SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GALA

THE RIPPINGTONS
WORLD CLASSIC ROCKERS

OCTOBER 13, 2007  VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA
TABLE OF CONTENTS

2007 GALA ENTERTAINMENT 1

2007 GALA SPONSORS 3

2007 GALA HONOREES 4
Humanitarian of the Year
Young Humanitarian of the Year
Patron of the Year
Samaritan of the Year
Gala Honorary Chairs

SPONSOR FOCUS 11

SETTING THE PACE 12

SACRED CARE 13

IN MEMORIAM 14

FOUNDATION NEWS 15

VERIZON CORNER 19

WAYS TO GIVE 22
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The Rippingtons are one of the most popular groups in what is loosely termed “contemporary jazz.” The group was formed and is led by guitarist/keyboardist Russ Freeman. Russ released a one-man project, Nocturnal Playground, in 1985. It was in 1987 that Russ first used the name the Rippingtons for an all-star group of musicians on the Moonlighting project. This ensemble featured David Benoit, Kenny G. and Brandon Fields. The album was a hit, and Russ formed a regular touring band made up of saxophonist Jeff Kashiwa, bassist Kim Stone, drummer Tony Morales and percussionist, Steve Reid, that Russ also called the Rippingtons.

The Rippingtons cut a second album and continued to record regularly. Russ writes all of the music for the Rippingtons, much of which falls in the pop/RB genre. In the late '90s, the group moved over to the Windham Hill label, recording such albums as Black Diamond (1997), Topaz (1999), Live Across America and Life in the Tropics (both in 2000).
During the mid-1990s, Nick St. Nicholas, former member of Steppenwolf who recorded on many of their gold and platinum albums, began his quest to form a band that would appeal to an entire generation. By combining the talents of some of the most prominent musicians, singers and songwriters whose work represented some of the most popular chart-topping hits from the greatest bands in the world, Nick knew he could deliver an outstanding stage performance that would appeal to a mass audience. The end result of his effort is the formation of the World Classic Rockers, perhaps the ultimate classic rock all-star band.

All great bands must have an exceptional foundation as the backbone behind the music. Aynsley Dunbar is one of the elite drummers in music history. He is best known as the original drummer for Journey with whom he recorded and co-wrote four albums including their hugely successful album, “Infinity” that featured mega-hits “Wheel In The Sky,” “Lights,” “Feeling That Way” and “Anytime.” He later joined Jefferson Starship and then Whitesnake with whom he recorded chart-toppers and MTV video favorites, “Is This Love” and “Here I Go Again.”

His voice is recognized throughout the world as the lead vocalist of Santana. For over 16 years with Carlos Santana, Alex Ligertwood provided his unique sound and interpretation on 12 albums. He earned Gold Records for four of those Santana efforts, and scored Top 40 hits with six albums and/or singles. Alex shares Santana’s soulful R&B style that is clearly evident on the Santana hits “Winning,” “All I Ever Wanted” and “Hold On.”

Representing the South, Lynyrd Skynyrd rocketed to fame during the ‘70s with Southern rock mega-hits “Sweet Home Alabama,” “Free Bird” and “Gimme Three Steps.” It appeared the band’s fast rising star would be cut short when their chartered plane crashed killing several members of the band in 1977. However, Lynyrd Skynyrd regrouped 10 years later. Allen Collins, who had since been paralyzed in an auto accident, hand picked Randall Hall to replace him in the band. During the next seven years with Randall on guitar and vocals, the
band would perform sold-out tours throughout the world. They also recorded three hit albums, "Southern By the Grace of God," “Lynyrd Skynyrd ’91” and “The Last Rebel” achieving one of the most inspiring comebacks in rock history.

No classic rock band could be complete without the driving sounds of the Vietnam War era, an era that not only defined a generation but perhaps a country. Nick called on his former band mate, Michael Monarch, an original founding member and lead guitarist of Steppenwolf to provide the World Classic Rockers with the undeniable sound that turned Steppenwolf’s mega-hits “Born to Be Wild” and “Magic Carpet Ride” into two songs whose popularity would span three decades. After his career with Steppenwolf, Michael continued to be a successful recording artist, including his memorable work with Janis Joplin on her “Kozmic Blues” album.

In the early 1980s one band shocked the music world with their stunning series of successful album releases. In 1983, Toto took the Grammy Awards by storm winning seven major awards in one night, including Album of the Year for “Toto IV.” Immediately following their success at the Grammys, Fergie Frederiksen joined the band as its lead singer. Together they embarked on a sold-out, worldwide stadium tour where Fergie performed the band’s many hit songs including “Rosanna,” “Hold the Line” and “Africa.” Fergie further contributed to Toto’s success by co-writing four songs on the band’s “Isolation” album.

With all of the pieces in place, the World Classic Rockers celebrate their 10th Anniversary together in 2007 and along the way, has indeed become the ultimate classic rock band.
REVEREND
CLAUDIA
FEWS

Humanitarian
of the Year

Humanitarianism is based on a view that all human beings deserve respect and dignity and should be treated as such, a concept with which Reverend Claudia Fews, the Minister of Pastoral Care at Burning Bush Baptist Church in Victorville, follows wholeheartedly. Her work in advancing the well-being of humanity extends to not only members of her church, but also through her involvement with the Board of Trustees of the Brothers of St. John of God Ministry, the Mission and Planning Committee of St. John of God Health Care Services in Victorville and the San Bernardino County Child Protective Services. Claudia was nominated and selected by Daily Press readers as one of the High Desert’s Most Inspiring Women of 2007.

Claudia came to the High Desert in 1978, where she began her 19-year career at St. Mary Medical Center in the Pharmacy Department. Active in the church since childhood, Claudia spoke at women’s meetings but always thought that would be as far as she would go. She began to think differently when Pastor David Denson, Jr. of Burning Bush Baptist Church asked her to join him. It was difficult to leave her position of seniority and her benefits, but Claudia knew this was her calling. In the end, she says, “I just closed my eyes and stepped off the mountain. I had faith that this is what I was supposed to do.” She knows now the leadership and organizational experience she gained at St. Mary Medical Center helped her prepare for this new role.

Esteemed for her ‘woman of God’ presence in the Burning Bush community, Claudia has helped many women, men and children begin the process of changing their lives for the better. She serves as a mentor to her “spiritual daughters” – the young women she prays and studies with. Claudia’s challenges in her own life have allowed her to relate well with others going through tough times, and it brings her close to those she mentors. A scripture, Claudia says, that helps her weather those storms, and one she teaches to others, comes from Psalms 27:14: “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” She reflects that it isn’t always easy to wait, and that sometimes we have to step back and lose a battle, but we can lean on the Lord to give us strength during the hard times.

“I try not to allow anyone to cause me to act in a way that does not dignify who I am in God,” Claudia says.

Claudia teaches her daughter to live by the same values. Ayanna, whose name means “beautiful flower” in Swahili, is her mother’s greatest accomplishment. Claudia raised Ayanna with love, but she was strict, as well. “When I stand before God,” Claudia once told her daughter, “there may be things I will be held responsible for, but it will not be for you.”

Claudia is also a community partner in the Family to Family program that works
Anjana Puri is the recipient of the 2007 Young Humanitarian of the Year award. At 18 years of age, she is active with several community outreach groups and foundations in addition to attending college at the University of California, Los Angeles. The oldest of three children, Anjana moved to the High Desert with her family from New Jersey when she was nine years old.

Anjana first decided to get involved with outreach organizations when she was 16 years old. “I watched the movie ‘Hotel Rwanda,’” Anjana said, “and Paul Rusesabagina’s story really stood out to me.” She was already volunteering at local hospitals and involved with the Art of Living Foundation, but Anjana was looking for something more gratifying, something that would change her life. That was exactly what she found when she came across a Web site one day for the Peace Villages Foundation in Venezuela. After talking with foundation staff, Anjana, accompanied by her father, traveled to Venezuela to teach English to disadvantaged children. Soon after she arrived a monsoon struck the area. The school they were building for the children was rapidly turned into a shelter for the families. “I remember it vividly – we would be up until 2 or 3 in the morning, making milk for the babies so the parents could sleep,” Anjana recalled. Upon her return to the United States, Anjana raised $10,000 for the foundation to finish construction of the school.

The project Anjana is currently working on sent her to the Dominican Republic. She originally went to work as a teacher to disadvantaged children. While returning to her residence with friends one evening, Anjana came across young girls working as prostitutes. “I knew child prostitution was a problem,” she said. “I just didn’t realize it was to such an extent, and that it was viewed as socially acceptable.”

Anjana decided to shift the focus of her work. She organized the area’s first ever sex education workshop by asking a physician to donate some time to talk with the townspeople, especially many
women who had never before heard of family planning. She is currently raising money to send a medical operative to the area to focus on women's health, but her long-term goal is to fund a shelter for women.

Currently in her second year at UCLA, Anjana wants to major in international development studies and then attend medical school. She will incorporate both areas of study and hopes to join Doctors without Borders, focusing on Latin American and African regions. She is a member of several outreach groups on campus, including Invisible Children, a group dedicated to raising awareness of exploitation of children in Northern Uganda, and the Polaris Project, that functions to bring to light illegal sex/labor human trafficking on a local and international level. She was recently voted Outreach Chair for the Darfur Action Committee that raises awareness of genocide being practiced in Darfur and encourages students to lobby politicians.

In addition to her other work, Anjana has also spent time volunteering in Peru, Mexico and Kenya. “All of my projects have something in common,” Anjana reflected. “These are people who come from underprivileged backgrounds, people who don’t have anything, and the fact that they are happy despite their disadvantages greatly puts my life into perspective. As I grew up, I realized that the world is so much bigger than our little sphere that we limit ourselves to. In order to get to know the world, we have to step outside of the box, which is a scary thing to do, but can also be the most rewarding.”

SARAH
LAKRITZ
Patron
of the Year

“St. Mary needs our help now more than ever.”

Sarah Lakritz has made a noteworthy impact on the growth and development of St. Mary Medical Center through the giving of her time and resources. Sarah has made the single largest gift the St. Mary Hospital Foundation has ever received. The gift is designated for the expansion of St. Mary Medical Center. In addition to making significant gifts to the Foundation, she is active on the Foundation Board of Directors and the Development Committee. Sarah’s first experience with St. Mary Hospital Foundation was when she attended the 2005 Auction. Since then, she has been dedicated to communicating the importance of St. Mary Medical Center’s work to community members throughout the High Desert.

Originally from New York, Sarah moved to California and started her career as a real estate agent. She recently acquired the Ambassador Hotel and Conference Center, a six story, 162-room hotel in Victorville and is in the process of renovating the hotel. Sarah enjoys being very hands-on with her properties and is active in the day-to-day management and operations. She also owns and operates Ambassador Realty, a full-service real estate company, the Historic Apple Valley Inn and

2007 GALA HONOREES

F O U N D A T I O N  F O C U S  6
As Brother Edward Francis McEnroe walks the halls of St. Mary Medical Center, he greets those he knows – and even those he doesn’t – with a welcoming “hello” and a smile. He truly exemplifies the qualities of Samaritan of the Year. He incorporates the values of Dignity, Service, Justice, Excellence and Hospitality into each of his daily activities, whether within the Medical Center or in his outside activities. In being compassionately aware of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – Brother Ed positively impacts patients, employees and visitors at St. Mary.

Brother Ed was born in the Bronx, New York and is the oldest of two sisters and a brother. Having worked at a city hospital for two years during high school, he became interested in the Brothers of St. John of God’s ministry of providing “hospitality in a healthcare setting.” In 1968, he took his vows as a Brother of St. John of God. In the following years, Brother Ed took classes through the Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, later transferring to Boston College and then Washington College in St. Louis, MO., graduating from Maryville College in St. Louis with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts and a minor in art history.

In 1975, Brother Ed returned to Los Angeles. He became Provincial Superior of the Brothers in 1995. In doing so, he came onto the Board of Trustees of St. Mary thus becoming acquainted with the Medical Center. In 2001, he was assigned to the High Desert community, and in 2002, he joined the Foundation staff.

In his role as Special Projects Assistant in the Foundation, Brother Ed extends the healthcare ministry of St. Mary Medical Center to all he comes in contact with. Since the number of Brothers and Sisters entering the healthcare field is decreasing,
he says, “The future of the Medical Center lies not in a separation between Brothers, Sisters and laypeople, but that we all view each other as co-ministers sharing in the healing ministry of St. Mary.” Brother Ed shares this ministry with community members by facilitating four support groups: Prostate Cancer Survivors, Breast Cancer Survivors, Cardiac Awareness, and Diabetes Awareness.

Brother Ed teaches the heritage, mission, vision and values of the Medical Center at new employee orientation each month. “I go there with the expectation that I am a presenter, but often the new co-ministers joining the hospital will share a new way of looking at something. I end up being reoriented by them and learning new perspectives,” Brother Ed said.

In his spare time, he is a spinning instructor at Blazin’ Gearz, an indoor cycling studio. Spinning, he says, is yet another way of refreshing the spirit through physical well-being.

Brother Ed accepts this honor in recognition of those who founded and continue the ministry of the Medical Center: Newton T. Bass, B.J. Westlund, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Brothers of St. John of God and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. He would like to acknowledge the 1,400 co-ministers he works with daily, and the thousands of those who have given their gifts and talents over the past 50 years. Brother Ed has certainly found his niche at St. Mary in which to utilize his gift and talent.

“Each individual has to find their way of extending the healing ministry, relating to physicians, employees, auxiliary members, benefactors and those we serve – the patients and their families,” Brother Ed said. “For me, St. Mary Medical Center provides that opportunity.”
grade teacher. In 1947, due to health reasons, he moved his family to California where he taught in the Pomona School District. Willard soon became principal of his school and moved on to principal four other elementary schools before retiring. However, he remained active in the community by holding presidency of Toastmasters, the Optimist Club and the library board. He was instrumental in having a new library constructed near the civic center. Willard came to the High Desert in 1988, where he joined Kiwanis and the Cactus Garden Club.

Dr. Robert Weiser has been affiliated with St. Mary Medical Center for the past seven years and serves on numerous committees at the hospital. He is the current Chair of the Foundation Board’s President’s Cabinet as well as a member of the Finance Committee and the Physician Advisory Council. Dr. Weiser is also active in the community. He is a charter member of the Youth Accountability Board and is involved in the Apple Valley Rotary Club. He was President of Rotary for the 1995–1996 term. He also served on the Apple Valley Town Planning Commission in the late 1990s.

Dr. Weiser has been Board Chair of the St. Mary Hospital Foundation Board of Directors since January 2006. He accepted the position of Board Chair to share his “experience in leadership and help to broaden the donor base to get more professional people involved with the Foundation.” He said that he wanted to “reach out to other communities beside Apple Valley,” to work with St. Mary Hospital Foundation for the benefit of St. Mary Medical Center. He added that his reason for being involved with the hospital is “to make sure our hospital is the best and has the best equipment.”

Moving to the High Desert from Claremont in 1988, Dr. Weiser built his own dental office in Apple Valley and opened its doors in 1989. He is a member of the American Dental Society and has been a member of the Tri County Dental Society Peer Review Board for 26 years. Dr. Weiser graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1965 and then went on to the University of Pacific Dental School, graduating in 1969. He and his wife, Wendy, have one son, Todd, 26. Dr. Weiser also has a son, Scott, 36. In his spare time, Dr. Weiser enjoys playing golf and loves to solve crossword puzzles. He said, “I also love to travel, but haven’t had the opportunity to take a vacation since 1982!”

Dr. Weiser and his father have shown their commitment to supporting the mission of St. Mary Medical Center. Dr. Weiser wanted to make a significant gift since he joined the Board of Directors. “I have everything I need,” he said. “And the hospital has greater needs than I do. This is what I want to dedicate my efforts to.”

Dr. Weiser and Willard Weiser said they are extremely honored to be selected as Honorary Chairs for the 2007 Gala.

“When I take a look at those who have been Honorary Chairs in the past, all of the names on the list are important people in the valley,” said Dr. Weiser. “We are privileged to be listed among them.”
Robert Lovingood of ICR Staffing Services has provided quality staffing services for more than 18 years. ICR Staffing Services is the second successful company Robert has started and operated. ICR Staffing Services, is successfully growing in every market it has entered. By cultivating relationships with local, regional, state and national businesses as well as Fortune 500 company executives, the staffing company has been able to meet the strategic employment needs of clients and provide well-qualified, professional candidates not normally found by internal staffing organizations. This understanding of market needs, along with open communication with clients, make for a successful business relationship.

In addition to ICR Staffing Services, there are two other business units of the company: ICR Search and DegreedJobs.com. ICR Search is a nationwide direct placement firm specializing in the engineering and management fields. ICR Search employs four professional recruiters and serves multi-billion dollar international manufacturing clients.

DegreedJobs.com is an online job board catering exclusively to the degreed professional. Since January of 2007, the Web site has experienced unprecedented traffic growth and has realized a 400 percent increase in sales volume.

Besides working with Fortune 500 corporations, all of the ICR Staffing Services business units serve the needs of state, county and municipal government entities through temporary staffing, direct placement and a World Wide Web presence. ICR believes that local businesses should support their communities with time and financial resources. Robert encourages his staff to be involved in community activities. ICR representatives currently serve on three area chambers of commerce boards and are personally involved with various community and industry related boards (Lewis Center for Educational Research, St. Mary Hospital Foundation, California Mining Association, Mojave Desert Mining Advisory Council and Victorville Rotary Club). Mr. Lovingood actively supports community charitable and non-profit agencies.

One of the first social functions Linda Fay and her husband, Bruce, attended in the High Desert was the 2001 St. Mary Hospital Foundation Gala. It was at the Gala the Fays knew this was a community in which they wanted to live and be active. Several months later they moved to the High Desert, and she became involved with the Foundation. Linda has co-chaired the past three galas along with Robert Lovingood.

Linda also enjoys golf and gardening and is involved in Bible Study Fellowship, a worldwide Bible study that has a class in Apple Valley. Bruce is General Manager of Valley-Hi Toyota-Scion and actively involved in St. Mary and other community projects and organizations. They have five children, two in Texas and three in Newport Beach.
High Desert Primary Care Medical Group (HDPC), Alliance Physicians and Premier Healthcare continue to be proud sponsors of St. Mary Hospital Foundation and are proud to be exclusively affiliated with St. Mary Medical Center, as only the best quality of healthcare will do for their patients.

For 16 years, High Desert Primary Care's support has been transcendental in funding the Foundation's 1999 Capital Campaign, as well as the Cardiac Campaign. Furthermore, HDPC, Alliance Physicians and Premier Healthcare actively sponsor numerous community outreach programs. These programs include immunization clinics, health and wellness fairs and expos, local chambers of commerce and their foundations, school sports teams and organizations, school districts, the Victor Valley College District Foundation, Newspapers in Education, Breakfast in the Classroom for the Adelanto School District and many more.

The three medical groups, together with St. Mary Medical Center, also sponsor other major endeavors, such as Senior Select. This free-membership benefit program for adults over 50 years of age brings them unique opportunities of attending classes, seminars, entertainment events as well as access to discounts and special offers on diverse products and services. Through this program, the four organizations strive to be more than healthcare organizations. They are working to bring a sense of belonging and familiarity to the community that in turn promotes healthy habits among the participants.

Locally owned and operated, all three groups are committed to providing their members with outstanding medical care within a friendly atmosphere. Full-time medical providers offer family practice, internal medicine and pediatrics plus a comprehensive local specialist network.

“I feel privileged to work in close coordination with these three wonderful medical groups. They truly care, not only about the physical and mental well-being of our patients, but also about our patients’ time, which is such a precious commodity these days,” explains Niki Balginy, CEO of the medical groups. “Through open communication with our patients, we are able to improve our services and continuously re-invent ourselves in order to satisfy our members' needs. That's why we extended the hours of our Urgent Care Clinic in Victorville, so our patients can avoid going to the Emergency Room for problems that can be taken care of at the Urgent Care. That is also why we made it possible for a patient to see a healthcare provider when they need to, even on the same day, avoiding long waits for an appointment.”

It becomes evident that by offering top quality healthcare within a dignified, friendly environment, and establishing the affiliations that best serve the interest of the community, High Desert Primary Care, Alliance Physicians and Premier Healthcare have gained the favor and trust of High Desert residents. They believe information is a patient's best tool in making the right decisions about healthcare, and they are here to answer questions. For more information about these groups, please call (760) 956-4158.
George and Mildred Lagomarsini have shown their generous spirits again by donating $750,000 to St. Mary Hospital Foundation. The donation will go towards the expansion of St. Mary Medical Center.

Escrow has closed on nearly 100 acres of land in Victorville for a new medical center. There are also plans to expand the 186-bed Apple Valley hospital.

The Apple Valley couple has now donated more than $1.2 million to the hospital. They began making small donations through the Foundation’s direct mail program in 1994. In 2001, they made a gift of $200,000 to the Foundation in honor of emergency room services, and in 2005 they donated $250,000 for a new digital catheterization lab. The lab was named in honor of George Lagomarsini.

“If the funds can help someone, I want to do it,” Mildred said. “I don’t care who it helps as long as it helps someone, because if you don’t have your health, you don’t have anything.”

After 62 years of marriage, the Lagomarsinis have gone through many health issues together, and they realize how critical quality healthcare is to individuals and families.

“George and Mildred Lagomarsinis’ generosity will greatly help St. Mary Medical Center as it carries on its mission and vision of sacred work to High Desert residents,” said Jason Barker, President/CEO of St. Mary Medical Center. “It is an honor for our Medical Center to have the trust and confidence of a couple dedicated to serving others.”

The Lagomarsinis don’t consider themselves wealthy with money to burn, so it was important to them to use their money to impact other lives. It’s also a part of their family make-up to give when they can. Mildred remembers her mother telling her how important it is for everyone to help everyone else. It stuck with her, and George believes the same thing.

“That’s just the way we are,” she said. “I don’t want to help. We don’t want to help. It’s more fun this way.”

The Lagomarsinis worked hard all of their lives. George was an electrical engineer who served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He later worked for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Once he retired he taught at Victor Valley College for about five years. Mildred spent many years as a volunteer with the Camp Fire Girls.

The idea to give to a hospital began many years earlier for the couple after Mildred saw the name of someone she knew on a plaque of donors in another hospital. For the first time she had the thought that someday she and George could donate, too.

“It’s a good idea to put it in people’s minds,” Mildred said. “We love being able to do this. It’s made us happier than anything we could do.”
CarolAnn Tassios recently lost her mother to cancer and wanted to memorialize her mother’s life by giving back in appreciation of the excellent care she received. CarolAnn was invited to speak about her mother’s hospital experience at the Fifth Annual Golf Invitational. Following is her story.

My parents moved to the High Desert in 1995. My mom, Valeria Loehr, had a mastectomy before the move. Then in 2001, she had a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA), which led to having a pacemaker put in. She recently passed away as a result of bone cancer. Her experience at St. Mary Medical Center was as an overnight patient, as a patient who was taken to the emergency department more than once, and as a patient who had tests such as MRI and CT scans. Sometimes I was with her, sometimes I wasn’t, but in all of our conversations she always had the highest regard for everyone at the hospital. She would always say how kind they were, how caring, how smoothly and efficiently the procedures were handled and at the end – when she was in so much pain – how careful the technicians were who administered the tests.

I’ve been driving to the High Desert for 12 years and living here part time for the past two years helping my mom and now my dad. I’ve seen the unbelievable growth that has occurred and the changes that go with it. I read in the local paper how use of the St. Mary Emergency Department has more than doubled. I recently needed to take my father somewhere for emergency help so I mentally went through the list of what I’m familiar with – the local walk-in clinic, an urgent care facility, the closest hospital or St. Mary. I think you could say that St. Mary won hands down even though I must admit I wasn’t too fond of the thought of spending a Sunday in the ED. However, I must certainly compliment the staff for the way they handled everyone in the waiting room that day. We barely sat down and my dad’s name was called. The entire process went so fast I couldn’t believe it. The only thing we had to wait for were the lab results, which is to be expected.

What I saw that day in the ED were the eyes of the nurses, aids, attendants, doctors, all of the staff who helped not only my dad but the other people. Those eyes reflected genuine interest, concern, caring and friendliness. The smiles were not just on their lips but in their hearts.

After my mother died, I thought it would be nice to honor her, so I called the Foundation office and asked whether the hospital had a donor wall. I was told that a new one was being created for the lobby. I explained that I had wanted to go to the lobby on Christmas Day 2006, the day of her death one year later, to take pictures. I was assured that my mom’s plaque would be up for me. Sure enough, there it was on Christmas Day in the middle of the wall and even above a table so no one could sit in front of it!

When the pictures were developed, every shot of the donor wall from all the different angles shows a beam of light from the lobby window shining right on her plaque that reads “In Loving Memory of Valeria Loehr.” Each and every experience that my parents and I have had at St. Mary has been above and beyond. To receive that kind of service is a gift.
DOROTHY WESTLUND

Dorothy Westlund, the widow of one of Apple Valley’s founders and one of St. Mary Medical Center’s original benefactors, passed away near her home in Palm Desert on August 29, 2007. She was 84 years old and although she hadn’t lived in Apple Valley for many years, her touch in shaping the High Desert will be evident for years to come. B.J. (Bud) Westlund, along with his business partner Newt Bass, showed their generosity by donating land to the people of Apple Valley to build St. Mary Medical Center.

Dorothy was born and raised in the “tall tree” country of the northwest. She graduated from Kent High School and went on to the University of Washington. On a trip to California, she was introduced to B.J. (Bud) Westlund. In 1949, Dorothy and Bud were married in Kent, Wash. where Bud’s partner, Newt Bass, served as best man.

As the wife of a town founder, Dorothy played an important role in the development by welcoming and entertaining a multitude of celebrities and wonderful people from all parts of the country who came to visit Apple Valley.

Dorothy was an honored guest at St. Mary Medical Center’s 50th Anniversary celebration last year and the Honorary Chair at the 2000 Gala.

ELVYN REEVES

St. Mary Medical Center lost a great friend in February with the passing of Elvyn Reeves. Elvyn was one month shy of his 99th birthday when he died on February 3, 2007. He lived in Apple Valley for 37 years, and will long be remembered at St. Mary for his generous spirit and support.

In 2006, St. Mary Medical Center honored Elvyn and his wife, Bernice Reeves, for their $1 million gift to the “Matters of the Heart” fund-raising campaign and named St. Mary Medical Center’s Heart Care Center after them.

Elvyn was born on a farm near Modesto on March 25, 1908. He served four years in the U. S. Navy and later used that experience in his 29-year career as a U.S. Immigration Officer and Boarder Patrol Inspector. Elvyn retired from Union Oil in 1970 and moved to Apple Valley.

WILLARD WEISER

St. Mary Hospital Foundation honors the memory of Willard Weiser. He died August 26, 2007 unable to attend the 2007 Gala where he was to be recognized as an Honorary Chair for his example of philanthropy. More of his story is on page 8.
What do you call a committee made up of 25 individuals dedicated to illustrating the spirit of giving through employee involvement? Why, the Foundation Dream Team, of course! This special group of St. Mary Medical Center leaders was originally developed as the Gala Vendor Committee in 1997 to assist with sales of sponsorships and tickets for the annual Gala. In 2005, they became the Employee Foundation Committee, supporting not only the Gala, but also the Golf Tournament, Auction and Capital Campaign. Recently, they appropriately renamed themselves the Foundation Dream Team. They make dreams come true by bringing in financial support for the Medical Center, thus making a major difference in the lives of the people they reach.

Over the past year, the Foundation Dream Team worked diligently to promote the importance of contributing to the hospital by employees. And their efforts produced tremendously positive results with nearly 500 employees becoming involved!

For the 2007 Auction, the Dream Team brought in $11,339 through ‘Honor A Nurse’ sponsorships, donated items and ticket sales. The team was responsible for bringing in $18,300 for the 2007 Golf Invitational. And when the goal for the 2006 Gala was set at $90,000, some were skeptical that this could be achieved. However, that doubt completely vanished when the final results showed the Dream Team surpassed that goal by raising $93,000!

Bobbi Hyatt, Compliance Officer, and Lydia Oldfield, Director of Admitting and Telecommunications, are co-chairs of the Foundation Dream Team. “It is truly amazing to compare where we started to where we are today – not only in the amount of donations – but in employee involvement,” Lydia said. “St. Mary Medical Center is a very unique organization where we not only take care of each other, but also work together to communicate the importance of being involved in something we believe in.”

In 1998, the first President’s Cabinet meeting was held. There were six members, whose purpose was to enrich and expand the work of St. Mary Hospital Foundation in the community. The President’s Cabinet has now expanded to 37 members, with meetings held quarterly. Each cabinet meeting includes a beautiful luncheon and a guest speaker. The guest speakers address various topics relating to the community and St. Mary Medical Center. Recent topics include an update on improvements to the Emergency Department, gang violence in the High Desert, and managed care and how it effects reimbursements to the Medical Center. Jason Barker, President/CEO of St. Mary Medical Center, also addresses the cabinet each quarter, expounding on the growth and expansion of the Medical Center.

To date, the President’s Cabinet has generated $154,250 to benefit St. Mary Medical Center and the recent Cardiac Cath Lab campaign. President’s Cabinet members are encouraged to be ambassadors of the St. Mary mission to improve the health and quality of life for people in the High Desert. To learn more about the benefits of joining the President’s Cabinet, please contact the Foundation office at 946-8841.
One of the many ways St. Mary Hospital Foundation supports the healing ministry of St. Mary Medical Center is by sponsoring or co-sponsoring support and awareness groups for people of our High Desert community. Each month about 200 people are provided the opportunity to meet with others who have similar health and wellness concerns addressing four diseases: prostate cancer, breast cancer, diabetes and heart disease. They meet with others who have similar experiences, they discuss their personal circumstances and receive support from group members. It is a place where they can gain information and become better informed through guest speakers who are experts in their respective fields.

Group participants are given the opportunity to become involved in the mission of St. Mary Hospital Foundation through frequent updates on how the Foundation is fulfilling the mission and the various membership opportunities available.

A yearly holiday gathering for all members of the various groups is hosted by the Foundation with Jason Barker, President/CEO of St. Mary Medical Center, the St. Mary Executive Management Team, Foundation Board of Directors, Foundation staff and volunteers.

In 2001 Doreen Hardy, Vice-President of St. Mary Hospital Foundation, through the Foundation’s Physician Advisory Council, invited physicians to be a part of the Foundation’s mission of healing by sponsoring or co-sponsoring support and awareness groups for people of the High Desert. Four physicians responded to her request.

V.C. Reddy, M.D. already had a Prostate Cancer Survivors’ Support Group meeting at St. Mary Medical Center and asked that it be brought into the Foundation. Soon after the Diabetes Support Group became part of the Foundation’s sponsorship and was co-sponsored by the Diabetes Education Center. Dietitians and diabetes educators from the St. Mary Diabetes Education Center facilitate this group. Nanda Biswas, M.D., volunteers and facilitates a Breast Cancer Survivors’ Support Group. Venkat Devineni, M.D., also volunteers and initiated and facilitates a Cardiac Awareness Group that is co-sponsored by the Cardiac Rehab Program at St. Mary. All of these facilitators have presented guest speakers to their groups. We are grateful to all of them for helping us fulfill our mission and being a resource to improve the health and quality of life for people in the High Desert.
There have been some strange occurrences in the halls of St. Mary Medical Center of late. Pirates running rampant, hysterical laughter from a makeshift “The Price Is Right” show and mariachi singers singing “Ay yay yay yay” as if their lives depended on it are just a few of the strange happenings. It is actually a new program implemented by St. Mary Hospital Foundation staff called Adopt-A-Department. Once a month, the Foundation staff “adopts” a specific department in the hospital by throwing a big bash tailored specifically for that department.

Since there are 36 departments in the hospital, a theme party once a month for the next three years may seem a daunting task. However, by combining the talents of each Foundation staff member, one celebration has turned out better than the next. The departments that have been adopted to date are:

- Spiritual Care
- Marketing and Communication
- Environmental Services
- Finance and Healthy Communities
- Community Health
- Medical Staff Services
- Quality Management
- Risk Management

St. Mary Hospital Foundation implemented this program to recognize the hard work and wonderful achievements of each and every staff member in the department being honored. Each Adopt-A-Department celebration combines good food, music and games that serve to build better relationships between departmental employees and Foundation staff. Be on the lookout for “adoption” ceremonies, because you never know which department we’ll be coming to next!
Good spirits prevailed on the evening of May 19, when the Eighth Annual Spring A’Faire Auction and Social, sponsored by Sarah and Leor Lakritz, took place at the Ambassador Hotel and Conference Center in Victorville. More than 150 attendees were on hand to bid on spectacular baskets of assorted items, various sports memorabilia and novelty items, such as a load of rock or sand, a wrought iron dog bed with matching dishes and a cemetery plot.

The evening began at 5:30 p.m. when guests entered the Ambassador Hotel Conference Center, that was transformed from a typical meeting place to a room of white and gold elegance. Guests browsed through more than 130 silent auction items, were treated to a surf-and-turf dinner and enjoyed a spirited live auction. Eight St. Mary Medical Center nurses were honored for their service by hospital colleagues.

The Spring A’Faire netted $62,036 to benefit the growth and expansion of St. Mary, a 14 percent increase from last year’s Auction. Many thanks to the Auction Committee, Foundation Dream Team, and all who participated in the Auction to make it a great success!
The First Five San Bernardino County Commission has awarded St. Mary Medical Center a total of $618,602 for expanding the Family Resource Center. This center assists families with children from pre-natal care to five years of age to get the help and community services they need. This includes addressing needs like helping families find a place to live, providing assistance with food and nutrition and counseling for domestic violence issues. It can also help families pursue educational opportunities, employment and affordable childcare by connecting them with the right resources.

A new component of the Family Resource Center is the addition of a nutrition expert who will work with families to improve the overall health of the entire family.

The morning of April 23 dawned cloudy and cool, but the sun burst through to shine down brightly on the golfers that gathered at Spring Valley Lake Country Club. The Fifth Annual Golf Invitational, sponsored by PDC Facilities, boasted several changes this year. Perhaps the most exciting change from the past tournaments was moving from a Saturday to a Monday. Participation in the tournament jumped from 92 players last year to 158 players this year.

The golfers arrived in the morning, were greeted by volunteers and received their gifts and specially packed box lunches. They then headed out to their respective starting tees. Throughout the day, each golfer had a chance to participate in contests such as Closest to the Pin, landing a hole-in-one to win a Cadillac Escalade from Rancho Motor Company and even playing a hand of blackjack to try and deduct a stroke off their score.

The day ended with a great dinner and awards ceremony, where individuals honored several St. Mary Medical Center physicians. Attendees had a wonderful time, and the tournament raised $44,050 for St. Mary Medical Center. If you are interested in participating next year, please contact the Foundation office at (760) 946-8841.
High Risk Newborns are Transported to St. Mary Medical Center NICU

Last year, 24 fragile newborn infants were successfully transported from other area hospitals in the High Desert to St. Mary Medical Center for specialized care, with a 100 percent survival rate. St. Mary Medical Center is home to the High Desert’s only Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit providing life saving care to premature babies and medically compromised infants.

A community direct mail campaign is helping St. Mary Medical Center replace and upgrade the 12-year-old Neonatal Mobile Transport Unit. A new transport unit costs between $52,000 and $75,000. Through the direct mail campaign, the Foundation hopes to raise close to $20,000 towards this important upgrade. The new transport unit is equipped with life-saving technology, including a thermal regulator to keep babies warm, oxygen level monitors, ventilation capacity and necessary equipment to provide care should complications arise during transport.

Infants are transported by ambulance, and the trip to St. Mary Medical Center can take up to three hours. Staff must be prepared to respond to any change in the infant’s condition en route. The transport unit gives this life-saving team the tools they need to do their job.

Babies Weigh In

There are more than 200 babies that weigh in at St. Mary Medical Center each month. To keep track of a newborn’s weight and the weight progress of infants in our care, a new infant scale was added to the maternity area thanks to a grant from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Apple Valley.
What's New in Labor and Delivery?

The Labor and Delivery Department at St. Mary Medical Center is beginning to use new fetal monitoring technology thanks in part to a grant from Verizon. The new equipment is called QS Perinatal Clinical Information System. It allows doctors to view maternal and fetal information in real time via a secure computer connection. The doctor can instantly know the mother’s vital signs, contractions and the baby's heart beat. This remote access is only one of the benefits of this system.

This new technology allows nurses to spend more one-on-one time with the mothers and chart the mothers’ progress on computers in the patients’ rooms. This decreases nursing staff time preparing paperwork and increases the accuracy of the health record, which is so important to good care.

Verizon and St. Mary Medical Center Bring Health and Technology to High Desert Families

In Adelanto, a grant from the Verizon Health and Technology program has made it possible for young children to learn about their bodies, personal care and nutrition through a new interactive computer program at the Adelanto Public Library. This program makes learning about their bodies enjoyable and fun. A special "kid-sized" learning computer is set up for children and their parents to use during library hours.

The Paul Swick Family Center in Apple Valley has several computers for the community to use. With Verizon’s support, St. Mary Medical Center has been able to enhance the health and wellness software programs available to participants at the center. These include software programs that help develop self-esteem in young people, offer tips for handling emotions and give advise on health and hygiene.
Year End Gifts

Many businesses are getting ready to wrap up their financial year. Year-end planning could lead some to a nice year-end gift that allows business owners and individuals to redirect some tax dollars to a charity of their choice. It is wise to review the various types of gifts and their benefits as well as St. Mary Hospital Foundation’s efforts to serve those in need of medical care.

BEQUESTS
While preparing for the end of 2007, the Foundation hopes many people will include St. Mary Medical Center in their estate plan. There are many reasons why a bequest to charity can benefit the donor and their heirs. With tax rates as high as 38 to 48 percent, this is one area it is recommended people address as the end of the year approaches. The Foundation leaders would love to share with anyone interested how to give those dollars that would normally go to taxes to St. Mary Medical Center instead.

APPRECIATED ASSETS
Real Estate – One of the most popular gifts to charity is real estate. Donors can take a deduction for the full fair market value of the gift if they have held it more than one year. Donors can take a deduction based on its current value even though they paid much less for the property. Also, they can avoid all of the capital gains.

Securities – Gifts of highly appreciated stocks or securities may be one of the best ways to give to a tax-exempt organization. Donors can deduct the fair market value of the gift even though they paid much less. It is important to remember that it must have been held for more than one year. They will also avoid all of the capital gains.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS
Life income gifts are very attractive to individuals who depend on Certificates of Deposit or other types of appreciated assets. These individuals often would like to help the Foundation, but worry they may not have enough income for their needs for the rest of their lives. These gifts can often increase their income, generate a charitable deduction, and on appreciated assets they avoid some, if not all, of the capital gains on their appreciation. The amount of their annual payment will remain the same.

Unitrust – A Unitrust can be for one or two lives or a term of years. The donor(s) receive an annual income based on a specific percent of the principle. For example, a Unitrust of $100,000 paying 8 percent would pay the donor $8,000. The donor would get 8 percent of the corpus each year. They would receive annually a fixed percent of the fair market value of the assets in the trust. The donor(s) get an income, a tax deduction, and possibly a large avoidance of capital gains on appreciation.

Annuity Trust – An Annuity Trust is similar to a Unitrust except it will pay a flat amount each year. For example, an Annuity Trust would pay $8,000 each and every year. The dollar amount would never increase or decrease.

Charitable Gift Annuity – The Charitable Gift Annuity is the oldest type of gift with life income. It continues to increase in popularity because it is good for the donor and the charity. Income rates begin at 5 percent. Income from the agreement is part return of principle and income; therefore a portion of the agreed percent of income is tax-free. Not only is part of the donor’s income tax-free, they also get a tax deduction, and, they defer some of the capital gains tax they would normally pay on appreciated assets.

Lead Trust – A Lead Trust is the opposite of a Unitrust or Annuity Trust in that it gives the income to the charity for a specific number of years then the corpus is given back to the donor or their heirs.

Please contact Doreen Hardy at (760) 946-8759 to discuss the options listed above.

This information is printed solely for educational purposes. Please consult a professional advisor.
ST. MARY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
COMING EVENTS 2008

Ninth Annual Spring A’Faire Auction and Social March 29

Sixth Annual Invitational Golf Tournament May 12

Seventeenth Annual Gala October 11