Addressing the physician shortage and providing better access to care for our community
Since the founding of their first hospital in Humboldt County, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange have set an ideal and an example of compassion that lives on in each of us. Now more than ever, we see our community striving to “go out into the neighborhoods, see what the needs are, and meet them to the best of your ability,” as the sisters did more than 100 years ago.

As the union of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and the Sisters of Providence exemplifies, we are better together. Though the needs have changed, the sentiment still rings true. And as we step forward to meet the challenges of our time, we do so in unity, symbolized by our Destination Humboldt initiative.

In this, our first issue of Giving Matters, we tell stories from across Humboldt County of neighbors helping neighbors and our leaders confronting needs head-on. We are proud to announce Destination Humboldt, our initiative to address physician shortage and health care access in our North Coast community. We introduce Holly Haight, M.D., who shares why she chose to build her orthopedic surgery practice here. You’ll learn more about how Dennis Leonard’s Dog of the Year, Simba, illustrates our community’s resiliency and connection. And we invite you to experience the joy and camaraderie of our events this year — the 12th annual Scramble Golf Tournament, Redwood Benefit and Destination Humboldt Gala.

As ever, we want to express our deep gratitude for your support throughout the years. Together, we can continue to strengthen our communities and connections, building better health through our mandate to “know me, care for me, ease my way.”

Sincerely,

Laurie Garrison
President, Providence Redwood Memorial Foundation Board

Steve Kimberling
President, Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Eureka Board

Heather Setton
Chief Philanthropy Officer, Providence Redwood Memorial Foundation and Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Eureka
Board of Directors

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The shortage of family medicine practitioners and limited access to specialty physicians are the most prominent health care challenges affecting the North Coast region. We are advancing a bold initiative to create sustainable solutions to bring the best and the brightest physicians to live and work in our area.

Bringing more physicians to Humboldt will touch almost every aspect of patient care — from reducing the overflow of non-emergency treatments in the emergency department to shortening long waits for physician appointments and improving the availability of specialists.

Ranjit Hundal, M.D., interim chief executive, says, “We already have a cadre of wonderful physicians in most specialty areas. With our outstanding reputation and high standards in patient-centered care, we are well positioned to attract additional top-notch providers to Humboldt.”
A multipronged recruiting approach

As the area’s leading health care provider, we are working together with donors and community leaders to develop a multipronged and sustainable approach to address the need for more caregivers in Humboldt County.

The initiative includes offering prospective physicians a series of interrelated and holistic benefits to locate practices in our area. Dr. Hundal explains, “It’s about looking at the whole person — their quality of life with work, career growth and family life.”

Physician recruitment and retention incentives provide relocation costs and assistance with loan repayment will encourage young doctors to practice in our rural area. The offers will be given in exchange for a multiyear commitment to stay and practice in the region.

Leadership development through a national symposium will promote Humboldt as a destination for clinical excellence. Symposiums offer opportunities for knowledge sharing with researchers, policymakers and health care professionals across the country. We will proffer a peer-reviewed prize for top presentations from national medical experts.

Research and presentation support will establish our highly trained physicians as leaders and experts in their fields. The benefits of presenting at national conferences and publishing in medical journals increase physician recognition and the reputation of our health care system — resulting in helping to attract top talent to our area.

Building physician leadership recognizes their valuable time, knowledge and skills by offering a faculty stipend for residency preceptors who currently volunteer. This incentive will help fill a much-needed role.

Community integration incentives will increase the welcoming experience for new physicians and their families. We’ll offer memberships to various clubs and organizations and help increase opportunities to meet people and become part of the community. Physicians who have arrived since the pandemic will also be included.

Nurse, technician and support staff recruitment and retention is another important set of incentives that will fund scholarships and continuing education to allow caregivers to grow and develop their skills. Job satisfaction helps ensure that patients receive the highest standard of care.

Community partnership is key

This community-wide issue requires a community-wide effort. The participation of our donors in support of this initiative will help us change the trajectory of health care in our region.

Dr. Hundal shares, “Working together, we will create a sustainable solution to our rural health care needs today and long into the future.”

If you would like more information on how you can help us address the acute need for caregivers and ensure a future of high-quality, accessible care in Humboldt County, please contact Heather Setton at 707-572-0493 or Heather.Setton@providence.org.
DONOR STORY

HERE TO HELP

Longtime donor and volunteer Dennis Leonardi teams up with his dog Simba to raise funds and awareness for the hospital

Our Humboldt County community is well-known for many ideals — chief among them are courage, loyalty and self-sufficiency. The people who have made Humboldt their home know how special this place is, and we are so grateful that Dennis Leonardi is one of those people. He has been a supporter of our local hospitals for decades and has served in nearly every role possible as a community leader, donor and volunteer. Dennis has served on both Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Eureka and Providence Redwood Memorial Foundation boards, as chair of the Community Ministry board, and is currently serving another term as a member of the Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Eureka board.

In between these volunteer commitments, he runs Leonardi Dairy in Ferndale. When Dennis decided to help his dog, Simba, raise money for the Providence Humboldt dog therapy program, he knew that this would be an opportunity for more than just fundraising.
The dog therapy program welcomes certified therapy dogs and their trained volunteer handlers to the hospital to help create a better healing environment for the patients, staff and visitors. Interacting with these calm, loving and well-behaved therapy dogs can lower levels of stress, ease fear, reduce loneliness and promote relaxation in the hospital setting.

A lifelong Humboldt County resident, Dennis is passionate about building opportunities for support and education through fundraising campaigns. “It’s not only about giving money,” he said. “It’s about education. Talking to the community and donors, talking about what we do and how we do it. Successful programs are not just raising money, they’re sharing the story and building new connections between people doing good in our community.”

The story of how Dennis came to know Simba is a great illustration of “surviving and thriving, that’s what we do in this community,” he said. Dennis’ daughter, a winemaker, found Simba wandering through 10,000 acres of grapevines in 100-degree heat, “looking like a coyote snack,” he said. “She asked me, ‘Daddy, don’t you need a friend?’ and that was the end of that project and Simba came home with us.”

A short time later, transformed from the matted and hungry vineyard dog, Simba was crowned “Dog of the Year” after they raised almost $10,000 for the Providence Humboldt dog therapy program. “It’s unconditional love,” Dennis said. “You give to the entire community — the best, the worst, the least and the greatest.”

For Dennis, the Destination Humboldt campaign is so important to share the story of the Humboldt County community and to educate doctors, nurses, technicians and support staff about why living up here is so special. Beyond the hospitals’ excellence in so many areas of caregiving, Dennis’ commitment to and support of the hospitals’ strength in his community reflects the culture of resiliency and support for each other. As for his and Simba’s success in fundraising, Dennis gives all credit to his community. “I would say we’re one of the most generous communities per capita in the country,” he said. “Out here, we have to be resilient and self-sufficient. But if something happens, we’re the first ones there to help.”

“Out here, we have to be resilient and self-sufficient. But if something happens, we’re the first ones there to help.”

— Dennis Leonardi
Golfers celebrate on the course

BIRDIES AND BOGEYS ON THE BACK NINE

Scramble for Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital raises funds for new equipment

Golfers, sponsors and supporters enjoyed a beautiful day out on the green in support of the 12th annual Scramble for Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital. Tournament players teed off “fore” a great cause at the Redwood Empire Golf & Country Club in Fortuna, raising $40,000 toward the purchase of two Stryker surgical towers.

We would like to express our gratitude to this year’s Golf Committee, our generous sponsors and everyone who came out to play!
COMING HOME TO HUMBOLDT

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka and Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital welcome Dr. Holly Haight

We are pleased to introduce our newest clinician serving the North Coast community. Fellowship-trained and board-certified orthopedic surgeon, Holly Haight, M.D., specializes in hip and knee replacement. Dr. Haight comes to Providence after 14 years of practice in Sacramento.

Her practice includes primary hip and knee replacement and complex joint revision surgeries. “My philosophy is to find out from each patient what they want to be able to do and what they are currently limited from doing,” says Dr. Haight. “We then determine the best course of treatment to get them back in action.”

Living and working in a smaller community suits Dr. Haight. “Professionally, I love being in a smaller practice,” she shares. “I love the collegiality of a smaller group. Everybody here has excellent professional relationships, but they also interact on a social basis, and that’s been fabulous.”

Dr. Haight is a welcome addition to the team. “We are excited to have Dr. Haight here,” says Erik McGoldrick, M.D., orthopedic medical director. “She’s been running a highly efficient total joint practice in a major metropolitan area and is bringing that experience here to provide advanced orthopedic care for joints.”

A dancer and a healer
After graduating from Pomona College with a double major in classics and dance, Dr. Haight had a professional ballet and modern dance career in the San Francisco Bay area. She completed a Master of Arts in Kinesiology at San Francisco State University before entering medical school at the Mayo Clinic, where she stayed for her orthopedic surgery residency. She returned to California to complete her training with a hip and knee replacement fellowship at Stanford.

“It’s easy to see your positive influence on your neighbors. I’m thrilled to be here serving this community.”

— Holly Haight, M.D.

“Being an orthopedic surgeon in a small community is a rewarding experience,” says Dr. Haight. “It’s easy to see your positive influence on your neighbors. I’m thrilled to be here serving this community.”

Dr. Haight and her family enjoy everything our area has to offer, including sports and music, movies, boating, and experiencing the beauty of the natural world.
CONSIDERING A REVERSE MORTGAGE?
Explore this charitable alternative first

If you have paid off your mortgage or have considerable equity in your home but you need additional income, you may have considered a reverse mortgage. You may not be aware that there is another way to use the equity in your home to create income for you while making a meaningful gift for Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital or Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka — all while continuing to live in or use your property for life.

How it works

This technique begins with a retained life estate gift — you place Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital or Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka on the deed to your home, vacation home or farm but retain the right to occupy (and maintain) the property for life. We then set up a charitable gift annuity (CGA) based on the remainder value of the property. The CGA will pay you (and/or another beneficiary) a fixed annual income for life.

For example, let’s say that Robert and Rita, both 75, own a $750,000 home. To create income, they choose to make a retained life estate gift of their home with a CGA instead of using a reverse mortgage. Their guaranteed income payments will be partially tax-free, whereas reverse mortgage payments are not guaranteed and might be subject to additional costs. Robert and Rita receive an income tax deduction in the year of their gift (since they itemized and met other criteria), lock in a higher monthly payment when compared to what is available through a reverse mortgage, and enhance their charitable legacy.

Help us transform lives and create health for a better world.
Compelling advantages — for you and for us

- **Turn an existing asset into an income stream** while remaining in your home.
- **Enjoy tax benefits** — your gift likely qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction, and your CGA income payments are tax advantaged.
- **Lock in** today’s high gift annuity rates.
- **Make a lasting impact** on the lives in your community by helping Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital or Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka.

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70½ or older?

Don’t forget about gift options from your IRA.

A tax-free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA counts toward your required minimum distribution if one is due.

**The traditional QCD** allows you to donate up to $100,000 (annual aggregate limit) directly from your IRA to Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital or Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka.

**The new QCD** law lets you make a one-time distribution up to $50,000 to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust (CRT), providing an income stream for you and/or your spouse. Spouses can combine their distributions into a single CRT or a joint-life CGA.

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Please reach out for more information about creative ways to support Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital and Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka. Contact Heather Setton, chief philanthropy officer, by phone at 707-572-0493 or by email at Heather.Setton@providence.org.
Humboldt County was the place to be on September 15, as close to 200 guests gathered in the Sapphire Palace at Blue Lake Casino and Hotel in support and celebration of Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Eureka.

Focused on recruitment, retention and clinician well-being at Providence hospitals in Humboldt County, the event raised $300,000 to help attract and retain physician talent, in the form of tuition reimbursement, housing support for eligible clinicians, leadership development training, and programs to integrate clinicians and their families into our community.

One of the evening’s speakers, Ryan McHenry, M.D., is a current resident in the Family Medicine Residency Program. Thanks to the Destination Humboldt campaign, Dr. McHenry has committed to practicing locally after he graduates in 2024. He is one of 12 providers to sign agreements with the hospital, calling Destination Humboldt a “game changer” in addressing access to care — the most critical challenge in local health care.

“Those who live here know how special this place is,” said Heather Setton, chief philanthropy officer. “Now we have this amazing way to spread the word! Destination Humboldt elevates us on the national landscape, connecting us with the best and the brightest and helping them fall in love with the North Coast.”

Showing gratitude for the guests and sponsors who gave generously to the evening’s live auction and opportunity drawing, interim chief executive and chief medical officer of Providence in Humboldt County, Ranjit Hundal, M.D., said “We are so thankful that we live in an area where our friends and neighbors are so deeply committed to the health and wellness of each other. They have our deepest and most humble appreciation.”

A special thank you to Premier Financial, major underwriters of this event.
REDWOOD ROCKS THE ‘80S

A true child of the ‘80s, the Providence Redwood Memorial Foundation celebrated good times at the 42nd annual Benefit at the River Lodge in Fortuna. Featuring gnarly live and silent auctions, totally tubular food and a bodacious dance party, the event raised nearly $200,000 toward two new Stryker surgical towers and cameras.

Stryker towers are used in nearly every surgery that requires internal visualization, including knee and shoulder scopes for orthopedic surgeons, hernia repair surgery, gall bladder surgery and appendectomies. This upgrade is a critical investment in our hospital that will increase our surgical volume and expand the services we offer.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our event co-chairs, Maile Feuerman and Sarah Senestraro, for their vision and incredible work, as well as the 2023 Benefit Committee members.

Jo Anne Center  
Rick Center  
Erin Flyer  
Laurie Garrison  
Becky Giacomini  
Mary Johnson  
Heather Kelley  
Sarah Mora  
David Morris  
Trina Pockett  
Elizabeth Wardell

Stay tuned for next year’s event, already in the works!
Please make a donation today

Your donation can provide lifesaving care to our community. Please visit the web addresses below or scan the codes to make a gift today.

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Eureka:
give.providence.org/norcal-sje

Providence Redwood Memorial Foundation:
give.providence.org/norcal-redwood