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**Verdugo's Anatomy Makes the Cut**

(GLENDALE, CA – February 12, 2007) — The launch of Verdugo Hills Hospital's newest community support group, like the pilot episode of its television namesake "Grey's Anatomy", was a huge hit among young doctors and families in the community.

More than 50 people attended the inauguration of Verdugo's Anatomy on February 8 at the home of Marty and Julie Newton in La Canada Flintridge. While revelers dined on fresh Mexican food from Los Gringos Locos, founding members and hospital physicians shared their passion for the hospital's newest support group for families and young professionals.

"In the creation of this support group, we were inspired by the hit television show "Grey's Anatomy"," said Jennifer Berger, hospital spokeswoman for the group. "The characters of the show are constantly evaluating issues, hoping for answers and explanations that will help them better navigate through life. Verdugo's Anatomy is similarly committed to bringing individuals and families together so that they can learn from each other, and local experts."

One of the founding members Jeff Smith, a local resident and a board member of the Verdugo Hills Hospital Foundation, said Verdugo's Anatomy will offer members a calendar of social events including an informative speaker series on health, wealth and lifestyle issues.

Another founding member Todd Reynolds, whose father has been a urologist at Verdugo Hills Hospital for many years, said he and his physician brother, Brandon, shared many fond memories of the hospital and wanted to be able to give something back to the community.

Verdugo's Anatomy's list of founding members also includes Courtney Strong Thomas; whose mother Annsley Strong has dedicated years of service to the hospital through her work with the Verdugo Hills Hospital and Foundation board of directors, and the Women's Council.

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“We grew up at Verdugo Hills Hospital,” said Courtney Strong Thomas. “I remember playing hide and seek in the hallways and climbing the rocks in the pond. My first child was also born at Verdugo Hills Hospital and now I feel it is time for me to give something back.”

The hospital’s Chief of Staff Leo Berkenbile, M.D., welcomed the new generation of community leaders and physicians who have made a commitment to Verdugo’s Anatomy.

“I’ve probably been at Verdugo Hills Hospital longer than many of you have been alive,” said Dr. Berkenbile. “It’s great to see the support the hospital has among the younger generation. Verdugo Hills Hospital is a growing community hospital. We feel a responsibility to the community because we are part of the community. We want to be there for you, to share your life experiences with you, and we want to be able to be there for your families too.”

For more information about joining Verdugo’s Anatomy, please contact Jennifer Berger, Director of Annual Giving, at (818) 952-3534 or email [jberger@vhhospital.org](mailto:jberger@vhhospital.org).



Picture Caption: Brian and Mona Eremita, M.D., Linda Sevilla, M.D., and David Tashman, M.D.



Picture Caption: Alexis Strong, Courtney Strong Thomas, Ashley Amato, Chris Dillavou



Picture Caption: Christina Beauclair, Laurie Smith, John Beauclair, Jeff Smith



Picture Caption: Debbie Brown, Chandish Ahluwalia M.D., Freny Berkenbile, Aslin Dorian



Picture Caption: Todd Reynolds and Bent Hansen



Picture Caption: Brent Ballard and Brandon Reynolds, M.D.

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 “Glendale’s Best Hospital” for 2006 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff received accolades too. Dr Jane Wada was voted “Best Dermatologist,” Dr Jeffrey Nilles “Best Ophthalmologist,” Dr James Henry “Best Pediatrician,” Dr Brad Aguirre “Best Podiatrist” and Dr Samvel Hmayakyan “Best Family Practitioner.” For more information, visit [www.vhhospital.org](http://www.vhhospital.org).

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