



MERCY FOUNDATION

HORIZONS

Winter 2011

Mercy Foundation welcomes new president, CEO



Linda Beech Cutler

I am honored and humbled to be serving as Mercy Foundation's new president and chief executive officer. As a longtime Sacramento resident, I have enjoyed connecting with the community through my leadership roles in the private sector and as a member of numerous boards and councils. I have had a longstanding interest in bringing my skills and service to the not-for-profit sector, and am pleased to be able to do so through Mercy Foundation.

I join a stellar staff, who, along with the Mercy Foundation board of directors, have welcomed me in my new role. I am pleased that Sister Bridget McCarthy, who served a more than two-year term as president and CEO, will remain with the Foundation as director of donor relations.

I believe that no other foundation or nonprofit in the Sacramento region supports the breadth of ministries and organizations as Mercy Foundation. Whether a donor's interest is in health care, housing, education, children or the elderly, Mercy can meet many philanthropic needs. Consistent with the values of the Sisters of Mercy, the Foundation has a long history of creating positive changes, inspiring hope, and empowering the community to make a difference through giving.

I look forward to developing new relationships and partnerships with Mercy Foundation friends, and helping the organization continue its strategic growth and enhancing its impact in the community.

Sincerely,

Linda Beech Cutler
President and CEO

Read more about Linda's background on page four

Mercy Volunteer Corps: A tangible service to the community

While calling names for the next people in line for hot showers at Maryhouse, Kim Utz listens to a wave of giggles after she announces "Janet Jackson." She laughs when she realizes that one of her regular homeless guests has once again given her a celebrity name in jest.

"Once it was Oprah Winfrey. It's never a dull moment here at Maryhouse," said Kim, a volunteer with Mercy Volunteer Corps who coordinates shower schedules and hands out items like socks, diapers and toiletries at Loaves & Fishes' daytime shelter for homeless women and children.

Kim and fellow volunteer and roommate Brynn Walzer, who is staffed at Clean & Sober, committed a year of service to Mercy Volunteer Corps following their June 2010 college graduation. In partnership with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the corps connects lay women *(continued on page 2)*

Volunteer Kim Utz gathers towels for Maryhouse's homeless guests who can take a shower in a safe, clean environment.



Mercy Volunteer Corps

(Continued from front page)

and men with the community's economically poor and marginalized. Since 1978, more than 800 people have served across the United States and Central America in myriad roles, such as social workers, teachers, health-care workers and administrative coordinators.

Potential volunteers are carefully screened and selected by a committee. Once accepted into the corps, each person goes through an intense, week-long orientation that teaches them the "four pillars" of their Mercy service: A commitment to compassionate service, social justice, spirituality, and living a simple lifestyle in community with others.

Mercy Foundation funds nearly 100 percent of the expenses for the Sacramento-area volunteers through a \$30,000 grant that covers housing, transportation and food costs, health insurance, and a nominal monthly stipend. Administrative and emotional support is led by Sr. Bridget McCarthy, who coordinates volunteer housing as well as their fiscal needs, such as their stipends.

Kim and Brynn provide much-needed administrative support to Clean & Sober and Maryhouse that keeps both programs running smoothly. "Brynn and Kim's volunteer service is critical because Loaves & Fishes could not afford two full-time people," said Sr. Bridget. "What the Mercy volunteers do is a tangible service to the community, and it's made possible by Mercy Foundation donors."

Mercy Volunteer Corps is a life-changing experience for many volunteers. Sr. Bridget recalls one woman who planned to pursue a career on Wall Street, but was so moved by her work with the corps that she switched gears and now is helping to lead a nonprofit program.

Both Kim and Brynn – who first met at orientation and developed a close bond – describe positive changes within themselves in just the first few months of their work.



Volunteer Brynn Walzer interviews new guests at Clean & Sober. "The most important information I get during intake is their short- and long-term goals, which are critical for sobriety," she said.

between a homeless person and a staff member," she said. "That's taken the 'Don't judge a book by its cover' concept to a whole other level for me."

The two women note that many people remark how generous it is for them to 'give up' a year of their lives to volunteer. "But Brynn and I both feel we're not 'giving up' anything," said Kim. "We want to do this. We get so much out of it."

"I can honestly say that I change lives every day," marveled Brynn, who said she sees a transformation take place from the day a guest first enters the door through 90 days into the program. "I've seen miracles happen. People turn their lives around. They get their kids back. It's a great feeling for them and me."

Both volunteers are grateful for the professional experience, and for the opportunity to put their desire to give back into practice. Says Kim: "I learned a lot about global issues in college. But if you just sit with that awareness, it means nothing. You need to act on it, and that's why I'm here." ♡



Brynn, with Loaves & Fishes guest Anthony, says Mercy Volunteer Corps gives her "hands-on experience with people from all backgrounds."

Mercy Ministries Grant Program

In 2010, Mercy Foundation partnered with CHW's Community Grants Program to provide critical funding to nonprofit organizations. Together, more than \$1 million was awarded to 31 organizations in Sacramento, Nevada, Placer and Yolo counties. Mercy Foundation contributed \$541,000, funded through its generous donors; CHW's Community Grants Program provided the remainder. The grants, which ranged between \$5,000 and \$75,000, will address health issues such as mental illness and chronic disease, and also will support community-based programs that provide services from birth to end-of-life.

2010 GRANT AWARDEES

Mercy Ministries Grant

Alternatives Pregnancy Center
Community Health Referral Network
Cristo Rey High School Sacramento
The Gathering Inn
Mercy Beyond Borders
Mercy Education Resource Center
Mercy Perinatal Recovery Network
Sacramento Children's Home
Sacramento Loaves & Fishes

Sacramento Life Center
WEAVE, Inc.

CHW Community Grants

Citizens Who Care for the Elderly
Clara's House
CommuniCare Health Centers
The Effort
El Dorado Community Health Center
El Hogar Community Service, Inc.

Harm Reduction Services
Midtown Medical Center
Northern California Children's Therapy Center
Powerhouse Ministries
Roseville Home Start Inc.
Sacramento Community Clinic Consortium
Sacramento District Dental Foundation
Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center
Sierra Forever Families
Society for the Blind

Volunteers in Victim Assistance
Waking the Village
WEAVE, Inc.
Yolo Community Care Continuum
Yolo Family Service Agency



Mercy Ministries Grants support programs like Mercy Education Resource Center, where people like Yulisa, with son Joel, can receive affordable education and language-skills assistance.

"The people we are helping have given more to us than we ever have or will to them," said Brynn, who conducts intakes of new guests at Clean & Sober, a long-term residential and transitional housing program at Loaves & Fishes that helps people recover from chemical addiction. "I work with the most courageous people I will ever meet – people with lifelong drug and alcohol abuse, physical abuse, mental issues. People come to Clean & Sober to make a change. It shapes how I look at the world now. I find that I'm discovering who I am more and more each day. It's very empowering."

Kim said that working directly with the homeless has changed her perspective on how she views and interacts with others. "When you're at Loaves & Fishes, you can't tell the difference

At Maryhouse, Kim Utz meets homeless women and children of all ages, such as Izabella, whose mom Lydia sought support services at the day shelter.



New year, new look for Mercy Foundation

Starting January 2011, Mercy Foundation is rolling out a new branding effort designed to freshen its nearly 20-year-old logo and its marketing materials. The project is part of a plan to better inform the community about the Foundation, as outlined in the organization's three-year strategic plan.

"A fresh and consistent brand will help us build greater awareness in the community and inspire donors and other partners in philanthropy," said Michelle Silva, director of communications for Mercy Foundation. Sacramento-based FUEL Creative Group evolved the existing logo and is developing a new business system and marketing materials, including brochures and posters.

The central human figure and horizon elements remain at the core of the new logo, representing Mercy and the Sisters of Mercy, and the hope they provide to people in the community who need support. The new heart element, held within the arms of the figure, connotes the compassion and love Mercy Foundation and its donors demonstrate through philanthropy.

The Foundation also developed a new tagline that better describes its purpose to inspire giving and the positive impact the Foundation has on lives. The format of *Horizons* will change starting with the spring 2011 issue. ♡



MERCY FOUNDATION

Inspiring philanthropy. Changing lives.

Meet Linda Cutler, Mercy Foundation's new president and CEO

On December 1, 2010, Mercy Foundation welcomed Linda Beech Cutler as president and CEO. Linda previously was vice president of Corporate Responsibility for GenCorp, parent company of Aerojet and Easton Development Company. She also served as president of the GenCorp Foundation. Linda joined GenCorp in March 2002 from DST Output in El Dorado Hills, a subsidiary of DST Systems, where she held senior marketing roles, including vice president, Marketing and Corporate Communications. Prior to her position at DST Output, Linda was vice president, Investor Relations and Corporate Communications for USCS International in Rancho Cordova.

A graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Linda holds a bachelor's degree in political science, and completed professional development course work at the University of California at Berkeley, Hass School of Business. Active in the community, Linda is the immediate past chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, and has served on the boards of the California Capital Air Show; the Folsom Chamber and the Folsom Economic Development Corporation and Department of Tourism; and the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization. She also was a member of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, representing Sacramento County, District 3. Linda is a graduate of the American Leadership Forum.

Linda succeeds Sister Bridget McCarthy, who announced her resignation as CEO in June. Sr. Bridget continues to support fundraising efforts for Mercy Foundation and the Sisters of Mercy ministries as director of donor relations. ♡

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Sister Mary St. Michael Myles: A passion for advocacy

It was an ordinary night at St. Andrew's Hospital in London. The 45 patients in Nurse Myles' ward were settled in for the evening. Myles, then in her last year of nursing school, went about her usual tasks. She listened to the chattering of other student nurses and checked on patients as needed. The evening remained unremarkable, with no memorable emergencies or incidents, but something significant was building within her throughout the night.

While tending to her nursing duties, Myles was suddenly struck with a distinct thought: "I realized that I could never do this work for money," she said, vividly recalling the moment more than 50 years ago when she felt her life would change. "I knew then, in that ward, that I had to do my work for a higher motive."

Soon after, Myles decided to pursue religious life and chose the Sisters of Mercy, whose order had a strong health-care ministry and care for the poor as their mission. She made her vows at the Sisters of Mercy convent in Auburn, became Sister Mary St. Michael Myles, and was assigned to Mercy General Hospital, where she worked for 50 years.

With the exception of one year at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, Calif., Sister St. Michael spent her entire health-care career at Mercy General in various roles, including director of Nursing Service and director of Mission Services. For many years, she was an administrative liaison to the Mercy General Guild and was director of volunteers.

The emergency department, where Sister St. Michael last worked as a Sister Liaison, was her greatest passion. There, she guided patients through the complexities of today's health-care system, helping with paperwork and other administrative tasks that can be daunting. She also was simply a friend and advocate, greeting patients and giving them blankets and pillows as needed. "Some patients have no one to speak for them, no family. Some are homeless. Others are fearful, given their illness or injury," she said. "Everyone needs an advocate now in the hospital. It is worth so much to be able to help just one person."

While retired from Mercy General as of September 2009, Sister St. Michael often looks back to that quiet evening more than 50 years ago in the St. Andrew's ward, when she came to realize her life path. "I truly believe that God gave me a gift to do this work," she reflected. "I love to care for people, the poor and the sick, to be their advocate." Her motivation is clearly inscribed on the ring she received at her final profession of vows: "Love for Christ urges me."

"I have learned and continue to learn so much from others," Sister St. Michael said. "I truly have received more than I have given to any of the people to whom I have ministered. Reflecting on more than 50 years as a Sister of Mercy humbles me." ♡

"I love to care for the poor and the sick, to be their advocate. God gave me a gift to do this work."

— Sister Mary St. Michael Myles, receiving her 50-year service pin from Mercy General Hospital President Denny Powell in 2009



Sister Mary St. Michael Myles (center, in a 1970s photo) spent 50 years in the health-care ministry at Mercy General Hospital.



Wells Fargo gift will improve treatment for cardiac disorder



Wells Fargo Senior Vice President and Region Manager Bob Ceccato (left) presented a \$50,000 check to Mercy General's Medical Director of Electrophysiology Services Pdraig O'Neill, Mercy Foundation Director of Donor Relations Sr. Bridget McCarthy, Mercy General President Denny Powell, and Vice President of Cardiovascular Services Doris Frazier.

procedure time, anesthesia and exposure to radiation. It also decreases radiation exposure for physicians, allowing them to perform a greater number of procedures, and improves the accuracy of catheter placement and movement.

"This new technology will improve operational efficiencies and allow Mercy to help even more people overcome atrial fibrillation," said Sister Bridget McCarthy, director of donor relations for Mercy Foundation. "We are grateful for the longstanding support by Wells Fargo Foundation to Mercy's mission, and to the community's needs."

Mercy Foundation is seeking an additional \$75,000 to fund the software needed for implementation. If you are interested in helping to bring this innovative system to Mercy General, please contact Chief Philanthropy Officer John McIntyre at (916) 453-4698 or John.McIntyre@chw.edu. 🌸

An estimated 25,000 Sacramentans live with atrial fibrillation, a cardiac rhythm disorder that can lead to stroke, heart failure or death. Soon, a new robotic catheter system at Mercy General Hospital will significantly enhance the treatment of this life-threatening condition and improve patient outcomes.

In November, the Wells Fargo Foundation made a \$50,000 gift to jump start funding for the state-of-the-art Sensei® X Robotic Catheter System. For patients, the system reduces

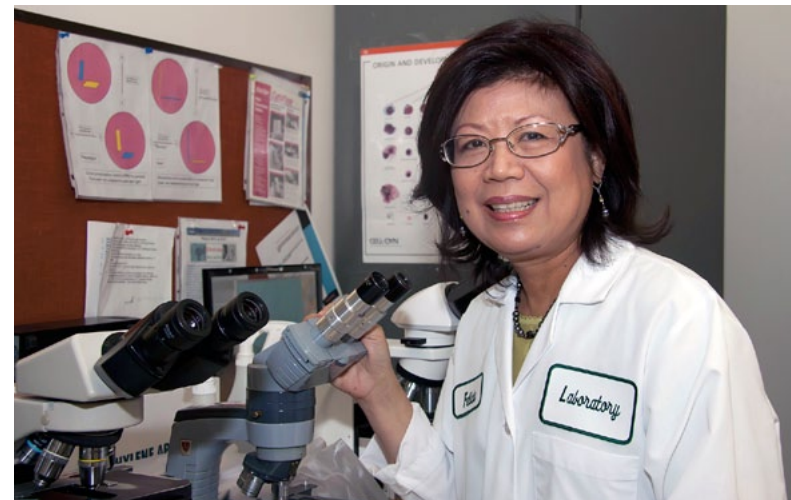
Employees Lend a Hand: Felicia Bhe

Felicia Bhe has worked in health care for 30 years, but when she walked into Mercy San Juan Medical Center for the first time, she knew right away her "heart was there."

After joining Mercy in 2008 as director of laboratory services, Felicia was so inspired by her colleagues and the high-quality services provided at the medical center that she explored ways to contribute to Mercy beyond her day-to-day work.

She found an easy way to support Mercy's mission through Mercy Foundation's Employees Lend a Hand program, making a monthly payroll deduction to fund the renowned neuroscience program. "The community deserves a state-of-the-art neuroscience center. I couldn't think of a better place to invest in, to pay back," said Felicia. "My husband and I have long believed in giving back and providing service to the community. It is our privilege to be able to do so. At the same time, I feel very humbled."

Felicia and her husband have inspired the philanthropic spirit in her two children. Her daughter is a mentor to



underprivileged teenage girls in the Bay Area. Her son, an internal medicine resident, volunteers at a free health clinic in Sacramento.

Felicia calls her Employees Lend a Hand donation a "feel right thing to do," and hopes that her colleagues from all over the Sacramento region will consider joining her efforts. "I hope other people will be inspired to give to Mercy Foundation," she said. "With many people giving, the power to make a difference is infinite." 🌸

Longtime hospital volunteers make "gift-giving investment" in Mercy

Physicians, nurses, caregivers and staff typically are seen as the front line of hospital operations. But, often behind the scenes, volunteers perform critical tasks that keep patient care and administrative functions running smoothly.

Retired couple Tom and Sheila Inks have dedicated countless volunteer hours to Mercy General Hospital. For nearly 15 years, Sheila has served on the hospital guild, assisting patients and families at the surgery center. Twice a week, Tom prepares discharge paperwork for patients who have completed their outpatient therapy programs. "As volunteers, we see the hands of Mercy at work every day. So many individuals have been positively impacted by the care and services they receive at the hospital," said the Inks, who recently made a philanthropic gift to Mercy Foundation.

The Inks have experienced Mercy's high-quality care themselves. Seven years ago, Tom underwent a heart transplant in San Francisco. Much of his care prior to and following the surgery was at Mercy General, where he feels he received top-notch treatment from physicians, nurses and staff. "The Mercy experience is really exceptional," Tom said. "When you enter a Mercy facility, you're not merely a visitor. You're family."

The Inks were particularly struck by the compassion and care they received from Sisters Kathleen Horgan, Mary St. Michael and Clare Marie Dalton, who often visited during Tom's hospital stay. "The Sisters have the whole picture. They not only take care of the patients, but also the entire family," said Sheila. Her volunteer work includes referring out-of-town patients and families to the House of Mercy, a four-unit apartment across the street from Mercy General that is a comfortable and convenient place for healing for those with limited transportation or financial resources. Sheila can relate to the need for this kind of facility, as she stayed in a Bay Area hotel for five weeks during Tom's heart transplant. "It warms my heart that the Sisters offer the House of Mercy as a place of respite," she said.

Moved by the compassion demonstrated by Mercy, the Inks wanted to do more than volunteer to support the Sisters' mission. Their financial advisor recommended they create a charitable gift annuity, which enables them to make a gift to the Foundation and receive a steady stream of fixed payments for life.

The Inks are pleased to be able to support the Foundation for the long term. "It's a gift-giving investment," said Tom. "Instead of putting our money in the bank and earning half a percent interest, we give it to Mercy Foundation and put it to good use. We want the Sisters to be able to continue their good work for years to come." 🌸



"Mercy is like family to us. We want the Sisters of Mercy to be able continue their work."

— Tom and Sheila Inks

Charitable gift annuities: Planned gifts that give back

When you set up a charitable gift annuity using cash, securities or other assets, Mercy Foundation agrees to pay one or two persons, chosen by you, a lifetime fixed payment backed by all of its assets. You have the security of steady, fixed payments that are unaffected by economic volatility. After your lifetime(s), 100 percent of the remainder of your gift will support the Mercy Foundation ministry you choose. Donors who include the Foundation in their estate plan are recognized with membership in the Mercy Legacy Society.

For more information about charitable gift annuities, or other planned giving methods, contact Kevin Duggan, vice president of philanthropy, at (916) 851-2703 or Kevin.Duggan@chw.edu.



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Mercy Foundation donors fund life-saving health care for under- and uninsured people like Fatia and her son A'Million, who received vaccinations at MercyClinic Loaves & Fishes.

Questions or comments about this newsletter?

We welcome your feedback. Contact us at MercyFoundationSac@chw.edu or (916) 851-2700 to share your comments or sign up for an electronic version.

Mercy Foundation donors make a positive impact on the community

Philanthropy is one of the most powerful expressions of compassion. Mercy Foundation donors support countless people in the community who need health care, education, housing or other support to survive. In the last year alone, donors contributed to the following successes:

- More than 100 under- and uninsured women received life-saving mammograms, biopsies and ultrasounds at Mercy clinics
- All 53 students from Cristo Rey High School's first graduating class were accepted to college
- Mercy Education Resource Center conducted 2,063 hours of tutoring and 397 hours of counseling, and 39 adults and 23 children received English as a second language training
- Mercy Housing opened Martin Luther King, Jr. Village to provide safe, affordable housing for the formerly homeless
- More than 170 flat-screen TVs were installed at Bruceville Terrace to provide "Windows to the World" for its skilled nursing patients who otherwise would have little or no connection to the outside world