



November 2020

# Rolling With Rancho... Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Newsletter

## Thinking Outside of the Box: *Fundraising During a Pandemic*

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the face of development and has challenged all nonprofits to break the mold of traditional methods for the foreseeable future. So when faced with the question, "can we hold a charity golf tournament during the pandemic while keeping everyone safe?" the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation set out to safely answer that question.

Through strategic brainstorming and some incredible cooperation with Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier, it was decided that the Foundation's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament would be split into two 'mini tournaments' that would occur on the same day. This divided format allowed golfers to choose their preferred shotgun time (AM or PM) while cutting in half the number of players on the course. Having fewer golfers on the course at a time allowed everyone to have their own golf cart and to maintain safe social distancing at all times.

In addition, there was the option to pre-purchase tournament packages online and a streamlined check in process to limit the number of physical contacts necessary at

the tournament.

The traditional dinner and program portion of the event was replaced with an elevated meal served to-go (for either lunch or dinner, depending on the tournament time). A follow up video from the Foundation announcing the

tournament and contest winners was sent to each golfer

via email the next day, along with access to tournament photos.

There were a lot of unknown variables with all of these changes and precautions put in place. Despite these obstacles, the Foundation was able to exceed their goal for the tournament, raising nearly \$60,000 for patient programs and services.

Visit the Foundation's Facebook page to view more photos from the event or go to our YouTube channel to watch the short program video.



## Giving Back With Amazon Smile

This holiday season, make sure to use Amazon Smile every time you shop online. With Amazon Smile, a small percentage of every eligible purchase will be donated to a charity of your choice. Of course, we ask you to make the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation as your charity of choice!

### To use Amazon Smile:

*From a Computer:* go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Rancho Los Amigos Foundation as your charity of choice.  
*From the Amazon Application on a mobile device:* go to your settings, click on the "Amazon Smile" tab, and follow the prompts.

*Voila... it's as simple as that!*

## Spotlight on Giving: *Coming Together as a Community*



On Friday, March 13, the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation's board of directors convened a special board meeting to discuss the cancellation of their Amistad Gala (traditionally the largest fundraiser of the year), which was scheduled to occur the following week. It was the first of many crucial decisions and pivots that would be made in light of the

coronavirus pandemic! As healthcare workers across the nation, and in our own hospital, braced for the unknown demands of this new virus, our local businesses and communities came together and responded with an outpouring of donations to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

Unable to continue their fundraising efforts as planned, the Foundation was at the center of these donations, working to distribute the various items to the staff as quickly as possible.

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### ***\*Spotlight on Giving Continued:***

pints of soup, surgical masks, hand sanitizer and face shields were among the first items to be received and donated, but soon afterwards items such as bottled water, nutritional snack bags, personal care packages, and even entire meals were sent to help keep staff safe and acknowledge their dedication to patient care in the most challenging of circumstances.

The Foundation partnered with the hospital's Executive Council to create pop-up stations, which were set up at various times and locations around the Rancho campus, to distribute the donated items to the staff in a safe manner. Nearly every week our frontline workers had something to look forward to and they were continuously grateful for

the manifestations of love and respect they felt from the community. The pandemic seemed to bring out the inherent kindness and compassion in people as more and more individuals and organizations continued to give for more than three and a half months. These wonderful gifts (totaling more than \$170,000 in value), enabled the Rancho staff to stay protected, motivated and focused on caring for their patients.



### **Thank you to our amazing donors!**

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|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| • 3D Agents of Shield                               | • Southern California                  | • LA Opera                                     | • San Marino Griffins Lions Club |
| • Bay Echo Association                              | • Financial Partners Credit Union      | • McCarthy Building Companies                  | • Smart & Sexy Intimates         |
| • Bazz Houston International                        | • Heeny Transportation, Inc.           | • McMaster Carr Supply                         | • Sodexo, Inc.                   |
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## **The Path to Independence: A Return to Work Success Story**

Meet Lorena...she is best known at Rancho for her beautiful smile, exuberant personality, and never-ending positive attitude. Lorena is just one of many former patients who utilize Rancho's community reintegration programs to better improve their lives. Her journey at Rancho first began in 2014 when she survived a life-altering stroke.

She is Rancho's first graduate of the Occupational Therapy Return to Work program, where she has spent the last year training at the Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop to gain the skills and confidence necessary to secure outside employment in a food service or sales industry. On Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>,



Lorena completed her first official day as an employee in her new position with Sodexo Healthcare Services, the on-site food service provider for Rancho Los Amigos.

The Foundation, in partnership with the

Department and through a grant from the Joan M. Wismer Foundation, began connecting with local businesses and organizations to create streamlined employment paths for our Return to Work graduates. David Yasutake, Sodexo's General Manager, was the first one to respond to the Foundation's call for partnership because they, "were moved by the idea of patients returning to work and wanted to be the first to show their support."

As with any employment opportunity, Lorena was required to apply for the position and complete a hiring process that included an interview. She recalls the moment she learned she had landed the job with Sodexo, "I was so happy to get the job and even happier that I would be taking care of the patients, staff, and visitors at Rancho."

Michele Berro, Outpatient OT Clinical Manager and Return to Work program manager of the Rancho Works Café was overcome by Lorena's good news saying, "Lorena's hire makes us ever more committed to our Rancho Works goal of, *Changing Lives, One Job at a Time!*"



### **Help Give Patients the Programs They Need!**

By donating \$100 today at:  
[www.RanchoFoundation.org](http://www.RanchoFoundation.org)

You could help one of Rancho's 4,000 annual inpatients learn how to reintegrate into life's day to day activities after experiencing a life altering injury or illness.

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