

Spring 2011

# The View

from St. Vincent Medical Center

News on medical excellence, community outreach and philanthropy from St. Vincent Foundation



## Why I Support St. Vincent

**Kay Meihaus' relationship with St. Vincent Medical Center began in 1952 when her late husband, Dr. John E. Meihaus, joined the staff. 59 years later, that relationship still continues.**

"My husband's practice was associated primarily here at St. Vincent Medical Center, so my interest and loyalty were naturally very strong. In addition, I was born in the St. Vincent hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana," said Kay Meihaus. My mother was a volunteer here at St. Vincent and my father died here. Six of our eight children were born here." Kay's friendship with many of the Daughters also began in 1952 when her husband became a member of the staff.

"My husband, Jack, extended great efforts at St. Vincent Medical Center – especially during the years when he modified the experimental Kiil artificial kidney and established the Dialysis Unit in 1961, which was the first such hemodialysis unit in any private hospital in the world. During this period, Sister Andrea was head of the hospital and she gave her support to make it a reality."

"Following these developments, Jack initiated the renal transplant program which began in 1970," Kay explained. "I feel great attachment to the hospital, because of what he was able to accomplish while practicing here."

Kay feels that St. Vincent Medical Center will always hold a very special place in the memories of her children. While none of them have chosen to follow their father and become physicians, two of their daughters

became nurses – one of whom has a doctorate in nursing and is an assistant professor at a university.

Kay has seen many things change in the decades she has been associated with the Medical Center and the St. Vincent Auxiliary. "Once, the pace of life was much simpler and fairly predictable, allowing free time for everyone to take a more active role," she explained. "This pattern of volunteering gradually changed, as women redirected their interests to well-paying jobs and other opportunities."



*Kay and her late husband, John E. Meihaus, MD*

While things have changed, many things still fundamentally remain the same. "The Auxiliary continues to speak of the loyalty and dedication of its members in promoting the values of the Daughters of Charity," Kay said. "Committed and unselfish women from all walks of life have given generously of themselves as its Founders, Presidents and members."

Kay believes this commitment and generosity is as important as ever. "For more than a century, St. Vincent Medical Center has been a center for healing and service to the sick, and given assistance and compassion for those without resources. This has always been and will continue to be the mission of the Daughters of Charity and St. Vincent Medical Center."



## The View from Our Board Chair Jim Ewing

From the members of the Cornette and 1856 Societies to our Auxiliary, – from the Medical Center’s Guardian Angels to our exceptional physicians and staff, St. Vincent Medical Center is blessed with remarkable individuals who embody the Vincentian spirit.

As we journey through a new and promising 2011, this issue of “*The View*” gives well-deserved recognition to the giving hearts and compassionate souls that energize our mission – the wonderful donors we are proud to call our friends and family. We continue to be inspired by their unwavering kindness and generosity. They ensure that St. Vincent Medical Center has the resources to sustain the high quality care provided to its patients and the vital services it offers to vulnerable populations in the community.

More than ever before, we rely on philanthropy to play a critical role in addressing medical center and community needs. Private and corporate foundations also continue to provide an indispensable source of support for St. Vincent Medical Center. You will read about how a fifth consecutive grant from the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation helps to ensure that high-risk, low-income individuals receive vital education and screenings to prevent diabetes and ensure that diabetic patients learn how to better control their chronic condition.

We also rely on many loyal individual supporters like Kay Meihaus. Kay is a member of the Auxiliary, Cornette Society, and 1856 Society. Her relationship with the medical center began in 1952 when her late husband, Dr. John E. Meihaus, joined the staff and the relationship continues 59 years later.

I am very pleased to announce that for the first time in five years, the family and friends of St. Vincent Medical Center will come together for an elegant evening of fun and fundraising presented by St. Vincent’s Auxiliary, Medical Staff & Foundation. I hope you will join us on Saturday, March 26, 2011 in The Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center for *An Enchanted Evening: Journey Around the World* as we honor the recipients of Vincentian Legacy Award for Community Service, Medicine & Philanthropy. The evening will include international cuisine, exciting entertainment and a special performance by four-time Grammy Award winner k.d. lang. Proceeds from this memorable evening will benefit Casa de Amigos, and help pay for the renovation of Seton Guest Center and the G.I. Lab.

On behalf of the entire Foundation Board of Directors, please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011.

## SVMC Foundation Funds Needed Projects

The Foundation Board carefully reviews funding requests submitted by the Medical Center on a regular basis. While these projects are important for enhancing patient care, they are not within the scope of the Medical Center’s budget. Approved projects are made possible by donors, including members of the Cornette Society, whose unrestricted financial gifts support areas of greatest need. Projects recently approved include:

- **Cancer Treatment Center** \$14,361  
CT Scan Injector - Injects contrast material for CT scans
- **Radiology** \$8,992  
Anesthesia Monitor Upgrade - Monitors vital signs for interventional radiology procedures
- **Radiology** \$70,717  
MRI Monitoring System - Enables vital sign monitoring during MRI procedures
- **Critical Care Unit** \$13,480  
Pacemakers (2) - Helps to regulate the beating of the heart; replacement for older machines
- **ER/Cath Lab** \$10,653  
Ultrasound Probe - Accesses the vascular system for enhanced ultrasound guidance
- **Perioperative Services** \$130,000  
Anesthesia Work Stations (2)  
Administers anesthesia; replacement for older machines
- **Perioperative Services** \$6,920  
Post Operative Cough Pillows (500) - Enables post-operative therapy during rehabilitation, education and emotional support for cardiac surgery patients
- **GI Lab** \$80,474  
Colonoscopes (2) - Enables the physician to view and treat areas including the colon, esophagus, stomach, GI tract and throat
- **Emergency Department** \$9,833  
Transport Monitors (2) - Checks blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation of patients transported from the Emergency Department

## Touched by an Angel

Many patients feel especially “touched” by the way they were treated by a nurse, doctor, chaplain, lab tech or housekeeper at St. Vincent Medical Center. The Guardian Angel program provides a way for patients and families to say “Thank You” while offering gifts to help our Medical Center. These are only a few of our Guardian Angels who offered medical skills, a hand to hold, a needed smile or encouragement that better days are to come.



CCU staff



Doheny ICU Nurses



Patient Relations Team

You can make a secure online gift in honor of your own Guardian Angel at  
[www.svmcfoundation.org](http://www.svmcfoundation.org).

## Childhood Obesity And Diabetes Are Community Challenges – And Our Communities Are Responding!

### FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT



*SVMC MHAP Center outreach team provides body fat screening at the Korean Community Health Fair*

#### The Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation Continues As A Vital Ally In A Battle We Must Win

With support from the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation in 2006, the Community Diabetes Education Program has continued to evolve as a highly productive health outreach program, providing education on diabetes prevention, diabetes management, and glucose level screenings for several thousand people in our multicultural communities.

**This year, a fifth consecutive grant from the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation builds on a five year foundation of success.**

The \$100,000 grant facilitates the continuation and growth of the diabetes nurse educator's role in providing preventive health classes, workshops and screenings organized and facilitated by the same Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center (MHAP) at SVMC, Casa de Amigos (SVMC's after-school program) and at faith-based and community organizations in key locations throughout the Westlake/Pico-Union area of Central Los Angeles. Among the locations will be two LAUSD schools, Union Avenue Elementary and Charles White Elementary. The population in these schools mirror that of the target community where English is a second language in the home, parents are frequently illiterate in both Spanish and English and lack the tools to support their children's educational and health goals.

The emphasis of the programs' work is on collaborative services with local schools, families and partnering organizations to fight the health pandemic of obesity which leads to Type 2 diabetes – a disease that plagues the Latino community.

- Of boys born in 2000, 32.8% are likely to develop diabetes
- Of girls born in 2000, 38.5 % are likely to develop diabetes
- Of Hispanic boys born in 2000, 45.4% are likely to develop diabetes
- Of Hispanic girls born in 2000, 52.5% are likely to develop diabetes

### OUTREACH PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Early Education is the Key To Life-long Health.

Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years and has both immediate and long-term health impacts. This doesn't have to happen. Healthy lifestyle habits, including healthy eating and physical activity, can lower the risk of becoming obese and developing related diseases.

This spring, SOSMentor, a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization that provides nutrition education to underserved youth will be partnering with St. Vincent Medical Center Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center, LAUSD Beyond the Bell, LAUSD School Nursing Services, and Newtritious™ to present the LAUSD Healthy Schools Campaign.

The LAUSD Healthy Schools Campaign is an unprecedented effort to raise awareness about nutrition and fitness in the schools. This comprehensive, youth-friendly education program will involve 700 schools and highlight the benefits of nutrition and physical activity. The goal of the Campaign is to spread healthy messages throughout the community and to improve the health of school communities.

# MEDICAL CENTER NEWS

## Stepping Forward to Help Connect a Nation's Disconnected Healthcare System



*Ronald Shigematsu, MD is among the first of the SVMC physicians who has selected the electronic health record system.*

St. Vincent Medical Center and its physicians are joining more than 180,000 physicians nationwide who are using leading-edge technology to transform a disconnected healthcare system into a connected system of health with Allscripts MyWay, an electronic health record (EHR) system that seamlessly integrates clinical information.

SVMC cardiologist Jeffrey Hendel, MD, believes that the EHR is an important safety initiative. "It will be good for patient care," he said. "We don't have to worry about getting information from a fax machine. This will allow for more readily transferable information among physicians." SVMC will underwrite a portion of the cost of this critical information technology transition.

## New State-of-the-Art Technology "On the Move"

### MOBILE LIVE 3D IMAGING AT THE BEDSIDE

The Cardiology Department has two new mobile high-resolution 2D, with live 3D, echocardiography imaging machines. Equipped with wheels, the echo machines are brought to patients at the bedside for safety and comfort.



### LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ON WHEELS

St. Vincent rolled out new mobile, wireless language interpretation monitors in November and trained staff on how to use them throughout the hospital. The first nine MARTTI (My Accessible Real-Time Trusted Interpreter) devices, purchased with funds from the St. Vincent Foundation, have been brought into clinical areas and the Admitting Department. By simply pressing a button, the audio-video monitor connects to a call center operator, who then connects to an interpreter who can help a patient communicate in almost any language, including universal sign language.

More MARTTI monitors are on order to be distributed wherever patients need

assistance in communicating with their caregivers. Director of Patient Relations Jody Spector said, "The MARTTI allows us to meet our patients' needs for communication in over 170 languages; it has both on-demand, audio and live video capability. We are lucky at SVMC to have such new innovative technology to improve our care and service to our patients and families." Emergency Department Medical Director Kevin Chamas, MD said, "The MARTTI wireless interpreter program has been a big help in communicating with our non-English speaking Emergency Department patients. Patients feel grateful that MARTTI is available to assist in translation."



*Mika Scott PA, Jose Daquinag RN and Michael Silao, MD learn to use the MARTTI.*



Members of the St. Vincent Cornette Society embrace the values of our early foundresses, the Daughters of Charity, the belief in our mission, the personal sacrifice that makes it possible, and the vision to understand that our work today is laying a firm foundation for the next 150 years. Combined gifts from members have a tremendous impact on ongoing care as well as critical needs, large and small, keeping St. Vincent Medical Center at the forefront of health care.

*"The generosity of members of the Cornette Society allows miracles to happen here each and every day."*

*- Cathy Fickes,  
President & CEO*

We are grateful for these Cornette Society members who have generously made unrestricted gifts to support areas of greatest need. The following donors made cumulative cash gifts and pledge payments of \$150 or more between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010.

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**\$25,000+**

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# 1856 SOCIETY

THE LEGACY SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT MEDICAL CENTER

## St. Vincent Can Now Offer Charitable Gift Annuities!

*Charitable gift annuities are a wonderful way for donors to create lifetime income while making a future gift in support of the Daughters of Charity's healthcare ministry at St. Vincent!*

St. Vincent Foundation is pleased to announce that it can now offer you an exciting gift and income option, the charitable gift annuity (CGA). Not every charity can offer charitable gift annuities and St. Vincent is happy to make this available for our donors. Charitable gift annuities are a wonderful way for donors to create lifetime income while making a future gift in support of the Daughters of Charity's healthcare ministry at St. Vincent!

How does a charitable gift annuity work? An irrevocable charitable gift annuity gives you an immediate income tax deduction. A charitable gift annuity pays you (and another person if you so choose) a guaranteed, fixed dollar amount each year for the rest of your life (lives). The payment is based upon your age(s).

For example, if you are 80 and want a good income while helping St. Vincent build for the future, a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity would pay you an annual interest rate of 7.2% or \$720 a year. Of that \$720 payment, \$550 would be tax-free for several years. In addition, you receive an immediate

income tax deduction of \$3,850.

You can fund the annuity with cash or appreciated securities. When you pass on, the remaining corpus is transferred to the St. Vincent Foundation to support the future needs of St. Vincent Medical Center.

In establishing a charitable gift annuity, you also become a member of the 1856 Society, a group of visionary donors who have created a legacy to St. Vincent Medical Center through their planned gifts. The 1856 Society nurtures the mission of the Daughters of Charity who have been caring for those in need here in Los Angeles since 1856. Their commitment to caring has been unwavering and your charitable gift annuity will continue that ministry into the future.

For more information, as well as an overview of what a CGA would pay you, please contact the Foundation at (213) 484-7325. We can mail you specific, no-obligation, details of how a gift annuity can work for you and St. Vincent. Call us today and help us build this exciting new program to benefit the future!

### These donors who have remembered St. Vincent in an estate plan or through another planned gift are making a lasting contribution to the ministry of the Daughters of Charity.

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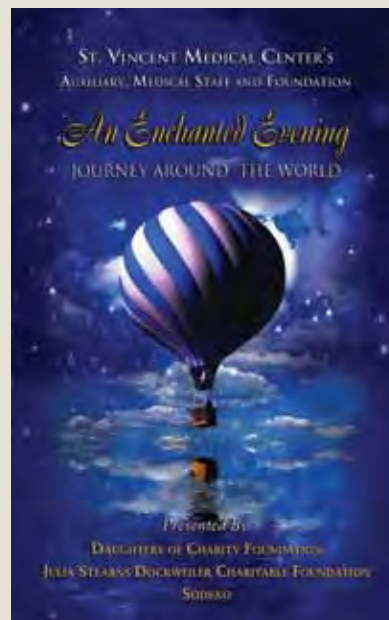
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