

ChauxTalk

NEWSLETTER

ADVOCATING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN

Spring 2026



What's Inside:

- Rady Children's Health News
- Message from the President
- Unit News and Fall Events
- Photos and Much More...

Spring 2026 ChauxTalk



Rady Children's Auxiliary Mission Statement

To work in partnership with Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and support its mission through advocating for the health and well-being of children, increasing community awareness of the Hospital, and fundraising.

ChauxTalk is the official newsletter of the Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary

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Editor's Message

It is an honor to step into the role of editor for ChauxTalk and to stand alongside a community of volunteers who give their time, talents, and hearts in support of Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. This magazine reflects the collective impact of people who believe deeply in our mission—to uplift children and families through compassion, service, and unwavering commitment. As editor, I look forward to highlighting the stories of those who show up every day, sharing the meaningful moments that often happen quietly behind the scenes, and celebrating the spirit of volunteerism that fuels everything we do. Thank you for welcoming me into this role and for being part of a community that turns purpose into action and care into lasting impact.

Simi Rush



President's Message

Dear Fellow Auxilians,

As I reflect on the past few months, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the extraordinary work our Auxiliary continues to accomplish in partnership with Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego—now part of the expanded Rady Children's Health system.

This past year, our dedicated members across the county demonstrated the profound power of community and compassion. Through Unit events, volunteer hours, and generous donations, we've contributed significantly to critical programs—every dollar and hour directly touching the lives of children and families in their most challenging moments.

Our impact is amplified by the national acclaim Rady Children's continues to earn, thanks in part to your unwavering support. For the third consecutive year, Rady Children's has been named to the *U.S. News and World Report* 2025-2026 Best Children's Hospitals Honor Roll—a distinction held by only 10 children's hospitals nationwide. It is tied for No. 1 in California and the Pacific Region and nationally ranked in all 11 pediatric specialties evaluated. These honors reflect the Hospital's world-class team and the vital role our Auxiliary plays. Our members truly are the heartbeat of this organization; I'm continually moved by your dedication.

Looking forward, we remain focused on ambitious goals to further support Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and its life-changing mission. As we continue into our 73rd year of dedicated service, you will notice some thoughtful changes designed to welcome and inspire a new generation of members while honoring the legacy that has defined us for decades.

We are excited to launch improvements to our website, better showcasing who we are and our community impact. It will feature fun photos, current Unit events, volunteer opportunities, and easy ways to get involved—inviting new friends to discover and join us. We are also thoughtfully exploring a possible name change for the Auxiliary. This stems from our desire to capture a more modern spirit and build greater brand awareness. While these enhancements bring fresh energy, we will remain deeply rooted in our rich history as we preserve the deep pride we hold in our 1953 founding. Of course, any evolution would be guided by careful reflection, with a focus on attracting passionate new volunteers and supporters. These steps build on our foundation, ensuring our mission of advocacy, awareness, and fundraising thrives for generations.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do. Your involvement—through membership, events, donations, or advocacy—is essential to our momentum. If you know someone inspired to contribute their time, talent, or treasure, please reach out because we'd love to welcome them to our family!

With deepest appreciation and warmest regards,

Rowena Treitler



A Message from Dr. Gail Knight

It's difficult for me to fully express the gratitude I feel for Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary. Through your many efforts, you provide the essential resources we need to deliver exceptional care and make a difference in so many young lives.

In the past year alone, your support has helped us add a sensory room to the Acute Care Pavilion to calm distressed kids; augment our breast milk fortification program to provide much-needed nutrition for vulnerable preterm infants; help kids at the Chadwick Center for Children and Families overcome abuse and trauma; and much, much more.

Now, multiply those efforts by 72—the number of years the Auxiliary has partnered with families, physicians, nurses, and leadership so we can deliver truly life-changing care. Your tireless fundraising and unparalleled outreach mean children throughout our region have a medical home—whenever they need it.

For more than 33 years, I have had the honor of witnessing the direct impact of your dedication on patients and their families. From my first 25 years here to now serving as Chief Medical Officer, I continue to see the differences your efforts make throughout the organization. It fills me with joy knowing that because of your unwavering commitment, we are able to give patients the very best care. Thank you for all you do. I'm excited to continue this journey with you as we look ahead to 2026.

As we begin a new year, I send heartfelt thanks to each of you for your commitment, your diligent service to our community, and your inspiring partnership.

With gratitude,

Gail Knight, MD

Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Rady Children's Hospital

A Shared Mission, a Stronger Future for Children

At the heart of every shift volunteered, every event supported, and every family welcomed, there is a shared belief: children deserve the very best care, close to home and delivered with compassion. That belief is what brings Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) together under a new parent organization: **Rady Children's Health**.

This next chapter builds on more than a century of combined pediatric excellence. By uniting two highly respected children's hospitals—CHOC, nationally recognized for safe, high-quality care, and Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego, ranked among the nation's top 10 children's hospitals by *U.S. News and World Report*—Rady Children's Health strengthens the foundation that volunteers help uphold every day.

Today, Rady Children's Health includes three hospitals, a growing network of primary and specialty care centers across six counties, and two Level 1 pediatric trauma centers. For the children and families volunteers serve, this means greater access to specialized care, expanded resources, and the reassurance that an integrated pediatric system is working behind the scenes to support every moment of healing.

Just as important, this integration honors the unique identity and community roots of each hospital. Volunteers will continue to support their local hospitals, care teams, and families—while benefiting from the shared knowledge, innovation, and collaboration made possible through Rady Children's Health.

Philanthropic support remains rooted in community as well. The Rady Children's Foundation and the CHOC Foundation will continue to operate as independent 501(c)(3) organizations, honoring donor intent and supporting local priorities. Together, they work collaboratively to advance pediatric care, research, and innovation—ensuring that every act of generosity and service goes even further.

For volunteers, this moment represents continuity and momentum: the same compassionate care, the same trusted teams, and an even stronger commitment to children's health—today and for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions for Volunteers

Why have CHOC and Rady Children's come together?

By joining under a parent organization, CHOC and Rady Children's are strengthening pediatric care across Southern California.

This collaboration helps:

- Improve outcomes for children and families
- Accelerate research and innovation that lead to new treatments
- Attract and retain exceptional pediatric professionals
- Expand access to pediatric services
- Promote health equity and help train future pediatric healthcare providers

Is Rady Children's changing its name?

Yes. Rady Children's is gradually transitioning to the name **Rady Children's Health**. During this transition, volunteers and families may see both names used across signage, communications, and systems.

What's not changing is the heart of our care. The same doctors, nurses, care teams, and volunteers will continue serving patients at the same locations.

How does this affect volunteers and day-to-day care?

Daily operations remain locally led. Each hospital will continue to have its own medical staff, leadership, and governance. Any future changes to programs or services will focus on strengthening care for children and families and will be shared well in advance.

Have CHOC and Rady Children's worked together before?

Yes. For more than a decade, the organizations have collaborated on initiatives that advance pediatric care, including Project Baby Bear, a rapid Whole Genome Sequencing program that helps diagnose rare diseases in infants. These partnerships paved the way for a deeper, mission-aligned relationship.

Will patient privacy and data remain protected?

Absolutely. Protecting patient information remains a top priority, with strict security measures, encryption, and compliance standards in place.

Will volunteers still support their local hospital and community?

Yes. Volunteers will continue to serve the hospitals and families they know and love. This integration is designed to support—not replace—the local connections that make volunteer service so meaningful.

Will donor support still stay local?

Yes. Both foundations will continue honoring donor intent and supporting programs within their communities, ensuring gifts directly benefit local children and families.

Meet the New Board Members

Mia Lloyd

Mia joined the board this year as the Special Events Director. When asked what three things she'd bring to a deserted island, she chose her family, music, and sunscreen—her essentials for joy and comfort. Her first celebrity crush was Christopher Atkins in *The Blue Lagoon*, and she's a devoted fan of '80s music. If she could stay one age forever, she'd choose 50, and the one thing she could never give up is bread. She enjoys games of all kinds and would spend a million dollars on a vacation home. She's especially skilled at making floral arrangements and considers herself both a morning person and a night owl. She prefers calling over texting and laughs that her most recent "failure" was almost getting a hole-in-one. She's never seen a ghost and would tell her childhood self to be more confident. Summer is her favorite season, and she prefers traveling by airplane because it gets her where she's going faster. She's most impressed by kindness, loves tulips, and says her favorite thing about herself is either her quick wit or her memory. She doesn't read her horoscope, can't stand dishonesty, and says her life's theme song would be James Taylor's "You've Got a Friend." The best advice she's ever received came from her dad: "The answer is no unless you ask." She frequents Nordstrom's website the most, dislikes putting away laundry, and admits her quirky food combo is lemon and salt on French fries. Above all, she shares that she always dreamed of having three boys—and today, she and her husband Pete, together 38 years and married for 33, are proud parents to their three sons: Matthew (28), Patrick (26), and Christopher (23 ½).

Leisa Loos

Leisa joined the board this year as Unit Council Vice President. If stranded on a deserted island, she'd pack practical essentials—a knife, a water purification system, and a lighter. Her first celebrity crush was Donny Osmond, and her favorite music will always be country. If she could choose one age forever, she'd stick with 27, and the one thing she could never give up is family time. She prefers board games over puzzles, would spend a million dollars on a house remodel, family vacations, and charitable giving, and is especially talented in the kitchen. A self-proclaimed night owl, she'd rather talk on the phone than text. She admits her most recent "failure" was not winning all three games in last week's football pool—her competitive side runs deep! She's never seen a ghost, and she'd remind her childhood self to worry less about things beyond her control. Fall is her favorite season, airplanes are her preferred way to travel, and kindness is the quality that impresses her most. She loves peonies, considers her heart her best trait, and reads her horoscope only occasionally. Her biggest pet peeve is laziness, and if her life had a theme song, it would be "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten. The best advice she's ever received is to imagine putting her worries in a box on a shelf, taking it down only when she's ready to deal with them. She visits news sites the most, dislikes doing laundry, and while she doesn't have any wacky food combos, she loves all food equally. Most of all, she shares how grateful she is to be serving as Unit Council VP this year and looks forward to a wonderful Auxiliary year ahead.

Simi Rush

Simi joined the board this year as ChauxTalk Editor. When asked what three things she'd bring to a deserted island, she chose a satellite phone, water, and her family—practical, prepared, and always centered around the people she loves. Though she enjoys a wide variety of music, she's especially passionate about country. If she could stay one age forever, she'd choose 28, and with a million dollars, she'd travel to the destinations still lingering on her bucket list. She's a skilled problem-solver, a night owl at heart, and someone who uses both texting and phone calls—quick texts for information, but a real phone call for a meaningful catch-up. She'd tell her childhood self, "You can do anything!" Summer is her favorite season, and she prefers traveling by plane to reach faraway experiences faster. She's most impressed by people who create genuine connections, loves

peonies, and considers her multitasking abilities—balancing work, fun, and philanthropy—her greatest personal strength. She reads her horoscope, can't stand slow responders, and the best advice she's ever received is simple: persistence pays off. She admits to occasionally putting ketchup on scrambled eggs and visits ChatGPT more than any other website.

Most meaningful of all, she shares why she joined Rady's Children's Hospital Auxiliary. She wanted to do good alongside friends, but, even more importantly, to help raise money and awareness for departments that lack the necessary funds for extra services and support. Her daughter underwent chemotherapy as an infant, and it was the small, unexpected acts of kindness that brought light into even the hardest days—motivation that continues to fuel her commitment to the Auxiliary today.

Laura Stearn

Laura joined the board this year as Ice Rink Committee Member. Beyond her personal interests, she brings extensive experience to the Auxiliary. She served five years on the board from 2018–2023 as President Elect, President for two years, and Immediate Past President—earning the nickname "The Pandemic President" for leading through an incredibly challenging period. Prior to that, she served as Hospital Liaison and Education VP. Despite the obstacles of the pandemic, the Auxiliary emerged stronger thanks to creative reimagining of events, revamped programs, and the commitment of its members. She returned to the board when her longtime friend Rowena became President; after nearly 20 years in the Auxiliary together, she didn't hesitate to join the Ice Rink Committee and support her just as Rowena once supported her.

If stranded on a deserted island, she'd bring books, her family, and sunscreen. Her first celebrity crush was Parker Stevenson, and she's a devoted fan of '80s music. She'd choose to stay 35 forever and could never give up *Survivor* or the Academy Awards. She prefers board games to puzzles, would spend a million dollars traveling the world, and excels at pop culture trivia. A morning person who prefers phone calls, she believes she has seen a ghost and would tell her childhood self to believe in herself. Spring is her favorite season, and she loves traveling by car or airplane. She is most impressed by people who give selflessly, loves irises and roses, and prides herself on being fiercely loyal. She reads her horoscope, dislikes lateness, and says her theme song would be "Dancing Queen." The best advice she's received is to believe wholeheartedly in what you want to achieve. She frequents Anthropologie's website, hates dusting, and while she loves all food, she doesn't have any quirky combinations.

Barbara Wehrung

Barbara joined the board this year as Hospital Liaison. When asked what three things she'd bring to a deserted island, she chose a satellite phone, water, and her husband—practical and loyal to the core. Her first celebrity crush was Donny Osmond, and she's a devoted country music fan. If she could stay one age forever, she'd choose 35, and although she tries, she absolutely can't give up sweets. She prefers board games over puzzles and would use a million dollars to pay off bills and support her kids. She prides herself on being someone who is always there for everyone. A night owl who prefers phone calls, she would tell her childhood self to move out before getting married and to finish college and start a career first. Fall is her favorite season, and she loves to travel by car. Kindness impresses her most, she adores peonies, and her favorite thing about herself is her ability to put others first. She's not a horoscope reader, has zero tolerance for liars, and says the best advice she's ever received is to let things go. Although she loves food, she doesn't have any quirky combinations she swears by.

Fall Events Recap

Del Cerro

Each fall, the Rady Children's Health Auxiliary's Del Cerro Unit gathers its community for a beloved annual fundraiser in support of San Diego's youngest patients. But this year, the group is charting a new course. Instead of hosting its traditional event, the Del Cerro Unit has taken a strategic pause—one intended to reimagine, refresh, and strengthen its impact for years to come.

While the event may be on hold, the mission is anything but. In place of the annual gathering, the Del Cerro Unit has launched a deeply personal letter campaign focused on raising funds for one of Rady Children's Hospital's most profound programs: Palliative Care. Palliative care at Rady Children's is more than medical



support; it is a long-term, compassionate partnership that begins at diagnosis for infants, children, teens, and young adults facing serious illness or injury. The interdisciplinary team works to uphold each family's values and enhance every child's quality of life—managing pain, easing symptoms, and nurturing the emotional and spiritual well-being of the entire family.



As part of this continuum of support, hospice care is available when families confront the most challenging chapters of their journey. At the Bernardy Center, plans are underway to create a dedicated End-of-Life Space designed to provide comfort, privacy, and dignity during a child's final days. It is a space meant to hold families with tenderness at a time when compassion matters most.

Gifts from the community make these services possible. Palliative and hospice care, the Del Cerro Unit emphasizes, are not about surrender—they are about making every moment meaningful. They ensure that children receive comfort, dignity, and care that honors their unique needs and values, even in the most fragile moments of life. With this year's letter campaign, the Del Cerro Unit invites the community to join what they call their Journey with Compassion. Their hope is simple yet profound: to bring light to families in their darkest hours and strength to those navigating unimaginable challenges. The unit is humbled and grateful to share that our Journey With Compassion letter campaign raised \$115,910 from 58 generous donors including a \$100,000 major gift granted from the Sheila Byrne Trust.

Rancho Bernardo

The Rancho Bernardo Unit hosted their third annual fundraising event, "Comedy Night For A Cause", on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Guests enjoyed an evening with great food, drinks, and belly laughs from local host comic Kash Habib, comic Louie Centanni, comic Lisa Gilbert, and headliner magician comic Joseph De Paul. The guest speaker was Rady HealthySteps' Director of Community Programs HC Lee, who shared information on HealthySteps—an underfunded program in need of philanthropic support. The silent auction featured a variety of fun and interesting items such as hotel and casino stays, theater, golf, pilates, wine tastings, jewelry, and restaurant gift cards.



Fall Events Recap

South Bay

Bonita Boots and Bling swung through the doors on October 4 and the Bonita ladies, volunteers, and guests whooped it up with some dancin', BBQ feasting, and fundraisin' for the Helen Bernardy Center, a beneficiary close to their hearts as they sponsor a child there. A Bernardy Center parent spoke about how their son is thriving at the facility, allowing them to focus on the love and nurturing he needs from them while also fulfilling their obligations to their other children. The resounding theme of the event was WHISKEY.

A whiskey pull, silent auction items that included whiskey, and an opportunity drawing for a Japanese whiskey were all part of the night's offerings. It was darn near a stampede! A fire house dinner was so popular, we got the firefighters to say yes twice so there were no fisticuffs amongst the women folk. Jennifer Navarro and Dianna Thomas-Fitts lassoed up the unit for the event and hung up their boots at the end of the night after the shindig shut the barn door. Way to git'er done, ladies! The unit wishes to thank y'all who attended and looks forward to Boots and Bling next year.



The Grand Prize for our Bling Ring Heads and Tails game was an Epic Road Trip basket. The net proceeds from our event went to the HealthySteps Program to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community. The unit thanks all the Auxilians who came and supported our event with a special shoutout to the Poway Unit. The Rancho Bernardo Unit can't wait to do it again next year! Save the date ... October 3, 2026!

In Memoriam Gelia Cook

Founding Member of Mountain View Unit 1999-2025



Unit News

Bay Park



La Jolla

The La Jolla Unit of Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary has been busy organizing our big annual event, Dinking for Dollars. Registration is now open for our 4th Annual Dinking for Dollars Pickleball Tournament on **April 18, 2026, at Barnes Tennis Center.**

This event always brings the energy, the fun, and excitement of pickleball all while supporting a great cause. Funds raised will go directly to the Copley Psychiatric Emergency Department at Rady Children's, providing critical psychiatric care for kids when they need it most. This year will be even bigger and better, with a new venue, new silent auction items, and new competition.



Dinking for Dollars is open to beginners and experienced players. We can't wait to see you all there. To learn more or purchase fundraiser tickets, please see our website RCHALAJOLLA or register directly here beWELL Dinking for Dollars Fundraiser 2026.

Mountain View

The Auxiliary's Mountain View Unit is getting ready for its Boot Scootin' Bunco on March 14 at Lakeside Middle School, fundraising for the Kawasaki program. Kawasaki disease occurs after a virus leads to heart disease, primarily affecting



Unit News

children. The Gordon and Marilyn Macklin Foundation will match donations to the program, so we are hopeful for more participants and sponsors. Enjoy a day of game playing, prizes, a silent auction, and lunch! The Mountain View Unit also continues to help at the Helen Bernardy Center, Alexa's PLAYC Preschool, the clothes closet project, and art project display, where local East County students provide artwork for a hospital hallway that brings smiles to staff, patients, and visitors.

On a sadder note, our unit recognizes the passing of a founding member, Gelia Cook. Gelia was a leader in our group and our community and school board. She was past president of the original Fantasy on Ice at Horton Plaza, our skating rink fundraiser. Help us honor Gelia by coming out for our Boot Scootin' Bunco! Giddy up and yeehaw!

North Coast

In August, the North Coast Unit hosted a lively and laughter-filled bowling social, bringing members together for friendly competition and connection. It was the perfect way to kick off our new year. Special thanks to Shellie and Gordana for planning

this fun event! We also closed out the year in festive style at our Holiday Party, graciously hosted by Lisa Orr, with delicious food prepared by her husband, Graydon, making the evening even more memorable.

Next up, we're thrilled to announce a truly enchanting experience: Riviera Nights at the iconic Flower Fields in Carlsbad on May 7. As the blooms paint the landscape in vibrant color, guests will be transported to a chic, French-inspired evening under the stars. Expect elegant touches, delightful surprises, and a setting that feels straight out of the Riviera. Join us as we toast to beauty, purpose, and community—say Oui Oui for a cause! This unforgettable night will support Child Life Services and continues our tradition of making a difference together. Tickets on sale at www.radysncu.com

Point Loma-Dana

Dana Unit held its first meeting for the '25 – '26 year in the home of Mary Rogondino. As one of the original units in Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary, we are always excited to renew friendships that have been shared over many years. We have continued to meet, most recently in the home of Helen Kinnaird, enjoying her wonderful art and antiques. We discussed an upcoming fundraiser, deciding on an estate/rummage sale to take place in May. The members were enthusiastic about repurposing items that we no longer need for the good of the hospital. Sales are not new to the unit and members felt we could make this a profitable endeavor. Dana hosted its annual Christmas party for the 2025 holiday season which included our supportive spouses. The holiday dinner party has an enthusiastic turnout.



Unit News

Poway

The Poway Unit is in full swing with unit meetings, planning for their spring event, and getting involved at the hospital as much as possible. Under the leadership of new unit chair, Amanda Joslin, they recently implemented a new “sister member” program for veteran members to pair up with newer members to help answer questions, form stronger friendships, and create a greater sense of community within the unit. They are also proud to welcome their newest member to the unit, Erin Leventhal!



The Poway Unit’s annual event will take place Saturday, May 30 at 5:30PM at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. They are excited to welcome back Clint Bell as the MC and auctioneer for the evening, with the theme this year “Tabletops with a Twist—A Night at the Movies.” Net proceeds from the event will benefit the Trauma Services department. As the region’s only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center, they care for approximately 1,000 pediatric trauma patients annually. The event will once again feature fabulously decorated tabletops and bar carts, as well as a fantastic silent auction, live auction, and seated dinner.



For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and more information, please visit the website: <https://rchapoway.org>

Rancho Bernado

The Rancho Bernardo Unit hosted their third annual fundraising event “Comedy Night For A Cause” on Saturday, October 4th, 2025. Guests enjoyed an evening with great food, drinks and belly laughs from local host comic Kash Habib, comic Louie Centanni, comic Lisa Gilbert and headliner magician comic Joseph De Paul. The guest speaker was Rady HealthySteps Director of Community Programs HC Lee who shared information on HealthySteps an underfunded program in need of philanthropic support. The silent auction featured a variety of fun and interesting items from hotel and casino stays, theater, golf, pilates, wine tastings, jewelry, and restaurant gift cards. The Grand Prize for our Bling Ring Heads and Tails game was an Epic Road Trip basket. The net proceeds from our event went to the HealthySteps Program to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community. The unit thanks all the Auxilians who came and supported our event with a special shoutout to the Poway Unit. The Rancho Bernardo Unit can’t wait to do it again next year! Save the Date ... October 3, 2026!!

Unit News

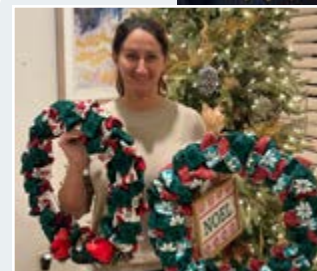
Scripps Ranch

The Scripps Ranch Unit has been advocating and fundraising for Rady Children’s since 1972. We are very excited to welcome seven new members who joined the Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary Scripps Ranch Unit in September and October. They are Christina Herschelman, Lisa Efron, Connie Ficano, Tanya Shipman, Faina Wellman, Wendy Jones, and Danielle Vigneault. New members attending the October unit meeting were presented with a commemorative kite pin and a rose to mark the occasion. Several shared the personal reasons that inspired them to join. Lisa expressed her desire to contribute to something truly impactful and meaningful for children, noting that the hospital tour moved her to become involved. We are grateful to each new member for choosing to be part of our mission and look forward to the difference we’ll make together.



We were honored to welcome Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary President, Rowena Treitler and Unit Council VP, Leisa Loos from the Rady Children’s Hospital Board of Directors to our October unit meeting. They shared their gratitude and enthusiasm for the growth in membership of the Scripps Ranch Unit.

Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary Scripps Ranch Unit Member Nancy Fleischman donated many of her handmade holiday wreaths to the unit to sell as an in-unit fundraiser. Several unit members purchased wreaths and Amy networked additional sales. These sales gave us a head start for this year’s in-unit fundraising.



The Scripps Ranch Unit is busy planning their Joining Hands for Rady Children’s fundraiser.

Please save the date, April 25, 2026, and get ready for a night of high-stakes fun, delicious food, and FUNdraising for a cause.

Scripps Ranch Unit member, Kim Byrnes, shared her “Love Note” of gratitude to care teams at Rady Children’s for saving her son Brandon’s life. You can read her heartwarming words in the Summer 2025 issue of Healthy Kids magazine, which strengthens why being a member of the Auxiliary is so meaningful.

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/906268430/8/>

Brandon was in a medically induced coma for almost five weeks due to FIRES/NORSE, a rare and life-threatening autoimmune encephalitis. After he woke up from the coma, he had to learn to sit, stand, walk, swallow, and talk again. His recovery was dependent on daily inpatient rehabilitation services.

Our net proceeds will benefit Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego, part of Rady Children’s Health. We are going “all-in” for the kids because every child deserves a winning hand!



Joining Hands for Rady Children’s

SAVE THE DATE

A Casino Night

Hosted by Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary
Scripps Ranch Unit

Saturday, April 25, 2026

5:00-10:00pm

Kyocera House ~ La Jolla

Get ready for a night of high-stakes fun, delicious food, and FUNdraising for a cause. Every child deserves a winning hand!

Our net proceeds will benefit Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego, part of Rady Children’s Health

Let’s Go “All-in” for the Kids!



Unit News

South Bay

Hello from the South Bay Unit (formerly the Bonita Unit). We've had a wonderfully busy and productive start to the year. A top priority for us this year has been establishing our Junior Unit, an exciting initiative that will engage our younger generations in our mission. Our in-unit fundraising efforts have been in full swing with a delicious Sees Candies fundraiser and a festive Holiday Breakfast fundraiser, both helping us build momentum.



All of our focus now is on our signature event, Blooms and Brunch on Saturday, May 2nd at San Diego Country Club. This garden-themed auction and brunch is sure to be a truly memorable event. Net proceeds

from this event will benefit the Bernardy Center for Medically Fragile Children. We look forward to seeing you in May!

Tierrasanta

Young Professionals

The Young Professionals Unit (YPU) has kicked off 2026 with incredible momentum, nearly tripling in size over the past two years and now proudly boasting more than 24 members. Following a successful 2025 fundraising campaign, the YPU is excited to continue the tradition of hosting its annual golf tournament.

Please join the Young Professionals Unit of the Rady Children's Auxiliary on Monday, May 18, 2026, at The Crosby Club in Rancho Santa Fe for "Rounds for Rady." Guests will enjoy a day of golf at a stunning private course, along with a light lunch, dinner, and reception—all in support of the Neurology Department at Rady Children's.

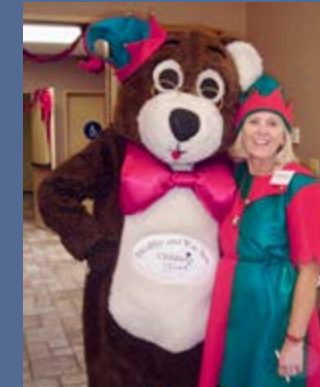
For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and more information about the unit and upcoming fundraisers, please visit rchayoungprofessionals.org.



Breakfast with Santa

Celebrating a Longstanding Auxiliary Fundraiser

The Tierrasanta Unit's first Breakfast with Santa (BWS) took place in 2006, born from a simple desire to create a joyful holiday event for kids and families. True to the Auxiliary's mission, it was designed to advocate for Rady Children's Hospital while raising funds for its greatest needs.



The BWS event was spearheaded by our then-event chair and longtime member, Marsha Bouman. After sharing the idea with her friends in the Knights of Columbus at Ascension Catholic Church, they generously offered to host it at the parish and provide their popular pancake breakfast service. This proved to be a true community blessing that helped everything take off.

That inaugural year, held in a modest meeting room, welcomed about 80 guests. The morning included a small opportunity drawing, story time, crafts, a visit from a Disney Princess, photos with Santa, and of course, a delicious pancake breakfast. The Unit raised \$3,071 that first time—a promising start!

In 2012, the church opened a larger hall, and BWS began to grow steadily each year. In 2019, we introduced our first online auction and achieved a record \$33,500 for the Hospital. The event paused briefly in 2020 due to COVID, followed by a



year-long church renovation, but it returned triumphantly in 2023 to a delighted community.

In 2025—marking our 16th event—we sold out a full month in advance! Over 275 guests enjoyed a pancake breakfast, photos with Santa, more than 35 opportunity drawing baskets, a small silent auction, 40 Pick-a-Bag surprise prizes, crafts, and special visits from Princess Belle, a San Diego Firefighter, and Therapy Dogs. It has truly become a cherished community tradition, with many families returning year after year. We've intentionally kept ticket prices affordable so young families can join in the magic.

Special recognition goes to our wonderful Santa, David Akers, who delighted children for 13 years, and to the Knights of Columbus for their unwavering partnership—both honored with the Auxiliary Honorary Membership Award. We're also deeply grateful to Ray Frey Auto Center, which has generously sponsored the event every single year.

To date, Breakfast with Santa remains unique among Auxiliary events and has raised an incredible \$259,035 since its inception—all supporting life-changing care at Rady Children's Hospital.

Thank you to every sponsor, guest, and volunteer who has made this treasured event possible over the years. The Tierrasanta Unit is thrilled and proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary milestone of Breakfast with Santa this December! Be on the lookout for registration information in the coming months and join us for more memories that matter to the children in our community.



Merger

Rady Children’s Health (RCH), a premier pediatric healthcare system in Southern California, unites the trusted expertise of Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), nationally recognized for its commitment to safe, high-quality care, and Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego, ranked among the nation’s top 10 children’s hospitals by U.S. News and World Report.

With three hospitals, a growing network of primary and specialty care centers spanning six counties, and two of the region’s Level 1 pediatric trauma centers, RCH is a trusted partner for families seeking safe, high-quality care. Building on a combined legacy of more than a century of clinical excellence, RCH is dedicated to advancing children’s health through leading-edge research, innovative treatments, and compassionate care. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serving our local communities while providing the benefits of our integrated organization.

Rady Children’s Health is supported by two dedicated philanthropic foundations—the Rady Children’s Foundation and the CHOC Foundation. Both are committed to improving and protecting the lives of children through the power of giving.

While each foundation will continue to operate as a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—honoring the intentions of our donors and meeting the needs of our local communities—we will work collectively to advance pediatric care, innovation and research. Together, we can expand the impact of every gift to shape the future of children’s health.

Rady Children’s Foundation

We are committed to advancing children’s health, one child at a time. We help fund exceptional care, the latest technology, and innovative research to give every child the best chance at a healthy future. By connecting compassionate donors to our mission, we’re not only supporting care—we’re shaping the future of pediatric medicine.

CHOC Foundation

We exist to build a dynamic culture of generosity through philanthropy: uniting individuals, families, and corporations to advance our commitment to improving the health and well-being of children through clinical expertise, advocacy, outreach, education and research. When donors support our not-for-profit hospital, their donations stay in the community to benefit local children and families.

FAQs

Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego and Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) have united under a combined nonprofit parent organization called Rady Children’s Health to transform pediatric care, research and innovation.

Rady Children’s Health (RCH), a premier pediatric healthcare system in Southern California, unites the trusted expertise of Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), distinguished as a Leapfrog Top Hospital for quality and safety, and Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego, ranked as one of the nation’s top 10 children’s hospitals by U.S. News and World Report.

With three hospitals, a growing network of primary and specialty care centers spanning six counties, and two of the region’s Level 1 pediatric trauma centers, RCH is a trusted partner for families seeking safe, high-quality care. Building on a combined legacy of more than seventy years of clinical excellence, RCH is dedicated to advancing children’s health through leading-edge research, innovative treatments and compassionate care. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serving our local communities, while providing the benefits of our enhanced relationship.

Learn more about Rady Children’s Health at radychildrens.org

FAQs for Patients/Families

Why have CHOC and Rady Children’s merged?

By combining our strengths through a parent organization, CHOC and Rady Children’s will create an advanced pediatric health care system that aims to:

- Improve patient outcomes in Southern California
- Accelerate research and innovation that lead to new treatments and cures
- Retain and attract talent across all functions and specialties
- Increase access to pediatric care
- Promote health equity and train the next generation of pediatric physicians and health care workers

When is Rady Children’s changing its name, and how will it affect my care?

Rady Children’s is beginning to transition to the Rady Children’s Health name. This will happen gradually, so for a while, you may see both names used in different places—like signs, appointment reminders, or online systems.

What’s not changing is your care. You’ll still see the same doctors, nurses, and care teams at the same locations. Our name may be changing, but the people and care you trust are not. We continue to have three separate hospitals with different contracts, network access and medical group affiliations. Please refer to your health plan for clarity on which physicians and services you can access as part of your health plan coverage.

How have the two organizations collaborated in the past?

For more than a decade, CHOC and Rady Children’s have collaborated on critical initiatives that advance pediatric care, research and innovation, such as Project Baby Bear, a rapid Whole Genome Sequencing (rWGS®) initiative that quickly diagnoses infants with rare diseases. Additionally, the organizations created a shared health plan serving children. Our collaborative efforts have established a strong foundation for merging our parent companies and align with our shared vision for excellence in patient care, education, research and advocacy.

Is this going to change how each hospital provides care?

Each of our hospitals remains committed to providing high-quality, compassionate care. Our hospitals will maintain separate medical staff, local governing boards and onsite leadership to run daily operations, while providing the new benefits of our enhanced relationship. Any changes to programs/services will be focused on strengthening our ability to meet the needs of children and families in the local communities we serve and will be communicated well in advance.

How will patient records/data be managed?

Protecting patient data will remain a top priority. We will continue to adhere to strict security protocols, advanced encryption and data controls, and compliance standards to safeguard all information.

Will any programs/services be consolidated?

Our goal is to increase access to care, not limit it. Any changes to programs/services will be focused on strengthening our ability to meet the needs of children and families in the local communities we serve and will be communicated well in advance.

Will I still have access to my current physician(s) and hospital?

Yes. Our patients and their families will still have access to the same physicians and services they have come to trust. In time, we aim to increase access to an even broader range of services.

Will my current insurance plan be accepted?

We expect to continue accepting the same insurance plans. However, changes to insurance coverage can occur outside of the merger, and we will keep patients and families informed of any changes.

Can patients see specialists at both CHOC and Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego?

Patients remain free to seek care wherever they choose—whether within or outside the Rady Children’s Health system. We are committed to providing the best care to children and their families. That said, we recommend patients confirm if their provider or facility is within their insurance network, as costs can vary depending on network status. Please note, CHOC and Rady Children’s specialists are in different locations, networks, and medical groups, which may affect coverage and referral processes.

Will donors be able to support programs and services in their own communities as they do today?

Yes. CHOC and Rady Children’s will continue to honor the wishes of our donors.

Moms and Daughters

Three member sets of moms and daughters support the Rady's Children's Hospital Tierrasanta Auxiliary.



Jessica and Leisa Loos

In 2010, Leisa joined the auxiliary after her friend, Rowena Treitler, encouraged her to become involved. Leisa concludes joining this unit with your child makes it truly extraordinary. "There's nothing more rewarding than making a difference together with your child. It strengthens your bond while helping others."

Jessica joined in 2021 after first serving as a Junior Auxiliary member. She had always admired her mom's involvement but never expected the Auxiliary to become such an integral part of her own life. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences she has ever had, and she never plans to step away. Now pursuing her Master's in Nursing at USD, Jessica brings youthful energy and dedication to the Unit.

Both have worked side-by-side on Cheers for Charity and Breakfast with Santa—bringing joy to the community while reminding them why they serve.



Natalie and Marina Dion

Marina joined in 1997 with Natalie joining in 2023. Marina volunteered at Rady's after her nephew was operated on there by Dr. Lamberti, a world-renowned pediatric cardiologist who saved his life.

Natalie grew up going to events with her Mom. "I remember walking in the Patriots Day Parade, going to the ice skating rink and helping prepare for Breakfast with Santa. I've known a lot of the ladies in the Tierrasanta Unit since I was little, so I knew that this was a group I wanted to join after I graduated college." Both ladies have worked on Cheers for Charity 2023-2024; Breakfast with Santa 2023; and as the Publicity/ChauxTalk Co-Chairs from 2023-2025.



Samantha Scheer and Marsha Bouman

For 45 years, Marsha has been a member while Samantha has been a member informally since birth. At 13, she became actively involved with Kids' NewsDay, wearing mascot costumes to help sell papers! Officially she joined in 2008.

Both love what the Hospital does for our San Diego children. It was a natural progression for Samantha after watching her Mom's involvement. They have worked on numerous events: Breakfast with Santa, Cheers for Charity, and Kids' NewsDay. "It's a fabulous way to spend time with each other while doing something helpful."

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Rady Children's Auxiliary

Rady Children's Hospital and Health Center
3020 Children's Way, MC 5013
San Diego, CA 92123

Spring Event Reminder

April 11, 2026

*Bay Park—Cheers to Good Health—Spring Fiesta, 6:00pm-10:00pm
Offshore Tavern & Grill, 2253 Morena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92110
Benefiting Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*

April 18, 2026

*La Jolla Unit—Dinking for Dollars, 4:00pm-8:00pm
Barnes Tennis Center, 4490 W. Point Loma Blvd.,
San Diego, CA 92017
Benefiting Copley Psychiatric Center*

April 25, 2026

*Scripps Ranch Unit—Joining Hands for Rady Children's—
Casino Night, 5:00pm-10:00pm
Kyocera House, 8130 La Jolla Scenic Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037
Tickets \$125
Benefiting Inpatient Rehabilitation Services,
Developmental Services Department*

May 2, 2026

*South Bay Unit—Blooms and Brunch, 10:00am-1:00pm
San Diego Country Club, 88 L Street, Chula Vista, CA 91911
Benefiting Helen Bernardy Center for Medically Fragile Children*

May 2, 2026

*La Playa Unit—Celebration of Champions, 9:00am-2:00pm
Embarcadero Marina Park North
Benefiting the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders*

May 7, 2026

*North Coast Unit—Date Night for a Cause, 6:30pm-10:30pm
Carlsbad Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tickets \$125-\$175
Benefiting Child Life Services*

May 18, 2026

*Young Professionals—Golf Tournament and Dinner, 10:30am registration
The Crosby Club at Rancho Santa Fe
17102 Bing Crosby Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92127
Tickets \$100-\$250
Benefiting Neurology Department*

May 30, 2026

*Poway Unit—Tabletops with a Twist—
A Night at the Movies, 6:00pm
California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N Escondido Blvd.,
Escondido, CA 92025
Tickets \$150
Benefiting Trauma Services*

June 06, 2026

*Point Loma Dana Unit—Rags to Riches Rummage Sale, 9:00am-2:00pm
All Souls Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd., San Diego, CA 92107
Benefiting the Autism Discovery Institute*

Current Auxiliary Units

- Alpine
 - Bay Park
 - Coronado
 - Del Cerro
 - Del Mar
 - Del Norte
 - Fuerte Hills
 - La Jolla
 - La Playa
 - Mountain View
 - North Coast
 - North County
 - Point Loma-Dana
 - Poway
 - Rancho Bernardo
 - Scripps Ranch
 - South Bay (formerly Bonita)
 - Southeast Cluster
 - Tierrasanta
 - Young Professionals
- Emeritus Auxiliary Units:*
- Presidio
 - Silvergate