



The Dominican Hospital Foundation is entering an exciting time as we launch our Healing Courtyards Initiative with two lead gifts received only days apart. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation just awarded a \$500,000 matching grant to us and the Rehabilitation Garden will be named in their honor. Maureen Benito has very generously provided \$250,000 for the project. The Norman and Maureen Benito Central Surgery Courtyard will be a lasting tribute to her late husband.

Based on strong scientific evidence from Stanford Health Care and others, the gardens will impact patient outcomes, reducing the length of hospital stays and the need for pain medication. We hope to see the first courtyards completed in a year's time. You can read more about this exciting project in this issue.

Our board, hospital leadership, and physicians showed serious commitment to advancing Dominican by studying other successful hospital foundations, specifically Sharpe Hospital Foundations in San Diego. Senior Vice President Bill Littlejohn joined us for two days of education on best practices.

We hope you can participate as we celebrate our successes this year at Holidays d'Eleganz on November 20 and 21. This event will support the Healing Courtyards Initiative and an exciting new bionic walker called an Ekso GT™ robotic exoskeleton. Funds raised for the Healing Courtyards Initiative will be matched by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation.

As always, please call us if you would like to be more involved. We can provide several opportunities for you to truly make a difference to others as we work in a focused and aligned way with the hospital staff and our dedicated physicians.

Respectfully,

Ted Burke  
President,  
Dominican Hospital Foundation



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# Healing Courtyards Initiative Launched with Two Lead Gifts from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and Maureen Benito

“The Healing Courtyards Initiative transforms the hospital, significantly impacting the experience of thousands of people who will utilize these spaces,” said Joe Burton, chair of the Healing Courtyards committee and Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer at Plantronics.

## Interested in learning more?

Call the Dominican Hospital Foundation and ask for Beverly or Ana at 831.462.7712  
or visit [www.supportdominican.org](http://www.supportdominican.org).



JONI L. JANECKI  
& ASSOCIATES

*Turn the page to read about our two lead gifts.*

# Healing Courtyards Initiative Launched

First a dream, then a concept, and then a master plan for six healing courtyards. In September, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation donated a \$500,000 matching grant to Phase 1 of Dominican Hospital's Healing Courtyards Initiative. Their generous gift names the Monterey Peninsula Foundation Rehabilitation Garden.

Phase I of the Healing Courtyard Initiative completes the rehabilitation garden and the garden for the central surgery lounge, courtyard, and balcony. When all three phases of the Healing Courtyards Initiative are complete, Dominican Hospital will house six healing courtyards.

A number of scientific studies prove that gardens in hospital settings lower stress levels, reduce the need for pain medication, and result in shorter hospital stays.

Designed by physical, occupational, and speech therapists, the rehabilitation garden serves patients recovering from stroke, brain or spinal surgery, head trauma, and joint replacement. Various types of pavement surfaces, stair configurations, and pathways help patients navigate with walkers, wheelchairs, and canes in a real-life environment. Other features, such as a putting green, will be used to re-learn balance.

"We're excited to support Dominican Hospital Foundation in their new endeavor, especially the creation of a putting green designed for rehabilitation," said Steve John, CEO of Monterey Peninsula Foundation.

"As the host of both the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, and the Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach golf tournaments," John continued, "it made sense for us to support this life-affirming outdoor garden. The therapeutic use of golf will help patients on their healing journey."



The Dominican Hospital Foundation is now actively raising funds from community members and organizations to ensure completion of the three phases of the Healing Courtyards Initiative. There are many recognition opportunities available, from \$1,000 to \$500,000. All donations will be matched by Monterey Peninsula Foundation.

Interested in learning more? Call the Dominican Hospital Foundation and ask for Beverly or Ana at **831.462.7712** or visit [www.supportdominican.org](http://www.supportdominican.org).



# Paying Tribute to a True Community Leader

Maureen Benito Donates \$250,000 to  
Dominican Hospital's Healing Courtyards Initiative

Norman and Maureen Benito have been grateful patients of Dominican Hospital for many years.

For more than six decades, Norman and Maureen Benito were rarely apart. Even before they were married, the two lifelong Santa Cruz residents were neighbors growing up.

"I was married at 18 to the love of my life, the boy next door, and we were together every day for 61 years," says Maureen Benito.

And they were a full and happy 61 years. Norman started his career working for two funeral homes in Santa Cruz County and later started his own, Norman's Family Chapel, in Soquel. It was truly a family business. Maureen and Norman, their parents, as well as their son, Gary, who later went into the mortuary business himself, helped to run the funeral home.

"A good, simple, happy life is what we had," Maureen says.

Running Norman's Family Chapel was just one part of the Benito family's involvement in the community. Norman was actively involved with organizations such as the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge and the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz, among others. Norman was honored with a certificate for his service in the U.S. Navy by President Barack Obama. He served on the board of the Dominican Hospital Foundation for many years and on the Board of Fellows for Santa Clara University.

Dominican Hospital meant a great deal to both Norman and Maureen. In fact, the two were so close with the founding Sisters that they helped the young couple by babysitting Gary when he was growing up.

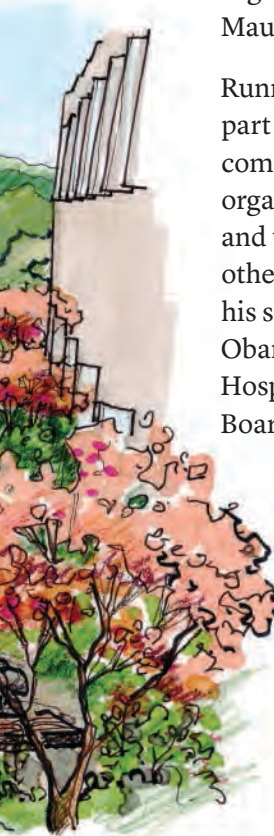


Norman and Maureen Benito

Maureen also has a deep history with Dominican as founder of the Guild along with Angel Goscila. The Guild's first event featured Merv Griffin and Eva Gabor.

In 2014 at the age of 82, Norman passed away, surrounded by his family. To pay tribute to his memory, Maureen has donated \$250,000 to the Dominican Hospital's Healing Courtyards Initiative, which will transform six garden areas to reduce stress and promote healing for patients and their families. Maureen's gracious donation will name the Norman & Maureen Benito Central Surgery Courtyard.

"I just want his memory to live on forever because he was such a good and giving man and so fond of the hospital," Maureen says. "He always said that we were a family helping other families."





# A Story of Humankindness

A Team of Local Health Providers  
Start a Charitable Fund for Patients

The physicians and staff of Dignity Health Medical Group-Dominican have created a special fund at Dominican Hospital Foundation to help patients in need.

More than a year ago, a Care Management Team was formed to address medical and social issues for high risk patients. Through home visits and the implementation of social services, team members (including a physician's assistant and a social worker) help patients avoid hospitalization or nursing home placement, meet their health care goals, and improve overall quality of life.

Often the Care Management Team worked with patients who had no family, and were reliant on very limited resources. It became clear that some patients needed extra help. And so employees

started to reach into their own pockets to pay for medications, supplies, transportation, clothing, food, application fees, and co-pays.

John, an elderly patient with mild dementia, was one of these patients. "John would often take the wrong medication, or too much of it so he would be completely confused and disoriented," says David, John's longtime friend and health care advocate. "He would often lose his wallet, or forget his PIN, and so would not have enough to eat. Cheryl and Kim from the Care Management Team got him on the right track. They stabilized his medication, bought him lunches, and went out of their way to help him. Their kindness and generosity made all the difference in the world. John is now in a safe, caring environment and this would not have been possible without them."

"We know from research that patients who cannot afford their medications get readmitted to the hospital because they were unable to pick up their prescriptions due to cost. We try to assist patients and look for alternative ways of funding certain items, but sometimes there are no alternatives. Thanks to the Dominican Hospital Foundation we now can make tax-deductible donations so that our care managers can provide immediate financial help when needed," says Kim DeSerpa, social worker.

"I don't know how I was ever able to really take care of patients without the help of our Care





Management Team. Their contributions have been invaluable in our most complex cases,” said Robert Keet, MD the Care Management Team medical director. “I am delighted that we now have a fund that can support extending this good will.”

Carol Dantzler, clinical operations manager, was the first to donate to the fund. “I was so inspired by the work of the Care Management Team and their kindness, compassion, and generosity. Sometimes it is the small things that make a big difference.”

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Photo, above: Cheryl DeMonner, certified physician assistant, Dr. Robert Keet, medical director, and Kimberly De Serpa, clinical social worker.

Photo, left: David (left) and his friend, John. John did not have any family in the area. The Care Management Team was able to locate John’s cousin in Colorado and arranged for his placement in an assisted living facility close to family.

## To contribute to the CARE fund

Please call Dominican Hospital Foundation at **831.462.7712**, visit [www.supportdominican.org](http://www.supportdominican.org), or e-mail [givingtodominican@dignityhealth.org](mailto:givingtodominican@dignityhealth.org)

Dominican Hospital and Dignity Health Medical Group’s employees can donate PTO or make payroll deduction donations.

No donation is too small. Your support makes a big difference in the life of someone in need.

# Dominican Hospital 14th Annual Golf Tournament Raises More Than \$57,000 for Healing Courtyards Initiative

Fourteen years ago, Stephan Plager, MD and Jack Watson, MD, along with a group of dedicated local physicians, organized the very first golf tournament to raise funds for the Katz Cancer Resource Center at Dominican Hospital. Since then, the annual tournament has raised more than \$600,000 for patient care, including the Mobile Wellness Clinic, cancer services, and most recently – the Healing Courtyards Initiative.

“Every year, the golf tournament brings together doctors, nurses, and staff of Dominican Hospital, business owners, and donors for an important and meaningful cause,” said Jack Watson, MD. “We are grateful for the passion of these businesses and individuals as we join forces to bring the very best health care possible to our community.”

100 percent of the proceeds go directly to patient care without any overhead taken out,” said Bette Harken, chair, and a long time member of the golf tournament committee. “The funds we raise and the generosity of our sponsors make a lasting impact. However, it is not only the funds that make the difference. We had more than 100 volunteers this year as well as our committee members giving their time to the cause - the

Healing Courtyards Initiative. Without them, the golf tournament would not be possible.

## Tournament Committee

Bette Harken, <i>Chair</i>	Martina O’Sullivan
Sister Rita Eileen Dean	Sister Michaela Siplak
Angelo DeBernardo	Beth Watkins
John Fisher	Dr. Jack Watson
David Harken	

Photo 1: Martina O’Sullivan, director for community engagement at Dominican Hospital, welcomes guests.

Photo 2: Congratulations to Camisa Composti (second from right) – this young golfer won the women’s Closest to Pin award with 20’5.” Camisa and her team members, Rod Composti, Rob Moyer, and Randy Nickels, won the Co-ed 1st Place in the Tournament.

Photo 3: Matt Fardig and Osa Aimufua, with sponsors Frank Cedarblade, HGA, and Rodney Terra of FTG Builders, Inc.

Photo 4: After a day on the course, players and guests gathered for a classic DeLaveaga banquet dinner.

## Congratulations To The Winning Teams

**Men’s 1st Place:** Shadowbrook Team—Ted Burke, Brian McMillen, Charlie Parker, and Casey Swindamann

**Women’s 1st Place:** Dominican Team—Kathy Finnigan, Teresa Doran, Mary Garrison, and Kimberly Kieft

**Co-Ed 1st Place:** Camisa Composti, Rod Composti, Rod Moyer, and Rany Nickles



# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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## Our Every Success Begins with Our Supporters

The Foundation's Donor Appreciation event in July at the Hollins House was attended by more than 100 community leaders and committed Dominican Hospital Foundation supporters. Thanks to their generosity, more than \$6 million has been raised since 2012. "This is an exciting time for the Foundation," said Ian Mackenzie, Foundation board member and chair of the donor recognition program. "We are experiencing growth at all levels. Since 2012, our number of donors increased from 1,200 to almost 1,800."

Photo 1: Foundation President Ted Burke and Hospital President Nanette Mickiewicz, MD, thank Jon Sisk for his service as Foundation president.

Photo 2: Stanford neurosurgeon Ciara Harraher, MD with her husband Michael McDonnell.

Photo 3: Jim Thompson enjoys the event accompanied by Robbie Dunton.

Photo 4: Hospital employees and Foundation donors Lillian MacMinn and Kerry Nehls (L), with Kerry's daughter Kristina Rohrkemper.

Photo 5: New Foundation board member Larry Brenner with wife Holly (L), and Mary Rose Mackenzie with daughter Megan.





## Best Practices

The Dominican Hospital Foundation is always looking to learn best practices and improve. To that end, the Foundation board recently spent half a day with Bill Littlejohn, CEO of Sharpe Hospital Foundations, senior VP of Sharp HealthCare and former president of the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy. He helped assess our future direction and spoke of the need for serious health care investments by community donors. It's not so much about filling an unmet need as it is about investing together in the community's health care advances and improvements. A strong hospital and a generous community can have a huge impact on the quality of health care for all of us.

Bill also met with a committed group of physicians, hospital leadership, and the hospital board's executive committee, as well as the hospital's directors and managers. The visit sparked ideas and conversation about the strong alignment between the Foundation and the hospital's priorities. We look forward to some focused, thoughtful planning in the months ahead as we create a strong culture of gratitude and philanthropy at Dominican.



Photo 1: Dominican Hospital President Nanette Mickiewicz, MD, and Foundation Board members enjoying refreshments and a lively discussion about new concepts learned at the workshop.

Photo 2: Bill Littlejohn, CEO of Sharpe Hospital Foundations and senior VP of Sharp HealthCare.

# Dominican Hospital Foundation Welcomes New Staff

We're excited about the knowledge and passion of our new staff members. Their skills and ideas will be a significant contribution to the Foundation.



## **Brooke Newman – Philanthropy Coordinator**

Brooke is a recent East Coast transplant and is very happy to be in Santa Cruz. With more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, she has

worked for a variety of organizations, including Project Vote Smart, the American Red Cross, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and the World Trade Center Health Program. She received her bachelor's degree in political science from the Eugene Lang College at the New School University and her MPA at the Baruch School of Public Affairs. "I am excited to be a part of the Dominican Hospital Foundation team and contribute to their efforts of bringing the very best health care to our community," Brooke said.



## **Carina Sierra – Administrative Coordinator**

Carina's accounting, database management, and organizational skills are an invaluable asset to the Foundation. Previously Carina served as sponsorship and

fundraising coordinator for the Monte Foundation in Aptos. In addition to her time at the Monte Foundation, Carina also worked at Deluxe Foods of Aptos as an administrator. "I feel like I have finally found my home here at Dominican," she notes. It is no wonder why Carina feels so at home at Dominican Hospital -- she was born here over two decades ago. Carina has lived in Santa Cruz her entire life, and brings an understanding of the "strong community" sense that Dominican Hospital embodies.

## Contact Us

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