For Pam and Bill of Lake Forest, it had been a pleasant evening as a family. Pam went to bed while Bill and their son, Mark, stayed up to watch TV. She was awakened suddenly when Mark ran up the stairs and into her bedroom. “Get up, Dad is having a stroke,” he said.

“It was terrifying,” says Pam. “I just held Bill while Mark called 9-1-1.”

Stroke, the result of a disturbance in the blood flow to the brain, is an all too common occurrence. Unless blood flow is restored quickly, brain cells begin to die, resulting in permanent damage or death.

An ambulance was there within minutes and rushed Bill to Saddleback Memorial Medical Center. “It was such a helpless feeling. We couldn’t get to the hospital fast enough,” says Pam. As a designated 24/7 Stroke Receiving Center and certified by the Joint Commission as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center, Saddleback Memorial is recognized for its extraordinary efforts in producing better outcomes in stroke care.

Upon arrival, Bill was assessed using Saddleback Memorial’s telemedicine program, which allows patients to be examined by a neurologist remotely. It revealed troubling news. Due to medication he was taking for an unrelated condition, Bill was not a candidate for tPA, a proven stroke treatment that breaks up clots.

As a nurse herself, Pam understood the gravity of the situation. “I thought that was it, that there was no hope,” recalls Pam. “But I was reassured that there was another way.” Radoslav Raychev, M.D. arrived and assumed Bill’s care. Using state-of-the-art technology in the biplane catheterization lab, Dr. Raychev was able to thread a wire-like catheter into his femoral artery and navigate it to his brain. He then used the catheter to remove the clot and restore life-sustaining blood to Bill’s brain.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Raychev and the team at Saddleback Memorial, Bill is on the road to recovery. “He is my hero,” says Bill of Dr. Raychev. “I can’t express how much it means to me that Pam and I will have many more happy years together.”
The renovation of the Labor Evaluation Room at The Women’s Hospital at Saddleback Memorial was made possible by a generous donation from Pediatrix/Obstetrix Medical Groups, Inc.

The Labor Evaluation Room was upgraded to create a soothing environment as part of the Designed for Healing hospital enhancement project. In the Labor Evaluation Room pregnant women are monitored to determine how far they are into labor. Once they are in active labor, they are then moved into a private birthing suite.

The generous donation by Pediatrix/Obstetrix was celebrated with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Women’s Hospital. Guests viewed the newly renovated room followed by a reception with a champagne toast.

Heritage Society members were treated to the annual recognition luncheon on February 6 at El Niguel Country Club.

New members Vicky Hsia (whose husband Alan passed away in February), Dorothy Yeh Chu Louie, and Rae Tso – all residents of Laguna Woods – contributed a combined amount of more than $1 million through planned gifts in support of Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in 2013.

Keynote speaker and vascular surgeon Wang Teng, M.D. shared his experience volunteering at the U.S. Army’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. During his two-week stint abroad, Dr. Teng treated wounded U.S. military injured in the line of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. He shared photos of the conditions in which he and other volunteers worked to save the lives of wounded warriors.

Cecilia Belew, Saddleback Memorial Foundation President, then honored new Heritage Society members and acknowledged members who made additional planned gifts in the past year.

“I think our donors appreciate that the Foundation provides a variety of ways to support Saddleback Memorial Medical Center,” says Cecilia. “From volunteering time, giving cash donations and giving through deferred gifts – as our wonderful Heritage Society members do – our donors can give in the manner in which they prefer. We in turn, are grateful for all gifts that ultimately touch the lives of the people of our community.”

Heritage Society – Pillars of Saddleback Memorial

Heritage Society members gathered with friends and family for the annual Heritage Society luncheon thanking members for their support of SMMC. (From left Laurie Konsugar-Louie, Saddleback Memorial Medical Center CEO Steve Geidt, Dorothy Yeh Chu Louie and Lucy Lu).

Donations at Work: Labor Evaluation Room

From left: Drs. David Lagrew, Ron Naglie, Gary Twiggs, Michael Haydon and Brian Gilpin cut the ribbon to the newly renovated Labor Evaluation Room.

Spring Gala 2014
A Celebration of Hope
Saturday, May 3
The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel
Saddleback Memorial Foundation hosts our annual Spring Gala — A Celebration of Hope. This sold-out fundraising event will benefit the new MemorialCare Cancer Institute at Saddleback Memorial and honor the countless patients and their families who are touched by cancer each year. For more information visit us online at memorialcare.org/springgala.
**On a Personal Note…**

**Cecilia Belew, President Saddleback Memorial Foundation**

As we put the finishing touches on our gala preparations, dust off tuxedos and shop for the perfect shoes, let’s take a moment to remember what all the glitz and glamour is about.

It’s not just about the newly renovated MemorialCare Cancer Institute that will feature new radiation oncology treatments and innovative imaging and diagnostic technologies. Nor is it just about the Garden of Hope that will provide peace and tranquility to those on their journey towards survivorship.

This special evening is a wonderful gathering of our Saddleback Memorial supporters who will come to celebrate and honor our mothers, husbands, grandmothers, friends, neighbors and other loved ones who have been touched by cancer.

We’ll be reminded of the courage and strength it takes to fight cancer and celebrate the Saddleback Memorial family of supporters, physicians, nurses and staff who are there along the journey.

I look forward to raising a glass with our gracious, philanthropic community in honor of those we love.

**Senior Plus for the Community**

Did you know that Saddleback Memorial offers a complimentary service, MemorialCare Senior Plus, which helps seniors with Medicare insurance options, medical billing issues and prescription drug plans?

Saddleback Memorial donor Sheila Schpiro of Laguna Woods, believes that the most valuable aspect of Senior Plus is the Medicare insurance counseling and assistance from insurance specialist, Roberta Potts. After a trip to the emergency room, Sheila turned to Roberta who helped her decipher her medical bills and determine what her out-of-pocket expenses were going to be.

“The assistance I received from Senior Plus saved me valuable time and energy from trying to figure it out all by myself. I’m very appreciative and grateful for the help I received,” says Sheila.

In addition to helping Sheila with her medical billing questions, Roberta helped Sheila choose a prescription drug plan that was right for her.

Senior Plus provides unbiased advice and is available to help year-round, with fall being the busiest time of year as people seek guidance in choosing Medicare coverage and prescription drug plans during open enrollment October to December.

Senior Plus was made possible by the generosity of Louise and Bill Meiklejohn who started an endowment specifically for Senior Plus to ensure that this service would be available to the community for years to come.

To learn more about how Senior Plus can help you, contact Roberta Potts at (949) 452-3791.

**Golfers Tee Off for Cancer**

Saddleback Memorial Foundation’s 6th annual Corporate Golf Classic on March 31 raised $78,000 (net) to benefit the new MemorialCare Cancer Institute at Saddleback Memorial.

Held at a new location, El Niguel Country Club, the tournament drew 140 physicians, corporate partners and other supporters for a fantastic day of golf and networking on the 18-hole course.

The winning foursome representing South Orange County Cardiology Group were Drs. Mike Gault, Ron Gim, Daniel Lamont and Robert Masters. Bob Baker, Simon Reeves, Jim Smith and Len Wahlert of TideRock Financial came in second place. The South County Orthopedic Specialists foursome consisting of Charlie Anderson, Larry Gersten, Matt Hanson and Lonnie Moskow came in third.

Saddleback Memorial Foundation President Cecilia Belew says, “We are grateful to the physicians and corporate partners who came to our golf tournament not only for a great day on the course, but to also help us achieve a higher level of care for our patients and the communities we serve through their support of the new Cancer Institute.”

Presenting sponsors, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Farmers and Merchants Trust, enjoy a day on the green at El Niguel Country Club.
Charity Begins at Home

Consider living in your home, receiving fixed annuity payments, and leaving a legacy of helping others at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center.

A standard life estate is a way to contribute real estate to Saddleback Memorial Foundation. A life estate allows you to remain in and retain use of your home, vacation home, or other property while making a gift of that property to the Foundation.

With the use of a charitable gift annuity and life estate, you can continue to live in the property and the Foundation will make annuity payments to you – or another individual designated by you – based on your age and the remainder value of the donated property.

Annuity payments are fixed, and will not fluctuate with changes in the economy or housing market. A portion of the annuity payments are tax free and the initial donation of the property is partially tax-deductible as a charitable gift.

As most homes have appreciated substantially since their original purchase, capital gains tax on their sale can often be significant. This problem is partially avoided through the donation of the property to the Foundation.

If you would like to receive fixed, reliable payments while retaining use of your property and making a gift to Saddleback Memorial, you may consider a charitable gift annuity for your home with a life estate.

For more information please contact Brian Krawiec, Director of Finance, at (949) 452-3680 or bkrawiec@memorialcare.org.

A Portrait of Giving: Ellie Ward

Ellie Ward describes herself as a giver. “I always like to give, but I don’t always like to receive,” says the librarian who has been in education for the past 57 years. “I’m also a hugger,” adds the gregarious 79-year-old with an infectious smile. Ellie is staying true to her nature and making her mark on the future, by donating her Laguna Woods home to Saddleback Memorial Foundation in exchange for a charitable gift annuity.

Ellie and her late husband Bill, whom she describes as a wonderful, fantastic man, always tried to help people in need. They gave to their church, taught marriage classes and kept a wide circle of friends.

In 2002, Bill suffered a heart attack and then a stroke. “We had many visits to Saddleback Memorial for 11 years and the staff and doctors were always so wonderful to us,” remembers Ellie. “Our doctors and nurses made us feel like Bill was the only patient they had.”

Ellie and Bill had been long-time annual supporters of the Foundation. When she learned about the life estate option, she realized it was her chance to do something significant.

“This was one of the first major decisions I made on my own after Bill passed away and the Foundation made me feel so comfortable with the process. They put my best interests first and helped me choose the path of giving that was most ideal for my situation.”

Ways to Give

Did you know you can make a contribution in support of Saddleback Memorial Medical Center online? Simply visit www.memorialcare.org/smf and click on the “Give Now” button.