

Legacy

Volume 1, Issue 2 ■ August, 2007

A Testament to Gratitude

Humble beginnings lead to \$1 million gift



Rita Echenique in Community Hospital's healing garden named in honor of her husband Luis.

His parents came from the Basque country in Spain, a shepherd and a cook, who grew up mere miles apart in the Pyrenees, but met and fell in love in San Lucas, just south of King City. Depending on the day you asked his father, he would tell you it was 1916 or maybe 1914, but the mid 1900s said it best. They came to work for others but little by little, they acquired their own land. Luis and two brothers were born there, and working together with their "Pappa," they amassed the ranch as it now stands.

Luis Echenique's father came to California with \$36 in his bib overalls but left his son with a legacy that, after his death, turned into a \$1 million gift to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

"Our share of the ranch," says wife Rita Echenique, "ended up being leased to Scheid Vineyards. Everything on top of the ground was theirs, but we owned the dirt. That was our retirement. It was a neat arrangement for 28 years, until one day, they asked if I would consider selling it to them. That's how I came to be able to give a million dollars to the hospital. But why I chose the hospital is a better story."

Rita was studying medical record administration in Boston when she met a young doctor whose father, also a physician, owned a 22-bed hospital in King City that, thanks to a large donation by George L. Mee, was soon to be replaced by the new 42-bed George L. Mee Memorial Hospital. The young doctor invited Rita to come to California to establish the medical record department.

See *A Testament to Gratitude* on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

A Testament to Gratitude
Humble beginnings lead to \$1 million gift

FRONT COVER

Message from Community Hospital Foundation's Chief Development Officer

PAGE 2

There's No Place Like Home

PAGE 2

At the Pinnacle of Excellence
Honoring a special group of donors

PAGE 3



Rules of Three: The Bobby Clinton Story

BACK COVER

 chomp.org

To make a donation to Community Hospital, please go to www.chomp.org, click under *Ways to Give*, then *Online giving* at the right, or call the Development office at (831) 625-4506.

Community Hospital Foundation is the nonprofit, tax-exempt parent company of Community Hospital and related entities, and the recipient of all charitable gifts on behalf of the hospital. The foundation and the hospital are governed by the same Board of Trustees, comprised of local leaders and community members committed to the importance of philanthropy in fulfilling the mission of the hospital. The foundation enables the hospital to build and is there to support the organization as it grows.



**FROM COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION'S
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER —
ALBERT J. ALVAREZ**

Recently, I was reflecting with friends on my first 18 months in this role and how each day I am privileged to be a witness to miracles, large and small. Some miracles are clearly perceived while others are more subtle, yet in my experience here, all are brought to us by miracle makers, friends, and neighbors whose commitment to making life better for all compels them to share their gifts. Let me tell you about a few of these:

A friend created a miracle through a generous donation to Community Hospital Foundation which was matched by a granting organization, resulting in the provision of diabetes prevention education to financially underprivileged residents of the Monterey Peninsula. This important information is helping to save lives.

Another miracle maker, deeply touched by the ravaging effects of substance abuse on the lives of young people, gives to Community Hospital's program that treats and counsels youth with substance abuse problems. Quite often, these interventions are saving the lives of young people who otherwise would be lost to drugs or alcohol.

Another friend created a miracle by funding a gift to the hospital through his estate while continuing to volunteer his time and talent as a valued member of our Auxiliary. His good will is infectious and is causing others to similarly reflect on their commitment to our patient-care services.

All of these and many more miracle makers have helped shape Community Hospital into one of California's strongest hospitals. Representing the many patients who receive their care here, I thank you all for your compassion and your commitment, and I look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Albert J. Alvarez, Chief Development Officer,
Community Hospital Foundation

A Testament to Gratitude from page 1

"I have no idea what would ever make me do that," she says. But I went and fell in love with King City and the beauty of Monterey, and especially a young rancher named Luis Echenique. We were married in January 1954."

The couple lived on the family ranch for 12 years before building a home in King City. Luis continued farming and ranching. Although he had earned an engineering degree on a baseball scholarship from Santa Clara University, and had been a pilot in the Navy during WWII, he had otherwise never left the ranch.

Meanwhile, Rita worked for Mee Memorial Hospital for 22 years before retiring at least three times. Once she became restless, she returned to work. The fourth time, she became a medical record consultant for skilled nursing facilities, which brought her to the Monterey Peninsula.

It also initiated her interest in the Community Hospital Auxiliary, of which she now has been an active member for 20 years, commuting from King City for 14 of those years.

"Monterey became my home away from home," says Rita. "I had a lot of friends I'd met at Community Hospital, and I loved to stop for lunch at the Fountain Court Café and then write my reports at a table there. One friend who happened to be a volunteer with the Auxiliary would join me for tea. One day, she said, 'I'll bet we have a red coat that fits you. That's how I got into it.'"

In his later years, when Luis was not so tied to the ranch, he would join Rita in her treks to Monterey. "Luis would sit in the hospital wherever I was volunteering," says Rita, "and read the newspaper or a magazine nearby. He knew the Fountain Court inside and out. He knew all the nurses and all the volunteers; everybody loved him. Luis never met a stranger. He talked to anything that would stand still. He never joined the Auxiliary, but he always showed up."

The Echeniques also had several occasions to use Community Hospital over the years. "Whenever we've been hospitalized there, the care has been absolutely top notch," she says. "We've been so happy with the hospital and everybody who works there; we just felt this was the place to give a substantial gift. We wanted to see that Community Hospital continued to be the state-of-the-art, wonderful place that it is."

In pledging their gift of \$1 million in support of nursing education, Rita asked that the gift be recognized by naming the hospital's Healing Garden in honor of Luis, who succumbed to emphysema in 2006. She knows he would have liked this — he loved the outdoors, gardens, and landscape.

"I don't know whether Community Hospital nurses are taught this," she says, "or if they come by it naturally, but they know how to relate to the patient. They're not just doing a job; they're so kind and thoughtful and compassionate. And they work so hard. This was the right thing to do."



Rita and Luis Echenique.

Community Hospital Foundation
1000 MUNRAS AVENUE, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940

Board of Trustees

Beverly L. Hamilton, *Chair*
Frank C. Amato
Carsbia Anderson, Jr.
Ian Arnof, *Vice Chair*
Ted J. Balestreri
Laurie Benjamin, *Secretary*
Shelley Claudel
George W. Couch, III
Stephen M. Dart
James J. Didion
John Ellison, MD, *Chief of Staff*
H. James Griggs
Jay Hudson, *President,*
Community Hospital Endowments
Steven J. Packer, MD, *President/CEO*
Mark Vierra, MD
Roxanne Wilde, *Auxiliary President*

Development Office Staff

Albert J. Alvarez, *Chief Development Officer*
Carol Blaushild, *Administrative Specialist*
Maria Corn, *Data Entry*
Landau Davidson, *Systems Analyst*
May Esquerra, *Advancement Records and Research Assistant*
Valerie Gundersen, *Development Officer*
Carol Hatton, *Senior Development Officer*
Debbie Howitt, *Senior Development Officer*
Janet Rappa, *Senior Administrative Assistant*
Michele Melicia Young, *Development Officer*

At the Pinnacle of Excellence

Honoring a special group of donors

From the very first donation of land to the continued contributions of time and talent to the generosity of financial gifts, the tradition of giving is the hallmark of Community Hospital and has provided the basis for its pinnacle of excellence.

On Wednesday, May 9, 2007, the Community Hospital Foundation hosted its inaugural Pinnacle Dinner, designed to recognize special donors for their legendary contributions to both the vision and the progress of Community Hospital.

Launching a most memorable evening, President and CEO Steve Packer, MD addressed the first Pinnacle of Excellence award winners: Community Hospital's Auxiliary, the Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation represented by Sarah Bonner, Marion and John Robotti, and Bertie Bialek, honored for their transformative impact on the hospital and its ability to provide "innovative healthcare with a human touch."

"In recent years," Dr. Packer told the winners, "you have helped with the opening of the Family Birth Center.

You contributed to the expansion and creation of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and, most recently, made possible our most ambitious project to date — the openings of the South and Forest pavilions."

Community Hospital Auxiliary

For more than 51 years the Auxiliary has been the heart and soul of Community Hospital. These dedicated volunteers inform, guide, and comfort patients and their families and friends seven days a week. In addition to addressing the many needs of those in our care, the Auxiliary is also a financial force that has supported hospital growth since its inception, including major support for high-impact projects such as the Outpatient Pavilion, Telecare service, Family Birth Center, Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Pavilions Project.

Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation

The Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, represented by Sara Bonner, along with her husband Robert Bonner, has a long history of benevolent contributions to the hospital. "We have never, ever been disappointed

in the care we've received," says Sarah. "It's a comforting feeling. Everyone in this area should be concerned about this hospital; you never know when you may need it."

John and Marion Robotti

John and Marion Robotti have made a lifestyle of giving to the hospital, particularly throughout her 40 years as an Auxiliary volunteer. "In the early days, you had to be recommended to become a volunteer," says Marion. "Fortunately, I did pass. Both John and I have been so impressed with the administration; it all started at the top and filtered down."

Bertie Bialek

Bertie Bialek, who chaired the committee, is credited as the driving force behind the \$7.5 million Comprehensive Cancer Center Campaign. "I learned, by heading up that campaign and by serving on the board, a lot about what goes into making a hospital work" she says. "It's an incredibly complicated system. I'm so proud of our hospital in general; it's good to know we'll get the best care we can get. We're lucky."

HONOREES



Community Hospital Auxiliary



Robert and Sarah Bonner, Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, Inc.



John and Marion Robotti



Roberta Bialek



Pinnacle of Excellence Award

At the Pinnacle Awards dinner, shown clockwise: Steve Packer, MD, President/CEO, second from left; Albert Alvarez, Chief Development Officer, far right, with Al and Joan Bernardin. Melva Huff and Mae Johnson. Annette and Patrick Welton and Anne Packer. Pat Zanetta and Kathleen Hicks.

Rules of Three: The Bobby Clinton Story

In the last patient room as you pass the nurses' station, you can sit on the wide, comfy daybed by the window to watch and listen to the river of water slipping down the falls in the Healing Garden at Community Hospital. Having owned a retreat up in Strawberry, where he loved to hear the river rushing by, Bobby Clinton would have appreciated that, would have enjoyed the soothing sounds of water that would have made him feel at home.

His wife Gloria understood that, which is why she chose that particular room to be named for her husband through a donation that would enable her to pay tribute to the man she loved for nearly 47 years of marriage before losing him to cancer October 17, 2005.

Bobby knew about the room. In fact, the life-long residential developer was sitting on a daybed by a different window, enjoying the comforting sounds of construction that would result in that waterfall, when he and Gloria decided to break additional news to his radiation oncologist, Dr. Neal Glover.

"Dr. Glover was sitting by the bed, talking about WWII airplanes with

Bobby as he often did," says Gloria, "when Bobby looked at me and said, 'Shall we tell him?' When we told him we were going to have a second one of these patient rooms named after him, his mouth just dropped open. It caught him completely off guard, and he had to go sit down. What tickled me the most was that my husband was able to see that."

The Clintons' decision to include Dr. Glover in their donation to the hospital and dedication of two patient rooms was a gesture of generosity laced with gratitude.

Shortly after Bobby's initial cancer surgery and follow-up treatment, he began having problems, which Gloria just knew didn't seem right. After weeks of inconclusive tests and observation, Gloria called Dr. Glover who, within four hours, had diagnosed and addressed blood clots.

"Bobby was diagnosed with cancer in January 2004," says Gloria, "and eventually had 17 months cancer free before he died. I have always felt, and Bobby also felt, that Dr. Glover gave him at least another year of life, of quality life.

Dr. Glover always treated the whole body, not just the part that was ill, but the entire patient."

According to Gloria, it was Dr. Glover's vigilance and Bobby's special attachment to his physician that extended her husband's vitality. She and Bobby shared a pact that between them there could be no

lies, and Dr. Glover became a part of that. In that this was a journey traveled by all three of them, the Clinton children have since convinced their mother to endow a third patient room to be named after her.

"If I can do anything for this hospital," she says, "I will."



Gloria Clinton with Dr. Neil Glover.

There's No Place Like Home



Charlie Whisler, M.D.

Charlie Whisler didn't lack direction; in fact, if anything, he had too many options. He can thank Community Hospital for setting him on the right path.

Just because he had finished college didn't mean he knew what he wanted to do. A graduate of

the University of California Santa Barbara with a degree in marine ecology, an avid surfer, and a Peninsula native, Whisler had planned to come home to build his career. Maybe even get his Ph.D. in marine biology. But the idea of studying a "single-cell organism on the back of a kelp blade" was not his idea of a dynamic day.

He had thought about studying medicine, but he didn't know where to start or where to end up. To get an up-close view of the field, he signed up as a junior volunteer in the Auxiliary at Community Hospital. But because of his background busing tables during school, he landed a job at the Fountain Court Café and learned how to make a mean milkshake.

"I spent about a year and a half at the hospital and even crossed the 500-hour mark," says Whisler. "And I did decide to go to medical school,

where I learned I was a lot more comfortable as a specialist than a generalist. I was most interested in studying and learning about the eye."

Early in his tenure at the University of Michigan Medical School, grade-school pal Steven Dewese told Whisler about a scholarship program funded by Community Hospital's Auxiliary. The junior volunteer applied and was granted a scholarship that took about \$10,000 a year off his out-of-state tuition.

"They gave me the scholarship without strings," he says, "without stipulations like I had to continue volunteering at the hospital or return to the area to practice medicine. I was planning to come back anyway, but this was an exceptionally generous offer."

Today, Dr. Whisler, 37, is an ophthalmologist who practices in Monterey. Last year, the Auxiliary

invited the doctor and his wife Christine to become associate members of the Auxiliary, a role which requires no participation except for an annual donation of \$25 or more per couple. It is this contribution which funds scholarships like the one Whisler received.

"It's a wonderful story of growing up and giving back," says Mickie Vinson, director of associate Auxiliary members. "As an associate member, there are no meetings, and you don't have to do any volunteer work. But these annual contributions fund a wide variety of important projects, like the junior auxiliary scholarship. It's ideal for busy working people who know they're helping from a distance." While \$25 a year may not sound like much, with 284 associate couples, and 445 associate singles, it definitely adds up to a significant contribution.

