



# Connections

SPRING 2004  
VOLUME TWO  
ISSUE ONE



Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation

*Serving the South Bay and Harbor Communities*



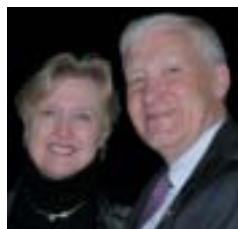
## Page Two

*Ken Servis*



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*Honor Roll*



## Vasek Polak: Philanthropic Engine for Cardiovascular Institute

Vasek Polak felt the pulse of Southern California's love of the automobile and opened the first Hermosa Beach auto service business in 1958. Followed by the first exclusive Porsche dealership in the United States, Polak's business

success fueled his expansion into an organization that included six automobile dealerships, a world-renowned race car collection, a racing program and extensive real estate holdings. This success made it possible for him to share his good

fortune with others through the Vasek and Anna Maria Polak Charitable Foundation, Inc., which he established in 1994.

Polak's remarkable good fortune now is benefiting Little Company of Mary. As a recipient of

\$3 million in grants supporting the South Bay's first dedicated Electrophysiology (EP) Laboratory and the latest technological advances in heart care, LCM publicly dedicated the Vasek Polak Cardiovascular Institute in February.

*Continued on page 2.*



## Bio



## FUN FACT:

When Ken Servis answers the phone at home, the caller might be a USC colleague, an RHE city councilman, or perhaps a fellow LCM Community Health Foundation trustee. More than likely, it's one of his three grown children calling home for their dad's favorite zucchini soup recipe! Whether it is dinner for two or ten, cooking for family and friends is a "Chef Servis" favorite.

## Ken Servis: A Man in His Element

As one of six children raised in rural Indiana, Ken Servis learned early the value of family life and meaningful work. "I have been blessed to have a job which I love and at which I have been successful. The most important thing in my life has been my family – Harriet, my wife of 36 years, our three children, their spouses, and our five grandchildren," said Servis. "Ken's belief in family doing for one another is reflected in his community service. We didn't have relatives in the area, so the community became our family. We both just naturally got involved," shared Harriet.

Involvement initially equated to career. After his undergraduate education at Purdue University, Ken moved west, earning his doctorate in organic chemistry at California Institute of Technology. He joined the University of Southern California faculty in 1965 as a chemistry professor and never left. As Dean of Academic Records and Registrar since 1989, with service as President of the Academic Senate and University Commencement Marshall, Ken interacts with the student body and administration alike. He is credited with good judgment and excellent organizational and consensus-building skills. According to USC's June Hudson, "Ken has 'institutional history'. I can't tell you how many departments call our office seeking his assistance and he responds immediately, working to solve the problem."

Acting on his beliefs in community volunteer work and private philanthropy, Ken

served as vice-president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and as a member of the Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commission and City Council. RHE City Manager Doug Pritchard praised Servis' dedication. "Ken has a fine analytical mind and the best interests of the community at heart. The city of RHE and the larger Palos Verdes community should be very thankful to have someone of Ken's talents and dedication willing to spend the kind of time he has over the years in service to the community."



Ken began his association with Little Company of Mary in 1997 at the urging of San Pedro Peninsula Hospital Foundation Board trustee Bill Hansen. After joining the Foundation board, Ken became committed to the mission. "By serving on the board and supporting LCM, I believe that we contribute to the well-being of the people in the community that we serve. Both Harriet and I are pleased to be able to step up our support of LCM." That pleasure is mutual. According to former Board President Hugh Hoffman, "Ken is one of the most gracious gentlemen and board members I have had the pleasure of working with."

By all accounts, Servis is a man in his element in the chemistry lab, college campus, and boardroom. Don't be surprised to find him tending orchids in the garden, biking, skiing and on the racquetball court, too!

## Heritage of Healing

## Continues with Outpatient Diagnostic Center

*"It was a very peaceful, very calming environment. Normally I don't like coming to a hospital, but I didn't feel that way this time. I didn't mind waiting."*

Patricia knew she would be spending the day at the new Outpatient Diagnostic Center at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance. Her husband Myrrl was admitted for a heart catheterization and needed his "pre-cath" testing. What she didn't know is that she wouldn't mind waiting. Patricia experienced a reception area bathed in natural

light and warm colors; a helpful, sensitive staff; and a cup of coffee served from Julius' (a 96-year-old volunteer) traveling coffee cart. In the end, it also helped that Myrrl didn't have a blocked artery. It was a good day.

Developed by a team that didn't want to do

business as usual, the Outpatient Diagnostic Center completes the vision of combining remarkable technology with a quiet, healing environment. "The challenge was how to incorporate the medical technology and still keep the human side," explained Peggy Crabtree, Director of Ambulatory and Imaging Services.



LCM physicians surround the new bronze sculpture at the entrance to the Outpatient Diagnostic Center. The sculpture is dedicated to the medical staff, who make visible a healing presence for patients and their families.

Continued from page 1.



Combining technology with the medical expertise of our cardiac specialists, the institute offers a comprehensive package of cardiovascular programs and services.

Soterios (Sam) Menzelos, co-trustee of the Vasek and Anna Maria Polak Charitable Foundation, Inc., spoke about the late benefactor at February's dedication. "Vasek Polak acknowledged that the

people of the South Bay supported him, and he wanted to divert this support back into the community for medical purposes. I feel humbled to represent a wonderful person who entrusted Jeffrey Bucher and myself to handle his estate. He would be very proud of what Little Company of Mary has done to perpetuate his name."

With a range of services from diagnosis



and treatment to recovery and rehabilitation, LCM's heart care continuum encompasses everything from simple outpatient procedures to complex cardiac surgeries. In addition to the EP Lab for diagnosis and treatment of disturbances in heart rhythm, the highly technical care capabilities include: cardiac catheterization laboratories utilizing the only all-digital cardiovascular x-ray imaging system in the South Bay, sophisticated new cardiac imaging

equipment for MRA (magnetic resonance angiogram) and CTA (computerized tomography angiogram), and a newly designed Angio Recovery Suite adjacent to the labs to enable easier transitions and patient access.

The LCM Community Health Foundation is grateful for the foresight of Vasek Polak and his desire to share his success to benefit the South Bay and Harbor area communities.

With convenient parking available directly outside the center, patients enter the reception area to admitting and then are shown into a private dressing room to gown and robe in preparation for testing. "The patient's movement through the area is purposeful and guided. Pre-operative testing is completed with one registration, all on the same floor. The unified waiting area serves the laboratory, nuclear medicine, cardiology and radiology departments," noted Nick Scott, Manager of Cardiology.

Exciting changes in radiology also have been implemented with the new Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). Director of Radiology Robert Kolanz, M.D., explained, "PACS changes the way we do business on a day-to-day basis. Images are recorded digitally and can be reviewed by other departments and by physicians at home or at the office. Multiple professionals can be viewing the image at the same time."

Nuclear medicine now has found a new home for both Dr. Lalitha Ramanna, the area's only dedicated nuclear medicine physician, and the CT/SPECT Camera. This revolutionary new system – one of three in Southern California – delivers unprecedented image quality and enhances diagnostic capabilities.

With the opening of the Outpatient Diagnostic Center, which includes the Vasek Polak Cardiovascular Institute, LCM has a state-of-the-art facility to match its top-notch medical staff. Mark Costa, LCM Service Area Chief Operating Officer, welcomes the advances, but acknowledges, "The new physical plant is wonderful, but the healing environment is really provided by our staff and physicians."

*"I feel humbled to represent a wonderful person who entrusted Jeffrey Bucher and myself to handle his estate. Vasek Polak would be very proud of what Little Company of Mary has done to perpetuate his name." -Sam Menzelos*



ABOVE: LCM's Chief Operating Officer Mark Costa (right) acknowledged the unwavering support of retiring LCM Community Health Foundation trustees Carole La Caze, Karen Goldberg, Amy D'Ambra and Hugh Hoffman.

LEFT: Legacy Campaign Honorary Chairman Bill DeMucci (left) visits with LCM-SPH Volunteer Auxiliary Treasurer Nancy DiBernardo and Nicola and Matilda Baccari. Matilda serves as Auxiliary President. Close to fifty longtime supporters of the hospital gathered for lunch, featuring a tour and an update from Administrator Nancy Carlson and Chief Executive Blair Contratto.



ABOVE TOP MIDDLE: Louise Lohman, New York Food Company, welcomes the crowd and introduces Trisha Meili. ABOVE TOP RIGHT: Presenting sponsor New York Food Company made the day even sweeter with chocolate fountains and fresh fruit. Mary Butler of Palos Verdes Estates samples the chocolate-dipped fruit. ABOVE BOTTOM RIGHT: Major sponsor Marie Roser of the Crimi-Roser Foundation, meets Trisha Meili before the luncheon.



# Inspiring Images

Inspiring images... A glimpse of the friendship and support provided by individuals, foundations and corporations to the Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation (LCMCHF).

## Women's Wellness Conference 2004

With a record-breaking \$100,000 in proceeds and a sold-out crowd of 630 women, Little Company of Mary's 6th annual Woman's Day was a phenomenal success. Keynote speaker Trisha Meili applauded LCM's commitment to supporting women and children through its Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) centers and the Collaborative for Alternatives to Violence and Abuse (CAVA).



RIGHT: With Foundation chairman Ray Frew and Executive Director Joe Zanetta looking on, Trisha Meili meets Annie Ruth, one of the day's attendees.

BELOW: Some of the members of the 2004 steering committee relax after the event. From left to right, front row, are Ann Drinkward, Lynn Taylor, Jan Brandmeyer, Patty Sullivan. Back row, from left, are Peggy Lanigan, Louise Lohman, Kathryn O'Connell, Nina Patel, Lisa Hayes, and Linda Crawford.

## Heritage Party

The Heritage Party is Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation's annual recognition event – an evening set aside to personally thank our generous supporters, donors and trustees.



LEFT: Norris Foundation Executive Director Ron Barnes and his wife, Laura, enjoy the evening in celebration of philanthropy. The Norris Foundation has extended generous support to LCM.

BELOW: Foundation trustee Tony Armino (left) shares a moment of friendship with fellow trustee Miles Shaw, M.D., and his wife Kimberly Pickle.



ABOVE: LCM Work-to-School nursing program recipient Lorena Montes thanked the gathering of donors for their support of LCM's nursing recruitment and retention programs.



ABOVE: Chief Executive Blair Contratto and Jan Brandmeyer share a moment of fun at the podium.

BELOW: Morning session speaker Denise McCommins, a professional image consultant, offers tips on accentuating the positive through style and design.



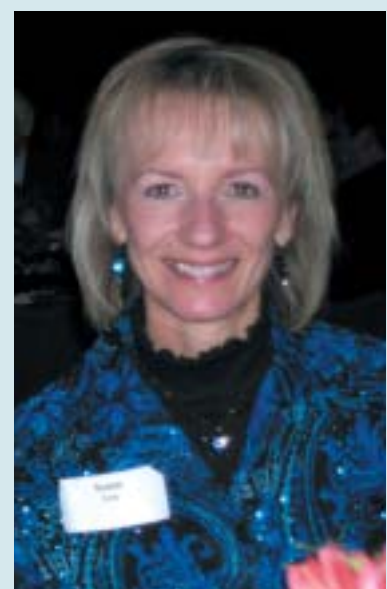
LEFT: Chairwoman Lynn Taylor and co-chairwoman Jan Brandmeyer welcome keynoter Trisha Meili (center). Meili, author of "I am the Central Park Jogger", brought the crowd to a standing ovation following her tale of survival and hope after the 1989 brutal attack in New York's Central Park.

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Names in bold denote a Mission Maker - a participant in LCM's employee giving program

Wendy Lustbader, in her book "What's Worth Knowing", interviewed seventy-, eighty-, and ninety-year-old "ordinary people" and asked them to share the single most important piece of knowledge each had gained through a lifetime of living. Having raised children, made mistakes, survived hardship, and ultimately having discovered what truly matters, they've gleaned the secrets of surmounting life's challenges and attaining its joys. "Happiness is in the smallest things," concluded interviewee Bernice Miller, age 61. Little Company of Mary volunteer Pete Beardsley shares Miller's sentiment and wanted his young sons to learn this lesson.

## The Beardsley Boys Learn

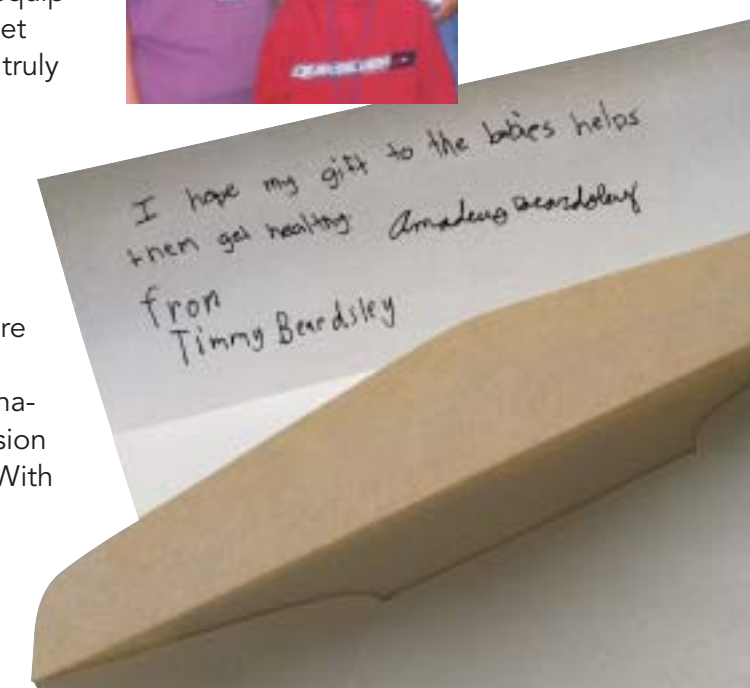
# What's Worth Knowing

Amadeus and Timmy Beardsley, after receiving a holiday gift from their father, discovered there was a catch. They were asked to give half of it away! Fortunately for the LCM Community Health Foundation, the Beardsley boys decided to share their gift with the "smallest things" indeed - the newborns in LCM's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). When Amadeus and Timmy delivered their gift to the Foundation, LCM's Manager of Women's and Children's Services Judy Wolstein invited them to tour the NICU, meet the nurses, peek inside the incubators and see the specialized equipment. "What a joy to meet these two young men! I truly appreciate not only their gift, but also their concern for these little ones," said Wolstein.

Experiencing the unique world of the neonate, with its miniature blood pressure cuffs and the tiniest diapers imaginable, left a lasting impression on all three Beardsleys. With memories of Timmy's beginnings in a similar NICU, coupled with his

sons' decision to share their gifts with these small infants, Pete expressed his gratitude. "From this experience, they now have a lasting reminder of how some babies begin their lives and how precious and delicate those first days really are! That was the intent of my Christmas gift to them, to have them give

something very special rather than just receive more junk, and also, to somehow provide a life-long memory."



"From this experience, they now have a lasting reminder of how some babies begin their lives and how precious and delicate those first days really are! That was the intent of my Christmas gift to them, to have them give something very special." -Pete Beardsley



MAY

**May 10**  
24th Annual  
Golf Classic

**May 24**  
Alumni Trustee  
Luncheon

JUNE

**June 10**  
Circle of Caring/  
Endowment  
Associates  
Luncheon

**June 15**  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting

## Fun(d) Dates TO REMEMBER

### Golf Classic

Enjoy the camaraderie of friends and a round of golf in the beautiful surroundings of the Rolling Hills Country Club or the Palos Verdes Golf Club on Monday, May 10 by participating in the 24th annual Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation Golf Classic. Golf, a luncheon barbecue, awards dinner and auction are all part of this traditional fundraiser. For information, please call Jamie Slotnick at 310.543.6910.

### Circle of Caring/Endowment Associates Luncheon

Ocean Trails Golf Club in Rancho Palos Verdes will be the site of the June 10th annual Circle of Caring/Endowment Associates luncheon honoring LCM's planned giving donors. The Circle of Caring at Little Company of Mary Hospital-Torrance and the Endowment Associates at LCM-San Pedro Hospital are groups that recognize individuals who have provided for the future of LCM through planned gifts from their estate plans. A planned gift can be as simple as a bequest to benefit LCM or as

specialized as a charitable remainder trust. Planned gifts can be designated to a specific hospital or program. For details about this event or for more information about planned giving, please call Diane Fernicola at 310.543.6907.

### Sellabration

Be sure to save the date of Saturday, November 6 to attend Little Company of Mary's largest fundraiser of the year – Sellabration. This spectacular event has been held since 1975 for the dual purpose of bringing together friends and raising funds for LCM. The evening begins with a cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by a gourmet dinner, live band and dancing. The finale is a live auction featuring catered dinner parties, golfing and sports extravaganzas, and unique international travel opportunities. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. has donated a 2005 Lexus for an opportunity drawing, and the winning ticket will be drawn at Sellabration. For sponsorship opportunities and event information, please call Jamie Slotnick at 543.6910.

## Online Giving

Have you ever thought about making your gift to Little Company of Mary online? It's convenient and secure with the updated website, [www.lcmweb.org](http://www.lcmweb.org). From the Home page, click on Foundation, followed by Make a Donation Now. Complete the form and submit, knowing that you made a difference in the lives of your neighbors in the South Bay and Harbor communities.

### Contact Us

Phone 310.543.6900  
 Fax 310.540.8664  
 E-mail [lcmfoundation@providence.org](mailto:lcmfoundation@providence.org)  
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## Connections

*Connections* is published three times annually to provide information about Little Company of Mary and the Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation to our philanthropic friends and volunteers. *Connections* highlights service area programs, facilities and patients who have benefited from philanthropic gifts and grants to the LCM Community Health Foundation, a 501(c) (3) charitable organization. **Executive Director:** Joseph Zanetta; **Executive Editor:** Laurie Hanley; **Managing Editor:** Ellen Wise; **Design:** Kathleen Kaiser Design.

**Our Mission.** The mission of Little Company of Mary and its affiliates is part of the larger mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary to make visible the healing presence of Jesus. Our mission embraces the care of the sick and dying through the Catholic health ministry and meeting the health needs of our communities. We commit to caring for the whole person – physical, mental and spiritual.

*Co-sponsored by the Sisters of Providence*

 A member of Providence Health System