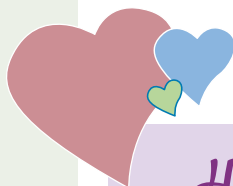


Big Hearts for Little Hearts Newsletter

BIG HEARTS FOR LITTLE HEARTS NEWSLETTER, LOMA LINDA GUILD
JANUARY – JUNE 2024



A Note from the Presidents

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild began 2024 with our annual **Membership Campaign** to welcome new and old members to the guild, our **Loving Hearts Loving You Valentine's Day** party sponsored by **The Painted Turtle** organization, our annual **LEGO® Love Fundraising Campaign** to purchase LEGO® sets for each child admitted to the hospital, **Storytime** filming sessions and our annual **Spring into Reading** event.

For the second year, we held our **Family Fun Day** at the beautiful Burrage Mansion featuring many fun activities for children and their families.

We concluded the first half of 2024 with **Luke's Birthday Bash**, complete with Storm Trooper characters who visited the children on the units bringing much joy to the patients.

We also said goodbye to one of the guild's finest members, **Sandi Herrmann**, who was honored with an afternoon tea to thank her for chairing our annual **Gingerbread House** event and her many other contributions.

The guild continues our **Lifetime Membership** category available for a \$10,000 donation. If you donate frequently or have considered making a large donation to the Guild, this may be an attractive option for you. Please contact **Jill Green** for more information.

Lastly, we cannot do any of this without your support and generosity and we gratefully thank you!

With gratitude for your big hearts,

Evelyn & Lynn

Heartfelt Farewell: Sandi Herrmann

Photo: BHLH



After more than 10 dedicated years of service, **Sandi Herrmann** resigned in February 2024 from the Big Hearts Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild to spend more time with her husband, Don, and family.

Sandi has been an invaluable member of our board contributing her time and talents as our Gingerbread House event chair, a committee member for Carols in the Lobby, her outreach with the LLUCH Pediatric

Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic as well as a passionate supporter of many other BHLH events.

We are incredibly grateful for the legacy of service she provided to our guild, truly demonstrating a very BIG HEART for all the little hearts we support. A beautiful afternoon tea was held at Leigh Anderson's home to honor and say farewell to Sandi. God bless you, Sandi—you are greatly missed! — *Evelyn Gussek*

A New Twist on the Membership Campaign

This year, instead of hosting a Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild membership luncheon, we organized a virtual "non-event" campaign. Jill Green and the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation marketing team created an exceptional mailer suite for the campaign, which was sent to approximately 2,500 recipients.

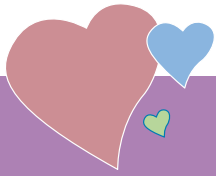
Each mailer included a BHLH Loma Linda Guild membership brochure outlining our mission statement, membership opportunities, and benefits of becoming a member. Additionally, we included our 2023 newsletter highlighting the guild's activities and milestones throughout the year. To add a personal touch, a single packet of herbal tea was enclosed with an invitation to sit down, enjoy the tea, and consider participating in BHLH.

On March 4, several BHLH board members assisted me, in my newly appointed role as membership chair, in assembling the mailer suites. The thoughtful and engaging approach aimed to reach potential members in a meaningful way and encourage their involvement in our guild.

The campaign generated a positive response, with returning and new members donating more than \$7,500 in membership dues. — *Lisa Carlson*



Photo: Dixie Watkins



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 House Chair: Dianne Anderson

Pediatric Oncology Outpatient Clinic Liaison: OPEN

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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 [facebook.com/bhlhlomalinda](https://www.facebook.com/bhlhlomalinda)

 [bhlhlomalinda](https://www.instagram.com/bhlhlomalinda)

Making More Friends @ 2nd Annual Family Fun Day



The **2nd Annual Family Fun Day** at the Burrage Mansion in Redlands was a resounding success, thanks to the efforts of numerous contributors. More than 500 families joined the festivities on April 28 amidst the Burrage Mansion's picturesque 19-acre grounds.

Activities ranged from face painting, outdoor games, therapy dogs, bubble making, Ga-ga Pit, Mansion Memories, and storytelling to indulging in delicious fare from In-N-Out and Happy Camper Creamery. Participants also enjoyed First Tee Golf, target practice, gardening, and more.

The event owed much of its success to dedicated volunteers from the Redlands Police and Fire Departments, Citrus Valley High School, YMCA Circus, Smiley Library, Optimist Club of Redlands, Boys and Girls Club as well as supportive family and friends.

Our most sincere gratitude goes out to **Tim and Carol Rochford** for allowing the Loma Linda Guild to host this community event on their property. The day was marked by countless smiles and memorable moments, setting the stage for another fantastic gathering next year. — **Joyce Waner & Jill Green**

Photos: Barry Watkins



Do you know someone interested in becoming a BHLH Loma Linda Guild member? Share this newsletter—and encourage them to visit our membership website for more information:

lluch.org/llgmembership

Upcoming Events

Activities Calendar

Monday, September 16

Fall into Reading
LLU Children's Hospital

Wednesday, October 9

Dishes for Wishes
Korean SDA Church, Loma Linda

November & December

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

Monday, December 2

Gingerbread Houses
LLU Children's Hospital

COMING UP IN 2025

Wednesday, February 5

Membership Luncheon

May (date TBD)

Family Fun Day
Burrage Mansion, Redlands

A SWEET VALENTINE'S DAY



On Valentine's Day 2024, BHLH members prepared more than 150 goody bags filled with crayons, coloring books, crafts as well as other fun Valentine-themed activities.

This year marked the fifth year of partnership with **The Painted Turtle** organization, founded by the late actor

Paul Newman, who generously donated items for the goody bags. We greatly appreciate their support and participation in our annual "Loving Hearts Loving You" event.



Along with the gift bags distributed by the Child Life specialists, each patient received packets lovingly prepared by first-grade students at Loma Linda Academy Elementary School. What a memorable and sweet day!

— **Evelyn Gusseck**

The 501st Legion Returns to Celebrate Luke the Lion

Photo: Loma Linda University Health



In celebration of **Luke**, the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild's mascot, three stormtroopers, two scout troopers and one sky pilot from the **501st Legion's Inland Empire Squad** paid a visit to 135 children at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. The Star Wars characters shared happy smiles with the children as they handed out flashing light sabers along with a backpack and a bag full of goodies and a plush toy version of Birthday Boy Luke—the Lion, not Skywalker!

Child Life super stars led the volunteer "battalion" as they visited each room. As one of the Storm Troopers stated, "It was such a great day! You just can't beat being able to see the smiles on the faces of these kids and realize how much their smile is worth. Being able to help them have even a little "fun" in spite of all the tubes and pic lines is worth every minute spent with them!" — **Lynn Sleeth**

LEGO® Love and Eats 'n Sweets Campaigns Share Common Cause



Photo: Dorothy Brooks

The **LEGO® Love** campaign has certainly made a meaningful impact since its inception in 2020 with over 260 donors enabling the purchase of over 1,500 LEGO® sets. It's heartwarming to see the community coming together to support the children at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

This year we moved the campaign emphasis to the spring season but we need your ongoing support to continue our commitment to spreading joy throughout the year. It's impressive how even with a smaller number of donors this year, the campaign has still managed to secure funds and generous support from **Starlight Children's Foundation** and local service clubs including the **Kiwanis Club of Redlands** and **Yucaipa Valley Kiwanis**. Every donation counts—

it's wonderful to see the dedication to keeping the LEGO® sets flowing to children in the hospital, not to mention inspiring to see the impact that a simple toy like LEGO® can have on children facing medical challenges.

Eats 'n Sweets made its debut during the holidays of 2021 when **Martha Green's The Eating Room** partnered with Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild to offer patrons the chance to contribute toward the young patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Donors receive seasonal cards to place on Martha's wall of givers providing a visual testament to the power of a community coming together for a cause greater than themselves—one sweet gesture at a time.

For those interested in joining these meaningful causes, donating through lluch.org/LEGOLove or adding a donation to your meal at "The Eating Room" ensures the smiles continue to brighten the days of these young patients. — **Penny Moores**

Nancy B. Varner Lifetime Achievement Award

Eloise Habekost & Dixie Watkins Honored at the LLU Children's Hospital Foundation Gala



Photo: LLU Children's Hospital Foundation

This year marks the **25th anniversary** of **Big Hearts for Little Hearts!** Since its establishment in 1999, the Big Hearts for Little Hearts guilds have made a significant impact. With three chapters—Desert, Loma Linda, and Riverside—boasting more than 40 board members and 365 annual members, these guilds have united communities throughout the Inland Empire and Coachella Valley, raising more than \$13 million for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

Three ladies with very big hearts—**Eloise Habekost**, **Nancy Varner**, and **Dixie Watkins**—founded the guilds with a clear mission: to enhance the experiences of young patients at the hospital.

The guilds aim to bring joy to these children by organizing patient diversionary activities and fundraising to improve medical services. The Gingerbread Village, Teddy Bear events, arts and crafts sessions, and reading and storytime programs offer uplifting experiences for those undergoing medical treatment.

Dixie and Eloise epitomize the dedicated spirit of fundraising volunteers, affectionately referring to themselves as "shameless beggars." Their efforts

extend beyond their own contributions, as they actively recruit friends and family to support the cause, providing crucial funds to further the hospital's mission of providing quality care to children in need.

Through their commitment, compassion, and innovative fundraising endeavors, the Big Hearts for Little Hearts guilds continue to make a positive impact on the lives of the children and families served by Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

Congratulations to both Dixie and Eloise on achieving this honorable and prestigious award! — **Evelyn Gusseck**

Spring into Reading Quacks with Joy



Spring into Reading rolled out this year on April 15. To prepare for the day, BHLH board members and volunteers assembled 170 goodie bags for patients, including reading-themed items along with a craft, stickers, book marks, a puzzle, an age-appropriate book, and a plush toy yellow duck (the duck was so soft and huggable even the adults sneaked in a snuggle or two).



Photos: BHLH

Thank you to BHLH co-president Evelyn Gusseck, along with volunteers Martha Keough and Carole White, who helped assemble the goodie bags. — **Elaine Mavis**

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 Green: (909) 651-9849