



Verdugo Hills  
HOSPITAL

News  
For Immediate Release

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**Women's Council Celebrates Valentine's with Dr. Berkenbile**

(GLENDALE, CA – February 18, 2008) – The Women's Council of Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) and Foundation hosted a Valentine luncheon on February 7 at the hospital, welcoming VHH's very own Emergency Room physician Dr. Leo Berkenbile to speak to the Council members about new and innovative programs in the ER.

Dr. Berkenbile, who has provided more than 30 years of care at VHH, said he is very pleased with the fundraising efforts of the Women's Council. "I am grateful for all of the things the Women's Council has done for us over the years," he said. "We are seeing a lot of positive things now. In the last few years, we have seen significant changes in the ER."

For instance, the introduction of patient ambassadors has helped enhance patient and family experiences in the hospital's ER. The ambassadors provide pillows and blankets to patients and/or family members, keep them informed, help answer questions – and make sure patients and their families are comforted from the minute they enter the doors of the ER. "Our patient ambassadors work full-time and they have been an overwhelming success – people rave about them," said Dr. Berkenbile.

Dr. Berkenbile also talked about the success rates of VHH's Fast-track service in the ER, which allows patients with non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses to get triaged, treated and discharged faster. "Twelve percent of our patients who came in the ER this month were out of the ER in 60 minutes or less, and 25% were out within 90 minutes or less," said Dr. Berkenbile.

In addition, Dr. Berkenbile addressed the future need to purchase computer monitors for each of the patient rooms in the ER to help physicians and nurses to access patient information and test results from patients' rooms.

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In the past, the Women's Council has donated \$210,000 to help purchase a computerized tracking system for the hospital's ER.

Also during the luncheon, the Women's Council presented Dr. Berkenbile with a basket of items for the children who pass through the hospital ER, including teddy bears, books and puzzles.

"The Verdugo Hills Hospital Women's Council was so excited to adopt the ER as our Valentine," said Chris Mason, Chair of the Women's Council. "We hope the gifts and toys donated by our members will brighten the faces of the children that come through the doors of VHH's ER."

"This was a great opportunity to give some fun items to the ER that will help entertain the children during their visit to VHH's ER," said Women's Council member Eileen Akers, who helped coordinate the luncheon.

"A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart," said Mary Reichley, co-Fundraising Chair of the Women's Council. "Dr. Berkenbile and the Emergency Department have truly touched the hearts of the Women's Council and the community."

The Women's Council will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> year this year during the hospital's major annual fund-raising event, The Main Event, on October 25, 2008 at the Oakmont Country Club. Members of the Women's Council are a diverse group of approximately 60 dedicated women – from busy young mothers and career women to grandmothers.

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](http://www.vhhospital.org).

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