand from three to five sessions a week.

“We chose St. Jude because of its work within the same community as ours. It’s reassuring to know that 100% of the proceeds donated go towards an influential cause that aligns with our family values,” says Miguel Reynoso González, Co-President of Northgate González Markets. “Many of our employees depend on the hospital for their medical needs and have provided positive feedback from their experience. With St. Jude’s specialty in healthcare and our expertise in produce, we can influence a widespread of families to make healthier choices. Overall, we become team players.”

It is the shared mission to improve the health and quality of life for local residents that has brought both organizations together. By continuing to build partnerships with community-minded organizations and individuals, St. Jude Medical Center strengthens its ability to generate positive health outcomes, foster relationships and cooperation, and empower individuals to care for themselves and others.
Featured Inside

- $3 Million Gift to Transform Neurosciences Program & Hospital
- National Doctors’ Day - March 30
- How Cindy Beat Stage 4 Cancer
- 3D Mammography Project Update
- A Philanthropic Family Gives Back

Contact Us

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Save the Date

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Dinner
March 16, 2017
Summit House Restaurant
Supporting Care for the Poor Programs

St. Jude Medical Center
40th Annual Golf Classic
May 15, 2017
Los Coyotes Country Club
Supporting the Latest in Breast Imaging Technology

John Lin Memorial Golf Tournament
June 15, 2017
Coyote Hills Golf Course
Supporting St. Jude’s Crosson Cancer Institute

A walk among the Stars
Luncheon & Fashion Show
Starring cancer patients and survivors
October 29, 2017
Anaheim Marriot
Supporting St. Jude’s Crosson Cancer Institute