

# GIVING MATTERS

SPRING 2021

 **Providence**  
Holy Cross  
Foundation



## A TRUE CLASS ACT

Reunited: OB/GYN Martin Cooper, MD, with Chris and Janet Udomratsak, and sons Henry and James

Checking In with the Teacher Who  
Held Class from Her Hospital Bed





## Dear Friends,

It's with pride and gratitude that we introduce our new donor magazine, *Giving Matters*. At a time like this when we can't be together as much as we'd like, it's so important that we connect with you, our donors and neighbors. We're so grateful for your steadfast support of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center — and for the opportunity to share with you the news and stories made possible as a result of your generosity.

Over the past year, we've experienced so much together. Along the way, we also received ten awards from prominent national health care evaluators — including recognition as an approved Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence by the National Pancreas Foundation (NFP). NFP Center of Excellence status is awarded after a rigorous audit review to determine that an institution's focus is on multidisciplinary treatment of pancreatic cancer.

These accolades are important, but even more inspiring are the people who make up the community of Providence Holy Cross. As our hospital continues to face the extraordinary challenges of the COVID-19 health crisis, we're buoyed by the passion of our exceptional caregivers — and inspired by the unwavering support and compassion of our donors.

Thanks in great part to the generosity and compassion of neighbors like you, Providence Holy Cross has been able to accommodate a dramatic surge in patient volume while protecting our heroes on the front lines. Philanthropy is central to our ability to provide medical excellence, acquire the latest technology and train the next generation of Providence Holy Cross caregivers. Last year, Providence Holy Cross Foundation distributed over \$2.8 million to the medical center to purchase critical equipment and leading-edge technology that benefit our radiology, cardiac, surgery and NICU departments. Your philanthropic gifts also supported ongoing education and training, as well as research and outreach resources for our exceptional nurses and other caregivers.

From all of us at the Foundation, thank you for standing with us — and with our community. We're so grateful to count you among our friends. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to impact the lives of our patients and caregivers in the months ahead.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marwa Kilani MD".

**Marwa Kilani, MD**  
Chair, Foundation Board of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Koenig Barritt".

**Michelle Koenig Barritt**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



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The Udomratsak family shares a laugh with Dr. Cooper, who cared for Janet and baby James

# A PROMISING PARTNERSHIP

An update on the teacher who made history  
and the doctor who made it possible

It's clear that Janet Udomratsak is no ordinary teacher, and Martin Cooper, MD, is no ordinary physician.

Last summer, when Janet was admitted to Providence Holy Cross Medical Center for pregnancy complications, she had little idea her hospital room would soon become her classroom as well. The Sylmar teacher was experiencing contractions at just 20 weeks, and would need to remain on hospital bed rest for the duration of her pregnancy.

Undaunted, Janet got clearance from her medical team — including her OB/GYN, Dr. Cooper — to teach her first-grade class remotely from her private hospital room at Providence Holy Cross. She set up an ingenious makeshift classroom using her rolling food tray table as a desk.

"I was in the hospital for 71 days," said Janet. "Dr. Cooper gave me pep talks every single day when he walked in. I delivered at 34 weeks and was able to go home four days later."

Her new baby boy, James, spent nearly a month in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Providence Holy Cross Medical Center offers a Level III NICU, one of the only facilities in our service area to provide this level of specialized care for premature and ill newborns.

"Providence Holy Cross usually delivers around 300 babies a month," Dr. Cooper remarked. "I average about 20 to 30 a month. It's the most fun part of the job!"

An increasing number of babies are being delivered at just 24–25 weeks, often requiring

## COVER STORY

months of neonatal care. In response to this rising demand, Providence Holy Cross Foundation has launched its \$6.4 million *Little Miracles* NICU Expansion Initiative.

The expansion includes additional specialized incubator beds and significantly increasing the physical space of the NICU itself. With the help of our community, the medical center hopes to outfit the unit with the most advanced technology available — and to incorporate leading-edge treatments and procedures that promote the healthy development of our youngest patients.

Today, baby James is nearly six months old. And thanks to the care he received at Providence Holy Cross — and all the love from his family — he's thriving. "I love Dr. Cooper and all the nurses here," said Janet. "They make you feel like family."

Janet is teaching from home, and looks forward to meeting her next first-grade class in person when schools reopen next fall.

Dr. Cooper, meanwhile, suffered a heart attack last September in the middle of two deliveries and sought treatment right here at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. "They did the greatest job," he said. "I would not go anywhere else."

Janet agrees. "I love Holy Cross!" she said. "I trust everyone here. I know if anything were to happen, this is the first place I would go."

Dr. Cooper is enthusiastic about the NICU's expansion and other initiatives. "If you're going to give, you give from the heart," he said. "You give because it's the correct thing to do. And this cause is a very worthy one."

To learn more about how you can support the *Little Miracles* Initiative at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, please contact Michelle Koenig Barritt, chief philanthropy officer, at 818-496-4576 or at [Michelle.Barritt@providence.org](mailto:Michelle.Barritt@providence.org).



I trust everyone here. I know if anything were to happen, this is the first place I would go.

– Janet Udomratsak





Holy Cross is a hidden gem and being on the Board gives you a different perspective about how it engages the community.



— Marwa Kilani, MD  
Chair, Providence  
Holy Cross Foundation Board

## MEET MARWA KILANI, MD

### Dedicated to her community

Marwa Kilani, MD, is currently the medical director of palliative care at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center and has been a Foundation board member since 2015. Her desire to see this hospital flourish and excel motivates Marwa to share her experiences and open opportunities of philanthropy to others.

She went to UCLA as an undergrad and attended UCSD Medical School because it was challenging, research-driven and close to home. Today, Marwa has a wonderful family with twin boys and a deeply devoted husband who practices endocrinology at UCLA.

Tarek Hassanein, MD, her mentor and a hepatologist at UCSD, suggested County USC for her residency. “If you want to be the best doctor, go to County,” he said. “If you go to County USC, you can do anything.” It turned out to be one of the best experiences of her life. The hospital offered endless pathology and applications of medicine. Others who made a lasting impact on her life

include her beloved uncle who gave her a stethoscope as a child and, perhaps most important of all, Bernie Klein, MD, chief executive at Holy Cross Medical Center. “Bernie is an amazing mentor and role model,” Marwa states.

After her residency, Marwa became a hospitalist through the SoCal Hospitalist Network. She found palliative care to be a good fit, and when Dr. Klein offered her the medical director of Palliative Care at Providence Holy Cross, she accepted within ten minutes. The first project she worked on as a board member was the comfort suite for palliative care. It was an awesome experience and afterwards she was certain she wanted to stay involved.

“Providence Holy Cross is a hidden gem and being on the Board gives you a different perspective about how it engages the community,” she states. “It’s a commitment that reflects my values and dedication to health and well-being for me and my family.”

# YOUR IMPACT

Through your generosity, **\$3,694,903** was raised in 2020 to enhance patient care at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. More than 1,000 donors made 13,016 gifts.



“ We are bound together by one mission and a singular focus on providing the best of care to our patients. I am grateful for your many gifts and support so that we could provide compassionate, quality care to the most vulnerable members of our community during one of the most extraordinary times in health care. ”  
— Bernie Klein, MD, Chief Executive,  
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center

**\$1,858,634**



**First 5 LA Welcome Baby Program**  
Provided pregnant women and families with newborns free personalized health and parenting education, home visitation, and support with breastfeeding, home safety and infant development.



**\$305,959**

**Maternal Child Health Department**  
Upgraded the Mother/Baby Department lobby to reflect our promise of compassionate patient care.

**\$28,267**



**COVID-19 Support**  
Distributed 25,475 snacks/meals/ beverages and 26,259 pieces of personal protective equipment for our frontline caregivers who treated over 2,600 COVID patients.  
  
Purchased Rapid Decontamination Systems to sanitize items in 30 seconds, ensuring the safety of our patients and caregivers.



**\$27,755**

**Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Equipment**  
Enhanced care for our youngest patients, including adding advanced ventilator Nava Software to support the development of premature babies.



# CELEBRATING A TREASURED FRIEND

Jack Esson touched many lives. His planned gift will too.

Jack Esson was a private person but if you were his friend you were his friend for life. "He had a very big heart," said his dear friend, Adela, "but he was very honest, straightforward and blunt."

They'd met 27 years before at a car show when Jack stopped to talk to Adela's son who was three at the time. "He asked my son 'Where do you live?' and my son told him. When people came by and looked at a car that we owned, Jack would tell them, 'Oh, if you want parts for that car, just go to this address. My husband and I thought, 'How does he know where we live?'" Adela recalls with a hearty laugh. "He always joked like that and afterwards cracked up whenever he said our address."

His close group of friends also included James and Alberta Stewart. James met Jack at the patient Advisory Council at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. "Jack was a unique character and comfortable saying what he thought. He had really good experiences at the hospital but also wasn't afraid to say what he thought we could do better," recalls James. "That helped people get going."

Jack loved fishing most of all and frequently said, "Fishing isn't a matter of life or death;

it's more important than that." So, of course, the Advisory Council had to work around his fishing schedule. Then one day he brought in hook pins for all of the council members and passed them out. "Everyone was touched," said James. "When we got those hooks from Jack, we all knew and understood what it meant."

Even when his cancer treatments started, Jack would tell doctors, "Oh, I can't do that. I have a fishing trip." He loved being out in the ocean, loved the camaraderie with his fishing friends. When the illness finally took him, many of his friends were there, sitting around his bed and sharing memories. His last act of kindness was a generous planned gift to Providence Holy Cross. It was used to furnish the refreshed post-partum unit and create thirteen murals. Like much of what he did, the gift was meticulously planned. "He was very thorough," said Adela, who is helping to see it through. "We don't have to do anything other than follow what he left us," she said. A fitting tribute to a unique man.

For information on planned gifts, contact Joe Ward, executive director of planned giving, at [Joseph.Ward@providence.org](mailto:Joseph.Ward@providence.org).

*Jack Esson, fishing enthusiast and patient Advisory Council member, left a bequest benefiting Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. Part of it was used to furnish thirteen murals in the post-partum unit.*





## PLANNED GIVING

# YOUR LEGACY SAVES LIVES THROUGH COMPASSIONATE CARE

We know how much you care for your loved ones and the peace of mind that comes in keeping your will and trust up to date. Providence Holy Cross Medical Center can also benefit from your planning. A gift in your will and trust creates a lasting and personal legacy and helps us serve others. Here are a few of the benefits of a bequest:

### Giving through your will or living trust

#### Your gift will have a significant impact.

- Direct your bequest to any area of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center and create a legacy that will help us keep pace with advances in health care innovations and technology while responding to the unique needs of our community.

#### A bequest is flexible.

- You can use a wide range of assets to make your gift and create a highly personalized plan.

#### You control your assets.

- You can modify your bequest if your situation changes.

#### A charitable bequest may minimize estate tax.

- If you are subject to estate tax, a charitable bequest could reduce the amount of estate tax paid. Additionally, some assets, such as retirement accounts, are heavily taxed when left to heirs and may also trigger an estate tax. A charitable gift funded with these assets bypasses taxation and gives your legacy maximum impact.

## The value of a blended approach to giving

Gifts of cash and property also help to further the mission of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. Combination gift options can make your giving go even further. With a blended gift strategy, you can see the impact of giving today and continue your commitment to our mission in the future.

## Learn more about planned giving

To learn more about creative ways that benefit you and our mission, please contact Joe Ward, executive director of planned giving, at [Joseph.Ward@providence.org](mailto:Joseph.Ward@providence.org) or 310-793-8117.



# MIRACLES HAPPEN

## The most advanced technology helps save the most vulnerable

For more than 50 years, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has been saving the lives of precious newborns. As the only medical center offering a Level III NICU in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys, it is almost always at or close to capacity. Now, thanks to the vision, leadership and generosity of donors, the \$6.4 million *Little Miracles* modernization campaign is about to become a reality.

Because of the campaign's amazing success, construction will begin this summer. The NICU will expand by 50%, increasing the number of incubators from twelve to eighteen, and making many modern improvements to our technology. For instance, the NICU at Providence Holy Cross will have state-of-the art Giraffe Omnibed technology for the first time. These specialized beds provide infants with a combination of an incubator, radiant warmer and protective bed all in one. The Omnibeds will also have the

NICView Webcam System so parents can see their precious newborn day or night.

The NICU will also now have ventilators and oscillators designed specifically to treat premature and newborn infants. The Timeless Breast Milk Barcoding System will allow the NICU to take a major step forward in the proper collection, storage and distribution of breast milk.

These life-saving advances would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our community of donors. Through your generosity, Providence Holy Cross is improving lives, keeping families together and providing better outcomes for our most vulnerable patients.

Although the *Little Miracles* campaign has reached its goal, you can continue to donate to the initiative by visiting [supportholycross.org/donate](http://supportholycross.org/donate).



# GIVING MATTERS



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donation today**



Your donation can provide life-saving care to our community. Please visit [supportholycross.org/givingmatters](https://supportholycross.org/givingmatters) and make a donation.

## Please Join Us for an Exclusive Town Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

12:00–1:00 PM Via Zoom



Featured Presentation by Dr. Adi Iyer  
"Defusing the Bomb: Brain Aneurysms and Technology"

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Register at [supportholycross.org/register](https://supportholycross.org/register)  
Please email [Louisa.Gamil@providence.org](mailto:Louisa.Gamil@providence.org) with any questions.