



Newsletter



President's Message



Dear Friends of CARES,

The Coronavirus is impacting everyone's life now. CARES has been asked to ready a third childcare center to enable Medical Center employees to come to work since LAUSD closed all the schools in Los Angeles County. The assumption is that the staff need to have somewhere to leave their children since they must come in to work and cannot bring their children in with them.

Under the circumstances that our whole country is facing, the CARES Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon on April 29th at the Valley Hunt Club has been cancelled.

As we all face this pandemic crisis together, I wish you well. Please be careful and be safe.

Best wishes,

Mindy Halls President

LA Food Bank and CARES Bring Food to the LAC+USC Geriatric Clinic!

CARES has partnered with the LA Food Bank to decrease "Food Insecurity" among the patients and their families served at the LAC+USC Medical Center. In December 2019, the LA Mobile Food Pantry made its first visit on grounds during the CARES Holiday Giving Program. Since that time, the visits of the Mobile Food Pantry have increased to twice a month. In addition, **an invaluable resource to the LAC+USC Medical Center Geriatric Clinic has been made possible by the LA Food Bank, CARES and the Medical Center.**

"Receiving this food has helped me because I have a sensitive stomach and do not eat what my family eats. I can eat everything that comes in the Food Bank box. I am thankful to everyone for all the services they are providing. There are people, like me, who need this help but do not have the money to be able to purchase everything we need to get better. I thank them a lot for the fruits and vegetables that they provide. I tell my daughter, I am now able to have my own food."

Hilda Palafox, Patient



The Geriatric Clinic sees patients that are 65 or older (most are 75 or older) or patients who have geriatric syndromes such as dementia, falls, or functional impairment. It is a primary care clinic, so patients may also see specialists when needed (cardiology, gastroenterology, etc.), but the Geriatric Clinic is responsible for their overall care. The goal in Geriatric medicine is to preserve and enhance function and quality of life, so many older patients were tested for Food Insecurity and are considered to be in a fragile failure to thrive group.

When **Amirah Dales** from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank offered a program that could help feed the older adult population, CARES was eager to make it happen. As a result, now one 10 to 12 lb. box of nonperishable



"I want to personally thank everyone at CARES for all of their efforts in facilitating the pilot programs at LAC+USC. Their hard work and dedication are crucial to the LA Regional Food Bank's fight against food insecurity and chronic disease in LA County."

Amirah Dales, Senior Programs Manager

food specially designed for seniors, with pop-up (easy to open) lids, and low in sodium and sugar when possible, is provided to those patients once a month. The goal of the LA Regional Food Bank, as summarized by Ms. Dales, is to end hunger among all residents of LA County by closing the meal gap (a food insecurity measurement showing the meals missing from the homes of struggling families whose food budget falls too short to secure adequate, nutritious food). When the Food Bank discovered that more than 77,000 seniors in the County's aging population were not served by the Food Bank, it created the LA Senior Food Program in January 2019. Since the start of this program, 30,541 have been served, and in just one month, 17,482 seniors received food. The senior food program supports many agencies, such as Meals on Wheels and community senior centers' lunch programs.

LAC+USC Medical Center is the first hospital to be served by this program. In five trips to LAC+USC, the Mobile Food Pantry has served almost 3000 people and continues to provide vital help during the COVID-19 crisis.

"The Geriatric Clinic is humbled by the generosity of CARES and the LA Food Bank toward our patients. It is so rewarding to be able to actually hand them food when they say they are hungry. Receiving these gifts brought tears to many of my patients' eyes. I was hugged and thanked so many times! It really meant a lot to them. You have made a difference in the lives of our patients. We wish you could see the smiles on their faces! Thank you to the Food Bank and to CARES

for all the work bringing these food resources to our patients."



Diana Homeier, MD
LAC+USC Geriatrics/
Adult Protection Team

"One thing that I as a Community Worker have had the pleasure of seeing is that a happy patient is a healthy patient. What a pleasure it is to actually give needy, hungry older adults a much needed resource - FOOD."

Jeannette Prado, Community Worker

The Hibbard Legacy

When **Betty Ann Hibbard** was named Times Woman of the Year in 1971, the Times quoted **Gordon Cohn**, Dir. of Health Sciences Development for USC School of Medicine, as saying "There is nothing that you can ask of her that she will not do and do twice as fast as anyone could ever expect!" When **Dr. Roger O. Egeberg**, Dean of the USC School of Medicine, asked for a hospital auxiliary, in the words of **Weta Mathies**, also a founding member of CARES, "there was no stopping Betty Ann." In 1969, Betty Ann and **Maria Cole** (Mrs. Nat) launched CARES as the pioneering volunteer auxiliary of the LAC+USC Medical Center. Betty Ann worked very closely with **Dr. Sol Bernstein**, Chief Medical Officer, to build the Auxiliary. In its first two years, due to her amazing determination, CARES grew to a membership of 600, and opened 2 gift shops and a children's play area where the thousands of children accompanying their parents to the Medical Center could be cared for in a safe and nurturing environment. Betty Ann chaired the centennial

"Your legacy is every life you've touched."

-Maya Angelou

Dr. Sol Bernstein

event in 1978 to help celebrate the Medical Center's history. She took over the Directorship of Volunteer Services in order to provide more services because, as she said, "There simply aren't enough hands to provide the extra attention, the extra loving care that is so important to the patients' recovery."

In order to open the gift shops, a trip to Sacramento was required to get a bill passed allowing County hospitals to have gift shops. As with any non-profit, fundraising was necessary to secure the success of CARES' projects. Betty Ann pulled together a movie premiere, a concert with Duke Ellington, boutiques, rummage sales...She dreamt of "a Thrift shop...some art on the walls, redecoration of patient areas...her list was endless." Once established, CARES Thrift Shop has saved the Medical Center hundreds of thousands of dollars by clothing discharged patients. CARES has helped launch an arts program to put original art on the walls of the Medical Center that is still currently active. Her vision for CARES was so on target that these same services for patients are still being provided today.

The Hibbard family has made significant donations from the inception of CARES to the present. Betty Ann's husband, **Dr. Lester Hibbard**, Chief Physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, made a donation of \$131,000 in 2013 to CARES, and this year, the Hibbard family has continued this tradition with a large donation from Betty Ann's daughter, **Cynthia Hibbard**, and a separate one from **Marius Hibbard** representing the Hibbard family descendants. This support ensures that CARES can continue to make Betty Ann Hibbard's vision and her legacy a reality.

Maria Cole & Duke Ellington with Betty Ann



From Kathy Lohr, RN, CARES Vice President of Recruitment:

"I recently celebrated my 80th birthday hosted by my two wonderful sons. I have been blessed to have a large, loving family and dear friends, as well as a rewarding career as an R.N. for 48 years. As a 20 year old graduate from Queen of Angels School of Nursing, I was hired at LAC+USC Medical Center. My intention of 6 months experience became 34 years! Most of my first 14 years was spent on the 550 bed Medical Service as staff nurse responsible for 40-50 patients and ultimately the Assistant Nursing Director. I had the privilege of working with **Dr. Wayne Wagers**, Director of the Medical ICU and **Dr. Julian Haywood** who created our first Coronary Care Unit."

"During this period, I was granted a year's leave of absence by **Fotine O'Connor**, Director of Nursing, to serve with Project Hope on the Hospital Ship, S.S. Hope, in Corinto, Nicaragua. THIS WAS A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE! On the ship I taught Nicaraguan student nurses to care for 4 or 5 patients. Needing a greater challenge, I requested to work at the Hospital de Leon. Medicines and equipment were scarce and conditions were unsanitary. This, along with the poverty of patients, was heartbreaking! The Hope staff worked hard to improve conditions! Often, we boarded jeeps to go deep into the sugarcane fields or barrios to give immunizations."

"From 1974 to 1976, I was the Nursing Director of the Pediatric Hospital which included a Communicable Disease Service. I was honored to work with **Dr. Allen Mathies**, its Director. And, ultimately, for 17 years, I was the Director of Quality Assurance for the LAC+USC Medical Center having the pleasure of reporting to **Dr. Sol Bernstein**, Medical Director, until I retired in 1994. After retirement, for 14 years, I assisted Olive View Hospital with their Quality Assurance program and taught Clinical Pathways."

"All these years, my challenge was to do my best to help insure that patients got quality healthcare. My heart has always been with this Medical Center. After retirement, I knew that I wanted to be a part of helping to provide patients in need with essentials the County cannot! My dear, late husband, Aaron Lohr, a Hospital Administrator here, was supportive of CARES! Now, I am proud to be a Board Member and am thrilled with the volunteer opportunities in which I have participated! It's amazing what this organization and it's staff accomplishes! I love them all!"



Thank you to the following
generous donors for being such an
important part of our services!
6/1/19—3/20/20:

This heart next to donor indicates donations made in memory of special persons. An * indicates donations made "in honor of."
 CARES Music Program
 Holiday Giving
 Patient Crises Fund

In Alphabetical Order:
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Special Recognition
\$50,000: Cynthia Hibbard
\$50,000: Marius Hibbard/Hibbard Descendents
\$20,000: Anonymous
\$5,000: Dr. Alexandra Levine; C&R Newman Family Foundation *Dr. Alexandra Levine
\$3,000: National Charity League
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\$1,100: Weta & Allen Mathies
\$1,025: Toby Horn
\$1,000: Sue Femino; Kathy Lohr, RN ; Aaron Lohr
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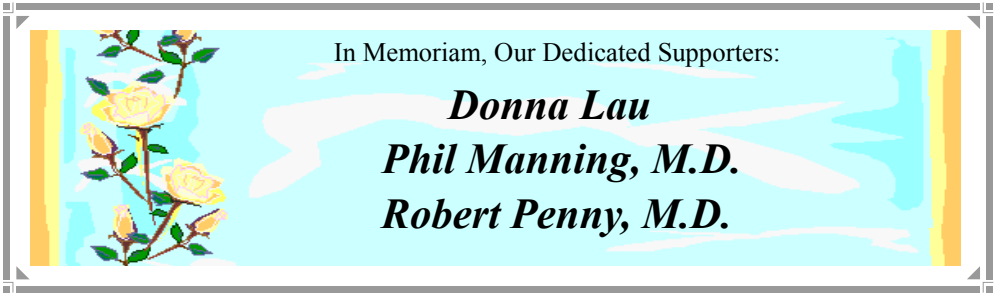
An envelope is enclosed for your convenience if you would like to donate to CARES.
Thank You!

"Thank you to all who are now donating to CARES through Charitable Giving":
Mason R. Matthews, Isabel Milan, Sixta Navarrete, Irene E. Ritsch, Steve Sosnowski, & Ronald F. Vasquez



**Take
Note**

In Memoriam, Our Dedicated Supporters:



Donna Lau
Phil Manning, M.D.
Robert Penny, M.D.

**The CARES Annual Meeting
originally scheduled for
Wednesday, April 29, 2020,
has been cancelled.**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY/USC
MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY



1200 N. State St., Room 1900
Los Angeles, California 90033

Website: lacusccares.org

CARES IS IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

CARES is providing additional services to our Medical Center staff and the patients and their families during the COVID 19 crisis. Services of two Childcare Centers, Shops, and Coffee Bar are continuing to operate. In addition, childcare is available for medical professionals who need it as a result of the school closures. All the services have been modified to meet the criteria of social distancing as well as more vigilance in disinfecting all areas.

It's timely and significant in CARES history that it has recently partnered with the LA Regional Food Bank in order to reduce food insecurity among our patient population. Last week, free food was provided to 800 families. Another distribution will be held at the end of this month. The goal is to establish an onsite mobile food bank.
"Healing is difficult when people are hungry!"

During this challenging time, CARES wants to continue to provide comfort and services to those we serve!

**CARES' Patrons are essential to its continued success! THANK YOU
FOR BEING A FRIEND AND DONOR TO CARES!**