

# GIVING MATTERS

FALL 2021

 **Providence**  
St. Mary Medical Center  
Foundation



## BETTER TOGETHER

Providence and Kaiser Permanente  
team up to create a world-class facility for  
Providence St. Mary Medical Center, opening 2026.





*Jeanette Gehrke, EdD  
Chair, Foundation Board of Directors*



*John Kozyra,  
Chief Philanthropy Officer*

# TO OUR DONORS

As we look back on the last few months, we're filled with a deep sense of gratitude. While our community continues to grapple with the impact of COVID-19, we're inspired every day by the dedication of Providence St. Mary Medical Center physicians, caregivers, staff and volunteers.

Just as inspiring is the profound compassion of friends like you — and your commitment to the health of the High Desert community.

Your support is all the more meaningful this year as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Providence St. Mary Medical Center Foundation. Thanks to the philanthropic vision of five individuals in 1991, our medical center has grown and evolved to become one of the most essential partnerships.

Speaking of growth, you may have heard about our hospital expansion in partnership with Kaiser Permanente. This new facility will be centrally located in the High Desert and

will maintain our mission to provide the best available care and equipment for our entire community. We will share many more details as plans and construction get underway over the coming years.

From all of us at the Foundation — and those we serve — thank you for being such an important part of the Providence St. Mary family. It's truly been an honor to be a part of these 30 years of transforming our beloved community. And with you by our side, we look forward to many more.

Warmly,

**Jeanette Gehrke, EdD**  
Chair, Foundation Board of Directors

**John Kozyra**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



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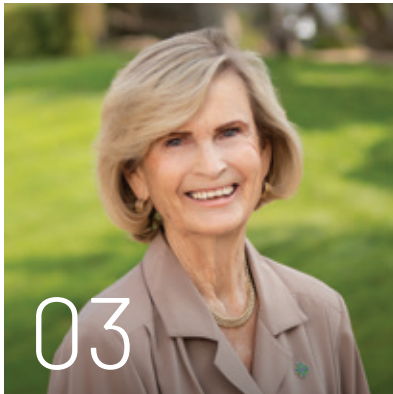
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John Kozyra, Chief Philanthropy Officer (left)  
with Randy Castillo, Chief Executive (right)

# TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY – TOGETHER

Providence and Kaiser Permanente join to  
build a new hospital for the community

Providence and Kaiser Permanente are coming together to build a state-of-the-art hospital for Providence St. Mary Medical Center with an anticipated 2026 opening. The new hospital will expand access to high-quality, affordable care to meet the growing needs of our High Desert communities.

The new hospital will be a full-service, acute-care facility featuring 260 patient beds in private rooms, advanced ambulatory services, medical offices and possibly a trauma center. Hospital construction will begin in early

2022 on a 98-acre site located west of Interstate 15, between Bear Valley Road and Main Street, on Amargosa Road in Victorville.

“Patient care has and always will be our top priority. Our community will benefit from this exciting endeavor as it will vastly expand medical care options for residents,” says Randy Castillo, Providence St. Mary chief executive. “Our mission remains the same and both organizations stand by the promise in serving all to improve quality of life for families and their loved ones.”

## COVER STORY

The Providence-Kaiser Permanente partnership will combine the resources and care networks of both organizations. Providence St. Mary medical staff, St. Mary High Desert Medical Group, and Kaiser Permanente medical teams will deliver care at the new facility.

With an extended roster of clinical experts, Providence St. Mary will increase access to primary and specialty care while continuing to embrace innovation and enhance the patient experience.

Providence St. Mary chief executive Randy Castillo will maintain his leadership position in the new hospital and continue to have primary operational oversight, with input by Kaiser Permanente. In addition, both organizations will continue

to honor each other’s philosophy of health care practices with Providence St. Mary retaining its Catholic identity.

The evolution of Providence St. Mary Medical Center with this new joint venture is only the beginning of a healthier future for the High Desert. Progressing from a small 29-bed facility in 1956 to the comprehensive hospital it is today, Providence St. Mary has remained intrinsic to serving its community – and that dedication of compassionate, high-quality patient care will continue for future generations in this new facility.

For questions, contact the Foundation at 760-946-8841 or [stmaryfoundation@providence.org](mailto:stmaryfoundation@providence.org).







## A LEGACY OF CARING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

“  
Giving back is  
a family tradition.  
— Elizabeth Walker ”

As a longtime elementary teacher at various High Desert schools, Elizabeth Walker helped put generations of local children on the path to bright futures. Her work helped lay the foundation for the healthy, vibrant community we share today.

Now in retirement, she’s still supporting the community through extensive volunteer work and philanthropy, including a generous donation to Providence St. Mary Medical Center as part of her estate.

It’s all part of her lifelong commitment to giving back.

“Providence St. Mary strengthens our community and supports healthy living in so many ways,” she says. “The hospital acts as an umbrella protecting our residents throughout the High Desert, as many will need their services at some time in their life.”

Elizabeth earned her Bachelor of Science from UCLA and her master’s degree from Azusa Pacific University. An educator for more than 50 years, she began her career in the Los Angeles area before accepting a contract to teach first grade at Juniper School in Hesperia in 1977.

The area was much smaller then, and so was the school system. “It was a very small community of teachers,” she recalls. “We would have ice cream socials at Christmastime with all 60 employees.”

Elizabeth’s career grew along with the community, eventually leading her to teach seventh grade language arts and social studies.

Retirement brought a new chapter in her story of service, with a focus on volunteerism and active support for local charitable and social organizations. She says she’s carrying on a legacy she learned from her family.

“Giving back is a family tradition,” she says. “My grandmother volunteered for the Red Cross during World War II, and my mother volunteered at the hospital in her town.”

That tradition led her to become a supporter of Providence St. Mary Medical Center, eventually taking a seat on the Foundation Board. She’s a member of the President’s Cabinet Membership Society as well as the stewardship committee. And now, with the announcement that she is including a generous gift to the hospital in her estate, she’s been honored as a Heikes Legacy Society member.

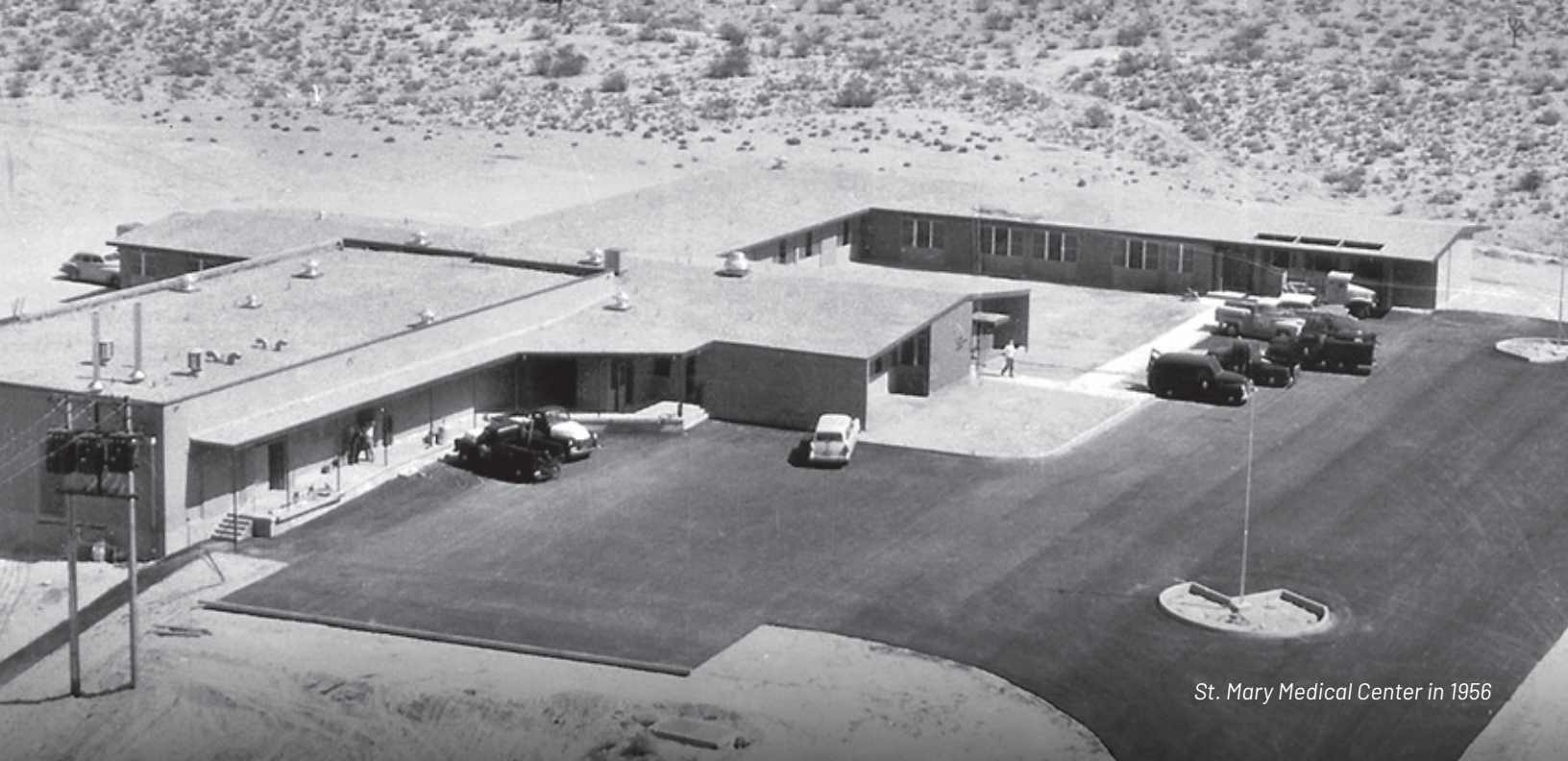
She says her support for the hospital is driven by her awareness of its importance in the community.

“The hospital is very central to the community,” she explains. “I don’t think the community realizes how much the hospital actually does.”

“The hospital supports all walks of life. They do so much for the community.”

Although she’s primarily motivated by a desire to serve, she says she also derives tremendous personal satisfaction from her work. And like any good teacher, she leads by example, encouraging others to follow in her footsteps.





St. Mary Medical Center in 1956

## FOUNDATION HISTORY

Though the local economy was gravely impacted by the closure of nearby George Air Force Base in 1992, the Foundation helped to ensure the hospital continued to thrive.

“A community can’t grow if it doesn’t have proper health care,” reflects Patricia. “The hospital has grown with the community.”

Today, the Foundation’s fundraising initiatives have enabled lifesaving enhancements

across Providence St. Mary Medical Center. As we celebrate 30 years of the Foundation’s achievements, we wish to extend our gratitude to the founding members, including Patricia Nickell, for their vision — and for transforming our beloved community.

Learn more about how you can support the future of Providence St. Mary at 760-946-8841 or [stmaryfoundation@providence.org](mailto:stmaryfoundation@providence.org).

# THREE DECADES OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

Foundation celebrates 30th anniversary

There was ample enthusiasm in the little town of Apple Valley when a 26-bed medical facility called St. Mary Desert Valley Hospital opened its doors in 1956. But decades would go by without an organization dedicated to philanthropic support.

That all changed in the late 1980s when five members of the community — John Armstrong, Elizabeth Daily, Joseph Morris, Patricia Nickell and Wilson So — came together to support their local hospital. In 1991, they founded the Providence St. Mary

Medical Center Foundation and initiated a philanthropic movement that would benefit the entire High Desert community.

One of the founding members, Patricia Nickell, remembers the early days of the Foundation. “The thing that made it ultimately successful is that the hospital hired an employee to work with us — someone who was skilled in nonprofits,” she says. “So, the hospital did invest in an executive director, and it just grew and grew and grew.”



Providence St. Mary Medical Center today

“A community can’t grow if it doesn’t have proper health care. The hospital has grown with the community.”

— Patricia Nickell,  
Founding board member



# PHILANTHROPIC HIGHLIGHTS



**2014** Philanthropic support has allowed caregivers to advance their education through nursing scholarships



**2016** Stryker Laparoscopy Tower, advanced visualization and documentation technology, acquired by philanthropy



**2017** Hyperbaric oxygen chamber, philanthropy funded by loyal supporters



**2019** Expanded the pediatric rehabilitation program with philanthropic support



**2020** State-of-the-art Peter Allan Electrophysiology lab funded in 2020





For me, it's about waking up every morning, going to work, and making that amazing connection with patients. I can't see myself doing anything else.

— Dr. Venkat Devineni



# MEET DR. VENKAT DEVINENI

Beloved cardiologist driven by a desire to save lives

As a child, Dr. Venkat Devineni spent summers on the sets of Bollywood movies produced by his grandfather's studio. With film as his family's business, it might have seemed natural for him to pursue a career on the screen or behind the camera. But from an early age, his interest in science drew him to follow his own path.

"Even in high school, when I read about what they were doing in cardiology, it seemed like a really cool thing to do," he recalls. "I wanted to be a cardiologist because that's what saves lives."

That desire led him to begin his internal medicine residency in St. Louis, and then to cardiology training at Loma Linda Medical Center. He came to Providence St. Mary Medical Center in 1998 and has been a fixture in the cardiology department ever since.

He loves the High Desert because of its small-town feel, and because of the big difference his work makes for the local community. Having the world-class cardiology department at Providence St. Mary nearby can truly save lives when every second counts.

"When patients need cardiology services — heart failure, cardiac arrest — they are fighting for their lives. We have to act very quickly," he explains. "If our service was not available, we would have higher mortality."

It's that sort of positive impact on people's lives that Dr. Devineni says makes him most proud.

During his 23 years at the hospital, he's cared for hundreds of patients, often building close relationships that endure. "I've had cards and letters from many patients," he says. Patients write to tell him how much his care has meant to them and their families.

"It's those kinds of things that excite me to continue doing what I'm doing," Dr. Devineni says. "The human connection."

"For me, it's about waking up every morning, going to work and making that amazing connection with patients. I can't see myself doing anything else."

## CONGRATULATIONS

to our honorees who will be recognized by Providence Southern California as Physician Champions of Philanthropy!

**Venkat Devineni, MD     John Yashou, DO**

Their commitment to patient care and philanthropy has impacted the lives of thousands of individuals and families in our community. Honorees will receive this prestigious award at a special recognition event.





Hanley and Glee Heikes

# AN IMPACT FOR THE FUTURE

## Hanley and Glee Heikes Legacy Society

The Hanley and Glee Heikes Legacy Society is a group of our most loyal supporters established to recognize, honor and thank those who have named Providence St. Mary Medical Center as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

The society honors Hanley and Glee Heikes who were philanthropic leaders within the Apple Valley community. In their 30-year tenure, the husband-and-wife duo were key in raising more than \$7 million for the medical center in estate gifts and millions more in special campaigns. Since Hanley's passing in 1993 and Glee's passing in 2020, the Heikes' legacy remains for future generations of patient care. Providence St. Mary's status as a leader in medical excellence is a tribute to their vision and perseverance.

An investment in Providence St. Mary's future ensures our continued ability to offer the latest technology, introduce innovation, make essential improvements, and create the healing environments that are so critically needed to continue providing high-quality, compassionate care to our patients and their families.

Whether you would like your gift to start working today or benefit Providence St. Mary after your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that meets your goals. There are many ways to make a legacy gift, including:

- A bequest gift in a will/trust
- Beneficiary designation: life insurance policy, IRA or other account
- Gifts of real estate or stock
- Charitable gift annuity (CGA)

The groundwork built by these gifts helps ensure the medical center can continue offering care that exceeds national benchmarks while restoring the health and dignity of those we serve for years to come.

If you have included the medical center in your estate plans or would like to discuss how to establish a legacy at Providence St. Mary, please contact John Kozyra, chief philanthropy officer, at [John.Kozyra@providence.org](mailto:John.Kozyra@providence.org) or call 760-217-9778.

## PLANNED GIVING

# GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE

If you own real estate, it is likely to be a substantial part of your personal wealth. Whether it is a personal residence, vacation home, business or rental property, there is no question real estate can become an extremely valuable asset over time. For this reason, real estate can play a strategic role in your legacy planning with a variety of flexible options to best fit your financial needs:



### Bequest of Estate

An outright gift of real estate is a simple way to provide immediate support. Real estate held over one year avoids capital gains taxes and qualifies for a deduction equal to the full value of the property on the date of the gift.



### Life Estate Reserved

Enables you to make a gift of your property while continuing to live there and qualifies for a current tax deduction based on the projected value of future property interest. An additional option is to use your property to fund a charitable gift annuity, allowing you to receive income for life while still qualifying for a charitable deduction.



### Bargain Sale

When selling your property to us for less than its market value, it allows you to receive cash and qualify for a tax deduction; additionally, avoiding capital gains tax on the amount determined as a gift.



### Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust/Unitrust

When you donate real estate through a CRT, your property is sold without incurring immediate capital gains tax and qualifies for a partial tax deduction. Sale proceeds are invested to create lifetime income for you or others or for a specified period of up to 20 years. When the income benefits end, the remaining assets are then donated.

The combination of avoiding capital gains and enjoying a tax deduction makes a gift of real estate a strategic way to meet charitable goals. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and invite you to contact us for more information to explore how a gift of real estate could benefit you and your loved ones.

# TAX-FREE GIFT FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70½ or over, a transfer directly from your IRA is a simple yet highly effective way to give:

- The amount transferred counts toward your required minimum distribution if one is due.
- You pay no income tax on the amount transferred.
- Transfers up to \$100,000 (annual aggregate amount) qualify for this favorable tax treatment each year.
- Make an immediate impact — there is no need to wait until the end of the year.

Planning is an important part of giving. Consult your tax advisor or our gift planning team to explore the impact you can make through a gift of real estate or from your IRA.

For more information, please contact John Kozyra, chief philanthropy officer, at [John.Kozyra@providence.org](mailto:John.Kozyra@providence.org) or call 760-217-9778.



## BRIDGE BUILDERS PROGRAM RECEIVES MAJOR NEW GRANT

The opioid crisis has impacted Americans of all ages, but those who suffer most are often overlooked: babies born to mothers suffering from addiction. From birth defects to seizures to severe withdrawal symptoms, infants are the hidden victims of the opioid epidemic.

Providence St. Mary Medical Center has recently seen a 30% increase in babies born to opioid users. It's a problem that won't go away on its own, but the hospital's Bridge Builders program is offering hope to help pregnant mothers break their addiction before giving birth.

Bridge Builders provides guidance and support for expecting mothers suffering from opioid-related illness, serving as a link between traditional medical care and specialized substance abuse treatment.

As Dr. Ali Ebrahim, medical director of the hospital's Emergency Department, explains, when a patient comes to the

department seeking opioid dependency treatment, doctors can only do so much.

"We do the initial routine medical exam and screening, and if they qualify, we start the treatment in the E.D." Dr. Ebrahim says. "But it's one thing to give a patient a dose of a medication, and it's a whole different thing to link them with a follow-up resource."

That's where navigators like Rebecca Bartley come in.

"Without Rebecca, we could not operate this program," Dr. Ebrahim says. "Bridge Builders bridges patients between the initial E.D. visit to outpatient resources for long-term care."

The job of the navigator is to help patients find necessary care to protect their health and the health of their babies, including finding a treatment clinic, help with insurance, housing and



As a navigator, I take a comprehensive, whole-person approach to each patient.

— Rebecca Bartley,  
Substance Use Navigator



transportation assistance and long-term support for them to stay off opioids.

Bartley says everything she does is targeted at a patient's unique needs. "As a navigator, I take a comprehensive, whole-person approach to each patient," she says. "My role is to really be there for folks."

Her efforts just got a big boost, thanks to a \$490,000 grant from UniHealth Foundation to support the Bridge Builders initiative. The funds will help provide the necessary tools, programs

and support for mothers and their infants to alleviate the impact of opioid abuse during pregnancy.

The grant will make an immeasurable difference in the lives of patients who depend on Bridge Builders, and in the community that Providence St. Mary Medical Center serves.

"It's important for people to know that addiction is treatable," Bartley says. "The more options you give people, the better the outcome for the community will be."

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To support our mental health initiatives,  
please visit [supportstmaryfoundation.org/donate](https://supportstmaryfoundation.org/donate)



# GIVING MATTERS



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## DOCTOR TALK VIRTUAL SERIES

Get up close and personal with clinical experts to learn about the latest advancements and innovations happening within Providence St. Mary Medical Center

**If you'd like to receive more information about our Doctor Talk series, please contact [stmaryfoundation@providence.org](mailto:stmaryfoundation@providence.org) or 760-946-8841.**

