

Friends For Life

Winter 2025

Thomas M. Hardt Tower Opening Fall 2025



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A Dignity Health Member

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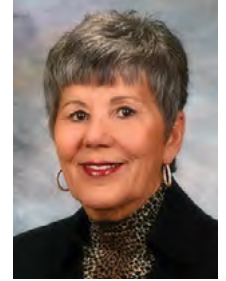
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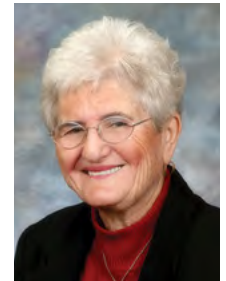
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Dear Friends of Mercy,



Geoff King

*Chairman of the Board,
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Over the past year, the Friends of Mercy Foundation has continued to support Mercy Hospital in many ways through its philanthropic activities.

From raising funds for the Mercy Hospital Southwest Tower to engaging with our related philanthropic giving groups, such as the William Howell Century Club and the Catherine McAuley Society, the Friends of Mercy Foundation is committed to improving healthcare in our community. This is made possible by the ongoing support of our community donors and our generous Board of Directors.

I thought it would be appropriate to highlight the often-unrecognized support that Mercy Hospital provides to our community. Mercy Hospital conducts an annual Community Health Needs Assessment to guide its programs, which include financial assistance for those unable to afford medically necessary care, as well as initiatives for prevention and health improvement.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, Mercy Hospital provided the community with \$15,391,531 in patient financial assistance, unreimbursed costs of Medicaid,

community health improvement services, community grants, and other community benefits. Additionally, the hospital provided \$19,187,527 in unreimbursed costs for caring for patients covered by fee-for-service Medicare.

Mercy Hospital continues to make a significant contribution to our community by providing essential services to those in need. Further details can be found on the Mercy Hospital website.

We are truly blessed to have all of you who support our mission at the Friends of Mercy Foundation. Our Board of Directors and dedicated staff thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your continued support enables Mercy Hospital to enhance and provide the best healthcare available to our community.

Thank you, and we wish you all the best in 2025!



Introducing...

Mercy Hospital's New President

Simon Ratliff

President/CEO of Mercy Hospitals

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new President of Mercy Hospitals.

My wife, Angie, and I are “empty nesters,” and recently relocated to Bakersfield from Kentucky. We have 2 grown children, Bailey and Abby, who remain on the east coast, and one very special dog named Zoey.

Before joining Mercy Hospital, I spent over fifteen years in progressive executive leadership roles within the healthcare industry.

I served as a hospital CEO during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This experience, while undeniably challenging, provided invaluable lessons in leadership, teamwork, and the critical importance of community support — lessons I carry with me today.

Since arriving in Bakersfield, I have been impressed by the warmth and generosity of this community. I've had the opportunity to meet many dedicated individuals, and I am deeply grateful for the welcoming spirit.

Mercy Hospital has a remarkable history of providing exceptional care, and I am honored to build upon its already impressive legacy.

My focus will be on supporting our incredible staff, ensuring the highest quality patient care, and continuing to grow the vital services Mercy Hospital offers to Bakersfield. Your generosity as a donor has been instrumental in this success, and I am deeply committed to being a responsible steward of your contributions. I look forward to collaborating with you as we continue to provide compassionate, high-quality care to those who need it most.

Thank you for your unwavering support.



Mercy Hospital Southwest Nationally Recognized for Patient Safety.

Mercy Hospital Southwest earned a Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade of “A” for Fall 2024.

This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire hospital staff. Hospitals that receive an “A” grade excel across 22 evidence-based measures designed to protect patients from harm and improve outcomes. This “A” grade reflects the commitment to excellence demonstrated by every member of our hospital team.



Mercy Hospital Southwest was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as a High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care.

U.S. News evaluates how well hospitals perform in childbirth using C-section rates, newborn complication rates, breast milk feeding rates, among other measures. It takes a collective effort, from physicians, all levels of staff and friends of the Foundation, to prioritize patient safety. Thank you for your support.



70 YEARS OF Heart



Mercy Hospital Auxiliary Celebrates Seven Decades of Service



Seventy years ago, at the urging of Mother Callista of the Sisters of Mercy, a dream took flight.

Yole Antongiovanni and Lena Cappello embarked on a cross-California quest, seeking inspiration to build a volunteer force unlike

any other. What began in Mrs. Antongiovanni's living room—a humble gathering that blossomed into 400 dedicated women contributing an astounding 2,600 hours in just four months—laid the foundation for a legacy of compassion and unwavering commitment.

Today, the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary celebrates its 70th anniversary, a milestone marked not just by years, but by millions of acts of kindness. Two million, four hundred thousand hours of service. Over \$2.6 million donated back to the hospital. These aren't just numbers; they represent the tireless dedication of countless individuals who have touched the lives of patients, families, and staff. They are the heartbeat of Mercy Hospital.

The Auxiliary's impact is woven into the very fabric of Mercy's mission. From Darlene Powers, whose warm smile and welcoming spirit have graced the downtown giftshop for over 52,000 hours, to Alice Brown, a shining presence for over four decades, captivating generations of schoolchildren with hospital tours, these women embody the spirit of selfless service.

Their stories are countless: Kathy Witcher's lovingly crocheted leap frog hats for our tiniest patients in the NICU; Jan Froelich's years of dedicated leadership as President. And their impact goes beyond our community as current President Louis Peltier has served in several roles at the state level for the California Hospital Association Volunteer Services section. These are just glimpses into the extraordinary contributions of the men and women who walk alongside Mercy's physicians and nurses, making the impossible, possible.

This anniversary isn't just a celebration; it's a testament to the enduring power of human compassion. It's a heartfelt thank you to the generations of Mercy Hospital Auxiliaries who have, for 70 years, answered the call to serve, heal, and uplift.

Their legacy continues to inspire, reminding us all of the extraordinary impact one person—and 400, and then thousands—can have on a community.



In 2024

Hours volunteered: **12,358**

Gift shop sales: **\$165,752**

Smiles shared: **16,413**

Patient packets assembled: **8,081**

Donated to the hospital: **\$25,510.86**

If you would like to join the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary, please use this QR code.



Mercy Hospital Southwest Launches CommonSpirit Health National Nurse Residency Program

Mercy Hospital Southwest's new Thomas M. Hardt Tower will have not only state-of-the-art facilities but also a highly skilled and compassionate nursing staff. To attract and retain top talent, the hospital has launched a CommonSpirit Health National Nurse Residency Program.

This comprehensive program provides new nursing graduates with robust orientation and socialization, blending in-person and virtual learning to enhance critical thinking, evidence-based decision-making, engagement, stress management, and leadership skills.

Amy Brown, RN, MSN, Chief Nurse Executive at Mercy Hospitals, emphasizes the vital role nurses play, stating, "Our nurses are the core of our mission. Their compassion and empathy inspire us all, and their dedication to our community is truly remarkable." This investment in staff underscores Mercy Hospital's commitment to providing exceptional patient care.

New Graduate Nurses Hired by Mercy

FY 2023 = 36 FY 2024 = 43 FYTD 2025 = 83



"Our nurses are the core of our mission. Their compassion and empathy inspire us all, and their dedication to our community is truly remarkable."

— Amy Brown, RN, MSN
Chief Nurse Executive, Mercy Hospitals

THE LEGACY OF MERCY BLACK TIE GALA

at the **Thomas M. Hardt Tower**
on the Mercy Hospital Southwest Campus
400 Old River Road, Bakersfield, CA 93311

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025

Cocktail hour and tours 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Dinner and program 7:00 PM

Get ready for an unforgettable night!

The grand opening of the 144,000 sq ft **Thomas M. Hardt Tower** marks a new era of healthcare excellence at Mercy Hospital Southwest. Be among the first to explore the state-of-the-art new facilities, honor the 115-year legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, and be part of a night that will shape the future of healthcare in Bakersfield. Join us for an evening of fellowship, fine dining, and cocktails.

Tickets and sponsorships are now available online at www.SupportFriendsofMercy.org, call 661-663-6700 or use the following QR code.





The Thomas M. Hardt Tower at Mercy Hospital Southwest Opening Early Fall 2025

Imagine your family's name forever etched in a place of healing and hope.

The Thomas M. Hardt Tower at Mercy Hospital Southwest is nearing completion, bringing with it advanced technology and a renewed commitment to patient care.

You can be a part of this exciting milestone by naming a room or nursing station in honor of a loved one.





Contributions start at just \$10,000, payable over five years, offering a meaningful way to express gratitude to the Sisters of Mercy for their 114 years of service and to celebrate the special people in your life. Contact the Friends of Mercy Foundation at 661-663-6700 or Toni.Harper@CommonSpirit.org to learn more.

In addition to the 106 private patient rooms, the building will be the home of:

- The David and Catherine Gay Family Intensive Care Unit
- The Wright Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- The Drs. Ravi and Naina Patel Oncology Floor
- The Beverly Camp Women's Center
- Main Lobby in honor of Donald and Izetta Camp And Jack and Winifred Pandol Dedicated by Jack and Carolyn Pandol
- The Leonard Anton Bidart and Family Surgery Waiting Area
- State-of-the-Art Cardiac Catheterization Suites
- Expanded Neurosurgery Capabilities
- 6 additional Operating Rooms



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The Friends of Mercy Foundation gives special recognition to its donors who have contributed a total of \$10,000 or more. We sincerely appreciate the support and generosity of our Founders Circle members listed on these pages.

Members Moving to the Next Level Of Giving

These Founders Circle members have made gifts that qualify them for an individual glass tile at the following levels:

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Wonderful Giving

Sponsor Level

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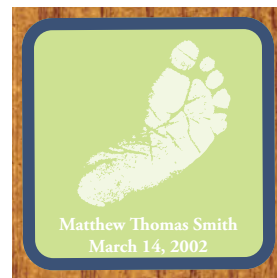


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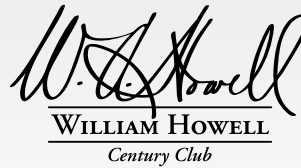
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