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VHH Foundation’s Caduceus Club Celebrates 60th Member

(GLENDALE, CA – June 16, 2008) – Members of the Verdugo Hills Hospital’s (VHH) Caduceus Club and their guests gathered at Le Petit Vendome Wine & Spirits in La Cañada on June 12 to celebrate the Club’s 60th inductee and enjoy an evening of tasty wines with their fellow colleagues.

Steven Hartford, M.D., a 20-year-member of Caduceus Club, thanked the members for their continuous support and welcomed 60th Caduceus Club member Alan Mantell, M.D., into the organization. “Today is a special occasion,” said Dr. Hartford. “I am really delighted that we reached that number.”

Dr. Mantell, who has been on staff at VHH for 33 years, said: “It is nice to get a chance to socialize with the other doctors, and the Caduceus Club truly provides a nice service for the hospital and community.”

Dr. Hartford said reaching this milestone has been a team effort, acknowledging the efforts of the Caduceus Club’s steering committee and the VHH Foundation leadership. “We have 110 active medical staff members (at VHH),” he said. “It makes us unique amongst medical staffs. We are able to contribute a significant amount of funding every year to VHH.”

For Leo Berkenbile, M.D., the Caduceus Club is “a device for medical staff cohesiveness and collegial fun.”

“I’m extremely proud and excited that we’ve reached this milestone,” said Dr. Berkenbile. “We want to continue to get more active and increase our membership even more as we move ahead.”

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Allan Perry, Jr., M.D., who was the facilitator for the event, said he looks forward to having more social events for the members throughout the year. “This is a huge step up in membership and participation,” said Dr. Perry. “In order to acknowledge that and perpetuate it we’ve tried to have events like this where members can socialize and have a good time.”

“We try to purchase things that are used by a number of physicians and specialists, and because of that we get good physician support. These are the core physicians who utilize the hospital the most, and it’s nice to have them support the hospital philanthropically, too,” said Dr. Perry.

Founded in 1982 by the VHH Foundation, the Caduceus Club is the annual giving arm of the medical staff, and an integral part of the hospital’s financial support. Funds raised are used to support the purchase of capital medical equipment, facility improvements and educational programs – all of which are directly involved with patient care.

About the Hospital:

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 “Foothills’ Best Hospital” for 2008 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for the fifth consecutive year. Several VHH medical staff members have also earned the title of “Foothills’ Best”: Drs. Eric Lee and Joseph Lee, Foothills’ Best Cardiologists; Dr. Jane Wada, Foothills’ Best Dermatologist; Laurie Flagg, Foothills’ Best Nurse; Dr. Ronald Woodard, Foothills’ Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist; Dr. Scott Beeve, Foothills’ Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry (Jr. & Sr.), Foothills’ Best Plastic Surgeons; Dr. Brad Aguirre, Foothills’ Best Podiatrist; and Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills’ Best Family Physician.

For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org. For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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