



Newsletter



Message from CARES' President



Greetings for a Happier New Year!

On behalf of the CARES Board of Directors, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation to our partners who have contributed to CARES' success in 2020! It was the most difficult year in CARES' history to maintain services.

Our partners made it possible!

To Our Financial Supporters:

All donors to CARES are extremely appreciated. You make it possible for CARES to continue to provide services to the patients and their families during this pandemic.

Special Kudos to the CARES Staff:

All of CARES Staff had to kick into high gear last year to keep CARES' services operational. Their dedication and hard work went above and beyond the call of duty. CARES Staff, forty strong, were led by Maritza Morales, CARES Executive Director. Maritza, an exceptional director with excellent leadership skills, is totally committed to CARES. We are so lucky to have her at the helm.

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank delivered thousands of pounds of food to the LAC+USC Medical Center!

CARES' most recent partner, the LA Regional Food Bank, made it possible for CARES to distribute food directly to 15,000 patient families to date. Without this assistance, patients with long term illnesses and without jobs would not have been able to feed their families.

The CARES Holiday Giving Program made sure that a thousand children enjoyed the December holidays!

To all those who contributed to the program, our sincere appreciation. I would like to extend a special acknowledgement to the National Charity League of San Marino which has continued to support the Holiday Giving Program for the last 35 years. On behalf of our grateful patients, we thank you.

Our partners are the core of CARES success.

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your support without which we could not succeed.

Best to you all for a new and improved year!

Vaccines are coming so hopefully we can return to a more normal time!

Mindy Halls

Mindy Halls, President

THANK YOU!



Stay Safe



A Tribute to Social Workers: Our Unsung Heroes!

The LAC+USC Medical Center Social Workers are a team of advocates for the patients, their families, and the LAC+USC Medical Center. They meet with patients who are experiencing moments of desperation because of emotionally overwhelming illnesses, danger of losing their jobs, and a reality where they are helpless to financially care for their families.

Social Workers must be detectives as well as experts at establishing priorities. They first meet with a patient and/or the patient's family to help them process the most devastating news of their lives and to help all those involved decide their best path forward. When one person becomes medically incapacitated, the entire family is affected. The Social Workers have a vast library of possible resources to support the families, including CARES. Whether it is to help with a one-time cash request for funds to pay rent or utilities, or a referral to the CARES Holiday Giving Program (which includes food), CARES is who they turn to.

The Social Work Department is a true partner with CARES.

Profiles of the Patients who were helped by You, Our Donors, through the CARES Holiday Giving Program:

★ A single mother with two daughters, shouldering total support of her family, was diagnosed with cancer and receiving chemotherapy. While meeting with her Oncology Social Worker, the patient revealed that she was experiencing anxiety and unable to sleep due to her inability to support her children. The Social Worker provided her with resources to help her with some expenses, but they were very limited. The family was then referred to CARES for the Holiday Giving Program. After receiving the gifts, the mother said, "No one has ever done something as special for me and my family. I am wrapping the toys for my daughters for Christmas." Gratefully, she continued "without CARES, it would have been impossible for me to afford toys."

★ A mother who recently gave birth had just left an abusive relationship and was now living in a domestic violence shelter and adjusting to living on her own, working through her feelings of depression, being a new parent and trying to stabilize her housing situation. Experiencing emotional and economic struggles, she was so grateful to receive many essential baby items for her newborn. Realizing that people she had never met or asked help from, were there for her, gave her hope that she could make a fresh new start.

★ A dad diagnosed with liver disease had been the primary source of income for his family but was no longer able to work. His State Disability was exhausted in July 2020. His adult son James was balancing school and employment to help provide for the family, including support for his younger siblings. After the children received the presents from the Holiday Giving Program, the family called the Social Worker to thank her profusely for allowing the children to have a small sense of normalcy in the home despite their father's rapidly progressing condition.

★ A mother of four has been managing a chronic health condition for 12 years. She requires constant medical follow-up. Her family was significantly affected financially by the pandemic. Her husband, the sole provider for the family, lost his job and was out of work for 3 months, causing a financial hardship for the family. They were not eligible for government benefits and could not afford gifts for the holiday. The family was referred to the Holiday Giving Program by their Social Worker. The family was thankful and grateful: "All my kids were so happy! It's like someone knew exactly what they liked! Thank you!"

Additional profiles of patients and their families who were helped by the CARES Holiday Giving Program can be found on our website: lacusccares.org



Thank You Generous Donors (4/6/20—1/15/21) for helping CARES meet the challenges of the pandemic:

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An envelope is enclosed for your convenience if you would like to donate to CARES.

Special Recognition
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\$10,000 Cynthia Hibbard
\$5,100 Drs. Alexandra & Victor Levine
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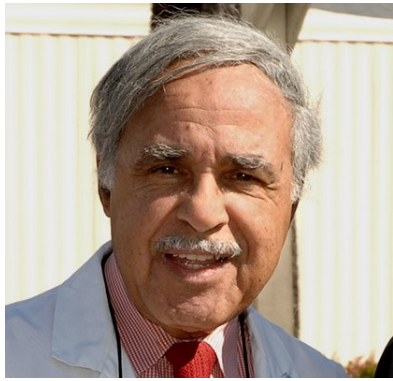
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A heart indicates donations made "in memory of." An * indicates donations made "in honor of."

"Thank you to all who are now donating to CARES through Charitable Giving":
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In Memoriam
Paul Brenner, MD
Vice Chair, Department of OBGYN & Director of LAC+USC Human Research Committee
L. Julian Haywood, MD
Namesake for the LAC+USC Coronary Care Unit
Fotine D. O'Connor, RN
Director of LAC+USC Nursing Services & Education
Nancy E. Warner, MD
The First CARES Woman in Medicine, 1976



L. Julian Haywood, MD
 “Dr. Haywood was a pillar of our community and also in the field of cardiology, a tireless advocate for our patients....a truly wonderful human being, a friend and the very essence of a gentleman.” *Dr. David Laughrun, Chief of Cardiology, & Dr. Brad Spellberg, Chief Medical Officer*
 Founder and Director, Coronary Care Unit, Outpatient Follow-up Clinic, and Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, he also spread his kindness to CARES through his donations.



Fotine Drulias O'Connor, RN
 1930-2020
 As the Director of Nursing Services & Education, she took on management of the School of Nursing, Women's Hospital, Pediatric Pavilion, Psychiatric Hospital, Medical Surgical Services, and the Operating Room. She served on the CARES Advisory Council, and never missed a CARES Annual Meeting in order to help honor the CARES Nurses of the Year.

Fotine Drulias O'Connor, RN
 1930-2020

Nancy E. Warner, MD
 1923-2020

“A Pioneer for Women in Academic Medicine,” was the first woman chair of the USC School of Medicine as well as the first woman chair of a pathology department in a co-educational institution in the United States. She was a passionate supporter of women medical students, fellows and faculty. She can be viewed in the USC Living History Project (just enter this in your browser).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY/USC
 MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY



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CARES Website: lacuscares.org