Celebrating a History of Healing and a Future of Hope and Support

More than 300 community members, including former staff, volunteers and friends of the St. Francis Medical Center gathered on Saturday, April 10 to bid a final farewell to the landmark hospital. The special celebration honored several individuals and groups who have shown exceptional support of the mission of the St. Francis Foundation.

Those honored included Sister Christine Bowman, representing the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart who founded the hospital in 1908; Physicians M. Dean Vogel, M.D. and Bowdre L. Carswell, M.D.; Lynn Menicucci, R.N.; our newest honorary board members Arthur Barron and Dennis Reilly; and St. Francis Foundation grant recipient organization SEE International.

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Dear Friends,

The spirit of St. Francis was as strong as ever as hundreds of our friends and supporters in the community joined us in April to celebrate the St. Francis Foundation history of healing and to bid farewell to the St. Francis Medical Center building. Parish Nurse Jan Ingram expressed the collective feeling at the event in her original song, "Spirit of St. Francis."

"Walls cannot contain our dreams, they live in those who care, So close your eyes and you can feel that spirit in the air."

-From the "Spirit of St. Francis," an original song written by Jan Ingram

We thank you for the exceptional support you have shown the Foundation. Thanks to your help, the St. Francis Foundation is touching lives throughout Santa Barbara at the locations where people in need live and gather. We are helping the community solve real problems and change lives. From the Parish Nursing program at Casa Esperanza Homeless Center to the Liberty Tattoo Removal Program and more, we are assisting those most in need — and those who are motivated to make real positive change in their lives.

Parish Nurses at Casa Esperanza are literally saving the community tremendous financial resources, while providing their caring touch and health assistance for homeless people whose health and safety would otherwise be at greater risk.

We are able to pass along this financial savings to the Santa Barbara community and act as a pillar of support for the health, well-being and dignity of our community’s most vulnerable.

In this tough economic climate, the number of people in our community who require assistance is at an all time high, and it is more important than ever that the St. Francis Foundation continue its valuable work in the community. Through June of this year alone, the Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program, operated by Cottage Health System, has already served 9,000 people in need in Santa Barbara. This is only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

We hope you will find inspiration as you read through these pages, and enjoy the gift of knowledge that St. Francis Foundation is making the best decisions about where your support is most needed. And know that what you are able to give is having such a great impact on the health of individuals and the ability of our community to care for its own.

We thank you and depend on your continued engagement as we continue to adapt to the shifting needs around us.

Andrew Ochsner
Board President

Thank You!
Reaching Out

Through major funding by the St. Francis Foundation, the Parish Nursing Community Outreach and Liberty programs, operated by Cottage Health System, have already reached more than 9,000 people in need in our community between January and June 2010. Parish Nurses brought hands-on caring and healing to adults, seniors, youth and families through direct services and through community screenings and education programs. In addition, the Liberty Program completed hundreds of tattoo removal treatments free of charge, translating to thousands of hours of community service time for nonprofits. Ten hours of community service are performed by each client, per treatment.

Parish Nursing Profile:
Cori Beveridge and Kim Madden Provide Critical Mental Health Services

Parish Nursing was established to ensure that people learn to incorporate good health habits into their daily lives. Through major funding by the St. Francis Foundation, the Parish Nursing Community Outreach Program, operated by Cottage Health System, reaches thousands of people in need each year through home and hospital visits, screenings and education programs.

In a focused effort to preempt crisis situations that leave those with mental illness in emergency rooms, shelters or even out on the streets, the Parish Nursing program partners with PathPoint’s Mental Health Division to provide critical health services. The partnership began in November 2008, in response to severe state and local budget cuts in mental health services funding.

Two of the Parish Nurses, Kim Madden and Cori Beveridge, join PathPoint’s mobile community support team each day to deliver mental health services to 130 people living in our community. The nurses assess their clients, handle introductions to resources, deliver medication skills and support, and administer medications for individuals with moderate to severe mental illness. Madden and Beveridge work closely with the case managers at PathPoint to address physiological effects the psychiatric medications can have, and also to offer support, advice and consultation. The integration of nursing services with case management helps PathPoint’s Mental Health Division monitor physiological issues that could potentially turn into a crisis. The Paths to Recovery program has saved the community the high costs of emergency room health care and extended hospitalizations, and has been a critical factor in keeping people from homelessness.

This collaboration exemplifies how Parish Nursing works to bring the human touch to the most severe healthcare challenges in our community. We commend PathPoint for the important work they do for people living with mental illness.

“With nurses on our team, we have the ability to be more effective in addressing a person's psychiatric need. It is a true community collaboration, and I couldn't ask for a better partner.”

- Jennifer Newbold, Vice President and Director of Mental Health Services at PathPoint
Celebrating a History of Healing and a Future of Hope and Support

Continued from cover story

The ceremony was an opportunity to honor these incredible people and organizations, also a chance for former employees, patients, those who were born at the hospital, volunteers and others who had a connection to the St. Francis Medical Center, to be together on the site one last time before its demolition. The Medical Center campus will be the future site of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Foundation’s work-force housing program, named Bella Riviera, which is designed to provide affordable homes for Cottage Hospital employees.

When the hospital closed its doors in 2003, the St. Francis Foundation continued to promote and support health and healing, with particular attention to those most in need. We are proud to say the spirit of St. Francis is alive and well in our community, and shows through the dozens of programs we support and through the Parish Nursing and Liberty Programs, operated by Cottage Health System. We are grateful to continue this legacy of caring by giving back to community and supporting the health and well-being of those who are most in need.

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.
“So each of us will carry on what was started long ago.
The spirit of St. Francis is a light that will always glow,
Because walls cannot contain our dreams,
they live in those who care.
Close your eyes and you can feel the spirit in the air.
Peace, and Love, Pardon and Faith,
Hope, Light, and Joy...
The Spirit of St. Francis is inside of me, inside of you.
We will carry on with love.”

- From the “Spirit of St. Francis,”
an original song written by
Jan Ingram
St. Francis Foundation is proud to help fund an organization with a mission to provide a home and holistic hospice care to impoverished individuals in our community who are facing the end of life. Sarah House provides 24-hour residential and end of life care to low-income, homeless and HIV/AIDS patients in our community. From its inviting eight bedroom complex, Sarah House offers a caring home, high-quality medical care and friendly, responsive staff in a comfortable atmosphere of unconditional support.

Sarah House has cared for more than 250 individuals living with AIDS to date, and in 2005, its services were expanded to cover low-income end of life patients. Roughly 50 patients a year, who have no other place to go, spend their time in this caring space. The residences are private bedrooms in a shared living environment and offer full-time care, nutritious meals and assistance with adhering to difficult medication regimes.

The patients come from all walks of life, and they are surrounded with extraordinary kindness at Sarah House. Their caregivers work to ensure that the physical, spiritual, psychological and social needs of the residents are met, regardless of their ability to pay. The staff’s intentions to create a community space with the residents and families truly differentiate Sarah House from a convalescent home or larger hospice facility.

St. Francis Foundation has supported Sarah House for more than five years, recognizing its distinctive approach to helping low-income hospice patients. As a tribute to a $100,000 contribution from the Foundation, Sarah House’s dining room is named in honor of Father Virgil Cordano, a longtime community leader and St. Francis Foundation board member. The Father Virgil Cordano Dining Room reflects the memory of his warmth, inspiration, and kindness, serving nutritious meals to residents and families in a comforting environment.
Meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable has been the St. Francis mission for more than 100 years. We are proud to support efforts that make a significant and positive change for our community members. The additions of the Parish Nurse and night-time aide positions at Casa Esperanza, as well as an emergency taxi service, are saving our community the costs of unnecessary 911 calls.

The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department recently reported that calls originating from Casa Esperanza have dramatically decreased.

Night-Time Aides at Casa Esperanza Create 24-Hour Access to Healthcare

With Parish Nurses and County of Santa Barbara nurses available during the day and night-time health aides available in the evenings, medical coverage for low-income individuals is now available 24-hours a day to members of Casa Esperanza. The St. Francis Foundation provides Parish Nurses during the day and two night-time aides each evening to serve homeless men and women, without the need for an expensive, unnecessary hospital emergency room visit. The night-time aides, who are certified nursing assistants (CNA), assist Casa Esperanza residents with their non-emergency medical needs, including changing wound dressings and taking medications, as well as providing a compassionate ear to listen.

St. Francis Foundation Funds Emergency Care Taxi Rides

Oftentimes, the only access to medical care for homeless individuals is a visit to the emergency room via ambulance. For those who require hospital care, Casa Esperanza has partnered with the St. Francis Foundation and a local taxi service to offer a cab ride from Casa Esperanza to the hospital, reducing the typically un-reimbursed $1,250–2,000 ambulance fee to a $15 taxi ride paid for by St. Francis Foundation. Alternately, when they’re ready to leave, but still need post-emergency room supervision, free taxi rides are provided back to Casa Esperanza for further administration of free medical attention and care.

“I have personally seen how the addition of the Parish Nurses, as well as the taxi service, has greatly benefited Casa Esperanza and the community,” said Jon Turner, Fire Captain of Station 2, which is located across the street from Casa Esperanza. “We used to have many more calls to the shelter and surrounding area for the homeless, especially those of a minor nature. These services have given the fire department the opportunity to streamline the incidents we respond to, while allowing the homeless to continue to have a reliable source to turn to for minor medical care.”
Welcome to our first newsletter, *In the Spirit of St. Francis*. We invite you to learn, through the pages of this newsletter, just how much we have been able to help this year.

St. Francis Foundation Awards more than $1 million in grants

With your help, the St. Francis Foundation of Santa Barbara was able to award grants totaling $1,156,563 to 26 local organizations during its 2009-10 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2010. These grants channel much needed support to the organizations that form a 'safety net' of services in the Santa Barbara community, with a special emphasis on those most in need.

- Angels Bearing Gifts
- Casa Esperanza
- Casa Serena
- Cottage Hospital Parish Nursing and Liberty Programs
- Cottage Hospital Capital Campaign
- Friendship Center
- Garden Court
- Gatekeeper Program
- Gildea Foundation
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County
- New Beginnings Counseling Center
- Pacific Pride Foundation
- Parish Nursing and Liberty Programs
- Partnership for Excellence
- St. Cecilia Society
- Santa Barbara City College Nursing Scholarships
- Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
- Santa Barbara Street Medicine
- Sarah House*
- SEE International
- Tri-County Transportation/Blue Dolphin Taxi*
- Villa Majella
- Villa Riviera
- Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association
- Willbridge

* See stories on page 6 and 7

2009-10 Annual Grants

$1,156,563

- 57% Parish Nursing & Liberty Programs
- 15% Homeless outreach, healthcare assistants, urgent and non-emergency medical transportation
- 8% General Support: Organizations providing medical, mental health and/or homeless services
- 5% End of life care
- 4% Capital contribution
- 3% Medical (Dental, Vision)
- 3% Seniors services program
- 3% Mental Health
- 2% Nursing Scholarships
- < 1% Sponsorships
- < 1% Memorial