



Dear Friend,

I hope this year-end message finds you well. At HERS the past 12 months have brought moments when we've cheered as well as felt challenged, and yet we continue to work for mission fulfillment so that our patients may have their sense of HERS -- Hope, Empowerment, Renewal, and Support -- restored. I hope you feel these things too, as you read our news and take a look at what's ahead in 2022!

### **Additions and Departures**



Team members Michele, Shanli, and Carlie left to pursue new career paths. We miss them but are grateful for their outstanding work ethic and compassion which inspired us and our patients. We welcomed Keerthana, Bobbie, and Mary, while Gita and Debi joined our volunteer "regulars" -- Theresa, Cathy, Lisa, Janice F., Janice G., Tanya, and Joan. Our new staff members join us in providing direct patient services, outreach, and administrative and billing assistance and add to our diversity; we're capable of assisting patients in multiple languages -- yet another reason patients feel at ease at HERS!

### **Covid-19: Staying the Course**



I'm proud of our team's continued dedication during these difficult times. Our fully vaccinated staff members serve our patients with kindness and compassion, and they diligently perform Covid prevention efforts such as frequent sanitization and daily self- and patient screenings. Curbside product pick ups help our patients feel safer and, when appropriate, product orders are filled via phone consultation. And our beautifully appointed locations are welcoming, safe spaces which also helps our patients feel relaxed and welcome.

### **Program Locations: Changes and A Look Ahead**



Speaking of locations, you may have heard that after six years we closed the doors of our Pleasanton location in October as our site donor, Stanford Healthcare ValleyCare, needed more space for department expansions. We're grateful to Stanford for their generous support and the opportunity to serve Tri-Valley patients. The majority of our Stanford patients are now visiting our Fremont and San Leandro locations, however, we hope establish a new Tri-Valley location in the future. Be on the lookout for updates on our website and in my e-newsletters!

### **Events and 2022 Dates**



Our virtual People with Purpose fundraising gala was enjoyed by all in May, yet we're excited to return to celebrating our HERS Awards recipients and raising funds together in 2022! Please save the date: Saturday, April 23, 2022, and join us at a venue that's truly a gem -- Casa Bella Event

Center in Sunol. We look forward seeing you in person at this elegant, much-loved event where we'll enjoy a cocktail reception, enticing silent and live auctions, gourmet dinner, and more! Invitations will be mailed soon, and we'll also provide website and e-newsletter updates in the coming months.

Our 2021 Walk/Run/Yoga fundraiser was extended through October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we raised \$40,000. While we appreciate all who joined us, we miss the spirit and energy of our in-person event, and therefore plan to return to Quarry Lakes Recreation Area in Fremont for our 23rd Annual Walk/Run/Yoga fundraiser. Please save this important date as well -- Saturday, September 24, 2022 -- and stay tuned for event updates in the months ahead.

### Our Impact and a Patient Perspective

In the past year we completed over 4,000 in-person appointments and drop-in visits, phone check-ins and consultations, and phone orders, and we provided over \$131,000 in post-surgical products to patients in need via our Assistance Programs. Yet what does this impact mean at an individual level?

"Della's" experience at HERS clearly shows the difference we make. With an advanced breast cancer diagnosis, Della had already undergone multiple rounds of chemotherapy by the time she visited us. We provided her with much-needed emotional support during her compression sleeve and glove fitting. The garments provided Della with relief from lymphedema pain and swelling in her arm and hand. When her Breast Care Specialist called to follow up, Della shared that the garments gave her significant relief and said that "HERS and her faith" were giving her the strength to continue her fight.

There are many more patients like Della that need our help. Please join us; your gift today will sustain our programs in the months to come. If you have already donated, please consider an additional gift or share this letter with friend or loved one and encourage them to support HERS patients. For your convenience, I've enclosed a remittance envelope or, if you prefer to give online, go to <https://tinyurl.com/HERSPayPal> or **use the QR code below** to go directly to our secure PayPal giving page.

On behalf of our team and our patients, I wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a safe and hopeful new year!

With gratitude,

*Tina*

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