

# Opportunities

INFORMING YOU OF OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## Legacy Society members meet El Camino Hospital patients

**LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS WERE HONORED FOR REMEMBERING EL CAMINO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS** during a luncheon at Villa Montalvo on May 5. They enjoyed fine music, delicious food and a fascinating tour of the historic villa. During lunch three grateful patients spoke about their healing experiences at El Camino Hospital, reminding the guests of the good cause their gifts will serve. Each accessed services from a different hospital department.

Bob Dorricott spoke about his visit to the emergency room, describing how impressed he was with the speed and attentiveness of the care he received. The El Camino Hospital Emergency Department utilizes a "rapid medical evaluation" model in which a physician enters the process right at the point of triage and speaks to the patient to determine which tests or treatments are needed. This program has reduced the time to see a physician to 13 minutes!

There was not a dry eye in the room as Ethel Herr, a cancer patient, shared her continuing journey with the disease. She spoke movingly of her connection to the staff at every stage of treatment. El Camino Hospital's Cancer Center aggregates all cancer services in one location for the ease and convenience of the patient. Its infusion center provides a comfortable environment for chemotherapy treatments, complete with personal televisions and headsets.

*Continued on next page*



Top photo: Bob and Phyllis Dorricott.

Bottom photo: Bill Hart, Linda Yee, Ruth Hart, Madeline Chaleff, Gene Strom.

*Imagine all we can do together.*  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR EL CAMINO HOSPITAL



**El Camino Hospital® Foundation**  
THE HOSPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

# Legacy Society members meet El Camino Hospital patients

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Jane Hodge, Melville Hodge, Bernis Kretchmar



Maggie Patch and George Stanley



Dan and Olivia Haley



Jane and Edward Seaman

Other conveniences at the Cancer Center include the services of a concierge, an onsite café, cancer boutique and branch of El Camino Hospital's Health Library and Resource Center.

Priya Dharan shared how impressed she was when she discovered that El Camino Hospital's South Asian Heart Center could teach her everything she needed to know about living a healthy life style. The first of its kind in the nation, SAHC was established

to combat the extraordinarily high incidence of coronary artery disease in the South Asian community. It offers advanced screenings and a broad range of culturally appropriate treatments.

Legacy gifts help to support these and many other vital hospital programs. They ensure that future generations will have access to the state-of-the-art care we have come to expect from El Camino Hospital.

**If you have made a gift in your estate plan to El Camino Hospital Foundation, please let us know so you can be included in our Legacy Society. (See contact information on back page)**

# Leave Retirement Savings Where They Will Do the Most Good

Suppose you owned an asset upon which was fastened the label: *60% Tax Due at Death.*



Impossible? Not if the asset is your IRA or other retirement account.

A combination of estate taxes and income taxes can greatly diminish the retirement savings accounts of many individuals, leaving little remaining for heirs.

- **Federal Estate Tax.** After 2010, the full, date-of-death value of retirement accounts is subject to federal estate tax, at rates as high as 55%. Estates over \$1 million would owe tax, under the law as currently written.
- **State/Federal Income Taxes.** Even if your estate is not liable for estate taxes, both federal income tax and state income tax (depending on the place of residence of your heirs) will be due on amounts remaining in an IRA or other plan – costing as much as 40% or more.

Estate taxes can be postponed when retirement assets pass to a surviving spouse. But an expensive visit from the tax collector -- costing up to 60% or more -- lies ahead, when retirement savings pass to other relatives such as children and grandchildren.

You could choose to draw out all your retirement savings while you are alive, but income taxes would come due and estate taxes could touch amounts left unspent. A more satisfying option might be to leave part or all the retirement account to support healthcare in your district. All taxes would be avoided on amounts passing to El Camino Hospital Foundation.

## How to Arrange Retirement Plan Gifts

It's simple to leave part or all of an IRA or other retirement account to the Foundation.

**Beneficiary Change.** Just instruct the custodian of your account to name us as a full or partial beneficiary upon death. The company can provide you with the appropriate forms.

**Will or Living Trust.** If no beneficiary is named for your account, you can change your will or living trust so that retirement assets are specifically designated to pass for our benefit. (Note: If you have a spouse, his or her written consent will be required to make a charitable gift of retirement benefits, other than from an IRA.)

**Contingent Beneficiary.** At the very least, consider giving your heirs the right to "disclaim" (decline) retirement benefits, and designate that such amounts would then pass to the Foundation. Heirs who understand the severity of taxes may consider it best to have retirement assets pass 100% to preserve quality healthcare in our community, instead.

We encourage you to contact our office if any of these ideas are of interest to you. Just return the enclosed card, and be sure to request our new booklet, *Maximize Your IRA.*

*It's quite possible that Congress will enact new estate tax legislation in the coming months and provide a larger exemption and lower tax rates (in 2009 there was a \$3.5 million exemption and a top tax rate of 45%). But most observers expect the estate tax to be reinstated in one form or another, starting in 2011.*

## Laphalene Hawkins: A History of Giving

**LAPHALENE HAWKINS WAS A YOUNG WIFE AND MOTHER WHEN SHE AND HER HUSBAND EDWIN** began their long association with El Camino Hospital in the spring of 1959. Tall and handsome, Ed had been recruited to serve as the hospital's first administrator even before there was a building. He oversaw construction of the 4-story patient tower and then went on to lead the institution for 25 years.



Laphalene and Ed Hawkins

Laphalene steadfastly supported the hospital through her behind-the-scenes encouragement of her husband's career as she raised their three children and put down roots in the community. "She was always gracious, quiet, nice and smiling," remembers Norma Melchor, who was a frequent dinner guest at the Hawkins home.

After Ed's death in 1999, more than 400 people attended a memorial service at the hospital in his honor. Norma, an early Auxiliary president who currently chairs El Camino Hospital Foundation's Imagine Campaign Cabinet, spoke at the occasion and told the assembled mourners how much Ed had adored his wife. "Ed knew everyone by name," she also recalls. "He regularly walked around the hospital, greeting staff and even visiting patients. This was one of the ways he inspired positive feelings among physicians and employees, and made a name for El

Camino Hospital in the community. He also acted decisively to take care of any problems that arose, but did so in a way that made everyone feel good."

Longtime Los Altos residents, the Hawkins became members of the Foundation's Legacy Society with an early bequest. After Ed died, Laphalene decided to make a planned gift to the Foundation in his memory. She chose a charitable gift annuity because, she said at the time, "El Camino Hospital supported me for 40 years, first by allowing Ed to work there, and recently for being my hospital for health care. I want to invest in our hospital and leave it with a secure future."

Laphalene Hawkins died on July 8, 2010. We honor her memory with this tribute as she honored her husband's long service to El Camino Hospital with her legacy gift

**Laphalene steadfastly supported the hospital through her behind-the-scenes encouragement of her husband's career as she raised their three children and put down roots in the community.**

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