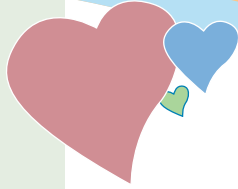


Big Hearts for Little Hearts Newsletter

BIG HEARTS FOR LITTLE HEARTS NEWSLETTER, LOMA LINDA GUILD
MAY – DECEMBER 2023



A Note from the Presidents

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild concluded another highly successful year supporting Loma Linda University Children's Hospital with many fun patient diversionary events and member-attended events. Our annual **Spring into Reading**, **Luke's Birthday Bash**, and **Fall into Reading** events provided fun activity packets stuffed with crafts, coloring books, crayons, new books, LEGO® sets, and plush toy animals for the hospitalized children. This year, we added the July 4th as another opportunity to provide the children with diversionary activities.

Our **Storytime** filming production crew, with special guests reading treasured children's books, continued this year with the collaboration of Loma Linda Broadcasting Network.

The annual **Trees of Hope** campaign, featuring Christmas trees adorned with donated angels and displayed in the hospital lobby, along with **Gingerbread House** kits for the patients to decorate, helped ring in the Christmas cheer.

In May, we sponsored our first post-pandemic **Family Fun Day** held at the beautiful Burrage Mansion featuring activities, food trucks, demonstrations and a health fair enjoyed by local families.

And our **Dishes for Wishes** cooking school in October took place at a lovely new venue, the Korean SDA Church, with savory appetizers and sweet desserts.

We thank you for your membership fees and additional donations which fund the guild's patient activities and purchase much-needed hospital equipment and supplies.

If you would like to help with a specific event or join our board, we welcome you. We are also seeking a volunteer with strong communication skills who could assist with public relations, media and press releases.

Please contact Jill Green at JMGreen@llu.edu for any of these opportunities.

With gratitude for your big hearts,

Evelyn & Lynn

A Big-Hearted Welcome!

In February 2023, **Jill Green** assumed the role of Big Hearts for Little Hearts (BHLH) Guilds Coordinator, supporting the Loma Linda and Desert Guilds.



Linda and Desert Guilds.

Jill brings a wealth of experience as a volunteer and a deep passion and enthusiasm for making a positive impact. Just shy of marking one year with the guild, Jill's easy, bright smile, enthusiastic and professional approach to every task, along with her attention to detail and efficiency have proven to be a perfect match for this position.

A Redlands native, Jill has been married 26 years and has two adult children. "Children have always had a special place in my heart," Jill says. "I love the purposeful work the BHLH guilds do for the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and am grateful to be part this mission."

We appreciate all of Jill's many contributions to further the goals of BHLH—and what a blessing to have her on our team!

—Evelyn Gussek

Spring & Fall Reads

Our annual Spring into Reading (April 17) and Fall into Reading (October 9) events featured an assortment of fun stuffed animals (elephants, bears, pigs, giraffes, frogs, dinosaurs, dogs, and other favorites) delivered to young patients in the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital by the Child Life staff.

A total of 170 goody bags for each event—prepared by board members Evelyn Gussek, Lynn Sleeth, Sandy McCoy and volunteer Chris Scott—contained crafts, coloring books and toys. Additionally, each child received an age-appropriate book with a seasonal theme to encourage reading.

The reading events are always a hit with the children, and the Director of Child Life shared this positive feedback: "Thank you for your continued support for our patients. We appreciate the gifts that you provide and the patients love receiving them!"



Photos: BHLH



Do you know someone interested in becoming a BHLH guild member? Encourage them to visit our membership website for more information: lluch.org/llgmembership

Newsletter continues on page 2



2024 Board of Directors

Co-Presidents: Evelyn Gusseck & Lynn Sleeth

Past President: Laurel Munson Boss

Presidents' Advisors: Eloise Habekost & Dixie Watkins

Secretary: Ardis Wazdatskey

Treasurer: Penny Moores

Membership Chair: Lisa Carlson

Event Decor: Julie Cutler & Jeni Smith

Special Projects: Leigh Anderson

Education Liaison: Lynn Sleeth

Valentine's Event: Evelyn Gusseck

LEGO® Love Campaign Chair: Penny Moores

Luke's Birthday Bash Chair: Lynn Sleeth

July 4th Event Chair: Lynn Sleeth

Spring into Reading Chair: Elaine Mavis

Fall into Reading Chair: Sandy McCoy

Family Fun Day Co-Chairs: Joyce Waner & Caryl Clover-Shelby

Dishes for Wishes Co-Chairs: Eloise Habekost & Dixie Watkins

Dishes for Wishes Food Chair: Laurel Munson Boss

Teen Hygiene Kits Co-Chairs: Leigh Anderson & Laurie Munson

Trees of Hope Chair: Dixie Watkins

Gingerbread Village Chair: Sandi Herrmann

Pediatric Oncology Outpatient Clinic

Liaison: Sandi Herrmann

Storytime A/V Production Co-Chairs:

Caryl Clover-Shelby & Diane Adams

Social Media: Heather Burton

Newsletter: Kara Watkins

Guilds Coordinator: Jill Green

Contact Information

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bhlhlomalinda

Family Fun Day Focuses on "Friendraising"



Thank you to everyone who helped make Family Fun Day on May 21 such a success. Whether it be by prayer, technical, mental, or physical support, our dedicated volunteers contributed everything we needed to make this "friendraising" event a spectacular day at the Burrage Mansion in Redlands.

Local organizations, along with the participants, vendors, and exhibitors, were very complimentary and supportive of the event—they recognized the potential of reaching out to those in the Big Hearts community to raise friends, rather than funds. And who doesn't like spending time outdoors, eating good food, and taking part in fun activities with lots of room to run around and play?

We were blessed with beautiful weather and the many enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers from Redlands Police and Redlands Fire departments, Citrus Valley and Redlands East Valley high schools, National Charity League and the University of Redlands, along with many more, including family and friends who were so instrumental throughout the day.

The Burrage Mansion provided the perfect setting, with its beautiful, expansive 19-acre property. The event attracted families with young children (more than 400 attendees total) and fantastic vendors and participants. We saw so many happy faces, and we look forward to another wonderful event next year—and best of all, we have room to grow!

—Joyce Waner

Guild Recognized as a Nonprofit of the Year Award Honoree



We have some wonderful news! On June 3, the BHLH Loma Linda Guild received an award from the 50th Assembly District as a 2023 Nonprofit of the Year honoree. The Loma Linda guild was one of 24 nonprofit organizations selected from more than 200 applicants.

At the award ceremony held in the Seeds of Joy Community Garden in Ontario, State Assembly Member Eloise Gomez Reyes presented BHLH Co-President Evelyn Gusseck with the award—who proudly shares it with the entire guild membership. Each of you contributes talents, time, and much more to make us a stand-out organization in our community.

Luke's Birthday Bash: Lions, Light Sabers and Lots of Love

The annual birthday party for hospital mascot Luke the Lion, was held June 12, 2023.

Children at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital were excited to have members of the 501st Battalion—featured in the Star Wars film series—visit them and hand out "birthday surprises," including a light saber, back pack, activity kit, an age-appropriate book, and a stuffed animal.

Greeting young patients on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Star Wars-themed costumes, the battalion members brought a smile to each child they met—and quite a few nurses, hospital staff and guild volunteers.

After the event, volunteer battalion members stated they received even more than they gave. "Visiting the children here is one of our most favorite things to do," enthused one of the "soldiers."



Photos: Jason Watkins



Upcoming Events

Activities Calendar

January

Membership Campaign
Mail & Online
lluch.org/llgmembership

Wednesday,
February **14**

Loving Hearts Loving You
Valentine's Party
LLU Children's Hospital

March

LEGO® Love Campaign
Mail & Online
lluch.org/legolove

Thursday,
April **4**

LLU Children's Hospital
Foundation Gala
Riverside Convention Center

Monday,
April **15**

Spring into Reading
LLU Children's Hospital

Sunday,
April **28**

Family Fun Day
Burrage Mansion, Redlands

Monday,
June **10**

Luke's Birthday Party
LLU Children's Hospital

July & August

DARK – NO EVENTS

Monday,
September **16**

Fall into Reading
LLU Children's Hospital

Wednesday,
October **9**

Dishes for Wishes
Korean SDA Church
Loma Linda

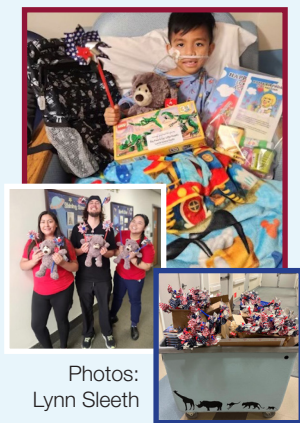
November – December

Trees of Hope Campaign
Mail & Online
lluch.org/toh

Monday,
December **2**

Gingerbread Houses
LLU Children's Hospital

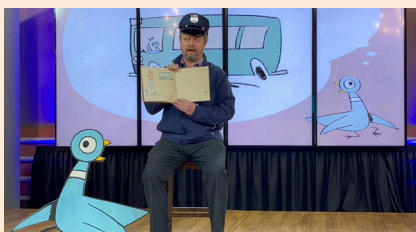
Fourth of July Bursts with Joy



Photos: Lynn Sleeth

Beginning a new tradition, in 2023 the guild celebrated Independence Day for the first time with the pediatric patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Volunteers prepared age-appropriate diversionary packets for each child, including a small American flag pinwheel, LEGO® sets, along with a book and stuffed animal. Members of the Child Life staff distributed the goodies—to the children's surprise and delight!

Storytime Production Update



Photos: BHLH

The Storytime production crew have been busy filming and adding more books to the production catalog as well as finding even more creative ways to make the sets even more dynamic and entertaining for the children watching from the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital units.

Darrell Mundall read the picture-book classic, *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus* written and illustrated by Mo Willems. Diane Adams read, *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, by Philip C. Stead, David Elliott's *This ORQ (He Cave Boy.)*, *The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds, and Max Lucado's *Where'd My Giggles Go*.

We will look forward to recording additional productions in spring 2024. Many thanks to Julie Cutler and Jeni Smith for their hair, makeup and wardrobe creativity and to LLBN and their incredible staff and studio facilities. —Caryl Clover-Shelby

Quicktakes:

An "Appetizing" Dishes for Wishes

- October 11 event held at the Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Loma Linda attracted more than 300 attendees, with mistress of ceremonies Martha Green-Garrett
- The evening kicked off with a social and shopping hour, featuring local vendors offering giftable wares ranging from artwork, kitchen gadgets, artisan treats, and holiday decor, while local musical group "Swingstreet" played big band and jazz favorites
- Attendees tasted 22 savory and sweet bites for home entertaining, with recipe cards provided to wow guests at their own parties
- Donald Moores, MD, Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, shared the patient story of Veer Jaine's miraculous recovery from a near drowning
- Nurses from Loma Linda University Children's Hospital volunteered as the Kitchen Crew, trading in their scrubs for aprons to cook and prep the appetizers for service
- More than 30 uniformed San Bernardino County sheriffs and Riverside police officers, along with a United States Army captain, served guests, assisted with the live auction, and earned more than **\$2,300** in tips added to the evening's proceeds
- Teen Challenge members from Benedict Castle in Riverside enthusiastically greeted attendees, bussed tables, and cleaned up after the event
- **\$78,000** raised for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
- Proceeds purchased an endoscopic lens for the LLU Children's Hospital's Da Vinci surgical robot (**\$25,000**)

• Thank you to the event's generous sponsors, with special appreciation for our presenting sponsor, Emerson Fine Jewelry



Photos: Jason Watkins

H O L I D A Y S P A R K L E

The **Trees of Hope** campaign was adopted by the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild in 2000, as one of the guild's first—and most enduring—projects. Designed as a fundraiser for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, the trees also provide a focal point of beauty, peace, and hope in the hospital lobby during the Christmas season.

Every fall, the guild mails out invitations to former patients, donors, guild members, and others, inviting them to make a donation to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and to place angels on the trees.

The gift amount determines the type of angel placed on the tree and donors have the option to tag the angel in honor or memory of someone special. The angels are hung on the trees throughout the month of December. If requested by the donor, the angel will be sent to the person of their choice in January.

The festive project has proven to be a grand success, with the number of trees needed to hold all the angels increasing through the years—in 2023, we decorated four trees with angels!

The guild is delighted to share that since 2000, nearly **\$500,000** has been donated to the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital through the Trees of Hope campaign—thank you from our hearts to yours.

—Dixie Watkins

Trees of Hope: A Brief History



Photos: Dixie Watkins

Lifetime Members

We LOVE our lifetime members!

- Diane Adams • Leigh Anderson
- Gary Brown • Bev Ching
- Melissa Chun, DDS
- Julie & Tom Cutler • Jacqueline Davis
- Marcia & Richard Dunbar
- Evelyn Gusseck • Cynthia Johnson
- Melissa & Pete Koss
- Debra Meadows, DDS
- Laurel Munson Boss, MD
- Joyce & Phillip Reiswig, MD
- Julia "Judy" Rogers
- Joyce & Neal Waner
- Ai-Mae & Barry Watkins, MDs

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Caryl & Kirk Shelby

Considering lifetime membership?
Contact Jill: (909) 651-9849

HYGIENE KITS

Since first rolling out in December 2022, the hygiene kits for teen patients have become a much-appreciated outreach program provided by the Loma Linda Guild—so many of the older pediatric patients arrive without personal care items.

In December, guild board members Laurie Boss and Leigh Anderson put together 50 Christmas-themed kits to bring our hospitalized teens smiles and courage.



Building Hope Out of Gingerbread



The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild organized its yearly gingerbread house event on Monday, December 4, 2023, with event chair Sandi Herrmann overseeing preparations. Child Life Specialists distributed the kits, along with a book and stuffed animal, to age-appropriate patients, aiming to bring holiday cheer to the hospital-bound recipients.

We extend a big thank you to Costco in San Bernardino and Walmart Neighborhood Market in Loma Linda, who donated a total of 120 gingerbread house kits.



Photos: Linda Ha/LLU Health Publicity & BHLH

Visit the [membership webpage](#) to join the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild or renew your membership. You'll also find info about upcoming activities where you can share your big heart!