

Simi Valley Hospital

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YOUR HEALTH

FALL 2010

7 Tomorrow's
physicians

8 Make time
for breast
health

9 Delivery
support

2 Million-
dollar
donors



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Making history

IT is exciting to witness a history-making event. But it is even better when you know that there is an amazing story that leads up to that occasion.



Darwin Remboldt,
President
and CEO

When I learned that Kant Tucker, MD, and Irma Harriman, MD, had decided to give a \$1 million gift to **Simi Valley Hospital**, I was, of course, elated for what it will mean in terms of our ability

to serve our community.

Then I began to think about the donors themselves, whom I have known since 1984. In all of my interactions with them, they have always been kind, gracious and caring. Beyond that, I know that they love this community and their adopted country and are so grateful for the opportunities they have here. That is the story behind the story, and it is fascinating and inspiring.

In the article that begins at the right, you can read more about

Drs. Tucker and Harriman and their history-making gift. I'm sure you'll be moved, as I have been, by their stories of growing up in India and Indonesia under less-than-ideal conditions and how, through hard work, perseverance and a passion for helping others, they have achieved success beyond what they could have ever dreamed.

A million dollars certainly has a lasting impact. But so does the gentle touch, the reassuring professionalism and the exceptional service that our staff members provide every day.

Throughout these pages, you'll read about many ways in which staff members make Simi Valley Hospital a better place for patients and their loved ones, as well as our visitors and their own co-workers.

We are truly thankful for the support—professional, financial, spiritual and more—that so many of you invest into Simi Valley Hospital. Working together, we are ensuring a bright future for outstanding health care in our community.

Thakkar Family

Simi Valley Hospital's
Expanded Surgical Suite and
Emergency Department

Thank

Physician couple gives back to Simi Valley Hospital with \$1 million gift

PARTNERS in work and in life, local physicians Kant Tucker, MD, and Irma Harriman, MD, have made history at Simi Valley Hospital. On July 28, hospital leadership formally announced that the couple has pledged \$1 million toward a project that will expand the Simi Valley Hospital Emergency Department by 5,500 square feet and double the number of patient beds from 10 to 20. The Emergency Department expansion is part of an extensive \$41 million project that will completely transform the Simi Valley Hospital campus.

The gift from Tucker and Harriman is the largest single financial contribution the hospital has received since it opened in 1965 and one of the largest single-donor gifts ever given to any Simi Valley organization. In recognition of those facts, the facility will be named the Thakkar Family Emergency Pavilion. (Tucker's original surname is Thakkar.)

"This money is important because it will help us move toward

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s a million

▲ A lasting legacy. In recognition of the million-dollar gift, Simi Valley Hospital's emergency facilities will be renamed the Thakkar Family Emergency Pavilion.

completion of our expansion project," Simi Valley Hospital President and CEO Darwin Remboldt told guests at the gift announcement reception. "However, the significance of this gift goes beyond money. These two physicians have spent their entire careers in Simi Valley. By lending their family name to our new emergency pavilion, they have shown confidence in our community hospital—both now and for the years to come."

Representing the Simi Valley Hospital Foundation, which has

committed to raising \$3 million for the Emergency Services and Hospital Expansion Project, board chairman Richard Sanders shared his thoughts on why the gift is so vital to the success of the project as a whole.

"It is hugely significant that Drs. Tucker and Harriman have stepped forward with this gift," Sanders said. "As physicians who practice at Simi Valley Hospital, they know both the need for quality health care here in our community and the commitment our hospital governing board and leadership

team have to making Simi Valley Hospital a first-rate medical facility. We believe that other individuals, groups and organizations will be encouraged to also become involved in giving to this project because of the example that Drs. Tucker and Harriman have set."

At the reception, Tucker and Harriman expressed their appreciation for the recognition they have received as a result of their generous gift, but they gave much of the credit for their accomplishments to their family and to the hospital.

"Our success was possible because of two main factors," Harriman told the group assembled at the reception. "One is our family, many of whom work at KCI [the doctors'

—Continued on page 4



◀ Great givers. Simi Valley kidney specialists Irma Harriman, MD, and Kant Tucker, MD, have given the largest individual gift to Simi Valley Hospital in its 45-year history. Their \$1 million contribution, memorialized on the donor wall in the hospital's main lobby, will go toward a project to expand the hospital's Emergency Department.

Thanks a million

—Continued from page 3
kidney dialysis business], and the second is Simi Valley Hospital. The trust and confidence the hospital placed in us—and the good start they gave us—made our growth possible. What we are sharing is a very small fraction of the great support we have received.”

“The hospital was so supportive as I established the first outpatient kidney dialysis center,” Tucker added. “I am grateful to the governing board and the administration of the hospital for constantly striving to create a medical center of excellence in my beloved Simi Valley. Nothing we give will ever match the generosity the hospital has offered us and the entire Thakkar family.”



▲ In the spotlight. Special guests at the July 28 event included Darwin Remboldt and Scott Reiner, representing Simi Valley Hospital and Adventist Health; guests of honor and million-dollar donors Kant Tucker, MD, and Irma Harriman, MD; Simi Valley Hospital governing board member Tim Shannon; and foundation board chairman Richard Sanders.



▲ Pomp and circumstance. It was actually graduation day for their son, Michael, and his fiancée, Becky, when Irma Harriman, MD, and Kant Tucker, MD, donned cap and gown five years ago at the University of Chicago. In their home countries, Tucker and Harriman didn't have the opportunity to wear formal graduation attire, so Michael and Becky wanted them to get a feel for the experience.

Achieving their American dream

As Ushakant Thakkar sat on a bench in Manhattan's Battery Park one day in 1975, staring at the Statue of Liberty and contemplating his future, he could scarcely have conceived of the success that lay ahead for him. The same could be said of Irma Harriman, a single mother who was raised on a dairy farm in Indonesia and immigrated to the U.S. to seek opportunities that were unavailable in her home country.

Thakkar grew up in Mumbai, India, where his family struggled financially after a series of events took away a prosperous grocery business. Harriman, too, faced many hurdles as a female and a member of a minority Chinese family in Indonesia.

Persevering through their numerous challenges, setbacks and disappointments, Thakkar and Harriman both entered the field of nephrology, a medical specialty that focuses on the kidneys. They met in the early 1980s, when Thakkar—who changed his name to Kant Tucker to make it easier for Americans to pronounce—

was an assistant professor of nephrology at UCLA and Harriman was a resident in the program. She later joined him in his thriving Simi Valley practice, which also included a joint venture kidney dialysis center at Simi Valley Hospital.

After the two were married in February 1989, they launched the hugely successful Kidney Center, Inc., a dialysis business that now encompasses nine facilities throughout Southern California. Tucker continues to develop networks of physicians for the company and hopes to expand the business beyond the local region. Harriman is focused on establishing a dialysis school for nurses and technicians.

The couple has three adult children—Michael, Tejal and Amit—as well as two granddaughters.

“America is a great country,” Harriman said, reflecting on the decision she and Tucker each made to move to the United States. “No matter where you come from, the opportunities are incredible. Believe me, I know it's true.”

SIMI VALLEY HOSPITAL

Education and support to help you live a healthier life

CPR, FIRST AID AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

The Education Services Department at Simi Valley Hospital offers CPR and first aid classes for community residents, including adult/child CPR. Health care provider classes include CPR, ACLS, PALS and neonatal resuscitation. For more information, visit www.SimiValleyHospital.com/classes, call **805-955-6890** or e-mail SV_Education@ah.org.

CANCER SUPPORT

The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura offers a mindfulness-based stress reduction course at Simi Valley Hospital for cancer patients and their loved ones. For more information, call **805-379-4777**. The American Cancer Society offers a variety of support groups free of charge. For more information, call **805-527-5360, option 3; 805-644-4237, ext. 222; or 800-227-2345**; or visit www.cancer.org.

Look Good...Feel Better

This free, non-medical, brand-neutral, national public service program sponsored by the American Cancer Society helps people with cancer look good, improve their self-esteem and manage their treatment and recovery with greater confidence. Each participant receives a free kit of products valued at \$350. Reservations are required. Call **800-227-2345**.

► **Mondays, Oct. 4; Dec. 6**
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Nancy Reagan Breast Center,
Simi Valley Hospital

GRIEF SUPPORT

A safe place for people who are suffering the pain of losing a loved one, no matter how long ago the loss occurred. Groups are facilitated by Ron Hyrchuk, Simi Valley Hospital's director of Spiritual Care Services. Meetings are every

Thursday in the Aspen Outpatient Center conference room at 2750 N. Sycamore Drive in Simi Valley. Call **805-955-6225** for meeting times and more information.

CHILDBIRTH AND PARENTING

Registration is required for all classes. Unless otherwise indicated, call **805-955-6304** to register. Additional information is available at www.SimiValleyHospital.com/classes.

Maternity Tour

Expectant parents tour the labor and delivery area, learn how to pre-register at the hospital and receive information at this single session. Pre-registration required.

► **Tuesdays, Sept. 28; Oct. 5; Nov. 2; 30; Dec. 21; 28**

► **Thursdays, Oct. 14; 21; Nov. 4; Dec. 2; 9**
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Garden level of main building

free

Prepared Childbirth

Four-week courses are offered year-round. Plan to enroll in the course by your sixth month of pregnancy. Bring two pillows with you to the first two classes. Space is limited, so register early.

► **Mondays, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6**

► **Wednesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (week four until 9 p.m.)

Garden level of main building

\$50 per couple; \$25 per couple for refresher course (weeks two and three); \$12 per couple for C-section class only (week three)

Breastfeeding Class

There's no better way to nourish your baby than through breastfeeding, and it's good for you too. This class will prepare you for breastfeeding and help you make it a positive experience for both you and your baby. Taught by an internationally board-certified lactation consultant.

► **Thursdays, Sept. 30; Oct. 28; Nov. 18; Dec. 30**

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Garden level of main building

\$35

Breastfeeding Support Group

For moms who want to learn more about breastfeeding and for those who are having difficulty breastfeeding. For more information, call **805-955-6300**.

► **Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Women's Unit in Patient Care Tower

free

Baby Care Basics

Learn all about the care of your soon-to-arrive newborn, including bathing, diapering, feeding, burping, comforting and car seat safety. This one-session class is also part of the prepared childbirth curriculum. Space is limited, so register early.

► **Mondays, Oct. 11; Dec. 6**

► **Wednesdays, Sept. 29; Oct. 27; Dec. 8**
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Garden level of main building

\$10 per couple

Sibling Relations

Your older children will learn about the changes that will take place when you bring home a new baby. A tour of the maternity unit is included. Children must be at least 2½ years old, in good health and accompanied by a parent. Please bring a doll or teddy bear with you to class for practice.

► **Tuesdays, Oct. 26; Nov. 9; Dec. 7**

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Garden level of main building

free

Twilight Infant/Parent Class

This class is designed for working parents and their infants or toddlers. Parents learn about child development and parenting, while their children play alongside them, under the supervision of child development specialists. Dinner is provided. For more information, including class dates and times, call **805-955-8120**.

free



For more information about classes, visit www.SimiValleyHospital.com/classes.

HEALTH NEWS

Simi Valley Hospital earns awards for organizational excellence

Professional Research Consultants (PRC), the company that conducts Simi Valley Hospital's employee perception surveys, has given the hospital five awards for outstanding performance on the 2009 survey. One award acknowledges the hospital's first-place ranking among all of PRC's clients in one survey category.

PRC bases its awards on how individual hospitals' scores of "excellent" rank in comparison to PRC's other clients nationwide who also participate in the survey. For example, clients whose percentage of scores of "excellent" in a particular survey category falls in the top 25 percent of all clients receive a four-star award. For the 2009 survey, Simi Valley Hospital received three four-star awards—for the areas of communication, senior leadership and teamwork within departments.

The hospital also received a five-star award in the category of department directors, meaning that the percentage of Simi Valley Hospital staff who rated their department director as excellent was in the top 10 percent of all PRC clients for that category.

In fact, Simi Valley Hospital's percentage of "excellent" scores for department director was the highest of all of PRC's clients. In recognition of that significant accomplishment, Simi Valley Hospital received a top performer award.

"We're really excited about how we did on this survey, particularly when we see how well we compare with other hospitals around the country," said Sandy Werner, director of the hospital's Human Resources Department. "It just reinforces the fact that we are on a great upward trend as an organization. That's something every employee can be proud of."



A lifesaving partnership

Simi Valley Hospital has partnered with the American Red Cross to host blood drives on the hospital campus. Along with the obvious major benefit of donating blood—saving lives—blood drive donors will give a gift to Simi Valley Hospital too.

Although the Red Cross distributes blood throughout Southern California, every unit collected at Simi Valley Hospital blood drives will stay in the community and will be available for use with the hospital's patients.

regarding that opportunity, call the hospital at **805-955-7081**.

No substitute. Dhobie Wong, director of the hospital's Clinical Laboratory, said that the most important reason to donate is to save the life of someone who needs blood after an accident, during surgery, as part of cancer treatment or in other situations.

"There is no substitute for human blood," she said. "There are products that can add volume, but nothing can carry oxygen like the red blood cells. And the only way to get those is for people to make the choice to literally give the gift of life."

Organ donation: Give the gift of life

More than 100,000 people are on the national waiting list for organ and tissue donation, but each day only about 77 people receive organ transplants, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Who can be a donor? People of all ages can be donors. If you're younger than 18 years old, you'll need the consent of a parent or guardian.

The need for transplants is particularly high among some minority ethnic groups. Matching donors to possible recipients requires genetic similarity, and matches are more likely between people of the same ethnic background.

Signing up. Registering as an organ donor in Southern California is simple. Just go to www.onelegacy.org and click on "Sign Up as a Donor."

Step up. The first joint Red Cross/Simi Valley Hospital blood drive, held on July 6, was a success, drawing donors from among hospital employees, physicians and volunteers, as well as the general public.

The next donation opportunity at the hospital will take place on Thursday, December 23. Everyone from the community is invited and urged to participate. To register online for the blood drive, go to www.redcrossblood.org. Under the photo at the top left of the home page, click on "enter a sponsor code." On the page that appears, enter the sponsor code "simivalleyhospital" and follow the directions to complete the registration.

Local organizations are also encouraged to add to our community blood supply by sponsoring blood drives. For information





▲ Learning the ropes. Westlake High School students Brett Kaplan and Ashley Chang took part in the Aspen Surgery Center's first-ever summer internship program. In exchange for 80 hours of work and study at the center, they received credit toward graduation.

Students make summer break a learning experience

Most young people who are interested in becoming physicians have only TV to give them a glimpse of a world that is normally off limits to all but clinical staff and patients. This summer, however, 14 area high school students had a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at Simi Valley Hospital.

The surgical life. At the Aspen Surgery Center, Westlake High School students Brett Kaplan and Ashley Chang worked from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. two or three days a week—a total of 80 hours—between June 14 and July 12.

In addition to doing a variety of tasks around the facility, the students had frequent opportunities to interact with surgeons and to learn how a surgery program works, from pre-admission through discharge and follow-up. They also memorized a number of medical terms, studied a wide range of health and medical topics, and completed two case study reports. Each week, they were tested on the material they had covered.

For their work, the students received five general elective credits—equivalent

to a semester of a high school class.

"With this program, we're trying to help grow good doctors," said Jeanine Maurer, RN, director of the Aspen Surgery Center. "One area in which physician training usually falls down is that the doctors don't know what's going on behind the scenes,

in places like pre-op and recovery. These kids are going through the entire process and are getting the true experience of what it's like to work in a surgery center."

The big picture. The other students who visited Simi Valley Hospital and two other area hospitals were part of the Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program, which is sponsored by the Los Angeles Pediatric Society. Paired off in teams of two, they spent two weeks shadowing physicians and staff in a number of hospital departments.

"We're trying to expose them to every discipline in medicine that takes place in the hospital setting," said Alvin Miller, MD, the counselor for the local group of students.

In one week alone, students observed gallbladder surgery, treatment for a brain hemorrhage, the delivery of two babies and trauma care in the Emergency Department. Along with their department visits, the students also received CPR training and learned about important hospital policies and procedures.

Program participants at Simi Valley Hospital included Morris Aquilar, Meredith Bell, Kaley Boyce, Caroline Chong, Chelsea Daniels, Caitlyn Greve, Akshay Kohli, Harmanpreet Panesar, Katherine Scott, Amy Shipow, Heidi Wang and Paris Washington.

"This program gives Simi Valley Hospital the opportunity to do something that has a big impact on the kids in our community and on future needs in health care professions," Miller said.



▲ Preparing for the future. Amy Shipow (left) and Chelsea Daniels were among 12 area high school students who participated in the Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program. Shipow is interested in becoming a pediatrician, and Daniels is considering a career as an emergency physician.

YOUR MAMMOGRAM

Don't put it off any longer

SCHEDULE mammogram.

It started as a scribble in your planner, a sticky note on your dresser mirror—or maybe just an unwritten promise you made to yourself. Then real life kicked in. Days passed, then months, then a year or two.

While most women agree that getting a mammogram is an important step in safeguarding their health, it's often one of those to-do list items that eventually falls through the cracks.

To schedule your mammogram, call the Nancy Reagan Breast Center at **805-955-8150**.



“Whether they're single or married, with children or without, women lead very busy lives,” said Monica Berlin, administrative director of ambulatory care services at Simi Valley Hospital. “The reality is that getting a mammogram just isn't as urgent as doing the day-to-day tasks that fill our schedules. But while it may not be as urgent, a mammogram is one of the most important things a woman can do, both for herself and for her family.”

Now is the time

October—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month—is a great time to stop putting off getting a mammogram and take action. To get started, just call



Big changes under way

With the recent completion of the first phase in a total makeover for the Aspen outpatient and surgery centers building, the Nancy Reagan Breast Center has a completely new look.

Every room in the Center has received a design makeover, with new flooring and windows, fresh paint, updated ceiling treatments and new furnishings, including cabinets, chairs, tables and lighting throughout the facility. The cherry wood finishes and tones of green, brown, tan and dark mauve match the color palette

of the hospital's new main lobby.

“This is really exciting for us and for our patients, because now our décor has a beautiful, modern look to complement the state-of-the-art technology at the breast center,” said Monica Berlin, administrative director of ambulatory care services at Simi Valley Hospital. “Although it doesn't change the way we approach the medical aspect of our service, we believe that patients will feel more comfortable and relaxed in this new environment.”

the Nancy Reagan Breast Center (NRBC) at **805-955-8150**.

An advantage at the NRBC that is not common practice in most other facilities is that each mammogram is reviewed by two radiologists. This extra step helps to ensure that the results are as accurate as possible. In addition, the NRBC uses advanced digital mammography, which enables radiologists to get the best possible view of breast tissue and any suspicious areas that are discovered. If follow-up tests are necessary, the center has other advanced

equipment to perform those tasks.

Most women should begin having an annual mammogram at age 40—earlier if certain health or family history conditions exist. Your primary care physician can help you determine when the best time is for your first mammogram.

“The technology exists right here at the Nancy Reagan Breast Center to really help women get the information they need regarding their breast health,” Berlin said. “There's no better time than now to make getting your mammogram a priority.”

BIRTHING CENTER

You'll love what we're delivering

WHETHER you are a first-time mom or are well-versed in the childbirth experience, a great maternity support team always makes a big difference.

That's what Caroline Gibson discovered when she chose Simi Valley Hospital's birthing center to deliver her third child, Natalie Carol, in March. Her other two children, six-year-old Naomi and four-year-old Nolan, were born at two other area hospitals.

"This was my first Simi Valley Hospital experience," Gibson said, "and it was great."

Although her entire care team, including her obstetrician, was outstanding, she was particularly impressed by her labor nurse.

"What makes her stand out for me is that she was not only patient and kind in dealing with my labor, but she was so informative," Gibson said.

"She didn't do anything without completely explaining to both me and my husband what she was doing and why she was doing it."

Gibson was also delighted by the kindness and support she received from an unexpected source.

"The volunteers were so sweet and helpful," she said. "It was wonderful to see everybody working together. It made for the most comfortable hospital stay I could have asked for—being able to really just rest or bond with my baby."

See our birthing center and meet our staff. Call 805-955-6304 to reserve your spot for a tour.



▲ **Starting off on the right foot.** Natalie Gibson, here with her mom, Caroline, got a great start in the world at Simi Valley Hospital's birthing center. Caroline calls her time at Simi Valley Hospital "a really enjoyable experience."

Dressed to impress

A few weeks before Natalie's arrival, Gibson had a chance to get a sneak peek at Simi Valley Hospital's birthing center during one of the free tours the hospital offers on a regular basis. As director of sales at

Simi Valley's Best Western Posada Royale Hotel & Suites, Gibson has a keen eye for functional design.

She was impressed at what she saw during her tour of the birthing center, and even more so during her hospital stay.

"The facilities were very modern and well thought-out," she said, "especially the capacity to labor and deliver in the same room. Even after they converted it into

a delivery room, it was still comfortable and homey."

Everybody's happy

Gibson's husband, Nolan, also reaped the benefits of the well-designed room.

"The chair that turns into a bed was really nice because we got there in the middle of the night, so my husband was able to rest comfortably," she said, adding with a chuckle that during her labor "he was so comfortable that it got annoying."

Gibson said that her experience in Simi Valley Hospital's birthing center was so positive that she would recommend it to other moms-to-be without hesitation.

"My expectations were really high that it would be a great experience, and they were met," she said.

Excitement in the air

By Debi Schultze
*Foundation Director and
 Chief Development Officer*



Debi Schultze

WOW— where did the summer go? Your Simi Valley Hospital Foundation has been so busy that the whole season just blew by!

We are already in the planning stages for our 15th annual Golf Classic on October 27 at the Moorpark Country Club. This is always a great day, and it is the Foundation's biggest fundraiser. We hope you will join us on the links—and if you are not a golfer, join us for dinner and the festivities. I promise you will have a good time.

There are so many wonderful things happening at Simi Valley Hospital these days. You can feel the excitement in the hallways and in the air itself.

You've likely already read about our \$1 million donors, Dr. Kant Tucker (Thakkar) and Dr. Irma Harriman (Thakkar), earlier in this issue of *Your Health*. Their pledge for the Emergency Services and Hospital Expansion Project is such an inspiration to our hospital and communities. We send a big thank-you to them from the bottom of our hearts!

So you now know we have a million dollars pledged toward our new Emergency Department. But do you also know that we actually have raised \$1,677,000 so

far from our hospital family? Our leadership, physicians, employees and volunteers have really stepped forward and are creating more and more excitement every day. They are making a difference for the health of our communities, and we are so proud of them and thankful.

All of this excitement fills our Foundation board of directors and capital campaign committee members with the enthusiasm to forge on and meet the challenge of raising \$3 million and more. We hope that you can feel the positive spirit of giving that is flowing throughout Simi Valley Hospital.

Please consider joining with us as we improve and expand your community hospital. There are many ways for you to be involved, and we invite you to stop by and experience the excitement and see the changes. We hope to see you soon.

We hope you feel the spirit of giving at Simi Valley Hospital.

Cornerstone of support

THE Simi Valley Hospital Foundation expressed its thanks to a special group of donors with a reception in their honor on May 11 in front of the donor wall in the main lobby of the hospital. The 10 donations recognized at the event were the first gifts pledged toward the Emergency Services and Hospital Expansion Project. Together, the pledges total \$610,000.

Donors recognized at the event and their pledge amounts include:

- ▶ Simi Valley Hospital Volunteer Guild—\$250,000
- ▶ The Medical Staff of Simi Valley Hospital—\$100,000
- ▶ Janzen, Johnston & Rockwell Emergency Medical Group of California, Inc.—\$100,000
- ▶ Ted and Kathy Weiner—\$50,000

- ▶ Darwin and Dr. Elisabeth Remboldt—\$25,000
- ▶ Devenney Group, Ltd.—\$25,000
- ▶ Alliance Hospitalist Group (Geoffrey Graham, MD, and Jonathan Nasser, MD)—\$25,000
- ▶ Monica Berlin, Michelle Foster, Elaine Freeman, Leigh Nixon and Debi Schultze—\$15,000
- ▶ Glendale Pathology Associates—\$10,000
- ▶ Alta California Medical Group—\$10,000

“We are so grateful for this initial outpouring of support from within our own hospital family,” Debi Schultze, director of the Simi Valley Hospital Foundation and chief development officer, told the honorees and guests. “It is clear that the support is there for the project,



▲ Spirit of giving: Ted Weiner, pictured with his wife, Kathy, spoke briefly at the donor reception. The Weiners are one of the 10 initial donors to the capital campaign.

and we are looking forward to the months ahead as we see even more generosity from within our hospital family and the community at large.”

Simi Valley Hospital Foundation

2010 Board of Directors—Officers



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Simi Valley Hospital Foundation

15th Annual Golf Classic

Wednesday, Oct. 27
10 a.m. shotgun start
Moorpark Country Club
11800 Championship Drive Moorpark

Entry fee: \$250 per golfer



All golfers receive:

- ▶ A gift bag
- ▶ Golf cart rental
- ▶ Driving range privileges
- ▶ Participation in closest-to-the-pin,

longest-drive, putting and hole-in-one contests ▶ Lunch ▶ Reservation at the awards banquet, featuring dinner and silent and live auctions

Proceeds benefit the Simi Valley Hospital Emergency Services and Hospital Expansion Project.

Many sponsorship opportunities are available! Receive valuable exposure and recognition for your business or organization.

For more information or to register, call the Simi Valley Hospital Foundation office at **805-955-6670** or e-mail haywarvl@ah.org.

The electronic revolution

Simi Valley Hospital's conversion to electronic medical records is part of a system-wide effort by parent company Adventist Health. The process began on the hospital's patient care units about four years ago. Using mobile computers mounted on carts that were wheeled from room to room, nurses entered notes about their observations and the care they provided. Later, they began documenting medication information and the patient care plan.

Today, virtually all nursing documentation on the patient care units is electronic, as are EKGs, X-rays and other radiology exams, and lab results. The same is true for care provided in the Emergency Department and, most recently, the main hospital Surgery Department and the Aspen Surgery Center. Beginning in late October 2010, any remaining paper documents will be scanned into the patient's electronic medical record.

The two major components of the medical record that are not yet completed electronically are inpatient physician progress notes and physician orders. Adventist Health and Simi Valley Hospital are in the midst of an education and promotional program related to those ventures, with a planned implementation date in late July 2011.

Another advantage of electronic recordkeeping is its capability to communicate information among care providers. For example, information from a patient's hospital stay, such as a vaccination that has been given or lab test results, can be sent directly to the primary care physician to update the patient's electronic record in the physician's office. Simi Valley Hospital is beginning to work with local physicians to identify opportunities to implement this feature.

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS

Enhancing patient care



TRY this: Open up a novel and find the word *house*. While it's probably in there somewhere, it could take you a while to locate it. But if you go online and search for the word *house* in an electronic book, you'll find it—or learn that it doesn't exist in the document—within seconds.

This principle of the power of electronic information is at the heart of an ambitious and successful electronic medical records initiative at Simi Valley Hospital.

"The purpose of moving to an electronic record is to improve the accessibility of information for clinical decision support," said Bridget Nakamura, director of the Clinical Information Systems Department at Simi Valley

Hospital. "Being able to find the information they need, when they need it, will help caregivers make better and faster decisions about how to provide care for their patients."

Electronic medical records offer a range of other benefits—not the least of which is increased patient safety. For instance, when physicians enter orders for a medication or a test directly into the medical record, there is less chance of misunderstanding. In addition, the software can alert

a caregiver who attempts to take certain actions that might endanger the patient, such as ordering a medication that would complicate the patient's current medical condition.

Electronic medical records help to improve patient safety.