At age 92, Jo Siefert (our cover model) is living proof that charitable giving is good for your health. A 20+ Club member, she’s been a donor to the Queen since 1993. In addition, Jo makes a gift in memory of her daughter on her birthday every year: Jodi Brackett, who used to be a volunteer at the Queen, passed away in 2007.
“That’s what I consider true generosity,” wrote the author Simone de Beauvoir. “You give your all and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.” At Queen of the Valley Medical Center (QVMC), we see examples of extreme generosity every day. People giving their time and energy and resources – not just at the expected level, but far beyond what is required.

Nurses who go the extra mile to ensure that their patients are not just healing physically, but emotionally. Doctors who pull out all the stops to pursue a stubborn diagnosis or find an undiscovered cure. Patients who return in gratitude to acknowledge their caregivers. And donors who, year after year, give generously to ensure that the Queen has the best possible programs, facilities, and technology.

We are beyond grateful to all of them. Such generosity of spirit is what makes the Queen the extraordinary medical center it is today.
As members of the Queen of the Valley Foundation Board, we’re always asking ourselves: What is the difference between a hospital that is merely good and one that’s truly great?

Consider our cancer program. We’re in the process of purchasing two 3-D mammography machines – with a 29% greater detection rate – a Large Bore CT Scanner, and a new Linear Accelerator for radiation treatments. We’re planning a new chemotherapy treatment facility. And we’re continuing to expand the capabilities of our neuroscience department, with upgrades that will benefit our aging population. We’re also initiating a $3 million upgrade to the Catheterization Lab, and we’ve just acquired a new da Vinci® robotic surgical system.

As board members, our job is to raise the necessary funding for such sophisticated equipment. And here our performance must go beyond good to great, as well: Our goal is to raise $8 million per year for the next five years. Our Generous Heart @ Kelham Vineyards event raised $2.2 million for emergency services – the highest-grossing fundraiser we’ve ever held, thanks to a $1 million Fund-a-Need grant from the Gasser Foundation. Napa Valley Emergency Medical Group made the largest pledge in history from a physicians’ group to help with the Gasser Emergency Center transformation. And Betty and Ron Profili named the Profili Imaging Center with a $5 million irrevocable trust to be used wherever the need is greatest as well as to benefit the neuroscience program.

We’ve launched a new fundraising model by dividing our board into four service areas of focus: Cardiac, Cancer, Neuroscience, and Emergency Services. And our 20+ Club – donors who have given for at least 20 consecutive years – increased by 19 members this year.

We’re so grateful to you, our devoted community of supporters, for helping us realize these ambitious goals. Together, we’re ensuring that the Queen isn’t just good. It’s truly great.

**George Porter**  
Chair, Queen of the Valley Foundation Board

**Kass Simon**  
Vice Chair, Queen of the Valley Foundation Board
Total Funds Raised for FY 2016: $12,201,574  
*(does not include payments on prior year pledges)*

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<th>WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM:</th>
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<td><strong>59%</strong> Endowment/Planned Giving</td>
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<td><strong>19%</strong> Special Events</td>
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<td><strong>3%</strong> Annual Giving</td>
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The Patient

In October I went to the Mayo Clinic for a mitral valve clip procedure because it’s renowned for this highly specialized technique. The procedure failed, so they scheduled me for open-heart surgery at a later date. But soon after I returned home, I became very ill. I met with my medical team – primary care physician Dr. John Dermody, cardiologist Dr. Sergio Manubens, nephrologist Dr. Nagarathna Manjappa, pulmonologist Dr. Francis Healy, and cardiac surgeon Dr. Robert Klingman – and they made it clear that I wouldn’t survive the flight back to Minnesota. I was admitted for immediate open-heart surgery at the Queen and spent almost three weeks there.

Even if we’d been able to do the surgery at the Mayo, my wife, Joanne, would have had to stay in a hotel for weeks. All follow-up appointments would have had to be done in Minnesota. It was crazy to think it would have worked. Instead, I received the same cutting-edge surgical capabilities, the same high caliber of medical expertise, and an amazing esprit de corps among the entire staff at the Queen. Our three children all came to visit each day and they were truly blown away at how loving and family-centric the whole staff was. From day one to discharge, it was a wonderful experience.

Ron Birtcher
Founder and President, Birtcher Family Foundation

The Donors

Since the Queen was built in 1958, Bob had worked on several HVAC jobs in the new facility – he’d go on to become one of the partners at Bell Products. Since then, we’ve used the hospital for our family’s care over the years. Each of our two sons was born there. And both of us have had excellent cardiac treatment – Bob had a quadruple bypass performed by Dr. Klingman 18 years ago, and he replaced a valve just a couple of months ago. We figured he knew the way in! Donna had two stents put in by Dr. Srebro about 16 years ago. And today we’re both in excellent health. We’ve chosen to donate to the cardiac department because of the high quality of care we’ve received there. Donna has also volunteered at the Queen since 1983. Whatever we can do to give back, we do. It’s so nice to have this premium level of medical care right here in our own community.

Donna and Bob Winchell
The Potential
At the Queen, we’re raising money to build a new multifunctional cardiac catheterization lab that is fully digital, more versatile than ever before, and capable of performing an increasingly wide variety of complex procedures.

The Reality
Heart disease, including stroke and other cardiovascular illnesses, is the number one cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death for Napa County residents. In a cardiac event, time is critical in achieving an optimal outcome.

The Caregiver
The Mayo Clinic is a nationally renowned institution, so it’s understandable that Ron Birtcher decided to go there for his mitral valve clip procedure. But soon after he returned to Napa, he arrived at our ER – the procedure hadn’t worked. The Queen’s cardiology team quickly diagnosed the problem and recommended immediate open-heart surgery.

The cardiac anesthesiologist and I evaluated Ron, and when his preoperative tests showed kidney failure and fluid in the lungs, we obtained specialty consultation with both a nephrologist and pulmonologist. He was then admitted to the ICU and cared for by our intensivist team – all on his first day in the hospital. Ron’s successful surgery and recovery required the additional knowledge of perfusionists, nurses, physical therapists, and other clinical specialists.

In a community of this size, it’s rare to have such depth of expertise all in one place – for example, all four of our cardiologists are triple-board certified. At many university-level medical centers, you just don’t experience such expertise combined with truly personalized care. When your family lives in the Napa Valley and comes to the Queen for their healthcare needs, they’ll receive the same quality care that Ron received – right in your home town.

Robert Klingman, MD
Cardiac Surgeon

“In a community of this size, it's rare to have such depth of expertise all in one place. And at many university-level medical centers, you just don’t experience such expertise combined with truly personalized care.”
The Patient

In February 2015, I was having lunch with another physician and mentioned that I felt a mass in my groin that I thought might be a hernia. My colleague examined me that day, determined that it wasn’t a simple hernia, and immediately sent me back to the Queen for an ultrasound and a CT scan. What they saw made them schedule me for immediate surgery, which revealed a solid mass lesion and a lot of enlarged lymph nodes. Since I happened to be the only pathologist on service that day, I had been given conscious sedation so that I could be wheeled to the lab, post-surgery, to do my own intraoperative assessment. I went into my office with a microscope and diagnosed myself with grade two follicular lymphoma. As a hematopathologist, this disease also happens to be my area of particular expertise.

I immediately went to Stanford to discuss treatment options, since that’s where I did my post-graduate training and research. But once I faced the reality of spending six months down there, I realized that my family, friends, and work are all here in Napa. There’s no secret to the chemotherapy – it can be done anywhere. But for patient experience, the Queen is one of the best hospitals there is. You get a small, elite team of people who really know each other, so the coordination of care is absolutely outstanding. After a recent round of immunotherapy, I’m back to work full time and am feeling great.

Brad Feliz, MD
Pathologist

The Donor

To date, The V Foundation has given over $170 million in cancer research grants nationwide. Its annual Wine Celebration, held here in the Napa Valley, has raised $80 million of that figure, so it’s no wonder that we’re aligned with this community and the Queen of the Valley Medical Center. In 2004 we started actively supporting the Queen’s Cancer Wellness Program to sustain health maintenance and survivorship. In 2013, we helped fund the Clinical Lab and Pathology Services Center to rapidly identify a diagnosis and allow for patients to immediately begin an individualized treatment plan.

Having an accredited facility close by is very important to us, and the Queen is continually acquiring the latest technology and advances in treatments. That’s a huge benefit for the physical and mental well-being of the patients in this community. They can preserve their quality of life before, during, and after a cancer diagnosis, and they can stay close to home as they progress toward achieving victory over cancer.

Jane Brovelli
Managing Director, The V Foundation Wine Celebration
The Potential

The Queen is investing in technology that will help save lives by identifying cancers earlier, when they require less extensive treatment, thereby enabling us to improve outcomes for the hundreds of cancer patients we treat each year.

The Reality

Cancer is the leading cause of death for Napa County residents – higher than the cancer death rate for California as a whole, when adjusted for age.

The Caregiver

As an oncology infusion nurse, I administer medications like chemotherapy, blood and iron products, and hydration to patients. I monitor IV lines and lab results to see how patients are responding to their therapies. But there’s so much more to treating the whole patient. When someone hears the word “cancer,” they don’t hear anything after that. They’re in uncharted waters.

For Dr. Feliz, his Rituxin therapy sessions lasted almost eight hours, which is hard for someone as active as he is. He asked if I could hook him up in his office so he could continue working – of course I said no! It was amazing to watch him feeling better with every infusion. One of the things we strive for is to treat the whole person, not just the disease. Behind that cancer there’s a patient with a career, a family, a life. Our patients are the most courageous people I know, and I’m honored to be a part of their journeys. This hospital is the best place I’ve ever worked – I’ve never seen a team that operated so closely together to get every patient the best care possible. If I were sick, this is definitely where I’d come for my care.

Kathy Garnero-Haynes, RN
Oncology Infusionist

“I’ve never seen a team that operated so closely together to get every patient the best care possible. If I were sick, this is definitely where I’d come for my care.”
The Patient

I live in San Jose, but often come up to Napa on weekends to visit friends. Last May, I was riding around their property on a golf cart with my dog in my lap. His girlfriend, a black Lab, got excited and jumped in! When she landed on us, it pressed my foot on the accelerator, and the golf cart flipped and squashed me like a bug. My friends Erin and Adam Simms took me to the Queen's Emergency Department. The doctors told me they would need to knock me out and put me on life support, or I wouldn't make it.

They later told me that I broke all my ribs except one; lacerated my kidneys, spleen, and liver; and filled my lungs with fluid. I was at the Queen for at least a month and my total recovery was about six months.

I do recall that, whenever I opened my eyes, I didn’t have to stress or panic because there was always a nurse right there. A few years before, I’d gone to another hospital when I had a stroke. I remember how abandoned and neglected I felt. It wasn’t even close to this experience.

Oh, and don’t worry. The dogs are just fine.

Eric Truelsen
Retired High School Teacher

The Donors

When we moved to Napa, we found plenty of reasons to love this area, but having a world-class hospital nearby wasn’t one of them. We had our son, Levi, at the Queen – still, the hospital wasn’t really on our radar philanthropically.

In the spring of 2015, our friend Eric Truelsen was visiting for the weekend. We heard a commotion and found him pinned under a golf cart. His condition was so serious that we immediately called for an ambulance. Suddenly, you ask yourself: “Hey, do we have a trauma center?”

The ER staff was excellent with the procedural stuff, but what really impressed us was their level of compassion. For instance, they waited until we could be there before reviving Eric from his induced coma, so he’d see some familiar faces. He didn’t have a medical directive, so they helped us with that.

Now we know: To have this kind of a resource in our community is a very big deal. In 2016, Mercedes Benz of Fairfield – of which Adam is a partner – was the Platinum Sponsor for the Generous Heart event, which raised significant funds for upgraded Emergency Services at the Queen.

Erin and Adam Simms
The Potential

With extensive refurbishing, our Emergency Center can provide a more pleasant space for anxious patients and their families, and a more efficient and less stressful environment for the care team whose response helps save lives every day.

The Reality

Visits to the Queen’s Gasser Emergency Center are increasing, with more than 31,000 patients treated here in 2016. We know that, in an emergency, minutes can make a life-saving difference. What’s needed most is a fast, accurate diagnosis under pressure.

The Caregiver

Eric Truelsen was brought into our Emergency Department (ED) by ambulance, the result of a golf cart accident. Because of the mechanism of injury, Ron was deemed a trauma activation, which got him a team that included an ED physician, nurses, respiratory therapist, phlebotomist, and an X-ray technician. We obtained a head-to-toe CT scan and, because of the extent of his injuries, the trauma surgeon was consulted for admission.

Although he looked okay on paper, Eric’s condition worsened at one point during his ED course. Two hours after his arrival, his blood pressure started dropping, and I was worried about him. The community is very lucky to have QVMC ED and its highly competent staff. All of the Queen’s ED nurses that care for patients must obtain trauma certification, which isn’t the case in many hospitals.

I’ve worked in the Queen’s ED for nearly 20 years because it’s such an incredible team. You need all the parts to work for the patient to have a good outcome, and we’re like a well-oiled machine. I’ve seen it so many times – even at the busiest moments, we care for our patients as if they’re our own family members. As we did that day for Eric. You just don’t see that in most emergency departments.

Amy Samolis, RN
Emergency Services
The Patient

For ten years, I’ve prepared and served meals at several high schools in my community of Clearlake Oaks. In early 2016, I was feeling some pain between my shoulder blades – I saw several local doctors, who told me it was probably just a pulled muscle. But by July, the pain had gotten much worse. I was having trouble walking, my right leg was going numb, and I could barely use my fingers. I couldn’t sleep and it took every ounce of strength I had to go to work. By November I finally went to the local ER, where the doctor diagnosed me with a severe herniated disk compressing my spinal cord.

I was transported by medical helicopter to the Queen, where I was met by Dr. Scott Berta and a crisis team who advised me that I would be heading into emergency surgery. When I woke up, I felt instant relief. The Queen’s staff said they were surprised I was even able to walk. Today I’m doing really well, back to work, and living without pain. You can be sure that now I’m lifting heavy things differently, and I’ve changed all my routines.

Brenda Lothringer

The Donors

We’ve personally supported the Queen for many years, and Piner’s has long helped the hospital with in-kind donations. (In the photo behind us, Gary’s dad – Wendell Piner – helps to move a patient from the old Parks Victory Hospital to the new Queen of the Valley Hospital in 1958). We delivered our three children at this hospital. Gary had a four-way bypass performed there 15 years ago and had an angioplasty just a few months ago.

We were first inspired to give to the neurosurgery unit in 2005, when Gary’s mother had a cerebral vascular event that required her to be airlifted to Santa Rosa. Our family had to travel and stay in that city to be by her side, and that really underscored the need for better neurosurgery capabilities in our own community. We’ve known what it’s like to have to travel in a medical emergency – it just adds more trauma when you’re already in a state of grief. We’re so fortunate to have this expertise right here in Napa now.

Starr and Gary Piner
Proprietors, Piner’s
The Potential
The Peggy Herman Neuroscience Center provides a complete continuum of care from diagnosis through treatment, with exceptional stroke, brain, and spine care, 24/7. Continuing to invest in new technology and equipment, training, and community outreach is critical to running a strong program to effectively manage a wide range of neurological disorders and conditions in our region.

The Reality
Stroke is currently the third leading cause of death for Napa County residents. Children and young people up to age 19 are at the highest risk for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and adults over age 75 are at the highest risk for hospitalization due to TBI.

The Caregiver
When Brenda Lothringer arrived at the Queen, she'd been transferred from a regional hospital that was not equipped to handle this level of emergency. I realized that her situation needed to be addressed immediately – she was having acute progressive paralysis from a ruptured herniated disc in her neck that was compressing her spinal cord down to approximately 3 mm. It was one of the worst herniated discs I've ever seen in my life. She was becoming progressively paralyzed and, if we didn't relieve the pressure right away, her spinal cord and nerve roots would begin to have permanent injury. It would likely have resulted in irreversible paralysis and other nerve damage.

As a Level III trauma center, the Queen is a hub for referrals in the North Bay. The hospital has done a great job of assembling an amazing team of physicians, nurses, and supporting staff that translates into the highest quality of care for our patients. Because of generous private donations, we're able to offer a top-flight neuroscience program for the whole Napa Valley community.

Scott Berta, MD
Neurosurgeon

“Because of generous private donations, we're able to offer a top-flight neuroscience program for the whole Napa Valley community. The Queen has done a great job of assembling an amazing team of physicians, nurses, and supporting staff that translates into the highest quality of care for our patients.”
The Patient

On December 19, my son, my 89-year-old mother, and I had just arrived at the Queen to visit a friend in the ICU. We’d almost gotten to her room when my mom suddenly sank to the floor, unconscious. Rose Marie de Vera, sitting at the nurse’s station, rushed over and called for help. Within about 10 seconds, there were eight people working on her – doing CPR, chest compressions, pulling crash carts and then applying the paddles. One doctor took charge and gave orders, and everyone else did their job like clockwork.

We later learned she’d had a cardiac arrest. If it had happened anywhere else – even at the front of the hospital – the response time would have taken much longer. The other amazing thing is that my mom collapsed directly in front of a vacant ICU room, where they could continue working on her. She was in the ICU for a couple of days, but because Mom was insured with a different healthcare system, when stable she was transferred to another hospital for her procedure. We didn’t want to leave the Queen, though. Everyone was so kind and helpful. The fact that it happened where it did was a Christmas miracle!

Carole Toy
and her mother, Bertha Chew

The Donors

We focus our philanthropic efforts in two fields – education and health care – and we’ve made regular donations to the Queen for the last 30 years. We give to its general fund because we have confidence in its leadership and vision for the future. And we were pleased to name an ICU suite in memory of Cristina’s mother, Pipina Salas-Porras.

Fortunately, our only reasons to use the Queen thus far have been happy events: the birth of kids and grandkids. And some of our 35 employees – all of whom live in Napa – have had occasion to use the emergency department.

Through our ranch, winery, grocery store, and juice bar, we promote healthy, locally grown food. But, just as good nutrition is integral to our well-being, so is having access to high-quality medical services. It’s a great advantage to our community to have world-class facilities and expertise right here in our small town.

Cristina and Lee Hudson
Proprietors, Hudson Ranch, Hudson Greens and Goods
The Caregiver

Mrs. Chew fell in exactly the right spot at the right time. If this had happened on the street, she wouldn’t have made it. But she was surrounded by our intensivists, a nurse practitioner, an ICU manager, a few nurses, and some respiratory therapists. The intensivist, Dr. Gregory Rosellini, kept things calm and controlled everything in a nice way. In the ICU, we’re used to treating people who are gravely ill, but this was different – we didn’t know anything about her. The role of one of the nurses was to talk to the family to learn Mrs. Chew’s medical history.

When I left the unit around 7:45 that evening, they were still working on her. Dr. Rosellini and several of the other nurses were supposed to leave at that time, too. I later learned that Dr. Rosellini didn’t leave until 3:00 a.m. because he was still caring for Mrs. Chew. That’s the kind of special place this is. I’ve only worked at the Queen for about a year and a half and am just starting my nursing career. But everyone has been so helpful, and the doctors are always willing to teach me new skills.

Rose Marie de Vera, RN
Marjorie Mondavi Center for Intensive Care

The Potential
By continually investing in emerging technologies, rapid-response teams of highly skilled nurses, therapists, and board-certified intensivist physicians who specialize in critical care, we can keep the Marjorie Mondavi Center for Intensive Care at the forefront of 21st-century critical care.
**NEW TECHNOLOGY - TAKING US BEYOND EXPECTATIONS**

Nurse Educator Jen Selby was on duty when William Zanone was brought in to the Queen's Gasser Emergency Center on September 2 by his worried parents. The 28-day-old baby had been referred by his pediatrician for symptoms including lethargy and a fever – a high-alert situation for any newborn. Soon after the family’s arrival, the ER’s brand new Drager Resuscitator infant radiant warmer with “Autobreath” technology was immediately put to use when the baby stopped breathing shortly after being assessed.

The ER team gave William antibiotics and performed a spinal tap to check for meningitis. Although the baby stopped breathing several more times, the Autobreath revived him with ventilation. The team soon diagnosed him with sepsis and transported him via Reach helicopter to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland. William, who was ultimately diagnosed with Enterovirus, is back to robust health today.

“I had just put the new warmer into service about three hours before the Zanones’ arrival,” Selby remembers.

Thanks to the foresight of our generous donors, the Queen is able to be on the cutting edge with such advanced technology. Here are a few more examples of the newest equipment your gifts are helping to make possible, saving even more lives in the years ahead.

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**The da Vinci® Xi™ Surgical System**

The da Vinci System offers a new, minimally invasive robotic technology for a wide range of surgeries, improving the surgeon's dexterity and visibility. The robot's arms mount onto an overhead boom that can pivot in any direction, allowing the surgeon to explore other areas of the body without scheduling a separate surgery. Its endoscope, which attaches to any of the robot’s four arms, displays a high-definition, 3D image, enhancing the surgeon’s vision into the body.

“With the Xi platform, we’re now able to offer not only reduced port laparoscopic procedures, but also procedures where the entire operation is done through a single one-inch incision,” says surgeon Robert Dunham. “This means minimal scarring, less post-operative pain, reduced risk of infection and bleeding, outpatient surgeries, and earlier return to full unrestricted activities.”

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**HAL® S3201**

HAL is our new state-of-the-art mannequin that’s advancing medical training for the Queen's staff with lifelike simulation technology. Equipped with wireless communications and streaming audio, HAL is tetherless, eliminating external tubes, wires, or compressors. His anatomical parts can be switched for gender-specific issues, and he can be connected directly to real ventilators, monitors, defibrillators, pacemakers, and other equipment. He can even identify drug type and volume when they’re injected into a vein.

“Classroom learning is important, but it’s especially effective to have nurses simulate a real experience to demonstrate what they’ve learned and try new skills in a safe setting,” says RN and simulation trainer Suzy Banuelos. “They’re able to try new skills, such as effective management of a stroke patient, in a safe setting where they don’t have to worry about learning from their mistakes.” The nurses’ stroke assessment training using HAL was funded by a grant from The Doctors Company Foundation.

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**PEDS READE Project**

This extensive Emergency Department addition (Pediatric Emergencies: Department Survey/Readiness Equipment Acquisition/Department Education) includes specialized equipment to treat pediatric emergencies and specific pediatric-care training for staff.

“Few ERs in the country offer this kind of child-focused emergency care,” says Selby. “The PEDS READE project enabled the Queen to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the sickest kids and reduce their discomfort,” adds ED Medical Director Andrew Fenton. “We were also able to provide simulation training, better preparing our staff to treat all children during any emergency.”
For 35 years, Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) has generously invested in the Queen’s programs with proceeds from its signature fundraiser, Auction Napa Valley. In 2016, NVV once again granted the Queen $500,000 to support the CARE Network (Case management, Advocacy, Resources, and Education), which promotes wellness and disease prevention for individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford such services.

The CARE Network enables self-management with resources such as nursing, social work, and behavioral and spiritual health support. In 2016, it served a total of 537 clients and an additional 417 household members. This resulted in a 73 percent decrease in emergency room visits and a 67 percent decrease in hospitalizations.

The CARE Network program has demonstrated its ability to improve the health and quality of life for Napa’s vulnerable and chronically ill, while reducing avoidable emergency room visits and hospitalizations. This is a win-win for our community and we are so grateful to NVV for their generosity, commitment, and support of this critical service.

Dana Codron, RN
Executive Director
Community Outreach Department
**Generous Heart**

Queen of the Valley Foundation’s annual Generous Heart fundraiser – hosted by Susanna, Ron, and Hamilton Kelham of Kelham Vineyards in St. Helena on September 24 – raised more than $2.2 million for the Gasser Emergency Center at Queen of the Valley Medical Center. With the announcement of a $1 million grant from the Peter A. and Vernice H. Gasser Foundation, the total included more than $1.325 million in Fund-a-Need donations to support the Gasser Emergency Center.

Local chef and philanthropist Cindy Pawlcyn was specially honored for her contributions to the Napa Valley community. Auctioneer Malcolm Barber of Bonhams kept the bidding lively over 21 lots. In addition to the $1 million grant from the Gasser Foundation, three donors made generous fund-a-need pledges of $50,000 each. The total raised will support a transformation of the Queen of the Valley Gasser Emergency Center, so that Napa County residents and visitors can experience world-class emergency and trauma care.

Special thanks go to event chair Lydia Mondavi and co-chairs Beth Fenton, Dorothy Salmon, and Diana Zapolski.

**Day for the Queen**

The Day for the Queen outing raised nearly $90,000 for the Queen of the Valley Foundation at Silverado Resort on July 22. This 39th annual event brought the community together for a tennis tournament and the Murray Memorial Golf Tournament. After both tournaments, lunch from Compadres Rio Grille, an awards ceremony, and a silent auction capped off this popular event.

Proceeds will help fund the development of Queen of the Valley Medical Center’s Gasser Emergency Center into a warm and compassionate environment for years to come.

Special thanks to our tennis tournament co-chairs Christy Gianelli and Susan Mickens, and golf tournament co-chairs Jim Andrews and Dan Dwyer, as well as our many sponsors.

**Reach for the Stars**

Nearly 400 guests attended Queen of the Valley Foundation’s 23rd-annual luncheon and fashion show on March 26 at the Silverado Resort and Spa, raising $184,000 for the Queen’s Cancer Wellness Program. Cancer survivors of all ages – from 3 to 81 – walked the fashion runway in a celebration of their successful fight against the disease.

This year, the Foundation’s President and CEO Elaine John joined the models to demonstrate her own cancer victory. The late artist/philanthropist Margrit Biever Mondavi was specially honored. And clothing was featured from more than a dozen local stores and boutiques. Paige Smith, co-owner of Cake Plate and a cancer survivor herself, served as production coordinator, and Kathy Templeton and Lynne Hobaugh as co-chairs.

Reach for the Stars was established in 1993 to initially raise funds for new equipment and technologies in cancer care. Since then, more than 800 patients have benefited from the Cancer Wellness Program that was launched in 2007.
When I arrived at the Queen in 2011 to lead the Foundation’s fundraising efforts, the Reach for the Stars Fashion Show – which funds our Cancer Wellness Program (CWP) – was struggling financially. What I didn’t know then was how important “Reach” and the CWP would become to me personally. Five years later, I found myself on the runway with 40 fellow models – all of us trying to generate optimism in the wake of being diagnosed with cancer.

I’d initially resisted the opportunity to be a model, terrified of “strutting my stuff” before a potential crowd of 400. But how could I refuse, when I’d encouraged so many others to participate over the years? During rehearsals, I learned a lot about myself. That, while confident of leading a board of high-powered community leaders, I was a hopeless follower when it came to learning the steps and pivots of navigating a runway.

But I also discovered that having cancer brings one into a circle of support that’s more powerful than anything else I’ve ever experienced. For every participant, Reach for the Stars becomes a wonderfully bonding and healing experience, with benefits that continue long after the final curtain call.

Today, Reach for the Stars, The Queen’s Celebration raises enough to fully fund participation in CWP, at no cost, for hundreds of cancer survivors. With the amazing team of caring professionals who staff the Queen’s Cancer Wellness Program, they’re finding hope and help in restoring their lives. I feel so grateful to have been one of them.

Life is good.

Elaine John
Vice President, Philanthropy, Queen of the Valley Medical Center
President and CEO, Queen of the Valley Foundation
Giving Beyond Your Own Lifetime

Legacy gifts offer a range of giving options that, in addition to demonstrating your appreciation of the hospital, can provide tax benefits or even supplement your income. And they continue your generosity long after you’re gone.

Here are two examples of recent legacy gifts.

Doris Roll

After Doris Roll was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, she was undergoing frequent radiation treatments at the Queen when she learned that her mother had died. She remembers the kindness of her doctor, sensing her grief and making it possible for her to travel back to Minnesota for the funeral. Such care, above and beyond the treatment itself, stuck with her. For the next two years, Doris participated as a model in the Reach for the Stars fashion show for cancer patients and survivors.

Years later, Doris and her husband, Jim, faced a decision about a Bay Area property they owned. Originally purchased for their growing family in the early ‘60s, it had been a rental for many years but was becoming more difficult to manage. The couple created a charitable remainder unitrust that transferred the property to the Queen. In return, the Rolls avoided capital gain taxes on the sale of the property and received a charitable income tax deduction. Additionally, Doris, now widowed, receives semi-annual payments for the rest of her life.

“We lived a modest lifestyle and didn’t need a lot of luxuries,” Doris recalls. “This felt like a good thing to do with our assets, and our children were all for it, too.” In remembrance of her time as a patient at the hospital, Doris has designated her gift to benefit the Queen’s cancer programs.

Betty and Ron Profili

In July, the Profilis made one of the largest gifts ever given to the medical center. The couple, who own the real estate investment and development company Bay Heritage Financial Corporation, designated that their $5 million irrevocable estate gift be placed into the Queen’s endowment fund, with proceeds directed to the Peggy Herman Neuroscience Center and other priority areas of the hospital. In recognition of their generosity, the hospital has named the Profili Imaging Center – home to its computerized tomography (CT), low-dose CT lung screening, magnetic resonance (MRI), and positron emission tomography (PET)/CT scans – in their honor.

Although the Profilis haven’t yet had to rely on the Queen for much medical care – “I spent one night there for an appendicitis years ago,” Ron remembers – he has become actively involved with the hospital’s Board of Trustees on the Clinical Quality and Finance committees. Prior to his career in real estate, he was a physicist working on nuclear engines for space use. Since his mother passed away from Alzheimer’s Disease, he’s become interested in brain imaging equipment that will help with early detection of neurodegenerative diseases. But the Profilis’ support of the Queen goes beyond that. “You can’t attract the best physicians without the best facilities and equipment,” Ron explains. And the couple’s generous gift will ensure such excellence for years to come.
Here are a few of the ways you can make a gift to the Queen. Depending on the nature and size of your gift, the Foundation honors legacy donors with membership in giving groups such as Circle of Friends and the Queen’s Heritage Circle and with naming opportunities such as the Profili Imaging Center.

- JOIN a donor club
- INCLUDE the Queen in your will or trust
- HONOR a loved one with a tribute or memorial gift
- STRUCTURE a charitable gift annuity
- TRANSFER a gift of stocks, property, or appreciated assets
- RESTRICT your gift to a particular program
- INCREASE the Queen’s Endowment Fund

Our Foundation staff can provide confidential consultations—with no obligation to you—about how these and other forms of philanthropy can benefit both the Queen and your family.

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