

Pink Radio Day with Rugged Radios *raises more than \$37,000 for Mission Hope Cancer Center*

We're incredibly grateful to Greg Cottrell and the dedicated team at Rugged Radios in Arroyo Grande! This year, through their exclusive Pink Radio Day sales and tireless fundraising efforts, they raised more than \$37,000 for Day of Hope, earning them the title of top corporate fundraising team!

Their annual Pink Radio Day was extended over three weeks culminating in a vibrant live event, filled with community spirit and heartwarming calls from individuals across the country, many themselves battling cancer, who sent support to our care providers. Greg and his son, Jaden, recently visited Mission Hope Cancer Center to present their official check and share a deeply moving message with our team, reinforcing their unwavering commitment to our mission.

To Greg, Jaden, and the entire Rugged Radios family: thank you. Your generosity, passion, and steadfast support continually lift us higher, bringing hope and healing to countless lives throughout the Central Coast, year after year.



Dr. Huang recognized *with plaque unveiling in operating room*

The Marian Foundation hosted a special plaque unveiling ceremony in the Surgical Services Department in memory of Wilbur Huang, MD, an anesthesiologist.

This meaningful tribute was made possible by the generosity of the Anesthesia Medical Group of Santa Maria, who proudly donated \$25,000 to name operating room #7 in memory of Dr. Huang. Dr. Huang was a member of the Anesthesia Medical Group of Santa Maria and he worked at Marian for 29 years.

At the ceremony, Dr. Huang's wife, Connie, his three sons, and the Anesthesia Medical Group of Santa Maria partners unveiled the memorial plaque alongside Marian's Surgical Services team. Operating room #7 will now serve as a daily reminder of Dr. Huang's professional legacy profound impact on Marian.



MRMC earns an “A” in safety from The LeapFrog Group

Marian Regional Medical Center proudly earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns grades based on over 30 measures of errors, accidents, injuries, infections, and the systems hospitals use to prevent them.

This “A” grade signifies Marian Regional Medical Center’s commitment to prioritizing patient health and safety. It reflects the dedication of all staff, fostering an environment of continuous excellence where patient well-being is protected. This achievement goes beyond a letter, representing the successful integration of rigorous processes, evidence-based practices, and vigilant quality controls, highlighting the medical staff’s expertise and commitment to the safest care possible.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only U.S. ratings program solely focused on preventing medical errors, infections, and injuries. It is peer-reviewed, transparent, and publicly accessible, with grades updated twice annually. Staff gathered to celebrate the achievement with Marian’s President and CEO, Sue Andersen.



FreeWill now available for Marian Foundation donors to create a will in minutes

At the Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation, humankindness extends to helping our community plan for the future. Did you know 71% of Americans lack a will, leaving families vulnerable and estates facing lengthy probate?

We’re proud to partner with FreeWill to offer a new, free online resource that allows you to easily create or update your will and other essential planning documents. This secure tool helps you ensure your priorities are honored, your loved ones are cared for, and your future is planned with confidence. Contact us with any questions about this valuable new partnership!



Best Nursing Home awarded to Marian Extended Care Center by U.S. News & World Report

The Marian Extended Care Center was recently named a “Best Nursing Home” for 2026 by U.S. News & World Report. This distinction was elevated by a “High Performance” designation for both Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care, the highest level of commendation from the publication.

This national acknowledgment underscores Marian Extended Care Center’s adherence to superior standards in patient and resident care. U.S. News & World Report’s rigorous evaluation process considers quality indicators such as patient outcomes, staffing levels, and health inspection results. In the 2026 ratings, fewer than 19% of nearly 15,000 nursing homes nationwide earned the “Best Nursing Home” title, with “High Performance” reserved for facilities demonstrating exceptional quality.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Fundraisers

to benefit Mission Hope Cancer Center



Huge thank you to the staff at **Community Bank of Santa Maria** for fundraising an astounding \$15,000 during Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

The heartwarming efforts were made to honor the memory of a cherished staff member, uplift their incredible colleagues who are survivors, and show unwavering support for families navigating their own breast cancer journeys throughout the community they serve.

Contributions came from bank staff AND customers through basket drives, direct cash donations, weekly Monday Night Football pools, and a delicious homemade baked goods sale with sourdough stealing the show! The bank then made a corporate gift to round out the total.



The **Orcutt Area Youth Softball League** held a “Pink Sunday Bake Sale” for Mission Hope Cancer Center where 27 teams of girls aged 8-17 sold baked goods and decorated their ball field in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. **They hit a home run, raising \$1,346 for local patients with cancer!**



The **Santa Maria Recs and Parks Rangers** hosted a “No Shave November” competition for Mission Hope Cancer Center. The now annual tradition within the department supports patients! Organized this year by Officer Michael Enciso and Officer Ashley Harney **\$1,100 was raised and donated this year.**



InSPArations in Orcutt not only makes their clients feel beautiful, but they also make a beautiful difference in the lives of local breast cancer patients!

In celebration of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, **InSPArations owner and Legion of Marian member, Sheila Gibilisco, and her dedicated team members raised an impressive \$2,100 in support of local breast cancer patients** at Mission Hope Cancer Center.

This incredible donation will help provide vital support to individuals in our community who are bravely facing breast cancer. Similar to last year, the fundraiser was held in memor of Marilyn Main, a beloved friend and salon employee who lost her own battle with breast cancer not long ago.



“Pinkalicious Sundae Shop” was hosted by **The Patch Santa Maria** to raise money for Mission Hope Cancer Center! Local students sold Polaroids taken at an on-site photo opportunity at the pumpkin patch, popsicles, and cotton candy. **The Patch Santa Maria raised \$1,000 altogether!**

Birthing Center featured at Legion of Marian

with presentation on AngelEye camera system



In September, the first of three Legion of Marian presentations was held at the home of Legion member, Tricia Bouquet. The event featured leaders from Marian's Birthing Center: Candice Monge, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Executive; Veronica Tomilloso, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing, Women's & Children's Services; and Frank Ortiz, BSN, RN, Assistant Nurse Manager, NICU.

The Birthing Center team presented a funding request for a state-of-the-art NICU camera system by AngelEye Health. This system offers 24/7 live-streaming video of infants, enabling parents and family members to see their babies while they are away, while simultaneously enhancing workflow efficiency for the care team. The AngelEye Health camera system promotes bonding and reduces anxiety for families who cannot be physically present with their infants in the NICU.

Dr. Constantine Melitas honored by patient

with Guardian Angel recognition & a donation to the Marian Foundation



Constantine Melitas, MD, a gastroenterologist at Marian Regional Medical Center, was recently honored as a Guardian Angel, thanks to a meaningful donation from Paul and Diane Miner. Paul, a grateful patient of Dr. Melitas, and his wife Diane made the generous contribution in recognition of the exceptional care and support he received. Their thoughtful gift directly benefits Mission Hope Cancer Center while celebrating Dr. Melitas' lasting impact on his patients' lives.



During the Guardian Angel pinning ceremony, Dr. Melitas was surrounded by his dedicated team and Mission Hope Cancer Center leadership. The ceremony served as a reminder of the ripple effect quality healthcare creates and the connections forged between physicians and patients.

Inspired by Paul and Diane's gesture? You, too, can honor an extraordinary caregiver who has made a difference. A Guardian Angel gift is a meaningful way to express gratitude while supporting Mission Hope Cancer Center's vital work.



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Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation.

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