



News
For Immediate Release

Contact:
Celine Petrossian
818.952.2213

Holding Verdugo Dear to Her Heart

(GLENDALE, CA – October 1, 2007) – Karen Knueven, a longtime employee of Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) is leaving with fond memories. A resident of Pasadena, Knueven has worked at VHH for 33 years. She is the longest tenured manager at the Hospital, serving in management since 1981.

“Working here has afforded me the opportunity to learn much, laugh often and develop the love of friends and colleagues,” said Knueven. “I like the smallness of the facility, and the feeling of family. Because of our size, we truly get to know everyone in the Hospital, not just our own departments. When we look out our windows, the view is spectacular. It’s always beautiful up in the Foothills. It’s been a pleasure driving to work in the mornings.”

Knueven also praised the Hospital Board, the Medical Staff and the Community for their continuous support of VHH.

“The Hospital’s Board of Directors is a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to the success of the Hospital and the well being of its employees,” she said. “The community we serve has also been very supportive of the Hospital as evidenced by the large number of volunteers and the success of the Foundation in fund raising. And lastly, the commitment and loyalty of the medical staff to VHH has made my job easier. ”

Knueven’s career at VHH began in 1974 as a relatively new RN on the Medical/Surgical Floor. After five years, she decided she wanted to learn more, so she transferred to the Critical Care Units. While there she became the charge nurse and ultimately the Clinical Director in 1981.

- MORE -

In 1991, Knueven became Assistant Director of Nursing and in 1994 was the Hospital's Vice President of Patient Care Services. In 2006, Karen moved on to serve as Vice President of Risk and Quality Management.

Knueven was instrumental in creating several programs at VHH, including the Transitional Care Unit, Home Health, the Geropsychiatric and Subacute Units. She was also actively involved in the remodel of the Labor & Delivery Unit to an LDR, and the addition of the Hospital's east wing which included a new Emergency Department, and Critical Care/ Telemetry Unit.

Knueven states: "VHH is a diamond in the foothills of Glendale dedicated to the community it was built to serve. While the Hospital sits beautifully high on a hill, it is the people within who are the spirit, heart and soul of VHH. VHH will always hold a special place in my heart."

"Karen's spirit and dedication has been a model for others," said VHH President and CEO Len LaBella. "Her contribution to this hospital will endure for years to come."

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted "Foothill's Best Hospital" for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org.

###

