



ST. FRANCIS
MEDICAL CENTER
our mission is life

laLuz

December 2004 • ISSUE 2

"He was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."
John 5:35

HOLIDAY HEALTH & SPIRIT – GUADALUPE CELEBRATION

Over 300 community members gathered for St. Francis Medical Center's 14th annual Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 11, which marked the 473rd anniversary of the appearance of the Virgin of Guadalupe. For the first time, the event opened with an afternoon Family Health Fair.

Evening mass was highlighted by mariachis, brilliantly costumed Aztec dancers, and SFMC associates in elaborate feast day attire who performed traditional songs and dances. Festivities concluded with a radiant candlelight procession to SFMC's statue of Guadalupe, a replica of the famous statue at La Basilica in Mexico City.



2004 – A QUALITY YEAR

As 2004 comes to a close, we invite you to take a look back at the "quality" year we enjoyed at SFMC:

Achieving a 96 out of 100 on the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Survey;

Introducing new technology to our Heart and Vascular Center including *Radio Frequency Ablation*, a non-surgical treatment for abnormal heart rhythm, and *Endovascular Surgery* which provides minimally invasive interventional procedures for abdominal aortic aneurysms and other vascular diagnoses;

Establishing the Gestational Diabetes Clinic to serve pregnant and postpartum diabetic women;

Expanding the St. Francis Career College to San Jose; and

Creating the Patient Care Institute to provide accelerated training programs to move RNs at SFMC into areas of critical need.

We toast a year of Service Excellence!

JOYFUL TOYS!



SFMC President Gerald Kozai (left) helps Derrell Tidwell, Director, Children's Counseling Center sort the over 2,500 toys.

Once again, the SFMC Christmas Toy Drive was a success. A record number of gifts were received, and we want to thank the many corporations, foundations and individuals who joined together with SFMC to celebrate the season with our community.

The over 2,500 toys received will be distributed to parents of patients in the Children's Counseling Center, Family Life Center, St. Francis Career College, Pediatrics and Emergency Department for them to give as gifts to their children for the Christmas holiday. Thank you for making this Christmas memorable for so many families.





PCI graduate Noah Flores (left) says, "Becoming an Emergency Specialty RN is a dream fulfilled."

RX FOR SPECIALTY RNS

In response to the statewide shortage of nurses and clinicians, SFMC established the Patient Care Institute (PCI). A collaboration between SFMC Patient Services and St. Francis Career College, the PCI provides comprehensive accelerated training programs to move SFMC RNs into urgently needed specialties, including Labor and Delivery, Critical Care and Emergency Services.

The PCI is unique in that it provides scholarships to students through the Daughters of Charity Foundation and other philanthropic organizations, which enable them to maintain their income while completing their training. Since its inception last year, 20 students have completed the PCI clinical and classroom coursework, and with a shared dedication to the SFMC mission and highly specialized skills, they are back at the bedside of grateful patients.

LOCAL YOUTH, LEADING THE WAY

Each year, SFMC gives high school honor students the chance to participate in an intense exploration of the medical field. Through the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, 15 students stepped into the shoes of SFMC physicians and staff as they toured the medical center's emergency department, diagnostic imaging, cardiology, cath lab, rehabilitation services, surgery, and more.

"It is great to see young people interested in medicine," said Family Practice physician Dr. Harding Young, who coordinates the Youth Forum at SFMC each year. "Anything we can do to encourage our youth – our future patient care providers – is our duty and our pleasure."

Start Your Career in the Medical Field at St. Francis Career College

- **Medical Assistant**
9 month full time diploma program prepares students to perform administrative and clinical patient care
- **Patient Care Tech**
6 month full-time program prepares students as CNA/HHA, Health Unit Coordinator, Phlebotomy Tech and EKG Tech

Financial aid available
Call (310) 900-8050

Cosmetic "Surgery" for Surgery Center

SFMC's Surgery Center was redesigned to create a more efficient flow for patients and their families, with a new sitting area to allow patients to sit up sooner and recover faster. Result: A more comfortable and welcoming experience for patients.



Doctors for a day: Students from the National Youth Leadership Forum donned scrubs, viewed laboratory specimens, and participated in a patient ventilation demonstration as they experienced SFMC healthcare in action.

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PHYSICIANS PAUL YOSHINO, MILTON LEE & ANTHONY LEE

HEROES NEXT DOOR

The boxes were packed and the moving van had just arrived. Suddenly, a sharp pain hit my left arm. My husband dialed 911. Paramedics rushed me to St. Francis. I was 27, 7 months pregnant and having a heart attack. They performed emergency open heart surgery. They saved my life and my baby. A month later I delivered our little angel, Karen, thanks to these extraordinary people.



performed emergency open heart surgery. They saved my life and my baby. A month later I delivered our little angel, Karen, thanks to these extraordinary people.



"We are honored to share in this miracle – a joyful mom and newborn baby... happy and healthy!" Cardiologist Dr. Paul Yoshino, Obstetrician Dr. Milton Lee and Cardiovascular Surgeon Dr. Anthony Lee are 3 of the 330 dedicated physicians at St. Francis Medical Center whose heroic efforts touch people's lives everyday. **Heroes Next Door.**

To learn more about St. Francis Medical Center and other Heroes Next Door call 1-800-603-9355.

Member of Daughters of Charity Health System



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340 EAST PERRIN HIGHWAY, LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA 92542

New Technology at SFMC Diagnostic Imaging Adds PET Scanning Capabilities

This past year, SFMC added Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanning to its Diagnostic Imaging services. PET is a 3-dimensional full body molecular imaging procedure used to diagnose stages and assess treatment outcomes for cancers, cardiovascular disease, and neurological disorders.

According to Dr. Daniel Schimmel, SFMC Chairman and Medical Director of Imaging Services, "With PET, which images metabolic cellular activity, we can detect the presence and speed of cancer much earlier than traditional imaging systems such as CT MRI would detect changes in a patient's anatomy." He adds, "We are excited to bring this new technology to our community, which is not available at any other facility in our service area."



For more information on the full array of healthcare services SFMC offers, please call 1-800-603-WELL.



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SHARE THE LIGHT

*"A candle loses none of its light
by lighting another candle. And at the
moment one candle lights another,
the flame is twice as bright."*



Mother of Sorrows School 4th graders shared their light, singing carols at the SFMC associates holiday lunch.

la LUZ

HEROES NEXT DOOR

Do you know a hero?

"HEROES NEXT DOOR" acknowledges SFMC clinicians and staff... ordinary people whose extraordinary acts of courage and compassion dramatically change the lives of St. Francis Medical Center patients and their families. These HEROES NEXT DOOR are men & women who express the mission and values of SFMC and the Daughters of Charity in their daily work.

If you have been touched by a HERO at St. Francis Medical Center, please call Linda Woo in Community Affairs at (310) 900-7319.



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