Tami Chambers is a happily married mother of two, who loves her home and community in South Orange County. A Mission Viejo resident and registered nurse at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Tami is grateful for what she has, which keeps her proactive in ensuring her life’s longevity. With a family history of breast cancer and a mother whose life was taken by the disease at the age of 65, Tami has more than enough reasons for getting regular mammograms and screenings.

“My mother didn’t have the type of technology that we have today. Technology that could have given her the foresight to treat her breast cancer sooner,” says Tami.

As the new director of MemorialCare Breast Centers, Gary M. Levine, M.D., is paving the way to better outcomes by utilizing the latest technology for detection. “Breast cancer is an extremely treatable disease if found early,” says Dr. Levine.

Today, the gold standard for breast cancer screening is 2-D digital mammography, however, dense breast tissue can mask a cancerous tumor when using a traditional 2-D mammogram or mimic a tumor even though one is not present. Almost half of all women who choose to have a mammogram have high breast density, meaning there is more breast tissue than there is fat.

Dr. Levine is a nationally recognized breast radiologist who has helped lead the evolution of mammography by employing advanced imaging technology, such as the 3-D Tomosynthesis.
This machine captures multiple images of the entire breast from different angles to produce high-resolution, 3-D images. Tomosynthesis greatly improves the accuracy of cancer detection versus traditional mammography, in particular with women who have dense breast tissue.

“Breast cancer does not scare me because of the testing I do. And with the 3-D Tomosynthesis, I have a heightened level of comfort, because I know it can see so much more than a traditional mammogram. This is important to me given my history and dense breast tissue,” says Tami.

Dr. Levine believes that the evolution in breast screening technology will soon see 3-D Tomosynthesis as the new gold standard, replacing 2-D digital mammography for all women.

“My goal as medical director is to provide the highest quality care to the patients we serve. That includes ensuring every woman in our community has access to the most advanced technology available for early detection of breast cancer,” says Dr. Levine.

Today, the MemorialCare Breast Center at Saddleback Memorial is equipped with one 3-D Tomosynthesis machine, with another to be installed in July. A third unit can be obtained with your help and with funds raised at this year’s Annual Spring Gala and Corporate Golf Classic. With the support of the community, Saddleback Memorial will remain a leader in the fight against breast cancer.

Tribute gifts provide friends and families a meaningful way to give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. Most recently, co-workers, friends and family made tribute gifts in honor of Paulette Scherr, a former Saddleback Memorial nurse, who passed away on September 26, 2014. Their donations went toward funding a bench in her honor in the “Garden of Hope” at the MemorialCare Cancer Institute Saddleback Memorial.

Tribute gift donations help fund equipment, patient services and programs at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center. People honored will receive a tribute card notifying them of gifts made in their name without specifying the dollar amount. You can also include your own special note of appreciation. With Mother’s Day, Memorial Day and Father’s Day quickly approaching, you can make someone feel special and make a difference in the lives of our patients. To make a tribute gift, please use the enclosed gift form or call the Foundation at (949) 452-3724.
On a Personal Note…

Bill Phillips, Chair
Saddleback Memorial Foundation

In Hollywood, there’s a period of time referred to as “Awards Season.” During the time prior, millions are spent by large movie studios promoting their movies and stars, hoping to woo voters to gain prestigious awards. Saddleback Memorial Medical Center didn’t have to buy any awards – our hospital was recognized the old fashioned way. As measured by Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals, Saddleback Memorial was honored for its consistent, year-over-year superior clinical performance. In other words, the hospital has been providing outstanding care to patients for years and Healthgrades noticed. In fact, Saddleback Memorial is one of only 1% of 4,500 hospitals in the nation who have been given such a prestigious award.

Being recognized as one of America’s 50 Best Hospitals is an accomplishment shared by physicians, staff, volunteers and the community of supporters like you who help fund the needs of our hospital. Without all these elements, this award would not have been possible. Because of you, the latest technology and equipment is available to patients in a soothing, healing environment. Because of you, special programs and services are available for our community. As we congratulate Saddleback Memorial Medical Center for this impressive award, we also thank you for this wonderful accomplishment and ask you to take a bow.

Thank you.

You Helped Us Earn America’s Top 50 Best Hospitals

Saddleback Memorial Medical Center has been named as one of only 1% of 4,500 hospitals nationwide to receive the Healthgrades 2015 America’s 50 Best Hospitals Award™. This prestigious honor recognizes Saddleback Memorial for our consistent, year-over-year superior clinical performance as measured by Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

We would not have been able to be a part of the 1% without donors like you who help support the advancement of technology, programs and services within the hospital.

As a recipient of the America’s 50 Best Hospitals Award™, Saddleback Memorial stands out among the rest for overall clinical excellence across a broad spectrum of care. To be among America’s 50 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades is a tribute to our exceptional physicians, staff, volunteers and donors like you who have supported the hospital.

Heritage Society Members Leave a Lasting Legacy

New members, Morton and Mary Schneider, Shelley Ilwitz and Ellie Ward were honored at the annual Heritage and Friends Luncheon on February 6 at El Niguel Country Club.

Saddleback Memorial Foundation President, Cecilia Belew, and Saddleback Memorial CEO, Steve Geidt, thanked the new Heritage Society members for their support of Saddleback Memorial through planned gifts.

Keynote speaker, Bill Burke, a 72-year-old retired corporate lawyer who has climbed the highest mountain on every continent, inspired guests with stories and pictures from one of his many climbs to the top of Mount Everest.

“Our Heritage Society members leave a lasting legacy at Saddleback Memorial through their planned gifts,” said Cecilia. “We are so grateful for their support in benefiting the lives of patients and their families.”

If you would like to receive a free Guide to Planned Gifts please contact the Foundation at (949) 452-3724.
Shelley Ilwitz: A Portrait of Giving

Seventy-four-year-old Laguna Woods resident, Shelley Ilwitz, is a vibrant woman with a magnetic personality, which is why her friends can’t walk away anytime she shares a story. In particular, her memories of the wonderful experience she had at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center three years ago.

“I had come into the ER and ended up staying for nine days. I received such good care in the emergency room, and throughout my entire stay. It was just stellar,” says Shelley.

Last fall, while watching television, she saw a commercial about giving to Saddleback Memorial Foundation. It reminded her of how grateful she is to the hospital, the place that saved her life. She thought to herself, “This is a cause I need to support.”

An investment representative, Shelley has many third generation clients. Shelley understands the challenges of deciding how to give back to our community. After a great deal of research and guidance from Saddleback Memorial Foundation, Shelley decided that a charitable gift annuity, or CGA, would be the best way to give back to the hospital that saved her life.

A CGA is a simple contract between Saddleback Memorial and you, where you donate a sum of money to the Foundation. In return, you receive secure payments for the rest of your life. The remaining balance is given to the Foundation, where your legacy will live on. The initial gift is partially tax-deductible, and the payments, which are based on the donor’s age and amount of donation, are partially income tax-free.

Shelley fondly remembers the comfort and care she received from the staff at Saddleback Memorial. The experience inspired her to give back to her community and she hopes others consider supporting their local hospital, too.

“They treated me like family, in fact I still keep in touch with one of the nurses! It’s one of the best hospitals in the country,” says Shelley.

Support our Mission with a Charitable Gift Annuity

- Your donation can be designated to benefit a specific area of service, or used for Saddleback Memorial’s most pressing needs.
- CGA pays a fixed amount each year to a donor for the remainder of his or her lifetime.
- Gift annuity can be for one or two people, so a spouse or another loved one can also receive payments for life.
- Payments are stable and unaffected by changes in the economy.

To learn more about charitable gift annuities, please contact the Foundation at (949) 452-3724.

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.

The Pulse is published by Saddleback Memorial Foundation 24451 Health Center Drive Laguna Hills, CA 92653 (949) 452-3724 FAX (949) 452-3779 www.memorialcare.org/smf

Saddleback Memorial Foundation raises philanthropic support for Saddleback Memorial Medical Center, a community-based, not-for-profit hospital with medical centers in Laguna Hills and San Clemente.

For more information or to remove your name from our mailing list, please call (949) 452-3724, or email smf@memorialcare.org.

Saddleback Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Tax ID Number: 33-0011887.