

Healthy Giving

Honoring Susan Wojcicki's Legacy of Vision and Compassion

When you met Susan Wojcicki, you immediately felt seen. Disarmingly real, funny, and perceptive, Susan had an uncanny ability to make anyone—from a boardroom of executives to a wide-eyed child—feel heard and valued. “I can tell you don’t agree,” she would say to a female colleague in a meeting. “Speak up. I want to hear your voice.”

Her clarity of vision and sense of justice shaped Silicon Valley—and the world. As the longtime CEO of YouTube and one of Google’s earliest leaders, Susan helped define the cultural and technological frontiers that connect us today. But those who knew her best will tell you that her greatest achievements were not the platforms she built, but the people she lifted.

“She cared deeply about getting things right—at home, at work, and in the world,” recalls Tara Walpert Levy, a longtime Google executive, who honored Susan at the American Advertising Federation’s Hall of Fame last year. “She stood tall, always focused on being on the right side of history. She fought for women and underrepresented talent everywhere—and she never once took the expedient path.”

A Legacy of Advocacy and Humanity

Her husband, Dennis Troper, remembers that same fierce sense of purpose at home. “Susan’s belief in the underdog and her desire to see everyone represented extended to every part of her life,” he shared. “When one of our

Continued on page 3



El Camino Health CEO Dan Woods, Nadia Litterman, Dennis Troper, Dr. Fabio Komlos, Janet Wojcicki, and Foundation President Andrew Cope at the presentation of Dr. Komlos' Circle of Caring certificate and pin on December 20, 2024.

Announcing the Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment

The family of Norma Melchor has established the Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment to support in perpetuity the advancement of El Camino Health nurses' knowledge and skills. The gift is a loving tribute to Norma, who trained as a surgical nurse at Epworth Hospital in South Bend, Indiana during World War II and later devoted more than six decades to El Camino Health.

“I loved the surgery part of nursing,” Norma once told an interviewer. “They kept me there seven months, and there’s no nurse that I’ve ever heard of that’s



Norma Melchor

ever been given that responsibility.” She found it particularly rewarding “to take the young interns that just came out of med school and put an instrument in their hands so that the doctor thought they knew what they were doing, because—it was intricate surgery—they did not much know what to do, and so I tried to push the things into their hands that would help them with what I knew was coming up.” An A student and

Continued on page 4

Inside:

- Message from the Foundation Board Chair
- Karla's Café
- California Dreamin': 29th Annual Golf Tournament
- Donor Appreciation
- NICU Reunion



Board of Directors

Robin Driscoll, Chair
Laura Keller, Secretary
John A. Conover, Treasurer
Lane Melchor, Innovation Fund Liaison
Romina Ahuja, Immediate Past Chair
Nahid Aliniaze
Gerri Bock
Stephanie Cash
Peter C. Fung, MD, MBA, Hospital Board Liaison
Linda Heider, Auxiliary Liaison
Laurie-Ann Look, Esq
Ashley Omwando
Nipa Sheth, DDS
Sheetal Singhal
Dan Woods, CEO, El Camino Health
Andrew T. Cope, President

El Camino Health Foundation Founders

Jack & Norma Melchor*
Burton* & Deedee McMurry
Gordon & Betty Moore*
David & Lucile Packard*

Foundation Staff

PRESIDENT

Andrew T. Cope
andrew_cope@elcaminohealth.org
650-940-7154

DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION OPERATIONS

Dakota Atley
dakota_atley@elcaminohealth.org
650-988-4188

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT

Lindsay Ehrman
lindsay_ehrman@elcaminohealth.org
650-988-7849

DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Jennifer Fenoglio
jennifer_fenoglio@elcaminohealth.org
650-988-7849

ANNUAL GIVING OFFICER

Katie Kehriotis
katie_kehriotis@elcaminohealth.org
650-940-7154

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

Patricia Keil
patricia_keil@elcaminohealth.org
650-988-7668

MANAGER OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Kirsten Krimsley
kirsten_krimsley@elcaminohealth.org
650-988-4189

* of blessed memory

650-940-7154

foundation@elcaminohealth.org
elcaminohealth.org/foundation

Message from the Foundation Board Chair

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for you—our community of generous donors, volunteers, and partners in care. Your support sustains El Camino Health's unique promise: to deliver care that is both high tech and high touch.

Every day, our teams combine the latest in medical innovation with the human touch that makes all the difference when someone is ill, afraid, or simply in need of a kind word. At El Camino Health, advanced treatments, clinical trials, and cutting-edge technology live side by side with warm blankets, quiet spaces for families, and caregivers who remember a patient's name—and their story. That balance is our hallmark, and your philanthropy is what makes it possible.

You will read in this issue about the Troper Wojcicki Foundation's extraordinary gift in memory of Susan Wojcicki to establish the Susan Wojcicki Fund for Interventional Radiology, which is helping to carry forward her spirit of compassion and commitment to others. We also highlight the enduring impact of the Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment, which invests in the ongoing education and leadership of our nurses, and the Karla Zoglin Endowment for Nurse Nourishment, which ensures our caregivers are supported and cared for as they care for others. These gifts speak to the heart of who we are: a place that nurtures both clinical excellence and human resilience.

You'll also find an update on Orchard Pavilion, home to the Melchor Family Center for Women and Newborns. From the beginning, Orchard Pavilion has

At El Camino Health, advanced treatments, clinical trials, and the latest technology live side by side with warm blankets, quiet spaces for families, and caregivers who remember a patient's story.

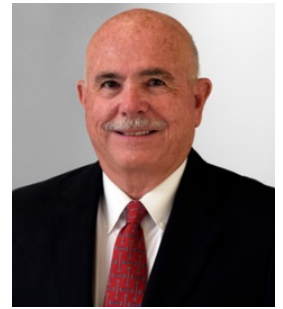
stood out for its thoughtful, family-centered design. The space was created to surround new parents and their babies with comfort, privacy, and connection, while seamlessly integrating advanced clinical care. It reflects our belief that healing environments should support not only patients, but the loved ones who are part of their care journey.

This issue also includes tributes to two exceptional friends of El Camino Health, the late Tad Taube and Bernis Kretchmar. In different but equally meaningful ways, their transformative philanthropy (Tad) and volunteer leadership (Bernis) helped shape the El Camino Health we know today and will continue to influence our work for years to come.

I want to extend special thanks as well to those whose support may seem quieter but is no less impactful—those who participate in our golf tournament, make an annual gift, or join Hope to Health and engage in learning and advocacy on behalf of women's health. These steady, ongoing commitments sustain our work and allow us to respond quickly to emerging needs and opportunities.

On behalf of the El Camino Health Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for all the ways you give—through your philanthropy, your time, and your trust. Together, we are building a strong, compassionate health system for our community. Have a peaceful and joyful new year. With deep appreciation,

Robin John Driscoll, Chair
El Camino Health Foundation
Board of Directors



Honoring Susan Wojcicki's Legacy of Vision and Compassion

Continued from page 1

daughters was discouraged from joining an honors math class, Susan didn't just tell her to persist—she went to the school and pushed for change. She wanted more young women to see that they belong in STEM."

That conviction followed her wherever she went. After work conferences in Europe, the family would often stay a few extra days to connect with communities in need. On one of those trips, they met Dua, a 19-year-old Syrian refugee and student in Berlin. Susan didn't stop at offering empathy—she found legal help, connected her with resources, and today Dua is a marketing professional at a tech company in Germany.

The Care That Made Life Livable Again

When Susan faced her own cancer journey, she brought the same curiosity, determination, and grace she had modeled her entire life. She sought care at leading cancer centers around the country—but she found something uniquely transformative in her experience with Dr. Fabio Komlos, an interventional radiologist at El Camino Health.

In a note she wrote two years after her diagnosis with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, Susan said:

"He is all around one of the most caring, thoughtful, and knowledgeable physicians that I have seen since being diagnosed. While I have seen

oncologists at various leading cancer institutes, only Dr. Komlos paid attention to a key issue that was directly impacting my daily life. His approach vastly improved my quality of life; it made my life livable again. In addition to his knowledge and analytical skills, Dr. Komlos is incredibly attentive, caring, and available."

It was this combination of insight, compassion, and expertise that defined her care—and inspired her family's deep gratitude.

A Gift to Advance Life-Changing Innovation

To honor Susan's legacy, the Troper Wojcicki Foundation has made a generous \$500,000 matching challenge to the El Camino Health Foundation. All funds raised and matched will advance the hospital's growing Interventional Radiology (IR) program—a field that is transforming cancer care through minimally invasive, image-guided procedures that target disease with greater precision, shorter recovery times, and less pain.

The initial phase of this initiative will fund the purchase of a state-of-the-art treatment system, enabling Dr. Komlos and his colleagues to expand access to care and improve outcomes for patients across the region.

But the vision extends far beyond a single piece of equipment.

As Mark Adams, Chief Medical Officer of El Camino Health shared, "This is about building the future of care—where expert physicians, equipped with life-changing technology and guided by compassion, help patients live better and longer lives. It's about ensuring El Camino Health remains the place where stories like Susan's are possible."

The Future of Interventional Radiology at El Camino Health

The field of Interventional Radiology is evolving rapidly, fueled by advances in AI, robotics, and targeted therapies. El Camino Health aims to be at the forefront of this movement—not only as



Dr. Fabio Komlos and Susan Wojcicki's sister, Janet Wojcicki

a center for exceptional patient care, but as a partner to the people, companies, and institutions leading human-centered innovation in Silicon Valley.

With this matching gift, every donation will be doubled—accelerating the ability to deliver treatments that truly change lives.

Honoring a Light That Still Shines

Susan Wojcicki's life was one of brilliance and heart. "The world feels dimmer without Susan's light," says Tara Walpert Levy, "but her legacy shines in every person she met."

Through this initiative, that light continues to shine—illuminating new possibilities for patients, families, and the future of compassionate innovation in medicine.

To support the Interventional Radiology program at El Camino Health and have your donation matched by the Troper Wojcicki

Foundation, please contact Lindsay Ehrman at lindsay_ehrman@elcaminohealth.org or visit <https://support.elcaminohealth.org/IR>.



Interventional Radiology team and colleagues: Benjamin Perez, PA; Navneet Kaur, PA; Zachary Edmonds, MD; Corry Alvarez, RN; Fred St. Goar, MD; Violet Odemu, RN; Fabio Komlos, MD

Announcing the Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment

Continued from page 1

natural leader, Norma was her hospital nursing school senior class president.

In the late 1950s, while raising four young children in Los Altos, Norma began pouring her passion for healthcare and considerable leadership skills into El Camino Health. “My whole life has been the hospital after I got out here,” she recalled. “I was on the committee to help build the hospital long before it was opened.” She was also a founding member of the Auxiliary, became Auxiliary President, served four terms on the healthcare district and hospital boards of directors, and chaired the Imagine Campaign to raise funds for the Mountain View patient tower that opened in 2009. She never forgot her love of nursing. In 1989, a few years after her husband Jack established El Camino Health Foundation, the couple established the Melchor Nursing Scholarship, which has provided annually since then financial support to nursing students who hope to work at El Camino Health upon graduation.

“My grandmother Norma took tremendous pride in being a nurse,” says El Camino Health Foundation Board Member Lane Melchor. “From her time in South Bend during WWII through her



Pilar Parducci, Betsy Dawes and Donna Whitney pack cookies for employees to celebrate the new endowment

many years in Los Altos Hills, she was dedicated to serving the community through the hospitals. She knew the strength of a hospital comes from the quality care the nurses provide. There is no better use for this gift than creating an endowment that supports the nursing staff. She would be proud to know she is still working hard for the nurses.”

The Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment will support onsite training, preparation for certification in nursing specialties, scholarships for advanced degree programs, nursing fellowships, conference attendance, and other initiatives that advance nurse education and training, nursing staff retention, leadership opportunities, nurse research, and evidence-based practice.

“This endowment is a remarkable investment in the future of nursing at El Camino Health,” says El Camino Health Chief Nursing Officer Cheryl Reinking. “It ensures that our nurses will continue to have access to advanced education, research, and professional development opportunities that strengthen their ability to provide



Cheryl Reinking, DNP, RN (in Norma Melchor's original nursing uniform) and Kay Melchor, Norma's daughter

the highest quality, compassionate care. Most importantly, it represents a lasting commitment to the growth and excellence of our nursing community, empowering us to serve our patients and our community with innovation and heart for generations to come, which is in alignment with Norma's values as a nurse and community leader.”



Volunteers and Foundation staff distribute thousands of cookies in Mountain View and Los Gatos

Karla's Café: Nourishing Care and Comfort

El Camino Health is honored to celebrate the opening of Karla's Café, a new gathering space in Orchard Pavilion dedicated in loving memory of Karla Lacey, the late wife of John Zoglin. John's generosity establishes The Karla Lacey Endowment for Nurse Nourishment, which celebrates Karla's warmth, compassion, and joy for bringing people together—and reflects the values she lived every day: community, service, and creating opportunities for connection and comfort.

Born and raised in Texas, Karla learned to make friends easily as her family moved across the state's oil fields. A proud *summa cum laude* graduate of Texas A&M University and later a

Harvard Business School alumna, Karla built an accomplished international career, living, working and leading teams across the U.S., Portugal, Argentina, and Costa Rica. Yet her greatest joy was as a devoted mother to her identical twin daughters, Kelly and Sarah.

Karla is remembered for her tremendous capacity for friendship and caring. She valued community, always finding ways to bring people together. She lived a life of service, giving her time and talents to her church, local schools, and civic causes. A talented cook from a young age, she delighted in bringing people together to connect over a delicious homemade meal. Her home was often filled with friends, family, and the sound of laughter.



Karla Lacey



Karla with twin daughters Kelly and Sarah

Those same values inspired the endowment in her name. When Kelly and Sarah were born prematurely, Karla and John saw firsthand the devotion of night nursing staff and the challenges families face spending long hours in the hospital with their babies. Their experience sparked a vision—to ensure that caregivers and families alike have access to healthy meals during the evening hours. This gift ensures that nutritious food and snacks are accessible for El Camino Health's night nursing teams and families caring for their newborns, comforting those who give and receive care during the most tender moments.

John and Karla's ties to El Camino Health run deep. Dr. Stanton Zoglin, John's father, was a respected internist and Chief of Staff at El Camino Hospital in the early 1960s. John has continued that tradition of leadership through his impactful service to the Board of Directors since 2007. With Karla's Café and The Karla Lacey Endowment for Nurse Nourishment, the family extends this legacy—celebrating Karla's belief that community, service, and comfort are among life's greatest gifts.

Circle of Caring

El Camino Health Foundation invites you to express your appreciation for the doctor, nurse, department, or staff member who made a difference by making a donation in their honor.

Participation is easy. Donate online or call us at 650-940-7154. In addition to notifying your El Camino Health care provider, we will send you a separate gift receipt. All donations to El Camino Health Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Visit elcaminohealth.org/circleofcaring



California Dreamin': Annual Golf Classic Raises More Than \$250,000 to Expand Cancer Care in Los Gatos

Under a wide, sun-washed sky, Silver Creek Valley Country Club felt a little like California dreamin' come to life: rolling fairways in a golden-hour glow, easy laughter on the tee box, and that unmistakable Bay Area breeze that makes a perfect shot feel inevitable. It was the tournament's first year at Silver Creek, and the setting fit the spirit of the day—optimistic, generous, and focused on what's ahead.

From the opening drives, more than 100 golfers brought a West Coast ease to friendly competition, backed by 50 phenomenal volunteers who kept everything moving with California calm. Fist bumps, fairway stories, and selfies framed the day as a shared moment with purpose: expanding the Cancer Center in Los Gatos so more patients can access top physicians, convenient appointments, and state-of-the-art facilities close to home.

As the sun dipped behind the foothills, the focus shifted from fairway to festivities. An elegant post-tournament dinner gathered 145 attendees. The highlight of the evening was Jason, a cancer survivor treated by El Camino Health Medical Oncologist Dr. Shane Dormady.



John Swetka, Russ Satake, Garrett Nano, Mark Thorp

"Cancer treatment isn't just physically hard—it takes a mental and emotional toll, too. There are days when your body is exhausted, but your mind is even more tired. You try to stay strong while juggling work, family life with three kids, and about five different side effects. And that's where the care team made the biggest difference. They didn't just heal my body—they gave generously of themselves to keep our spirits up."

"When I rang the bell at the end of treatment, I expected relief—but what I really felt was gratitude. Gratitude for every doctor, nurse, lab tech, volunteer—and for Maria at the front desk, who greeted me by name ('Mr. Jason') every single time I walked in the door."

"Because of my relatively young age, Dr. Dormady refers to me as a 'neo-natal' patient within the center. I hope to one day graduate to old-timer status."



The Official California Dreamin' Fleet Cars

Jason's story reminded everyone what the day was all about—hope and healing, available close to home. As this newsletter went to print, the tournament proceeds and our community's generous donations broke records at more than \$250,000 for expanding cancer care in Los Gatos—supporting new exam rooms, infusion chairs, and convenient access to world-class care.

Thanks to everyone who played, volunteered, and gave generously. You turned a beautiful day into lasting impact for patients and families in Los Gatos and throughout the South Bay.



Rickey Green, Foundation President Andrew Cope, El Camino Hospital Board Finance Committee member Cynthia Stewart



Dr. Shane Dormady



Nathan Drainville, Douglas Hubert, El Camino Health Chief Administrative Services Officer Ken King, Scott London



John Hunter, Dr. Fred St. Goar, Stephen Cassani, Allan Walsworth



Generous donors raised their paddles to support Cancer Care in Los Gatos



CEO Dan Woods, El Camino Health Board Member Wayne Doiguchi, Chief Experience Officer Ryan Lockwood, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Mark Klein

PHOTOS: DOORSTEP PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrating Donor Support That Advances Care Close to Home

On December 2, donors, physicians, and leaders gathered at Los Altos Golf & Country Club to celebrate what generosity makes possible at El Camino Health. The evening was more than a dinner program—it was about lives changed through philanthropy.

In the most recent fiscal year, donors contributed nearly \$13 million in outright gifts, legacy commitments, and event support. These investments are advancing campus improvements, strengthening Magnet-designated nursing, launching cross-disciplinary programs that support whole-person health, and providing emergency financial assistance and low- or no-cost screenings so more neighbors can access preventive care.

Donor support is also fueling national recognition and new services. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked El Camino Health #16 in California and the top community hospital in the San Jose metro area, and *Newsweek* named it a Top 100 hospital in the United States. Expanded cardiology clinics, construction of a new inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Sunnyvale, and growing community partnerships help broaden our reach and bring innovative treatments closer to home.

In Radiation Oncology, philanthropy is driving especially remarkable advances. Dr. Robert Sinha, Medical Director of the Center for Advanced Radiotherapy, described how state-of-the-art technologies now allow clinicians to deliver highly targeted radiation therapy tailored to each patient. New systems are expanding treatment options for both benign and malignant conditions, made possible through donor support to



CEO Dan Woods, Foundation President Andrew Cope, Sam and Tricia Colella



Hospital Board Member Dr. Peter Fung, Julia Fung, Hospital Board Member Don Watters

El Camino Health Foundation. Looking ahead, Dr. Sinha shared his excitement about future precision treatments and image-guided therapies that will further improve outcomes and quality of life.

Guests also heard from George, one of Dr. Sinha's grateful patients, who brought warmth and humor as he recounted his search for the right treatment and his relief at finding world-class technology and physicians so



Ryan and Stephanie Cash, Heather Freeman, Executive Director - Women and Newborn Services

close to home. His story underscored a shared belief in the room: advanced care means the most when it's available in the community you love.

Foundation President Andrew Cope expressed gratitude for the donors, Foundation and Hospital Board members, service line leaders and health system executives, all of whom collaborate with the Foundation to make its work possible. He also offered special thanks to Legacy Society members whose estate commitments will sustain world-class care for generations.

Throughout the evening—amid conversation, laughs, and shared stories—one sentiment was clear: El Camino Health is stronger, more innovative, and more compassionate because of your generosity.



Dan Tran, Barb Lambing, Gail and Ken King



Foundation Board Member Gerri Bock, Laszlo Bock, Katie Kehriotis

From Tiny Fighters to Thriving Kids: A Super-Powered NICU Reunion

Each year, El Camino Health's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Mountain View welcomes families back for a day of joy, gratitude, and heartwarming reunions. The annual NICU Reunion celebrates the remarkable journeys of babies who once required intensive care—and the dedicated medical teams who stood beside them through those earliest chapters.

This year's celebration drew nearly 200 attendees, with dozens of NICU graduates and their families returning to reconnect with the doctors, nurses, and volunteers who guided them through those tender first weeks. Embracing a superhero theme, the event burst with capes, masks, and kid-friendly activities that invited little heroes to play, create, and show off the strength they've grown into.

Storytime with children's author Christine Evans added a thoughtful pause to the festivities, inviting families to gather for tales that spark imagination and connection. Staff and volunteers wore bright Reach Out and Read (R.O.A.R.) T-shirts, underscoring the program's mission to encourage parents to read to their babies in the NICU and beyond—fueling early cognitive development and deepening bonds.

A special surprise guest—San Jose Earthquakes captain Cristian Espinoza—delighted young fans by signing shirts and posing for photos, bringing even more shine to an already memorable day.

The reunion and the R.O.A.R. program are made possible thanks to the generosity of Judie and Peter Wolken, whose support through the El Camino Health Foundation helps ensure that families continue to benefit from programs that nurture both heart and mind.

Together, these families, caregivers, and supporters remind us that every milestone matters—and that with community behind them, the smallest heroes can grow into their powers.



Foundation Board member and NICU alum Ashley Omwando with her daughters, Victoria and Octavia



Sara Rocha, RN



Foundation Staff and R.O.A.R. donor Judie Wolken (Center)



NICU Nurses and Alums

This year's celebration drew nearly 200 attendees, with dozens of NICU graduates and their families returning to reconnect with the doctors, nurses, and volunteers who guided them through those tender first weeks.

A Woman of Valor: Bernis Kretchmar

Those who knew Bernis Kretchmar remember her first as a presence—warm, whimsical, and joyfully purposeful. She loved gardening and creating, the small touches that make people feel seen: flowers arranged just so, a handwritten note with exactly the right words, menus planned with care.

She loved parties (she recently pulled off a surprise 90th birthday for her husband of 67 years, Dr. Larry Kretchmar)—not for spectacle but for connection, the feeling of drawing people together to do something meaningful.

Bernis brought that same spirit to El Camino Health Foundation for more than four decades. She joined the first Foundation Board of Directors in 1982 and threw herself into learning the craft of philanthropy, then returned in 2004 to help shape the Gala Committee with her signature can-do energy. In 2006 she co-chaired the rooftop “What’s Cooking at El Camino Hospital” gala that launched the Imagine Campaign. She rejoined the Board in 2007, served three consecutive terms, joined the Imagine Campaign Cabinet, and later became a treasured presence on the Honorary Foundation Board. Through it all, she paired wisdom with playfulness, steadiness with sparkle.

From Lindsay Ehrman, Associate Vice President at the Foundation and a longtime colleague and friend of Bernis: “I adored Bernis. The world



Bernis and Dr. Larry Kretchmar



Laurie Kretchmar, Molly Roston, Bernis Kretchmar, Julie Roston

lost a beautiful human being when she passed away. I will always remember her beautiful smile, her quick wit and sense of humor, her optimism and can-do energy, her wisdom and kindness, her courage and resilience. She was an *eshet chayil*—a woman of valor, a role model, my cheerleader, my friend.”

Dr. Kretchmar himself served El Camino Health for decades as a urologist. He considered himself fortunate to have practiced for many years with Dr. Alvin Rutner, later following him as Chief of Staff and then El Camino Hospital Board Member. Together, guided by Bernis’s conviction to “repair the world and make it a better place,” Bernis and Larry joined the Legacy Society and made a planned gift commitment in 2009, believing El Camino Health is a community asset worth supporting for future generations.

To honor the life she lived and the care she championed, the Kretchmar and Roston families have made a legacy gift to the Palliative Care Fund at El Camino Health in loving memory of Bernis. The gift reflects who she was at her core: someone who believed that how we speak with patients and families matters as much as the treatments we offer.

The gift will expand VitalTalk, an evidence-based training program that helps clinicians communicate with empathy and clarity during difficult conversations—about goals of palliative care, symptom management, and end-of-life choices. In practical terms,



Bernis Kretchmar and Jack Melchor

Bernis’s legacy means more comfort, less confusion, and care that aligns with what matters most to each patient and family.

“Bernis wanted every family to feel seen and supported. Helping more clinicians speak with compassion is exactly the kind of impact she would have wanted,” says Dr. Kretchmar.

This is a very Bernis kind of gift: generous, practical, and focused on the human encounter at the heart of medicine. As more of our doctors and nurses are trained through VitalTalk, more families will experience the presence, clarity, and dignity that brought comfort to Bernis and her loved ones.

On behalf of everyone at El Camino Health, El Camino Health Foundation is tremendously grateful to the Kretchmar and Roston families for the opportunity to continue Bernis’ legacy. May her memory be a blessing.

A Feast for the Senses Celebrates Hope to Health and the Power of Women's Giving

At a Los Altos Hills farm, Hope to Health members gather to learn, connect, and give back in support of women and families.



Under the late-summer sun, members and guests of Hope to Health gathered at a private family farm in Los Altos Hills for *A Feast for the Senses*—an afternoon that celebrated connection, creativity, and compassion.

Hope to Health (H2H) is a women's giving circle that brings together individuals who care deeply about the well-being of women and families. Through shared learning and collective philanthropy, members support innovative programs at El Camino Health that improve care, advance research, and touch countless lives.



H2H Member Pilar Parducci

PHOTOS: RYANVINCENT ALVAREZ

The afternoon opened with welcoming remarks from Andrew Cope, President of the El Camino Health Foundation, who thanked guests for their generosity and paid tribute to Linda Rogers, a founding H2H member whose belief in the program's mission continues to inspire. "Linda credited Hope to Health for saving her life," Cope shared. "She believed in the value of learning, mutual support, and giving back—and that spirit is alive in all of you."

Guests toured the farm's gardens with caretaker Debbie Togliatti, then joined Erin Gleeson, artist and author of the bestselling *Forest Feast* cookbook series, for a watercolor class inspired by the late-summer harvest. The air was filled with laughter, creativity, and reflection—an experience that captured the heart of Hope to Health: women coming together to learn, connect, and make a difference.

The day concluded with an insightful talk by Dr. Iulia Giuroiu, oncologist at El Camino Health's Cancer Center, who spoke about lung cancer's impact on women and the importance of early detection.

As the sun dipped behind the hills, guests left inspired by the power of giving and the promise of what's ahead.

To learn about joining Hope to Health, contact Katie Kehriotis at katie_kehriotis@elcaminohealth.org.



Join Hope to Health

El Camino Health Foundation's Women's Giving Circle

Advancing Care for Women and Families

By pooling \$1,000 in individual annual dues, Hope to Health members form a community, learn, and vote to support programs at El Camino Health that directly support women and families.

Join now to be part of a welcoming community that turns individual generosity into collective impact. For more information, scan the code or contact Annual Giving Officer Katie Kehriotis at katie_kehriotis@elcaminohealth.org.



Hope to Health members enjoying A Feast for the Senses

A Beautiful New Environment in the Melchor Family Center for Women and Newborns

Generous donor support continues to shape the future of women's and newborn care in our community. In the Orchard Pavilion, home to the Melchor Family Center for Women and Newborns, the vision of a modern, healing environment is now becoming reality—one that honors both the science and the humanity of care.

Since last fall, the Pavilion has reached several remarkable milestones. Phases 1 and 2 of construction are now complete, bringing transformative new spaces online:

- A **24-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)** on the 2nd floor, featuring 19 private rooms with room-in capability, 3 additional private sleep rooms for families, and a family lounge, kitchen, and shower facilities.
- A **26-bed Maternity Unit** on the 3rd floor, with all private rooms and sleep beds for partners, filled with natural light and views of the surrounding gardens.
- A welcoming **new main lobby**, connecting families to care in a setting that conveys calm, dignity, and respect.

These spaces embody a powerful shift—from functional hospital units to family-centered environments that reduce stress, improve outcomes, and allow



New maternity rooms offer light-filled, private spaces designed for families. Renovated Labor & Delivery suites provide greater comfort and clinical safety.

parents to play an active role in healing and bonding from the very first moments of life.

Phase 2, completed earlier this year, focused on the first floor, where the team opened eight **new Labor & Delivery rooms** and six flexible **OB Emergency Department / Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (OBED/PACU)** rooms. Half of the first-floor Maternity Unit was also reconfigured and renovated into private rooms. Families now arrive through a redesigned **entry and waiting area** that offers privacy, comfort, and natural light—a space that immediately communicates care and compassion.

We are now in Phase 3—the final stage of construction. This phase will complete the renovation of remaining Labor & Delivery rooms, finish the new OBED/PACU spaces, and convert the rest of the first-floor Maternity Unit into all-private rooms. The Pavilion's new design draws on natural elements—warm woods, large windows, and colors inspired by the local landscape—to promote a sense of peace and connection with nature.

The new construction was substantially completed by late 2025, with the new areas activated for patient care in Spring 2026 following licensing and transition.



Once fully complete, the renewed Orchard Pavilion will provide:

- **Labor & Delivery:** expanded from 12 rooms to 20, including 5 that can serve high-risk antepartum patients; OBED and PACU capacity increasing from 3 shared spaces each to 8 flexible private beds.
- **Maternity:** growth from 36 rooms (including 8 semi-private) to 52 all-private rooms.
- **NICU:** expansion from 20 bay-style beds to 24 beds, including 19 private rooms with sleep-in facilities for parents.

These improvements represent more than added space—they reflect a deeper commitment to women's and families' health and well-being. With private rooms for every mother and infant, we're reducing infection risk, enhancing emotional safety, and ensuring that every patient receives the highest standard of care in a setting that honors her experience. The Orchard Pavilion expansion will serve more than 5,000 births each year, offering an environment that nurtures not only healthy outcomes but also hope, connection, and confidence for new parents. This project reaffirms El Camino Health's enduring belief: that when women and families thrive, the whole community grows stronger.



The new entry and waiting areas welcome families with light and natural elements.

Honoring Service and Legacy: Romina and Kelly Ahuja

El Camino Health recently celebrated the dedication of its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) conference room in honor of Romina and Kelly Ahuja, recognizing their many years of service, leadership, and philanthropy. The space—designed for collaboration, family engagement, and clinical learning—now stands as a testament to the Ahujas' lasting commitment to advancing compassionate care.

Romina Ahuja has long been a cornerstone of El Camino Health Foundation's work, serving as Secretary, Board Chair, and now Immediate Past Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Her tenure has been marked by a deep dedication to community health and an unwavering belief in the power of philanthropy to transform care. Together, Romina and Kelly have been among El Camino Health's most steadfast supporters, hosting donor events and championing key initiatives, including programs for youth mental health and family wellness.

Nowhere is this impact more evident than in the NICU and the expanded Maternal-Child Health (MCH) mental-health program. In the past year alone, the NICU mental-health team supported 205 family encounters, with 195 parents participating in group sessions and 114 completing one-on-one support sessions. These touchpoints offer reassurance and coping strategies to parents navigating the uncertainty of intensive neonatal care. The program's reach has expanded twice—first to include high-risk hospitalized antepartum patients, and again to support patients who experienced traumatic births.

Beyond maternal and infant health, the Ahujas have also been influential supporters of the South Asian Heart Center, advancing its mission to reduce disproportionately high rates of diabetes and heart disease in the South Asian community.



CEO Dan Woods, Anusha Goyal, Saahil Ahuja, Bailey and Manraj Ahuja, Romina and Kelly Ahuja, Anika Ahuja, Foundation President Andrew Cope, Jody Charles, NICU Clinical Manager



Plaque engraving: "Tiny Hearts, Endless Hope"



Kelly and Romina Ahuja

Through their leadership and generosity, Romina and Kelly Ahuja have touched many lives. The NICU conference room named in their honor stands as a tribute to their dedication—and as a space that will support healing, resilience, and compassionate care for years to come.

Through their leadership and generosity, Romina and Kelly Ahuja have touched many lives. The NICU conference room named in their honor stands as a tribute to their dedication—and as a space that will support healing, resilience, and compassionate care for years to come.

Giving From the Heart: How El Camino Employees Power Better Care

Each year, El Camino Health employees come together in a powerful way: by giving back through employee giving. This tradition of generosity is about more than donations—it's about living our mission to provide exceptional, compassionate care for every patient and family we serve.

Employees are invited to support both the El Camino Fund and a variety of restricted purposes. The El Camino Fund is an unrestricted fund, which means it can be directed where it's needed most, when it's needed most. This flexibility allows the El Camino Health Foundation to respond quickly to emerging needs across the organization—supporting important pilot programs that improve patient care, supplementing training so employees can continue to grow their skills, and helping purchase new equipment and systems that make care more effective and seamless.

In addition, many employees choose to direct their gifts to specific areas that are especially meaningful to them. These restricted gifts help advance particular programs, services, or departments, giving employees a way to align their

philanthropy with the aspects of care that touch their lives and communities most deeply. Together, unrestricted and restricted support ensure that both immediate needs and strategic priorities are addressed.

As of late November 2025, many El Camino Health employees had already generously contributed more than \$120,000. This outpouring of support reflects a deep sense of pride and shared purpose among staff. Each gift—no matter the size, and whether directed to the El Camino Fund or a specific program—demonstrates a commitment to strengthening El Camino Health from the inside out.

When employees give, they are investing in the future of the organization, their colleagues, and the patients and families who depend on us. It's one more way El Camino Health employees show up for each other, and for every person who walks through our doors.



Los Gatos employees celebrate Employee Giving: Ann Aquino, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, and Janheen Pascual, Clinical Manager of Inpatient Rehab



Remembering Tad Taube

We mourn the passing of Tad Taube, a visionary philanthropist whose generosity touched Jewish communities around the world and left an indelible mark on El Camino Health.

Together with his wife, Dianne, Tad helped make the Taube Pavilion a reality, creating spaces of hope, dignity, and healing for patients seeking mental health care. Their enduring commitment extended even further through the endowment of the Tad and Dianne Taube Program for Adolescent Behavioral Health, ensuring generations of young people will receive compassionate, life-changing support.

Tad's life of resilience and dedication to building institutions of care leaves a profound and lasting impact. The compassion he and Dianne shared will continue to inspire and guide us in our work each day.

May his memory be a blessing.



Tad and Dianne Taube



HOPE TO HEALTH WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Thriving with Whole-Woman Care in Menopause and Beyond

Join other **Hope to Health** members and integrative women's health specialist Dr. Barbi Phelps-Sandall, OB/GYN, to explore holistic strategies for living well in perimenopause, menopause, and the years that follow. **Enjoy candle making by Le Gaol**—a creative, hands-on workshop to design a personalized scented candle and connect through the art of aroma.

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 4-6:00 p.m.
State Street Market, 170 State Street, Los Altos, CA



Contact Katie Kehriotis to learn more
katie_kehriotis@elcaminohealth.org or 650-988-7665



Dr. Barbi Phelps-Sandall, OB/GYN

EL CAMINO HEALTH FOUNDATION PLANNED GIVING COUNCIL PRESENTS 34th Annual Allied Professionals Seminar

Thursday, February 12, 2026
7:30 – 10 a.m.
Los Altos Golf & Country Club

Featuring

Samuel A. Donaldson, Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law and co-author of *Price on Contemporary Estate Planning* and the popular West casebook, *Federal Income Tax: A Contemporary Approach*.

Topic

Understanding the Menu of Charitable Giving Strategies



For more information or to register, please visit: <https://support.elcaminohealth.org/APS2026>



2500 Grant Road
Park Pavilion, Mailstop PAR116
Mountain View, CA 94040



*Warm wishes for a healthy
New Year 2026*

Make a gift in support of Interventional Radiology, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Troper Wojcicki Foundation.

