

Patient Resource Library Unveiling Ceremony *at Mission Hope Cancer Center, honors Eileen Hongo*

Mission Hope Cancer Center celebrated the unveiling of the new Patient Resource Library within Marian Cancer Care, thanks to the vision and fundraising efforts of breast cancer survivor and Day of Hope 2024 Ambassador, Eileen Hongo!

Inspired by her own journey, Eileen rallied support from her family and friends to raise more than \$36,000 for Mission Hope Cancer Center. Thanks to her determination, those funds helped bring the library to life, beginning as a humble book nook and transforming into a welcoming, comforting educational space. The new Patient Resource Library now offers patients and their loved ones access to bilingual reading materials on cancer and recovery, cozy seating, beautifully handcrafted cabinetry, and a warm coffee station; a true sanctuary of hope and healing.

A heartfelt ceremony was recently held to unveil a plaque honoring Eileen's extraordinary dedication and in attendance were her cherished family members and friends, and the grateful staff of Marian Regional Medical Center and Mission Hope Cancer Center.

“I think it’s so important for patients to know that the Cancer Center is just that – it is a safe place where the doctors, nurses, and an entire team of people work endlessly to make sure patients feel safe and whatever they’re going through, they’re being heard.”
- Eileen Hongo

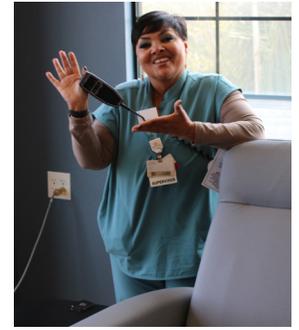


Anonymous Gift to Mission Hope Cancer Center funds purchase of new Chemo & Infusion chairs for patients

The Marian Foundation recently received an anonymous gift which funded 20 new chemotherapy and infusion chairs for Mission Hope Cancer Center's 4th floor Infusion Suite.

Patients often spend hours in these chairs each time they visit Mission Hope for treatment. Replacing outdated chairs regularly is essential to enhancing patient comfort and emotional well-being. Recognizing this, an anonymous donor from the community made a generous gift as a show of compassion and respect, intending to make a difficult journey a little bit gentler for those who need it most.

The new chairs offer better support and safety features, adjustable recline angles for various types of infusion treatments, heated seats, and footrests to help ease physical strain and emotional stress. Most importantly, they create a more peaceful, healing environment where patients can relax.



(Top) Cynthia Maldonado, Cancer Outreach and Registry Supervisor at Mission Hope Cancer Center, helping deliver and demonstrate the new infusion chairs. (Bottom) Kimberley Larson was the first patient to use the new infusion chairs during her treatment appointment.

“By providing a more comfortable and supportive environment, our anonymous donor is directly contributing to improved patient outcomes and a more positive overall experience.”

- Derek Baden, Senior Director of Cancer Care Services

Be Strong You're Loved Donations for pediatric patients



(From Left) Megan Duarte, Be Strong You're Love Board Member, Juliana Rodriguez, Be Strong You're Loved founder, and Christina Rodriguez.

Be Strong You're Loved, a local nonprofit devoted to inspiring joy, love, and encouragement to children and teens who are hospitalized, donated six totes of gifts and games for young people facing hospitalizations at Marian Regional Medical Center.

Inspired by her own inpatient experience and treatment of Chiari Malformation, Juliana Rodriguez created the Be Strong You're Loved organization to fill an entertainment and distraction gap for children and teens going through a difficult hospital stay.

Since 2020, Juliana, her family, and the nonprofit's Board of Directors spend countless hours collecting donations, ordering and packing "distraction bags", and delivering smiles to young people who may otherwise be overwhelmed by the pain and emotions that accompany hospital stays.

Toyota Santa Maria Pinktober Pumpkin Patch check presented with Cal Coast Machinery

Toyota Santa Maria hosted their annual Pinktober Pumpkin Patch last fall to benefit the Mission Hope Cancer Center. Hundreds of pumpkins, graciously donated by agricultural producers and delivered by Cal Coast Machinery, were painted and sold at the dealership and throughout the community for donations. With a generous matching gift from Toyota USA and proceeds from the auction of a mini John Deere tractor, donated by Cal Coast Machinery, at the Santa Maria Breakfast Rotary, \$14,400 was raised to support local cancer patients in need, an all-time high in Toyota's fundraising efforts for Mission Hope!



Coaches vs. Cancer hosted by AHC Bulldogs Athletics



Allan Hancock College Athletics proudly hosted its annual Carney's Coaches vs. Cancer event at the Joe White Memorial Gymnasium. Named after late women's basketball assistant coach and four-time cancer survivor, Larry Carney, the event raised \$780 for Mission Hope Cancer Center while bringing the event's collective total to more than \$19,154 since the annual event began!

Neurosurgery Featured at Breakfast with the President



Marian Regional Medical Center's President and CEO Sue Andersen hosted Breakfast with the President in April.

Sue provided a brief update on the hospital's latest developments, recruitment and retention efforts, and echoed sentiments shared by the event's special guest speaker, neurosurgeon Dr. Matthew Schreckinger, regarding the hospital's advanced neurosurgery services.

Dr. Schreckinger completed his neurological and advanced spine surgery training at Wayne State University GME/Detroit Medical Center, earned his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts, and received his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University. He specializes in minimally invasive neurological surgery for spine, back, and neck disorders, as well as for disorders of the brain, which was the focal point of his presentation.

Innovation 2025

Our Annual Impact Report, which covers Jan. 1, 2022, to June 30, 2024, is available now!



To receive a copy of Innovation 2025 in the mail, call 805.739.3575 or scan this QR code to view the report online today!

Celebrating “Region of the Year” Award

alongside fellow California-based foundations



The Marian Foundation, along with 19 other California Region-based foundations, were jointly recognized at this year’s CommonSpirit Health Philanthropy Summit, earning the “Region of the Year” award for raising more than \$100 million collectively for our hospitals in Fiscal Year 2024.

The award was a reflection of everyone’s efforts to build healthier communities, advocate for those who are vulnerable, and innovate how and where healing can happen, both inside the hospitals and out in the community. The work the Marian Foundation does to support the mission of Marian Regional Medical Center would not be possible without the generosity of our donors.

The 12th Annual

Day of Hope

Wednesday, August 27, 2025















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