

SPRING 2016 | VOLUME I NO. 1

# NEWSLETTER

RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION

THANK YOU



## Your name ON THE BIG SCREEN

We cannot begin to express the level of gratitude we feel for **YOUR** support. But hopefully, our new digital donor recognition display is a beginning. If you haven't seen the 55" big screen display, located just outside of the hospital's Coffee Clinic, we invite you to stop by the next time you're in the neighborhood.

Our new digital display brings with it limitless possibilities through the use of state-of-the-art digital technology. Since the hospital purchased the display for the Development Foundation, we want to be good stewards of that assistance. Surprisingly,

the digital display was less expensive than traditional donor recognition art work, while also being easy and economical to update and add donor names.

The display will eventually become interactive with touch screen control buttons. The visitor will touch the screen and the screen will come to life and tell a donor's story or offer information about our latest fundraising efforts. Stop by and see YOUR name on the big screen, and if you are interested in sharing YOUR story and why you support our hospital through the Development Foundation, please, let us know!

## CELEBRATE!

Our 2016 Donor Recognition Celebration, held on April 2nd, turned into a beautiful sunny day with some of our best friends. If you weren't able to make it to the celebration, we hope you will stop by and say hello so we can extend a personal thank you for your support.



In our last correspondence, we asked for help raising money to purchase a new portable ultrasound unit and docking station for the Hospital's Emergency Department. Your response was quick and generous! Our big announcement—the unit arrived last month.

## BECAUSE OF YOU

—our community's Emergency Department now has bedside equipment that is considered the Gold Standard for trauma care.

Thanks to Emergency Department Manager, Melissa Parkinson and her incredible team, for demonstrating the equipment at the event and for the huge thank you they extended to YOU, our fantastic donors.





# You ARE A PART OF EVERY GOOD THING THAT HAPPENS AT RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL



We would like to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Anthony Damiano, Jr. for allowing us to share his experience at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) and our gratitude for the support he has given to the Development Foundation as a donor. Tony, we are so grateful!

We believe that our donors are an important part of every good thing that happens at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. Here is Tony's story:

In June of 2002, Tony was reading and at 10:30PM he told his wife he was going to see a doctor. His heart and chest were constricting with numbness on his left side. His wife drove him to the Hospital's Emergency Department (ED). In the lobby, a nurse checked his blood pressure and he was quickly rushed into the back room where monitors were placed on his chest, an x-ray was taken of his heart, and the ED team called the Mercy Air to arrange for air transportation to move Tony to the Heart Hospital in Bakersfield.

An emergency stent placement was scheduled for 6AM in Bakersfield, but by 1:00AM his blood pressure was so high that a clot-buster had to be administered to thin his blood so he could make the trip to Bakersfield. By 2:00AM, his blood pressure was normalized and he was put onboard a helicopter on his way to Bakersfield. Tony told us, "The ED nurses and doctors saved me for another day and a successful stent placement in Bakersfield."

*"The ED nurses and doctors saved me for another day and a successful stent placement in Bakersfield."*

About 6:30PM, on January 3 of 2016, Tony dropped a container and felt numbness on his left side. Fortunately, he recognized that he was having a stroke and his wife once again rushed him to the ED. Again the ED team started monitoring and ordered an x-ray. By 8:00PM, a television screen and camera were placed in front of his bed. Thanks to the ED's emergency telemedicine equipment, a Specialist-on-Call Neurologist from Boston appeared on the screen. The imaging of his head had been uploaded and the Neurologist in Boston could see his brain and blood flow. He examined Tony by having him conduct speech and coordination tasks. The Neurologist and staff ED doctor diagnosed his condition as a transient ischemic attack (TIA).

Meanwhile, the nursing staff tried to find an accepting hospital bed with heart and neurology specialist available on site. Unfortunately, no other hospital with the right specialty team would accept the transfer. Instead, he was admitted for observation from 3 to 5 January at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. The hospital's physician and the Specialist-on-Call monitored him until they determined that the TIA had subsided without major damage.

Tony's closing remarks, *"Ridgecrest Regional Hospital doctors, nurses, and staff provided me, and provide the community with valuable medical services. The hospital administration has grasped the technology and attracted more specialists to provide a full spectrum hospital service. I give my thanks to the dedicated staff nurses, doctors, and administration of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital."*

**Dr. Damiano's story is so important because it emphasizes how important the Emergency Department is to our community, and the benefit of state-of-the-art equipment.**







# ONE INCREDIBLE DONOR

## *One Special Friend*

Not too long ago, Gibert Cornell, or Gil as he kindly reminded us, stopped by the Development Foundation office to see how he could get one of our **GRATITUDE *changes* EVERYTHING** t-shirts. Gil saw the team in our Cardiac Rehab department wearing their t-shirts on our Foundation Friday and he wanted one. We soon found out that he has been a long time supporter of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. It turns out that Gil has 17 plates on the foundation's Children Kingdom. One for each member of his family. When we mentioned our 2016 Annual Fund for Excellence goal to purchase an Automated Breast Ultrasound unit for the hospital's Women's Imaging department, he quickly said, ***"I'm in!"***

Wow! We found his story so inspiring that we just had to share. He was reluctant to have such glowing recognition, but he told us, ***"if my story inspires just one other person to support the Hospital through the Development Foundation, then please share my story."***



Here is his story as told by Betty Phillips of the Cardiac Rehab Department: Gil began his journey with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's Cardiac Rehabilitation Department in January of 2004. After a heart attack, he had a stent placed in a blocked coronary artery to allow blood flow back to the major vessels of his heart. His recovery brought him to the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital where he began an individualized exercise program under the watchful eye of a doctor, an exercise physiologist (Eric Wicker), an RN (Betty Phillips), and a Cardiology Aide (Jan Roberts).

After three months in the program Gil regained his strength and endurance. He was discharged from the program and began his own exercise program. Sometime later, the Cardiac Rehab department did a survey of other past-graduates to follow-up on their exercise routines. They found that over 90% said they no longer exercised on a regular basis. Fortunately, the Hospital responded to this need, and the department started an extended program.

By 2007, Gil returned to the fold through the extended program, along with eight other grads. Wonderful friendships have developed and people are living longer and healthier lives. Gil supports RRH and the Cardiac Rehab program every chance he gets. We have had outings such as short hikes, picnics and get-togethers. One spring we met every Saturday morning at Pearson Park and had a Walking Club. We had eight clients, various dogs and several children. When we had a Relay For Life team he joined us. He is a wise, caring and gentle soul. He has grandchildren who he adores and supports with all of their school activities. As you can tell, we just love him and he is the poster "man" of what this Cardiac Rehab program can and does do.

**WE AT THE RRH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION HAVE TO SAY THAT WE LOVE HIM TOO. WE HOPE HIS STORY INSPIRES YOU TO BE HEALTHY, NURTURE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS, AND CONSIDER HOW YOU MIGHT PARTNER WITH US TO HELP RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL BE THE BEST IT CAN BE.**







# DONORS MAKE *Amazing* THINGS POSSIBLE

Did you know, about 40% of women have **dense breast tissue**? And, **for these women – mammograms alone may not be enough to find breast cancer.** Having dense breast tissue can increase a woman's risk to develop cancer by 1-6 times. Women are getting their mammograms, yet in the dense breast tissue population, up to 50% of cancers are still being missed.

RRH Development Foundation's **Annual Fund for Excellence** exclusively supports Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and its commitment to provide the highest quality of healthcare to our local community. With your help, our **2016 Annual Fund for Excellence** will bring new **CANCER-FINDING** technology to Ridgecrest.

Our 2016 fundraising goal will complement the exciting enhancements coming to our Women's Imaging Department through the purchase of an Ivenia™ABUS or Automated Breast Ultrasound - the only breast cancer screening technology FDA-approved for detection in women with dense breast tissue. The Ivenia ABUS has been proven to find 55 percent more invasive cancers after a normal or benign mammographic finding.

- Uses sound waves to create 3D pictures of the breast tissue
- Finds cancers at dramatically smaller sizes than mammography alone
- Produces clear 3D ultrasound images
- Early detection of breast cancer saves lives

**BE A PART OF THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING  
AT RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL. GIVE!**



For more information, please contact Tamara Tilley at (760) 499-3955, by email at [development.foundation@rrh.org](mailto:development.foundation@rrh.org), and check us out on the web at [www.rrh.org](http://www.rrh.org).

## IN MEMORY *& in Honor*

We respectfully recognize these family members and friends who have been honored or memorialized through contributions to the RRH Development Foundation from August 1, 2015 through April 11, 2016.

**In honor of the great staff @ RRH.  
In honor of the Great Service I received earlier  
this year.**

Vivienne Marie Cornell  
Ethel "Pat" Cornell  
Gladys Nisbett Cornell  
Kekoa Martin  
Cynthia Damiano  
"Daddy" Robert W. Herman  
Susan Jeanette Cooper-Petersen

### FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

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