

# HouseCall!

Celebrating the donors in Huntington's compassionate and caring community.

## Your Giving Saves Lives: Three Lives in the Balance

**W**hen Celina Lemon and her husband, Juan found out that Celina was pregnant with two baby girls, they were overjoyed. Over the first 31 weeks, Celina's pregnancy went smoothly. But in the 32nd week, Celina woke up feeling dizzy with a severe headache.

Juan immediately called 911. Celina was rushed to our Nan and Howard Schow Emergency & Trauma Center. "I was terrified for her and our babies," recalls Juan.

Within minutes of her arrival, Celina was in cardiac arrest — endangering both her and her unborn children.

With three lives hanging in the balance, Huntington's emergency medicine physician Maria Ximena Vargas Jaramillo, MD, called on more than 25 caregivers across three departments to deliver the babies right away,

and a Huntington OB GYN performed a cesarean section in the emergency department. The babies were quickly moved to our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for additional care.

Meanwhile, Celina's condition was deteriorating and she was rushed to the operating room.

*(see page 3)*



Today, Celina and the twins are as healthy as can be. "I can't begin to express my gratitude for the team who saved my life and my girls," says Celina.

# Your Giving Expands Services to Meet Local Needs

*Thanks to your gifts, Huntington Hospital not only has the flexibility to keep ahead of the curve and enhance ongoing care and services, we are also better positioned to expand services to meet local needs, such as cancer and cardiac care.*

## CANCER CARE

Through our affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, and with generous support from exceptional donors like Shelley Allen and W. Robert (Bob) Kohorst, we are expanding our community cancer services . . . and taking cancer care to the next level.

Longtime friends of Huntington Hospital, Shelley and Bob's most recent gift was motivated by two wishes: to give back to their beloved community of Pasadena and to help the community meet critical health needs closer to home. "We wanted to help those who need it most," says Shelley. "Our parents were impacted by cancer and it's a risk for everyone."

As Bob says, "we want everyone in Pasadena to have access to all of the cancer care service offerings — without having to drive far to get them. Every time we've had a need,

Huntington has been there," says Bob.

Giving back is a way of life for Shelley and Bob. And they want to inspire others to embrace this virtue. "We've been very fortunate," Bob explains, "and we believe that our good fortune should be shared. Many people have helped us get here, so we want to



Shelley Allen and Bob Kohorst

help others, too. If we all did that, the community would be an even better place."

## HEART CARE

Huntington has long had a tradition of providing advanced cardiac care to our community, and we recently celebrated the two-year anniversary of our state-of-



Linda and Carl Moy, MD

the-art Helen and Will Webster Heart & Vascular Center. Thanks to your giving and our affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, we now have access to top ranked cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgeons, who can provide care for more complex cardiac and thoracic surgery cases, right here in Pasadena.

We are extremely grateful for the support of community philanthropists like Linda and Carl Moy, MD, who have partnered with us in creating our leading-edge Heart & Vascular Center.

"We thought the Heart & Vascular Center was a golden concept," says Carl. "Because it was located directly above the Emergency & Trauma Center, it can further speed time to treatment, which means the hospital can serve patients even better." In recognition of the couple's support, the Linda Moy and Carl Moy, MD Vascular Suite is named in their honor.

"We've been in the San Gabriel Valley for many years. Huntington is the best hospital in the area, and we plan to continue to support it," Linda says.

# A Tribute Gift in Honor and Memory of a Cherished Friend and Colleague: Allen W. Mathies, Jr., MD

**D**r. Mathies was the longest serving board member in Huntington Hospital's history. Over his nearly 50 years of distinguished and innovative service to our community, he helped lead the expansion of our emergency department, the construction of our east and west towers, and the ongoing elevation of our care services.

Sherry and David Kirchheimer recently made a tribute gift to honor him and his beloved wife, Weta, for their invaluable contributions to our mission of medical excellence. Sherry, a family nurse practitioner, did her training at Huntington, while David had been a board member here since 2009.

The main board room that Dr. Mathies created as president is now named the Mathies Board Room. David and Sherry were gratified that Dr. Mathies knew of the gift and naming in his honor shortly before his death in February 2023, at the age of 92.

"Dr. Mathies stands out by virtue of his longevity and influence," David says, "but what's truly remarkable is that Huntington is full of extraordinarily skilled medical and administrative personnel who possess the same inspiring attributes."



**Sherry and David Kirchheimer**

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## Three Lives in the Balance

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"The doctors didn't know if Celina would wake up again," says Juan. "I was thinking about how Celina might never have a chance to meet her girls and how I wasn't ready to lose the love of my life."

Miraculously, the next morning, Celina woke up, marking the start of a long recovery. At our acute inpatient rehabilitation department, she slowly relearned basic tasks, like talking and eating, and skills she would need as a mother of newborns.

Camila and Ciena spent five weeks in the NICU before going home. Two weeks later,

Celina went home, too, and transitioned to an intensive in-home therapy program,

Today, Celina and the twins are as healthy as can be. "I can't begin to express my gratitude for the team who saved my life and my girls," says Celina. "Getting me to a great hospital so quickly is what ultimately saved me and my daughters."

*If you are grateful for the care you received at our hospital and would like to share your experience, please send us your story at [huntingtonhealth.org/about-us/patient-stories/share-your-story/](https://huntingtonhealth.org/about-us/patient-stories/share-your-story/)*



## Legacy and Tribute Giving: A Shared Life of Generosity

# Lynn De Groot and Donald Voss

Lynn De Groot embraced many roles over the course of her life: child actress and model, dancer and baton twirler (with nearly 300 awards and trophies to her name), banker, wife, patron of the arts and philanthropist, just to name a few. She also served as director of development at Huntington Hospital from 2003 to 2013. Lynn also became a member of the Legacy Gift Society (LGS) — a group of donors who contribute to the hospital via estate-related gifts — by arranging her own legacy gift prior to her passing in 2022.

Lynn retired from Huntington with plans to spend more time with her husband Don and to do more traveling. In 2015 she was diagnosed with cancer and passed away on July 13, 2022.



Lynn De Groot, former director of development at Huntington Hospital and member of the Legacy Gift Society



Donald Voss and Lynn De Groot

**As a tribute to his beloved wife, Don recently made a cash gift to Huntington Hospital, which qualified him for membership in our President's Circle.** Like Lynn's gift, Don's was unrestricted. "She was impressed with all of the different services and programs at Huntington," he says. "Her thinking was probably much like mine: I trust that the hospital's decision makers will know best where the funds can be put to good use."

Don continues, "You may never need it, but — just like a fire station — it's important to know it's there. If you can make a gift like Lynn's, you can put it to work forever. I know that it gave her great satisfaction to be able to support Huntington and its wonderful work."

Don says, "I trust that the hospital's decision makers will know best where the funds can be put to good use."

**To include Huntington Hospital in your will,** or to learn more, visit [huntingtonhealth.org/giftplanning](https://huntingtonhealth.org/giftplanning). If you have questions or have already included us in your plans and have not let us know, please contact Helen Bechtolt, senior director of principal gifts, at (626) 397-3241.



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