

# HEROES & HEARTS

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## **SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF HEROES & HEARTS AWARDS**

### **TICKETS FOR HEROES & HEARTS LUNCHEON ON SALE NOW!**

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (January 11, 2010) – **San Francisco General Hospital Foundation's** President, **Judy Guggenheimer**, announced today the names of the seven individuals who will be honored with a Heroes & Hearts Award at the fifth-annual **Heroes & Hearts Luncheon** on Thursday, February 11, 2010 in San Francisco's Union Square. Tickets for the luncheon are available now by calling 415-206-4478 or visiting [www.sfghf.net](http://www.sfghf.net).

"Each of these individuals has contributed something truly significant to San Francisco. Their dedication and hard work to make San Francisco a better place for all its citizens, is remarkable and we are proud to honor them at the luncheon," said Guggenheimer.

Heroes & Hearts is sponsored by the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation to honor and celebrate the local heroes who help make San Francisco the first-class city it is.

Heroes & Hearts is an outgrowth of 2004's *Hearts in San Francisco* city-wide art installation and fundraiser project. In addition to spotlighting exceptional community heroes at the February 2010 luncheon, several new heart artworks will be displayed and sold, with the proceeds going to support San Francisco General Hospital. The *Hearts in San Francisco* and the 2006-2009 Heroes & Hearts luncheon events have raised nearly \$5 million for the Foundation.

The Heroes & Hearts Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional and inspirational behavior to another individual or the community as a whole. The seven 2010 recipients of the award are:

**Clem Donahue, MD** began working with San Francisco's underserved youth 16 years ago as a resident at UCSF in the Children's Health Center. In 1996, he started a satellite clinic of the SFGH Children's Health Center at the Epiphany Center which seeks to improve the care of infants who were drug-exposed during their mothers' pregnancies. In 2006, Donahue became an urgent care provider, and focused his energies on adolescents who were victims of violent trauma. It is this group that Donohue has dedicated himself to. In 2006, Donohue created the Teen Trauma Recovery program which specifically targets the issue of violent trauma of adolescents living in the Bayview/Hunter's Point, Mission and Tenderloin districts by creating a liaison between pediatric providers, other medical providers, as well as community and health organizations.

**Marsha and Bruce Dyer** are the parents of Ashlyn Dyer, who was tragically struck and killed while jogging in the Presidio in March 2006. Ashlyn was treated at the San Francisco General Hospital, but didn't overcome her massive injuries. Out of this tragedy, came great generosity to the city so close to the Dyers' hearts. The Dyers donated Ashlyn's organs and San Francisco residents were the recipients. The Dyers continue to raise funds for and awareness of traumatic brain injury through the Ashlyn Dyer Foundation for Neurological Research and Support. The Dyers also contributed directly to SFGH, by redecorating two rooms in the Intensive Care Unit with new paint, furniture, storage and electronics.

**Amalia Fyles, RN, MSN** has spent more than 25 years dedicating herself to raising awareness of and treating diabetes in San Francisco. As the president of the San Francisco Bay Area Association of Diabetes Educators, she also teaches

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"Paradise" by Laurel True

the next generation of medical professionals to care for diabetes patients. In her role as co-chair of the American Diabetes Association Latino Outreach Chapter, she goes to churches, community events and health fairs to perform diabetes screenings and educate the public. Fyles also reaches out to members of the Asian and African American community, where cases of diabetes often go unchecked and treated. Her colleagues, patients and community members routinely praise Fyles for her hard work, dedication and selflessness. One patient credits Fyles, "the diabetes guru" with saving his life.

Collaboration can come from unlikely sources. When **Sara Miles**, Director of the Food Pantry at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church enlisted the help of then Food Pantry client **Michael Reid** in 2003 to become Director of Operations, their combined efforts developed into an organization that provides food for over 500 families every week. Since 2000, in partnership with the San Francisco Food Bank, St. Gregory's Food Pantry has provided patrons with a real shopping experience that allows them to select the healthy foods of their choosing. Miles and Reid have spread the impact of the Food Pantry by partnering with the Food Bank to provide start up funds, inspiration and guidance to many pantries throughout San Francisco including: Starr King Elementary School, Bayview Commons, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Samoan Assembly of God, Julian Pantry, Covenant Presbyterian, International Studies Academy, St. Aidan's and St. Francis Episcopal that offer patrons the same dignity, respect and shopping experience.

For 30 years retired Captain **Tony Stefani** was a San Francisco firefighter working at some of the busiest stations in the city. With a year and a half left before his retirement, Stefani was diagnosed with Transitional Cell Carcinoma, a rare form of cancer from years of being exposed to chemicals on the job. He recovered from his illness, but decided that more needed to be done to protect firefighters who were dying from various forms of cancer linked to their occupation. Stefani teamed up with local medical professionals and firefighters to create the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation, which seeks to inform active and retired firefighters about the benefits of early detection and provide quality care to those affected by cancer. The long-range goal of the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation is to conduct a study that will identify the causes of cancer among firefighters and reduce those cancers.

Tickets for the Heroes & Hearts Award Luncheon range in price from \$300 for single seats to \$5,000 for an event sponsorship table. To purchase tickets or to find out more about sponsorship, call 415-206-4478 or visit [www.sfgfhf.net](http://www.sfgfhf.net).

**Major Event Sponsors:** AT&T; Villas Park Merced; Jan & Lou Bock; Chevron Energy Solutions; Intel; The Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation; McKesson; VISA; Wells Fargo; Bank of America; Cummins West, Inc.; Macy's; United Health Group; Webcor Builders; Bon Appétit Management Company; FIJI Water; Hartmann Studios. Media Sponsors: KGO Newstalk AM 810, NBC Bay Area; *San Francisco Business Times* and *San Francisco* magazine. *Sponsors as January 7, 2010.*

#### **ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

San Francisco General Hospital Foundation (SFGHF) is an independent not-for-profit corporation 501(c)3 that provides fund-raising support to San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH). The mission of SFGHF is to augment public funding by raising private support to further improve patient care and comfort at the Hospital. This vital funding allows SFGH to continue its long history of providing quality health care to San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area. Some of the programs funded wholly or in part by the Foundation include the Avon Comprehensive Breast Care Center, ACE Unit (Acute Care for Elders), Institute for Global Orthopedics and Traumatology (IGOT), The Children's Fund, Women's Health Initiative, Cancer Awareness Resources Education (C.A.R.E.), and the Orthopedics Trauma Center of Excellence. Last year, the Foundation raised over \$10 million in private individual gifts and corporate and foundation grants. For more information, visit [www.sfgfhf.net](http://www.sfgfhf.net).

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*To arrange an interview with one of the heroes or for digital images, please contact Charles Zukow Associates:  
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