



Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word celebrate jubilees at special mass. Sister Michele O'Brien (front row, 3rd from R)

Sister Michele O'Brien Celebrates Her

*Golden Jubilee*

August 2015 marked Sister Michele O'Brien's Golden Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of her religious life, which is revered in the Catholic Church as a significant milestone demonstrating a strong vocation and commitment of giving one's life to serve God and others.

Sister Michele O'Brien is a wonderful example of this devotion to service. She joined the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in 1962 and took her first vows in 1965. Her devotion to spreading God's love in the world is evident in everything she does; from her beginnings as a radiologic technologist to her time as a nurse supervisor, and into today as a development officer for the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation and The Children's Hospital of San Antonio Foundation.

A special mass was held at the Chapel of the Incarnate Word on May 24 for all of the Sisters who celebrated a jubilee in 2015. Sister Michele explains that a jubilee is a time to "focus on God's gifts to us." As she reflects on the past 50 years, she says, "It's just astounding how connected all of us are to one another."

"Most exciting thing – I began at Santa Rosa, and here I am able to share my gifts in a ministry that is still as viable as when I first walked in," she added.

Sister Michele has touched the lives of so many people over the years, and she continues to be an advocate for those in need. The Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation is honored to have such a devoted and compassionate member on our team.

**CHRISTUS SANTA ROSA**  
Friends Foundation

100 North Loop 410, Suite 706  
San Antonio, TX 78216-4700

Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Antonio, TX  
Permit No. 1601

**CHRISTUS SANTA ROSA**  
Friends Foundation

**Winter 2016**

**In this Issue:**

- Pg 2 | Medical Center Achieves Top Recognition  
New 2015-2016 Board of Directors Members
- Pg 3 | New Braunfels Honored with Mission Award  
Community Spotlight: Breast Health Awareness Events
- Pg 4 | Family Residency Program Welcomes Noelle
- Pg 5 | Sister Michele's Golden Jubilee  
5th Annual National Speakers Luncheon
- Pg 6 | Save the Dates:  
5th Annual Golf Fore Friends  
6th Annual National Speakers Luncheon

**Here for Life**

FRIENDS OF CHRISTUS SANTA ROSA FOUNDATION



2015 United Way Champions enjoyed a luncheon for their hard work and dedication to this year's campaign.

**Making a Difference through The United Way**

The passion of our CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Associates is not only visible in the work they do within our hospital walls, but it spills out into the community as they consistently live our mission – to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Each year CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Associates participate in the United Way campaign and this year, our campaign was a record-breaking success! CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Associates pulled together and raised more than \$215,000, an increase of 21.8 percent over last year. The campaign would not be what it is today without the help of United Way champions such as Dee Dee Castruita, speech pathologist at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - Medical Center, and her husband Ben Castruita, director for respiratory therapy and sleep lab at The Children's Hospital of San Antonio. The couple has been involved with the campaign at their respective Hospitals for three years, each serving in leadership roles for their Hospital teams. To make the campaign more interesting, they created a little friendly competition among themselves.

"As individuals, we are both very competitive. It's not that I want her to lose, it's that I want to do well," said Ben. "Our rivalry sparks enthusiasm, not just for ourselves, but for our teams, as well. They enjoy being a part of the fundraising rivalry."

The Castruitas want to inspire others to do better and to encourage more people to get involved. "Everywhere I go, I try to make a difference. God has blessed me and I try to find ways to be a blessing to others," said Dee Dee.

From gift baskets to night shifts, fundraising is no easy task, but all team members donate their time and effort to make it a success. Dee Dee's team exceeded their percentage goal and won the President's challenge, raising a total of \$33,614. Ben's team did extremely well and came close to their percentage goal, raising \$70,636.

Ben and Dee Dee are already planning on strategies for next year and are looking forward to another great competition.



Ben and Dee Dee Castruita, United Way Champions with a spirited rivalry.

**5th Annual National Speakers Luncheon**

The 5th Annual National Speakers Luncheon honored Margie and Bill Klesse with the Beacon Award for their passionate service to the community. Bill is the former chairman of the board, president and CEO of Valero Energy Corporation. Together, Margie and Bill established

the Klesse Foundation to give back to deserving organizations that make a difference in our community. More than 250 guests enjoyed the award presentation, lunch, and motivational words from Chris Lowney, author and popular keynote speaker who has lectured in more than two dozen countries on business ethics, decision-making, and values-centered leadership.

Thanks to the support of generous sponsors and supporters, this year's luncheon netted more than \$107,000 to benefit health and wellness programs supported by the Friends Foundation at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospitals.

During the luncheon, attendees donated an additional \$5,930 via mobile giving to support the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Mobile Mammography Unit, which provides free mammograms each year to



(L-R) Frank B. Arnold, Friends Foundation board chair; Chris Lowney, keynote speaker; and Van Stewart, National Speakers Luncheon co-chair.

hundreds of women across Bexar County who do not have insurance or the ability to pay.

Sending a special thank you to Susan and Van Stewart for serving as event co-chairs and helping make the luncheon a success!

**SAVE THE DATE**



**FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016**  
HYATT HILL COUNTRY GOLF CLUB | 12 p.m.

Join the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation on the green to help fund comprehensive health and wellness programs at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospitals.

For more information, call 210.704.8808 or email FriendsFoundation@ChristusHealth.org.

**6TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKERS LUNCHEON**

*Join Us!*

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**  
11:30 a.m. Registration  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and individual tickets, please call 210.704.8808 or email FriendsFoundation@ChristusHealth.org.

**CONNECT WITH US:**

- FriendsFoundation.org
- /FriendsCSRFoundation
- /CSRFoundations
- csrfoundations.wordpress.

Here for Life is a publication of the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation.

Editors: Veronica S. Laurel  
Jessica Leal



(L-R) Bill and Margie Klesse presented with the Beacon Award by Chris Lowney, keynote speaker, and John Bel, VP & Chief Development Officer for the Friends Foundation.

**Chair**  
Frank B. Arnold  
Weaver, LLP

**Vice Chair**  
Madelon Yanta Leone  
South Texas Money  
Management, LTD

**Treasurer**  
James K. Lowry, Jr.  
Langley & Banack, Inc.

**Secretary**  
Debra Kochis  
Frost Bank

**Ruben R. Barrera**  
Langley & Banack, Inc.

**Pattie Davis**  
Community Volunteer

**Susan Granzin**  
Gateway Mortgage Group

**James K. Lowry, M.D.**  
(Emeritus)

**Kenneth McClure**  
Community Volunteer

**Anabel Rodriguez**  
Community Volunteer

**Justin Sheedy**  
Microsoft

**Mark Wittig**  
Wittigs Office Interiors

**Ex-Officio**

**Sr. Germaine Corbin, CCVI**  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Incarnate Word

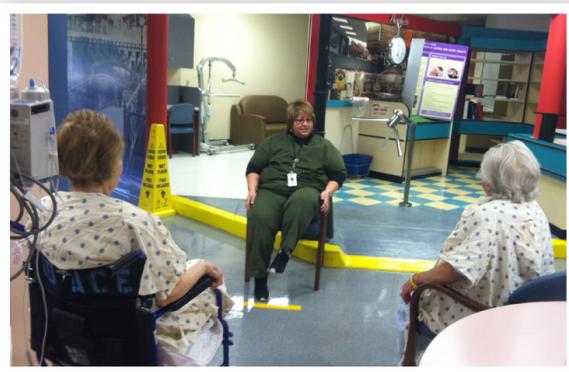
**Ken Haynes**  
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa  
Health System

**John E. Bel**  
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa  
Foundation

Medical Center

Achieving Top Recognition for Geriatric Care

CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - Medical Center (CSRH - MC) recently achieved its highest recognition for service to patients 65 and older. This "exemplar" level of the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, or NICHE, Program is the highest of four possible program levels, recognizing CSRH - MC's ongoing, high-level dedication to geriatric care.



Janie Hernandez (center), restorative aide at CSRH - MC, leads range of motion exercises during group therapy.

Imelda Sanchez, director of the orthopedics and neurosciences center at CSRH - MC said, "Our nurses take a very proactive approach to caring for patients."

"We are leading the way in the new environment of health care, as the first and only facility with the NICHE exemplar status in Texas," said Chris Bowe, president, CSRH - MC.

CSRH - MC nurses have put in many hours of training and strive daily to ensure their patients are comfortable, safe, and healthy.

New 2015 - 2016 Board of Directors Members



Ken McClure

We are excited to welcome Ken McClure back to the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation Board of Directors. Ken was one of the founding Foundation board members in 1997. He recently re-joined the Friends Foundation Board in July 2015.

We are also happy to announce the newest member of the Board, Anabel P. Rodriguez, former SAISD elementary school teacher. She is an advocate and dedicated volunteer for a number of Catholic schools in San Antonio and was recently named the 2015 San Antonio Archdiocese

Outstanding Leader in Catholic Education.

If you are interested in learning about how you can serve our ministry and help further our mission, please contact Allison Salinas at 210.704.2800.



Anabel Perez Rodriguez

New Braunfels

Honored with Mission: Lifeline Quality Achievement Award

Focused on bringing highest quality health care close to home, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - New Braunfels (CSRH - NB) was recognized with the Mission: Lifeline® Bronze Quality Achievement Award for implementing quality improvement measures as outlined by the American Heart Association (AHA) for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

"This award exemplifies the efforts CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - New Braunfels is taking daily to improve the quality of care for our patients who suffer heart attacks," said Jim Wesson, president and administrator, CSRH - NB. "I am very proud of our associates and our cardiovascular specialists for being recognized for their dedication and achievements in cardiac care."

In addition to receiving the Mission:

Lifeline Bronze Receiving award, CSRH - NB has also been recognized as a recipient of Mission: Lifeline's Bronze-Plus award, which recognizes the Hospital has reached an achievement score of 75 percent or greater for treating STEMI transfer patients within 120 minutes. STEMI, or ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, is caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart and requires timely treatment.

"Every single minute of a heart attack, a patient loses more and more heart muscle. At CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - New Braunfels, we have some of the best heart attack response times in the region. That's a testament to our emergency room



CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - New Braunfels' Cardiology team was recognized for providing high quality health care for patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

and our cath lab staff," said Dr. Rahul Bose, Interventional Cardiologist at CSRH - NB.

The Hospital's Cardiovascular Center offers the latest, state-of-the-art technology to perform everything from advanced diagnostic procedures to complex interventional procedures and open heart surgery.

Westover Hills

Family Medicine Residency Program Welcomes Noelle

Thanks to philanthropic support, Noelle, an obstetrics and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) birthing simulator, and Hal, a newborn baby simulator, are the newest additions to the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program at Westover Hills.

"We are very excited to have Noelle and Hal," said Dr. Rebekah Georges, OB/GYN curriculum coordinator for the Residency Program. "While our residents get hands-on experience in the hospital and clinic, it's helpful for them to have the opportunity to get additional training in various medical cases as often as possible. It makes us better."

Noelle simulates realistic obstetric situations from normal births to postpartum emergencies, allowing residents to practice essential competency-based training and team building exercises. Residents can also train on basic advanced life support, including CPR, IV lines, intubation, and more. Baby Hal can be used for training in newborn emergencies and evaluation.

"We are very proud of our residency program," Dr. Georges added. "Noelle and Hal are powerful recruiting tools that will help attract medical students who are searching for a residency program to join. We are so grateful to the Friends Foundation for funding this for us."



Dr. Rebekah Georges (above, left) leads training for residents (L-R) Dr. Laura Montes, Dr. Kristin Harrington, and Dr. Edward Seto, on the new OB manikin, Noelle. Pictured on right: Baby Hal, a newborn baby simulator.

Community Spotlight

Throughout the month of October, the Friends Foundation received generous donations to benefit the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Mobile Mammography Unit (MMU) in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The MMU provides free mammograms each year to local women who are without insurance or the ability to pay. We are so grateful for our donors and community partners who have provided more than \$36,000 for the MMU through Breast Cancer Awareness Month fundraisers over the last three years.

School Pink Out Days

St. John Bosco School hosted a pink out day on October 20 and sold pink out t-shirts, raising \$1,480. Students and staff at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (pictured below) collected donations to wear pink on Fridays in October. They raised a total of \$1,044. These students are proof that you are never too young to help.



(L-R) Sr. Michele O'Brien, development officer, Friends Foundation; Coach April Fricke; and IWHS Principal, Jennifer Salazar.

Riding the Sisters Trail

For the second consecutive year, coach April Fricke, athletic director at Incarnate Word High School (IWHS), completed a historic 250-mile bike ride along the same route the first three Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word traveled from Freeport to San Antonio in 1869. On October 20, IWHS students and faculty, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, and Friends Foundation staff, celebrated her homecoming. Fricke has raised a total of \$1,200 to date.

Painting for a Cure

Painting with a Twist hosted "Painting with a Purpose" on October 27 at their Artisan Alley and Alon Town Centre locations. Fifty percent of all class registrations were donated, totaling to more than \$1,600.



(L-R) Monica Garcia, development specialist, Friends Foundation; Melissa Smiley, owner of the two Painting with a Twist locations; and Sr. Michele O'Brien, development officer, Friends Foundation.

Through the efforts of the Friends Foundation, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospitals in the South Texas Medical Center, at Westover Hills and in New Braunfels have been able to enhance programs, provide new equipment and support outreach efforts upholding the ministry of this faith-based, non-profit health care organization.

If you are interested in supporting our cause with a monetary donation, you may call 210.704.2800 Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. or visit us online at FriendsFoundation.org.

You can now text to donate. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1 Create a text message to 41444
- 2 Text: FRNDS, Your Name, and Donation Amount (ex: FRNDS Mary Donor \$100)
- 3 Send

Should you no longer wish to receive fundraising mail from the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation, please call our office at 210.704.2800, email us at FriendsFoundation@ChristusHealth.org, or write us at Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation, 100 Northeast Loop 410, Suite 706, San Antonio, TX, 78216.