Campaign Exceeds $12 Million for Life-Saving Technologies in New Patient Tower

With the opening of the Northwest Patient Tower in late 2014, St. Jude Medical Center will offer life-saving capabilities available at only a handful of community hospitals in the nation. Among the innovations will be 14 integrated surgical suites, featuring advances in imaging, robotics and guidance capabilities—allowing improvements in care in every area from stroke to cancer.

“Life-changing advancements such as these come with a multi-million dollar price tag, which would be impossible to fund without the generosity of our supporters,” says Joe Lins, St. Jude Memorial Foundation Board member. “That’s why we launched a $20 million campaign, asking our community members for their help.”

As of April, dedicated donors, volunteers, physicians, and employees have given over $12 million, putting the campaign well past the half-way mark.

Leading the list of donors, the late Henrietta and Harold Lee, life-long philanthropists, are changing the face of neurosurgery with the receipt of their $4.5 million bequest. Their gift will help fund the cutting-edge neurosurgery suite.

Designed to create the optimal surgical environment, this suite will combine intra-operative MRI capabilities and image guided navigation – which acts like a GPS system for the brain – with innovative new information systems and digital technology. Currently, these capabilities can only be found at major academic research hospitals.

“What makes me most proud about practicing here at St. Jude is the rate of change and advancement that I see going on,” explains Bradley Noblett, M.D., a board certified neurosurgeon. “As we acquire the latest technology, we’re moving forward quickly in the neurosciences, successfully treating some of the most complicated problems out there.”

The 200,000 square foot Northwest Patient Tower will replace the patient rooms and surgical services located in the hospital’s two original buildings – opened in 1957 and 1962 – which no longer meet state seismic standards.

“We are grateful for those individuals who are stepping forward to make world-class care available to this community,” says Lee Penrose, President and CEO. “To those who have already given, I give you my sincere thanks. To those who are thinking about giving, there’s probably no other cause you could choose that would benefit as many people, of all ages, and from all walks of life, right here in your backyard.”
Retired Doctors and Their Wives Give Generous Gifts to Campaign

“Carolyn and I have been very pleased to see the technological advances that will be incorporated into the new Northwest Patient Tower at St. Jude. The cooperative leadership of the physicians and administration of St. Jude Medical Center to produce a world-class center for brain and vascular intervention will save countless lives in the coming years with minimally invasive procedures.”

“This outstanding accomplishment is a major credit to the people of our community and to our hospital and we thoroughly support their efforts to achieve these goals.”

Dr. John and Carolyn Dymond

“St. Jude Medical Center was established by a generation of physicians that came before us, in conjunction with an engaged community and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. They not only gave me the opportunity to have a fulfilling medical career, but provided us with quality medical care for our family, from the birth of our children to end-of-life care for members of our extended family. It only seems appropriate that Joanna and I, in some small way, help support St. Jude Medical Center as a community resource for future generations.”

Dr. Joseph and Joanna Lawton

“As a retired physician it gives me great joy to see a legacy of compassionate care carried forward with the new Northwest Patient Tower. New private rooms with a daybed for visiting family will help loved ones take part in the healing process, allowing for the best possible care while in the hospital and a seamless transition home following hospitalization. Ellen and I appreciate that St. Jude Medical Center has always put the needs of patients and families first. Having been associated with St. Jude for over 50 years, we are so proud to help St. Jude advance for the future of health care in our community.”

Dr. Bert and Ellen Justus

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thanks to your generous support, this year’s Neighbors Helping Neighbors event raised over $125,000 for St. Jude Medical Center’s Care for the Poor program. A touching video premiered that evening highlighting the critical medical and dental services for pediatric patients at the Neighborhood Health Center. Your contributions have been invaluable in helping us build healthier communities. Thank You!

Gary Parkinson, proprietor of Summit House Restaurant and NHN Committee Chair, pictured with Sr. MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ at the March 21st event.

The St. Jude Volunteer Youth Leadership Team organized their first fundraising event – a teen talent show, The ShowCare, which raised $2,400 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. (l-r) Gian Manahan, Gian Manahan, talent show winner, photographed with Joe Lins, board member and Shimona Srivastava, YLT president.
Lee Family Bequest Advances Northwest Patient Tower

Henrietta Lee passed away in 2008 at age 94, but her legacy as a philanthropist who supported medical research and health care issues at many institutions in Southern California will continue forever. Henrietta, and her husband Harold, who predeceased her in 1990, will continue to help patients at St. Jude Medical Center receive advanced, live-saving treatment in our new Northwest Patient Tower. Receipt of her timely bequest allowed St. Jude to invest in technology which might not have been possible without her extraordinary gift.

“We feel so blessed that Mr. and Mrs. Lee chose St. Jude as the recipient of this extraordinary gift. Mrs. Lee is a shining example of the difference a dedicated, grateful patient can make. This donation will allow us to proceed with confidence into the future and continue to bring the best facilities and highest quality care to the communities we serve.”

Lee Penrose, President and CEO, St. Jude Medical Center

Arnold Glassman
2/16/1933 - 4/19/2013

In appreciation of Arnold Glassman, former Chair of St. Jude Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, for his many years of volunteer service and generous support of St. Jude Medical Center. His commitment to excellence shined brightly!

THE BEQUEST: How does it work?

A charitable bequest is a way for you to express your specific philanthropic wishes. In fact, the bequest is the most frequently used method to support charity in America.

A bequest may take a number of forms:
- a specific dollar amount
- a percentage of your estate
- specific assets

Some may think philanthropy is reserved for those with vast assets, but the truth is that every bequest to St. Jude Medical Center is important and goes a long way to improve health care for the people we serve.

If you would like information about making a charitable bequest, please contact Carolyn Swanson, Director of Planned Estate Giving, at (714) 992-3033, Carolyn.Swanson@stjoe.org, or visit www.stjudemedicalcenter.org/plannedgiving to learn more.

If you are our “secret admirer” – please let us know that you have included St. Jude in your estate plans so we can thank you.

St. Jude Medical Center received a $3 million distribution from the Lee estate in 2011. It was then, and still is, the largest single gift ever received from an individual by St. Jude. We celebrated her life and generosity with Henrietta’s family at a special luncheon in June of 2011.

A second distribution of $1.5 million in January 2013 put the Northwest Patient Tower campaign over the $12 million mark and gave us the momentum to launch our public fundraising campaign with a goal of $20 million.
Ana De Perez, first year model for the 23rd Annual A Walk Among the Stars Fashion Show and Luncheon in 2012, had breast cancer ten years ago and was diagnosed again in 2011. “I decided to stay positive, allow the Lord to truly help me – be more involved with my community, and not let this crush my spirits as it had ten years ago,” said Ana. She underwent a hysterectomy, bilateral mastectomy, chemotherapy and reconstructive surgery. “After that, I felt like my body had been run over by a freight train.” Her bones ached, and she felt stiff and fatigued. Physical therapy twice a week through the STAR cancer rehabilitation program at St. Jude Centers for Rehabilitation and Wellness eased her symptoms while building her endurance as she went back to work. “After completing the STAR cancer rehabilitation program,” Ana noted, “I feel like it’s made a huge difference.”

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Visit our website to watch our new video:
Improving the Patient Experience in the Northwest Patient Tower
stjudemedicalcenter.org/memorialfoundation

Featured Updates:
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