2014 Report to the Community
Dear Friends,

The St. Francis Foundation of Santa Barbara had a successful year carrying out our vital work in the community. This was truly a year of caring, and through our legacy in the community, we are grateful to be able to continue giving back to the community and supporting the health and well-being of those who are most in need.

While St. Francis Foundation supports a number of local services through our nonprofit grant program, the heart of our ability to give back to the community is through our support of the Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program, managed by Cottage Health System. As the major funder of Parish Nursing, the St. Francis Foundation makes it possible to meet the healthcare needs of thousands of individuals and families in Santa Barbara’s culturally diverse community each year.

The Parish Nurses exemplify the mission of the St. Francis Foundation by bringing a caring and healing touch to the most vulnerable members of our community. From providing preventive healthcare to low-income and homeless families and individuals to providing a kind ear to listen to a senior, Parish Nurses create a foundation of better health for our entire community.

Parish Nurses bring health and healing, and most importantly, the human touch that is the hallmark of the St. Francis Foundation approach, providing health assessments, education and emotional and spiritual support for individuals and families dealing with healthcare challenges. The role of Parish Nursing is more important than ever, as more and more people in our community suffer the devastating effects of the economic climate. We are able to provide for these individuals during their time of need only through the generosity of our supporters.

We hope you will take time to enjoy the story of how one of our shining stars, our Parish Nurses, is helping to keep our community’s most vulnerable seniors healthy and independent.

Please join us in celebrating and appreciating the extraordinary work the Parish Nurses do in the community to keep the spirit of St. Francis alive.

Dianne Duva
Board President

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A Special Thank You:
St. Francis Angels

In June at our Annual Appreciation Luncheon, St. Francis Foundation and supporters celebrated three of our “St. Francis Angels”, dedicated board members who termed off the board. Andrew Ochsner, Dave Peri, and Dr. Michael Bordofsky* (who transitioned from our active board to Honorary Board).

We also honor our St. Francis Angels from 2012: Honorary Members Linda Alderman, Dr. Thomas Ochsner, and Marilyn Rickard Schafer. Thank you to each of our “Angels,” for the significant contributions you have made to shape and ensure the success of the St. Francis Foundation.

~ 2014 ~

Andrew Ochsner  Dave Peri  *Michael Bordofsky, M.D (Honorary Board 2014)

~ 2012 ~

Thomas G. Ochsner, M.D.  Linda Alderman  Marilyn Rickard Schafer

The St. Francis Foundation of Santa Barbara promotes and supports health and healing in the Santa Barbara South Coast community, with particular attention to those most in need.
St. Francis Foundation: Board of Directors

The St. Francis Foundation board is made up of a dedicated group of community members who come together to execute the foundation's mission: “to promote and support healthcare in the St. Francis tradition in the Santa Barbara South Coast community, with particular attention to those most in need.” It is through the time and talent of these individuals that the St. Francis Foundation can support a variety of community service organizations.

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Dana VanderMey
RN, CLL, CLF, CVA
Retired - Active Community Volunteer

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John F. Murphy
Thomas G. Ochsner, M.D.
Dennis Reilly
Elena Gherini-Reis
Marilyn Rickard Schafer
John Skjervem
*2014

In Memoriam

Father Virgil Cordano, O.F.M.
Mary Jo Durenberger
Mrs. Johnny Eckebrecht
Sister M. Sylvianne Mattern, O.S.F.
Marie Louise Peterson
Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program:
Your Help: Making a Difference Every Day

The vision of Parish Nursing is to empower people with disabilities or disadvantages to seek health in mind, body, and spirit; by expanding their knowledge about whole person wellness assisting to identify methods of disease prevention, and increasing access to health and community resources. The Parish Nurses work in 4 homeless shelters, 4 low-income senior housing facilities, 5 local ecumenical congregations, Catholic Charities, and also provide many community flu clinics and other health screenings in conjunction with Cottage Health System. They also serve in the PathPoint Behavioral Health Program, working with 130 mental health clients. One of the many symptoms of mental illness is the inability to adequately attend to self-care or seek medical care when necessary. Many of the PathPoint clients have little or no family support. As they age, their needs often increase, and they may not qualify for other community services. In many cases this important program is the only means of psycho-social support. Your contributions to St. Francis Foundation makes it possible for Parish Nurses to provide services to the clients in their homes and out in the community, creating a healthy, stable community for us all.

Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program: Caring for Our Most Vulnerable Residents

The Parish Nurses work with the most vulnerable people in our community

For most of us, access to preventive care, medical screening and emotional support are a “given.” But for the most vulnerable in our community — including challenged families, frail seniors, mental health clients, and the homeless struggling just to survive — seeking basic healthcare and compassion is not an option. The Parish Nursing Program, managed by Cottage Health System, is the signature program of the St. Francis Foundation and has been serving our local community since 1995. Parish Nursing strives to reach over 14,000 adults, seniors, youth and families each year with caring and healing, and through community screenings and education programs. Parish Nurses serve:

SENIORS: Parish Nurses help our aging population stay healthy and active in the Santa Barbara community, with regular home visits and hands-on healthcare for low-income senior residents of local affordable housing organizations and through faith-based organizations.

HOMELESS CARE: Parish Nurses provide care to some of the most vulnerable people in the community, including homeless individuals and families, and those in transition from homelessness.

END OF LIFE CARE: Parish Nurses assist local organizations with their efforts to provide compassionate end of life care and education, and assist with Advanced Care Directives and 5 Wishes trainings throughout our community.

MENTAL HEALTH: The Parish Nursing program partners with PathPoint’s Mental Health Division to provide home visits, medication supervision, emotional support and education to people living with mental illness.

FAITH-BASED: Working in partnership with local congregations, Parish Nurses are able to address the needs of individuals and families, using a preventative-based wellness model.

EDUCATION: Prevention and education are an important part of the St. Francis Foundation mission. Enabling people to make healthy lifestyle choices every day extends and improves the quality of their lives, and is key to the future of keeping healthcare costs down.

On behalf of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, we are grateful for the funding St. Francis Foundation provides to keep the Parish Nursing Program thriving and serving the needs of our community. Their work touches many diverse populations in Santa Barbara. We are also very appreciative of the ongoing financial support for the Palliative Care Program at SBCH. Funding a full time RN to help staff the program is vital to the program’s success and to the over 400 patients per year served by the Palliative Care Team. Thank you St. Francis Foundation Board Members for your generous support to our community.”  – HERB GEARY, RN, VICE PRESIDENT, Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer, Cottage Health System
A Parish Nurse’s Journey
By Elly Walters-Bible

The Parish Nursing program is able to serve many individuals in our community who would otherwise be unable to meet many of their health care needs.

Parish Nurse Elly Walters-Bible serves clients at Catholic Charities, Our Lady Of Guadalupe, St. Joseph’s Parish and the Food Bank of Carpinteria. Elly reflects on the experience of caring for Marion, a client whom Elly has helped to overcome the many challenges of aging on the most limited means.

As a Parish Nurse one of the services we offer our clients, in addition to basic health screenings and wellness coaching, is assistance in getting through the health care process, which can often be confusing and overwhelming.

Marion is one of the very special seniors I have the honor to care for. She worked in the restaurant business for many years, until her deteriorating health forced her to retire. She now attends our bi-national support group at St. Joseph’s Parish twice a month. Marion has lost much of her eyesight due to macular degeneration, and because she has so many other physical challenges, it is difficult for her to move without assistance.

Marion lives alone, so coming to our group meetings gives her the interaction and emotional support she needs, but she also brings her light and presence to our group. She offers our Hispanic clients a compassion that is truly moving, often giving up her place in line for others in need. Imagine how challenging it is to be a senior living alone, facing total vision loss, on a fixed income, struggling with monthly finances and trying to coordinate medications, shopping and food expenses, while doing all the other necessary tasks to sustain the independence that is needed to live at home alone.

As a parish/faith community nurse, it is an honor to work and collaborate with Marion as she struggles to navigate through the changes in her insurance. I hope that we can all learn to keep our hearts open and increase our patience and awareness, because there are many special needs seniors in our community who struggle every day in grocery store lines, in traffic, getting to their appointments, and doing the simple tasks that we can easily take for granted. My beautiful journey with Marion has definitely helped me become more patient, especially when I meet a stranger who is moving slower than I am.

From Sea to Seeing

Francisco is a Spanish speaking 63-year-old legally blind man who was “dumped” in Santa Barbara from Orange County because they claimed to not be able to help him. They actually gave him a choice to either wait and go through their system, or get a one-way ticket to Santa Barbara, which is “close to the sea.” Francisco was unable to care for himself and arrived by bus with nothing more than a backpack with medications. He found his way to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church requesting assistance. The church secretary contacted Parish Nurse Elly Walters-Bible who was working at Catholic Charities that day and they found an emergency bed for him at Casa Esperanza. Parish Nurse Jan Fadden then took the lead at Casa Esperanza. The Parish Nurses were able to guide him through a maze of circumstances and lost paperwork and after weeks of challenges and numerous phone calls, doctor visits, and denials of services, they were able to get him to SEE International where he was finally able to have vision restoring surgery for bilateral cataracts. With the guidance of the Parish Nurses, collaboration between Our Lady of Guadalupe, Catholic Charities and Casa Esperanza (three of our parish nursing partners) and the surgical experience from surgeons at SEE International, Francisco has had his independence restored along with his vision and now he can actually “see the sea”.

Generous Gift Allows for Purchase of Cholesterol Testing Equipment

2014 brought a new addition to health screenings to the Parish Nursing Program. Due to a generous gift from a private donor, the program was able to purchase a new Cholestech LDX system and testing supplies which allows the nurses to do cholesterol checks out in the community. The nurses were trained on how to use the new equipment by lab employees at Cottage Health System.

Standing, left to right: Cottage lab staff - Jessica Huey and Vanessa Garcia; Parish Nursing manager Jan Ingram, and Parish Nurse Cori Beveridge; Sitting, Parish Nurse Cathy Mollkoy
New Partners for Nursing Scholarships

New Local Nursing Degree Program

For many years the St. Francis Foundation has been funding annual nursing scholarships at Santa Barbara City College through an endowment established by the wonderful volunteers of St. Francis Medical Center. The St. Francis Hospital Guild Associate Degree in Nursing Scholarship (ADN) is awarded to promising nursing students who demonstrate a strong commitment to a life and career in nursing. This scholarship support plays a vital role for the diverse populations of Santa Barbara City College students. The Birdwell Trust, managed by local attorney Stephen Frank, has partnered with the St. Francis Foundation to add additional scholarships for those interested in radiology and ultrasound technology, as well as nursing degrees.

Cottage Health System is also a longtime partner with Santa Barbara City College in the education of ADN nurses. In 2010, Cottage began a second partnership with CSU Channel Islands in order to establish the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program in Santa Barbara County. Known as the CSU Channel Islands Nursing Program at Cottage Health System, the program has the same aim as the Santa Barbara City College partnership: to educate nurses who will care for the Santa Barbara community in the decades to come. The school is located in an office suite adjacent to Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital. The first class began coursework in the spring of 2011. The program now has three classes of students, with one class graduating every spring.

In the 2013-2014 grant cycle for the St. Francis Foundation, a decision was made to expand the scholarship program and a grant was also made to the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara to fund scholarships for students in the Channel Islands/Cottage program.

Scholarship applications are processed directly through Santa Barbara City College and the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara so that students are able to apply for an ADN degree through SBCC, or a BSN degree through CSUCI.

Helping the Community: Nursing Scholarships

As a first generation college student, I can say this scholarship impacts not only me but my entire family. I am deeply appreciative for your support. I cannot say thank you enough.

Growing up in a low income household with working parents made life that much more valuable. My parents instilled the belief that knowledge is power, which propelled me to excel in my studies. Throughout my life, I have participated in extracurricular activities, including volunteer service with children and teens, church retreats, hiking groups and Mexican folk dance. I have strived for academic excellence, always wishing to make the most of my education.

Currently I am involved in the Student Nurses Association and I am also volunteering my time to mentor new nursing and LVN students. I have managed to work in the healthcare field and raise two young children. Work has allowed me to develop strong leadership skills, and learn to interact with a wide variety of people.

My dad once told me, “Once you find your passion, you will be the happiest you can be,” and that is exactly what nursing has done for me.

Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

- Versonia Rios
2013-2014 Scholarship Recipient

“My parents are employed as fieldworkers, working 10-12 hour days to support my four younger siblings. I will have more time to accomplish my lifelong dream of being the first in my family to graduate from college. I promise I will do everything in my power to be the best student I can be.”

- SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, Santa Maria High School Student

“The direction of an entire family is positively influenced when their child makes that important step to continue their education. Many of these young people become mentors and advocates for others.”

- COLETTE HADLEY, past Executive Director, Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara
The Legacy of André Andreoli

At the end of his own life, international master artist André Andreoli wanted to ensure that those in need would be able to face their end of life with dignity, compassion and spiritual support. His bequest to the St. Francis Foundation has been used to fund our Palliative Care Program, Sarah House, Casa Esperanza’s medical beds, Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation and a capital grant to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care’s new Serenity House.

Via Caprese, Oil on Canvas

“On behalf of the men and women of Santa Barbara whom we serve at the end of their lives – truly the dying poor of our community – we thank the St. Francis Foundation.”

–SARAH HOUSE

ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION
Since 1956

What the Franciscan sisters started over 100 years ago, continues today with the support of the St. Francis Foundation.

Grantee Spotlight:
Casa Esperanza’s New Lease on Life

This past year has been a critical transition for Casa Esperanza Homeless Center. Through its new sobriety based program, Santa Barbara’s only 24-hour homeless shelter reaches out to homeless Santa Barbara County residents whom are ready to improve their lives and reintegrate into society with an attitude of success. The redesigned 100-day program offers a phased approach to helping residents access the tools and services needed to build necessary life skills fundamental to self-sufficiency.

The “new” Casa continues to provide 48,000 bed nights and serves up to 144,000 meals per year to homeless Santa Barbara County residents. The Casa Esperanza staff provides the environment of support and compassion critical to encouraging men and women living on the streets to enter the emergency shelter and access the structured navigation based case management program customized for each resident to move from homeless to housing.

“A Casa Esperanza works to help the homeless improve their physical and mental wellness, achieve sobriety, and secure employment and permanent housing. Because of your compassion, generosity, and belief in our mission, lives are being saved and transformed every day. Thank you for your support.”

– CASA ESPERANZA

Your Support Helps to Heal and Protect Seniors

“We are truly grateful for the Foundation’s ongoing support, which allows us to continue our vital work with aging and dependent adults in our community. The grants sustain important work in the community, assisting us to enhance our Healthy Aging Programs and to keep watch for the ever-present danger of elder abuse and neglect.”

– FRIENDSHIP CENTER
Your Support is Critical to the Health of Our Most Vulnerable Families and Seniors. Donate Online Today! Visit www.stfrancisfoundationsb.org

Where are our Parish Nurses?

With your support, the Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program is expected to reach over 14,000 people in need this year. In the past six months, Parish Nurses have already brought care and healing to more than 7,000 at-risk community members through home visits, health screenings and educational programs.

“The support you continue to provide truly makes a difference in the lives of families with children who have cancer.”

— TEDDY BEAR CANCER FOUNDATION

2013-2014 Annual Grants

Each year, St. Francis Foundation of Santa Barbara strives to meet urgent needs in our community through support of the Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program and through grants to organizations that serve as a ‘safety net’ for our community’s most vulnerable people. In fiscal year 2013-14, St. Francis Foundation grants totaled $1,013,034, with the majority of funding supporting two core programs: The Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program and the Palliative Care Program.

In addition to our yearly program grants, the St. Francis Foundation has been able to help fund some capital grants over the past few years, including the Room of Peace at El Carrillo Studios; the André Andreoli Room at the Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care Serenity House, and other capital projects for Cottage Hospital including a nurses station on the 1st floor nursing unit and the skylights in the Sacred Space sanctuary.