

# Momentum

The Newsletter of

 **MemorialCare**  
Saddleback Medical Center Foundation



Left, Jennifer Roecker, R.N.

## Support for Nursing Education Helps Maintain Exceptional Care

Back in 2006, scrubs, IVs and stethoscopes were not part of Jennifer Roecker's world. She was a graphic designer, busy with artistic projects for her clients.

At age 41, everything changed: Jennifer got cancer.

"While I was undergoing treatment, I realized that I wanted to do what the nurses were doing," said Jennifer, a Trabuco Canyon resident.

So at the young age of 46, married with three boys, Jennifer started a second act — nursing school.

Today Jennifer is a clinical coordinator in the observation unit at

### YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!

Give today to help nurses with the cost of certification courses that train and educate on the latest advancements in various medical specialties. These courses also help our hospital maintain Magnet Status. **ALSO:** Two sisters whose careers were in education will **match all donations up to \$10,000.**

To give, text **SBNURSE to 41444** or visit [memorialcare.org/givesb](http://memorialcare.org/givesb).

MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center. She loves her job and has been deeply involved in the hospital's

“

Without question, you receive better care at a Magnet hospital, where nurses are motivated to continually sharpen their knowledge and skills.

”

*Jennifer Roecker  
BA, BSN, RN, MS-BC  
Clinical Coordinator  
Observation Unit*

## SPRING 2021

### 2

Doctors Answer Call of Duty to Vaccinate Seniors

Charitable Donations Boost Patient Care Close to Home

### 3

Chair's Message:  
Catherine Han, M.D.

Thank You:  
Henry L. Guenther Foundation

Dedicated Physician Champions  
Age-Friendly Program

### 4

Donor Spotlight:  
Allen and Mira Simons

Chief of Staff Julio Duarte, M.D.



Physicians traveled to seniors who couldn't leave their homes to receive a vaccination.

## MemorialCare Doctors Answer Call of Duty to Vaccinate

Over the past few months, MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center has administered more than 18,000 COVID-19 vaccines to seniors. Across the MemorialCare system, we have administered more than 100,000 shots.

The vaccines were given by numerous Saddleback Medical Center physicians who volunteered their free time on weekends to help this important endeavor in cities like Laguna Woods, Santa Ana and San Juan Capistrano.

We also recently extended the vaccination program to homebound residents who are not

able to leave their homes to get the vaccines.

The support of our surrounding community helps make this possible. With charitable gifts to benefit the needs of our nonprofit hospital, our staff and administration are able to implement valuable programs quickly, like the vaccine clinics. More clinics are being scheduled as the eligibility requirements continue to expand.

Our staff is honored to care for you and your family, and we thank you for your steadfast commitment to Saddleback Medical Center.

## Charitable Donations Boost Patient Care Close to Home

Saddleback Medical Center Foundation's sole mission is to raise philanthropic funds for our nonprofit hospital. Our hospital, in fact, is rooted in philanthropy; as the retirement community of Leisure World (now Laguna Woods) was growing, the residents knew they would need a hospital. They went door to door to collect funds, and the rest is history.

Over the past 50-plus years, charitable gifts have helped transform Saddleback Medical Center into the exceptional healthcare facility it is today, including a top-notch emergency room right in your backyard. Donors have many avenues through which they can support the hospital:



cash, recurring gifts, or pledges over multiple years. They can even include the hospital as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or estate. No matter the size or type of gift, support from the community makes a difference and helps save lives. **To make a tax-deductible donation, call (949) 452-3724, or visit [memorialcare.org/giveSB](https://www.memorialcare.org/giveSB).**



## MUCH GRATITUDE IS IN ORDER

A huge thank you to Henry L. Guenther Foundation, who recently provided a generous grant of \$600,000 to benefit the renovation of our Cardiac Catheterization Labs. The cath labs will be updated with the latest equipment and technology to treat heart and stroke patients. These renovations are needed to meet growing demand for minimally invasive cardiovascular procedures, which have faster recovery times and better patient outcomes. We thank all the donors who contributed to this important project, which will help save lives!

## Chair's Message: New Season, New Beginnings

Spring is the season for beginnings, and we have many new happenings at the Foundation.

We have launched a fundraising campaign to benefit nursing education. Our frontline nurses have been so dedicated to patient care throughout the pandemic, and we hope to support their efforts to expand their knowledge and skills, which will always benefit patient care.

With the expansion of vaccinations and declining COVID-19 cases, we gain more excitement about our Beauty in Grace luncheon in August, where we will celebrate the philanthropy of our women's giving circle in person. Please contact me if you'd like to know more.

Our Beauty in Grace memberships are benefiting the renovation of Cath Lab 3. Updated with the latest technology and equipment, the cath lab will be able to accommodate more cardiovascular patients.

This summer we will also award several scholarships to Saddleback Medical Center employees who are earning higher education degrees, such as bachelor's and master's degrees. We applaud our employees for reaching for their academic goals, and we are so thankful for the donors who contribute to the scholarship fund.

Despite the past year, we have many reasons to be grateful, including our exceptional hospital and people like you who support it. Thank you for your generosity.

*Catherine Han, M.D.*



Catherine Han, M.D.  
Chair, Board of Directors  
SMCF

## Dedicated Physician Champions Age-Friendly Program for Seniors

Longtime physician and donor David C. Law, M.D., pulmonologist, and his wife Doris Law, R.N., recently made a significant donation to our Age-Friendly Health System program.

Saddleback Medical Center was designated an Age-Friendly hospital for its commitment to and implementation of best practices in caring for adults 65 and older, leading to better outcomes.

Dr. Law and his wife have been strong advocates for safe elder care for many years; this investment in

the Age-Friendly program means that seniors will get the special care and attention they need when they are SMC patients.

### What is an Age-Friendly Health System?

These hospitals are recognized by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and provide specific, evidence-based geriatric best practices to achieve better health outcomes for adults age 65 and older.



Doris Law, R.N., and  
David Law, M.D.; one  
of the permanent  
plaques honoring  
the Laws' gift

19

DONATED BY  
DORIS E. LAW, RN, MN  
DAVID C. LAW, MD, FCCP

## Donor Spotlight: Allen and Mira Simons

“

*We wanted to  
give back  
close to home  
where it  
would benefit  
the community.*

”

*Allen Simons  
Laguna Woods*

For information on charitable gift annuities, call (949) 452-3724 or email [smcf@memorialcare.org](mailto:smcf@memorialcare.org).

If you spun a globe around and stopped it with your finger, Allen and Mira Simons have probably been there.

In fact, they have been on more than 100 cruises all over the world, and have especially enjoyed visiting places all over Asia.

Allen and Mira owned a travel agency, and Mira used to plan big trips for 50 to 60 members of a Laguna Woods social club, The Nifty Club.

“We were so lucky to do all the traveling when we did,” said Allen.

When it comes to health care, however, they prefer staying close to home, and specifically Saddleback Medical Center.

“Any time we walk into the hospital, everyone is very friendly, and the attitude is excellent,” said Allen. “That is important to us.”

In 1994, Mira was treated for a heart attack at the hospital, and her mother had open-heart surgery here years ago.

“The hospital has been so good to us, so that’s why we decided to do a charitable gift annuity there.”



Allen and Mira Simons on one of their many cruise vacations.

By setting up an annuity with Saddleback Medical Center Foundation, Mira and Allen receive a fixed payment each month, for life. They use that payment for long-term care expenses. In turn, the Foundation receives a generous gift to benefit the hospital and our patients.

They love that the hospital is so close to their home in Laguna Woods, where they have lived since 1993.

“What the hospital did with giving all of the vaccines these past few weeks — that was really fabulous,” said Mira. “We didn’t have to drive far at all, and the clinic was right here in Laguna Woods.”

### NURSING, from p. 1

professional development and the hospital’s Magnet status re-application. She knows firsthand how Magnet designation, the highest recognition for nursing excellence, translates to higher quality of care.

“Without question, you receive better care at a Magnet hospital, where nurses are motivated to continually sharpen their knowledge and skills,” she said.

She adds that as soon as a hospital achieves Magnet Status, the process to re-apply starts right away. For example, if 40 percent of nurses have earned certifications when you reach Magnet, a greater percentage needs to be shown when re-applying.

This means at Saddleback Medical Center, the nurses are highly encouraged to continue learning. Jennifer has taken several courses to enhance her knowledge in all areas of patient care, so her skills remain current. For example, Jennifer has earned her Medical-Surgical Nursing

certification, and is currently studying for her Pain Management certification. Jennifer attends classes to become a “super user” in equipment and technology, and in turn trains other nurses in her unit and throughout the hospital. These courses range from \$250 to \$1,000, so the cost can be a barrier for nurses.

“Improvements in patient care are continually evolving,” said Jennifer. “Our nurses are always expanding their knowledge and skills to meet these challenges.”

Jennifer believes learning is a lifelong journey, and plans to pursue a master’s in nursing education because she really enjoys teaching others.

“I love my job at Saddleback,” she said. “The administration here supports the employees and cares about the nurses.”

When you invest in our nurses, you are investing in patient care. To learn more, **text SBNURSE to 41444** or **visit [app.mobilecause.com/e/NGftMw](http://app.mobilecause.com/e/NGftMw)**.