

# Big Hearts for Little Hearts Newsletter

BIG HEARTS FOR LITTLE HEARTS, LOMA LINDA GUILD  
JULY – DECEMBER 2024



## Remembering Lynn



It is with a heavy heart that I announce the loss in September of long-time guild member, cherished friend, and my beloved co-president, Lynn Sleeth. Lynn's contributions to our guild are immeasurable and greatly appreciated.

Lynn served as a member of our Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild for over 10 years—initially joining as the education liaison. Having been an educator, teacher of special-needs children, and principal of Redlands Adventist Academy, she was the perfect person to select and purchase books to distribute to the children at the hospital, and she delighted in finding the most appropriate books for each age level.

She first served as guild president from 2016 to 2018. When Dixie Watkins suggested Lynn and I serve as co-presidents of the Loma Linda Guild starting in 2022, that turned out to be a great match, and Lynn and I worked very well together as a team. Lynn was not only my co-president, she was also my dear friend.

Throughout the years, Lynn served as membership chair as well as the chair of the very successful annual Luke's Birthday Bash—and for the past two years she spearheaded the 4th of July Celebration to fill the gap during the summer months.



Lynn with daughter Rhonda and the 501st Battalion at Luke's Birthday Bash, 2024

The creative energy, inspired ideas, and positivity Lynn exuded was inspirational to all of us. We could always count on Lynn to assist whenever and wherever she was needed—she lived her entire life wanting to lift others up and teaching others that all things are possible with God.

I would be remiss in not mentioning Lynn's flair for dressing with class and style, always wearing the most vibrant colors that accentuated her pretty blonde hair.

Lynn has been an invaluable member of our board and it is hard to imagine life without her. We are so very grateful for the legacy of service she provided truly demonstrating her BIG HEART.

Lynn, we are going to miss your bright, beautiful, beaming smile!

*Evelyn*



## Lighting Up the 4th of July



Photos: BHLH



Our beloved guild co-president Lynn Sleeth ensured young patients receiving care at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital over the the 4th of July holiday could celebrate Independence Day with a goody bag of crafts and fun items, a huggable plush animal, and a stars and stripes pinwheel!

Thank you to the hospital's wonderful Child

Life team for delivering the goodies with big smiles, love and a contagious patriotic spirit. —*Evelyn Gusseck*

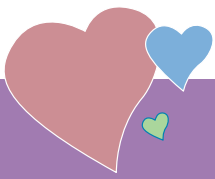
## BHLH Joins Redlands Chamber of Commerce

Directly following the monthly board meeting in August, our Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild was inducted into the Redlands Chamber of Commerce.



Photo: BHLH

The commemorative ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by guild members, chamber members, city officials, and local political representatives. Dixie Watkins shared with the attendees the guild's mission and events throughout the year. Exclusive membership in the chamber will open doors to increased visibility, expand networking and growth opportunities, and provide access to valuable resources within the local community. Congratulations, BHLH! —*Evelyn Gusseck*



## 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 & Laurel Munson Boss

Trees of Hope Chair: Dixie Watkins

Gingerbread Village Chair: Dianne Anderson

Pediatric Oncology Outpatient Clinic

Liaison: Dianne Anderson

Storytime A/V Production Co-Chairs:

Caryl Clover Shelby & Diane Adams

Social Media: Heather Burton

Newsletter: Kara Watkins

Guilds Coordinator: Jill Green

### Contact Information

BHLH Loma Linda Guild

P.O. Box 964 • Loma Linda, CA 92354

(909) 651-9849 phone

[bhlh@llu.edu](mailto:bhlh@llu.edu) • [lluch.org/guilds](http://lluch.org/guilds)

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

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

## FALL ACTIVITIES

### Good Books, Good Fun, and Huggable Bears



Our annual Fall Into Reading event was held on September 16, 2024. Volunteers assembled 117 goodie bags according to the different ages. Each bag contained age appropriate items such as crayons, activity book, toy, craft, stickers, and more. Each young patient at LLU Children's Hospital also received a book and a lovable, huggable plush teddy bear. Many thanks to the Child Life team, who hand delivered the goodie bags, books and teddy bears. —**Sandy McCoy**

### Local Girl Scouts Prep Hygiene Kits



Redlands Girl Scout Troop 1249 donated a very generous gift of hygiene kits for the teen population at LLU Children's Hospital. Scout Troop Leader Allyson MacDougall shared that her scouts loved assembling the kits of assorted toiletries, combs, tissue packs, and even a handwritten note of encouragement.

While on a sleepover at Allyson's home, the scouts assembled the kits and had fun "hanging" with each other.

We so appreciate this generous donation and outreach to the children's hospital—and we know the teen patients do too.

—**Evelyn Gusseck**

### BHLH Board Tours Renovated Peds Cancer Unit



In November board members were invited to tour the "refreshed" Pediatric Cancer Unit 4800 at LLU Children's Hospital, led by Scarlett Czarnecki, Director, Patient Care – Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Director, Child Life Department.

Many of the patients stay as long as six months to a year, and the hospital becomes their "home away from home." The original decor dated from the 1990s, with an aging floor and lackluster, difficult-to-clean porous wooden tables and cabinets.

With Scarlett's vision guiding renovations that began in last spring, the refreshed unit features new, modern materials, child-friendly furniture, and even sinks that pop with color, including a purple, curved pathway on the floors. The children's playroom also received an update.

Thank you to Scarlett for providing a tour of the sparkly new unit! —**Evelyn Gusseck**

Photos: BHLH and Allyson MacDougall



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](http://lluch.org/llgmembership)



Upcoming Events

Activities Calendar

Wednesday, February 5

Membership Luncheon  
Redlands SDA Church Auditorium  
lluch.org/llgmembership

Friday, February 14

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

March

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

Thursday, April 3

LLU Children's Hospital  
Foundation Gala  
Riverside Convention Center

Monday, April 21

Spring into Reading  
LLU Children's Hospital

Monday, June 9

Luke's Birthday Party  
LLU Children's Hospital

Wednesday, October 1

Dishes for Wishes  
Korean SDA Church, Loma Linda

Au Revoir to Jill Green

Jill's recent resignation as Guilds Coordinator to prioritize her family is a significant loss and we will miss the many contributions she has made in the nearly two years she spent with us.

We love you, Jill, and find it very hard to say goodbye. You blessed us with your beautiful spirit in every activity that you touched. Our heartfelt gratitude to you, Jill!



Happy Trails, Cheryl!



Photo: BHLH

Due to a recent move to Texas, Cheryl Fallon has resigned from the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild Board. She served BHLH faithfully from 2014 until 2024, and was an integral part of the 5K Fun Run event at the Burrage Mansion in Redlands, chairing the event for two years. Cheryl then became involved in the Dishes for Wishes event in 2019, as co-chair of the event in 2019 and 2022 and as cooking co-chair for the event in 2023.

Cheryl was active in outreach to service organizations to obtain contributions for the LEGO® Love project and other events to benefit the patients at Loma Linda University Childrens Hospital.

We are extremely appreciative of the energy, hard work, leadership, and ideas that Cheryl contributed as a member.

—Laurel Munson Boss

Dishes for Wishes Cruises through the Kitchen



- Held on October 6, 2024, the annual event welcomed aboard more than 300 attendees for a culinary adventure at the Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Loma Linda.
- Our intrepid captain Martha Green guided guests through a menu of favorite dishes, inspired by her recent round-the-world cruise.
- Mark Reeves, MD, PhD, Director of the Cancer Center at Loma Linda University Health, shared the latest treatment breakthroughs.
- Cancer survivor Ruben Andrade spoke about his cancer journey and

remission thanks to an innovative immunotherapy treatment received at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

- 32 law enforcement officers earned more than \$1,500 in tips.
- Volunteer ship's stewards from the Teen Challenge program at Benedict Castle in Riverside provided first-class service and logistical support.
- The event raised more than \$90,000. Proceeds made it possible for the Loma Linda Guild to donate \$100,000 to fund pediatric cancer research, via the Stronger Together campaign.



Photos: Barry Watkins

# H O L I D A Y   S P A R K L E

## Trees of Hope Take Center Stage in New Hospital

The guild's annual Trees of Hope—displayed in a prominent spot in the lobby of Loma Linda University Health's Dennis & Carol Troesh Medical Campus—brought in more than \$31,000 over the Christmas holiday season.

Joyce Waner coordinated the stunning blue and white-themed decorations that perfectly accented the trees, with Julie Cutler, Jeni Smith, Dianne Anderson, Lisa Carlson, and Caryl Clover Shelby assisting.

Running continuously for nearly 30 years, the annual fundraising has grown from one tree to four trees. This year, donors purchased more than 120 angels as gifts, in honor, or memory of recipients.

The festive display also featured a group of Victorian carolers and a life-sized nativity scene.

—Dixie Watkins



Photos: Evelyn Gusseck and Dixie Watkins

## Gingerbread, Frosting and Joy

A fabulous children's event took place at Loma Linda Children's Hospital on December 3, when the faces of 150 children beamed with joy as they eagerly decorated gingerbread houses in celebration of the Christmas season.

Thank you to Colton Wal-Mart and San Bernardino Costco, who generously donated the gingerbread house kits. Each patient also received an age-appropriate book and a plush animal toy.

Special thanks to Dorothy Brooks and the Child Life team for coordinating the distribution of these items, and a heartfelt thank you goes out to the many selfless volunteers who made this event a success. —Dianne Anderson



## Lifetime Members

We **LOVE** our lifetime members!

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

**HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS**  
Caryl & Kirk Shelby • Lynn Sleeth

Considering lifetime membership?  
Contact Penny: (909) 709-2061