A Passion for Philanthropy

Newlyweds Maria Constantino-Roelandts and Wim Roelandts share more than a passion for each other. They are both passionate about philanthropy.

Wim absorbed the culture of corporate giving during his many years as an engineer at Hewlett Packard and established a charitable foundation at Xilinx soon after he was named CEO in 1996. “As a company you must be an asset to the society in which you do business,” says the Belgian-born high tech pioneer, whose corporation’s programmable chips are used in medical equipment such as the da Vinci robot and imaging machines.

Maria became a committed volunteer after attending Cal Poly, when she embarked on a career as a stewardess for United Airlines. She began to donate her time during the 15 days each month she was grounded and soon met noted San Francisco philanthropist Pari Livermore, who became her mentor. She and Pari are currently collaborating on a new project, a television series called “Everyday Angels” that highlights inspirational people in the community.

Maria met Wim when she changed careers and moved into the high tech industry. “Maria has a very big heart and a tremendous amount of compassion,” proudly declares Wim. “I find the projects and together we make philanthropic decisions,” his wife explains.

El Camino Hospital is the latest cause Maria has brought to Wim’s attention. The couple is excited about the new hospital campus, particularly the Cancer Center. “El Camino Hospital’s creative, innovative approach caught my eye,” says Wim, whose mother died of breast cancer. The Roelandts are impressed by the idea of
A Passion for Philanthropy

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the Cancer Center as a “one stop shop” for patients, staffed by a network of experts and filled with state-of-the-art equipment underwritten by donations to the Foundation. “If you have to go through cancer, El Camino Hospital is the best place to be,” echoes Maria, whose closest friend was a cancer patient at ECH. “When you are sick you shouldn’t have to worry about the logistics.”

Maria and Wim, who live in Los Altos, believe strongly in helping their own community. “If you are one of the lucky ones who has the good life you should give some of that back to society to help those less fortunate than you, because a lot of your success is due to luck,” explains Wim. And it is best to give locally because “you can ensure that your money is well spent and not wasted.”

As part of their commitment to support worthy local causes, Maria and Wim recently made a generous leadership gift to El Camino Hospital Foundation’s Imagine Campaign. Maria is also donating her time as a volunteer on the gala executive committee. “Why shouldn’t we support El Camino Hospital?” rhetorically asks Maria. “Because we live in this society and we should have the best hospital for everyone who lives here,” answers Wim. Besides, they agree, “It just feels good to give back.”

South Asian Heart Center Holds High-Profile Symposium

El Camino Hospital’s pioneering South Asian Heart Center held a well-received symposium for physicians and health care professionals at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose on September 8. More than 250 physicians and health care professionals attended the informative presentation, where they heard from nationally renowned cardiologists, lipidologists and research scientists.

A distinguished panel of El Camino Hospital heart specialists, including Dr. Dominick Curatola, Dr. James Joye, Dr. Chad Rammohan, Dr. Neal Scott and conference chair Dr. Cesar Molina, participated in several case discussions.

The South Asian Heart Center’s research chair, Dr. Mintu Turakhia, who is a cardiologist, electrophysiologist and epidemiologist at the University of California San Francisco, presented much-anticipated data gleaned from the 800 patients who have been screened during the first 17 months of the Center’s operation. The data revealed high rates of coronary artery disease in the South Asian population: 15% of the men and 9% of the women already had the metabolic syndrome and an alarming 29% of men and 16% of women were well on their way toward developing it.

“It is unequivocally clear that risk stratification and treatment of the Bay Area South Asian population is an unmet clinical need,” Dr. Turakhia concluded. Thanks to strong philanthropic support for the South Asian Heart Center in the community, this need is finally being addressed.
Imagine all we can do together.
The Campaign for El Camino Hospital

An Update from
Norma J. Melchor, Campaign Chair, and
William A. Reeves, M.D., Campaign Co-Chair

We always knew El Camino Hospital was ahead of the curve, and the cover story of the fall 2007 issue of Health Care’s Most Wired magazine confirms our impression. Entitled “A New Day at El Camino” the magazine touts the hospital for its pioneering adoption of technology as early as 1971 and describes the institution’s ongoing quest to harness the latest technical advances in order to continually improve patient care.

Technology will play a significantly increased role in the new hospital with such acquisitions as the da Vinci S HD surgical robot and the implementation of new projects that will further automate the storage and retrieval of critical data across the campus. It will be an important component of innovation at the Fogarty Institute, which opened this summer. In fact, technology is so important that its role will be highlighted at El Camino Hospital Foundation’s upcoming gala, “Spotlight on Our Future,” which will be held at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View on April 5, 2008. Save the date and reserve your spot for this spectacular black tie event!

On other fronts, El Camino Hospital Foundation is closing the year with a burst of energy. Fresh on the heels of the successful October 1 golf tournament, Foundation staff immediately launched an exciting Employee Giving Campaign, netting more than $135,000 from nearly 600 employees in support of the many programs that directly benefit their patients. The women of Hope to Health are meeting to review grant proposals for programs that benefit women in our community before determining how to disburse the money they have raised this year. And the Foundation continues to conduct wonderful tours of the new hospital campus for the leaders of our community.

All of these efforts are bearing fruit and we are pleased to report that as of June 30, 2007, three years since its inception, the Imagine Campaign has raised $20,623,441 toward our five-year, $25 million goal. We are forging new partnerships in the community and attracting new supporters like Maria and Wim Roelandts, whose generosity is featured in this issue of the newsletter.

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do on behalf of El Camino Hospital and the Foundation. We wish you and your family all the best for the new year.

Norma Melchor

William Reeves, M.D.
Glorious weather blessed the 12th annual El Camino Heritage Golf tournament, which took place on Monday, October 1 at The Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay and Half Moon Bay Golf Links. The sunny skies, cool breeze and two beautiful courses created a perfect day for the 208 golfers who took to the ocean-side links in support of El Camino Hospital’s community outreach medical programs.

In total, more than 300 people, including golfers, bocce ball players, spa guests, and volunteers, attended the all-day event, which had a nautical theme complete with pirate costumes, a mermaid on a seahorse, treasure chests, and ocean décor. Foundation founder Jack Melchor and hospital CEO Ken Graham donned pirate hats and manned the traveling drink cart as it traversed the course, slaking the thirst of the hard-hitting golfers. Nearly 50 women luxuriated in the spa while 20 contestants tried their hand at bocce ball on the beautiful gazebo lawn overlooking the ocean. An army of volunteers, coordinated by Auxiliary veterans Lillian Hansen and Maggie Patch, staffed the contests on the course and performed a myriad of other critical tasks both large and small.

The fabulous event commenced for early arrivals with a “Hot Havana Nights” dinner on Sunday night. Guests were treated to Cuban food and salsa dancing lessons at Mullins Bar and Grill. Tournament festivities culminated with an elegant celebration dinner and live auction in the Ritz ballroom on Monday night. Auctioneer Dave Reynolds riveted the crowd as they bid spiritedly for such as items as cases of wine, an overnight stay at the Post Ranch Inn, an electric guitar autographed by the Grammy-award winning pop band Maroon 5, dinner at the CEO’s house, box seats to a Sharks game and a variety of trips.

The golf tournament netted nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the RotaCare Clinic, the Immunization program, and the Health Library and Resource Center, three programs that depend on philanthropy in order to provide their vital health services to those who would otherwise go without.
Volunteer Coordinators Maggie Patch and Lillian Hansen were proud recipients of the Susan A. Reimers Memorial Golf Leadership Award.

Golf Tournament volunteers (l-r) Mary Sgroi, Doris Maples and Ruth Kaiser.
El Camino Hospital Foundation is shining a spotlight on the future at its next gala, Saturday evening April 5 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View. Save the date!

An executive committee of 22 women co-chaired by Valerie Curatola and Betsy Dawes is already busy planning every detail from the food to the décor. The evening’s musical entertainment will be provided by renowned Italian singer Pasquale Esposito, whose angelic voice and soulful crooning is sure to romance the crowd.

Watch for more gala information, which will arrive in your mail soon. Please plan to join us at this elegant benefit for the El Camino Hospital Foundation.
Take a Tour

El Camino Hospital Foundation continues to conduct VIP tours of the new hospital campus once a month. The informative jaunts are an excellent way to stay apprised of construction progress and to learn first-hand from prominent physicians about the exciting new health care programs El Camino Hospital is developing to house in the new building. They also provide a rare opportunity for a personal meeting with CEO Ken Graham and other important hospital administrators.

Each tour focuses on a particular hospital department. The new Heart and Vascular Institute and recently opened Cancer Center are the most frequent destinations. Future excursions may focus on the Emergency Department, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Maternity Department. For most attendees, however, the true highlight of the day is a tour of the construction site led by Ken King, El Camino Hospital’s VP of Facilities.

“I encourage every community leader to take a tour,” says Lindsay Greensweig, El Camino Hospital Foundation’s director of major giving. “Please tell your friends about this exciting opportunity to be informed and get involved. I would be happy to arrange an outing for your group.” For more information, contact her at lindsay_greensweig@elcaminohospital.org or 650.988.7849.

Foundation Board Honors Outgoing Chair at Annual Dinner

The El Camino Hospital Foundation Board of Directors honored outgoing chair Pauline Nist during the annual board dinner at the Los Altos Golf and Country Club on November 1. Pauline, who has served on the board since 2002, worked tirelessly on behalf of the Foundation during her term, attending every fundraising event and regularly representing the Foundation at hospital board meetings.

She has been particularly supportive of the RotaCare Clinic and is an active founding member of H2H, the women’s philanthropy group. The board benefited greatly from Pauline’s enormous business acumen and deep knowledge of Silicon Valley, gained from long professional experience as an executive in the high tech industry.

Pauline will be succeeded by Phyllis Dorricott, who assumes the board chairmanship in January. Seven new members, who were elected at the November 1 meeting, will join the board at that time.
Fogarty Institute for Innovation Celebrates Grand Opening

The Fogarty Institute for Innovation was jam-packed with physicians, engineers, community leaders and admirers, not to mention cutting-edge medical technology, on Tuesday evening, September 25 for the celebration of the new establishment’s grand opening.

Jon Friedenberg, the Institute’s chief executive officer, proudly welcomed the assembled guests and paid tribute to its founder Dr. Thomas Fogarty, world-renowned “medical innovator extraordinaire.” The purpose of the new organization, he explained, is to create a nurturing environment, free of the frustrating bureaucracy of academic medical centers, where physicians and engineers can collaborate on new medical technologies, form partnerships with local companies, and get their discoveries into production as early as possible to directly benefit patients.

Guests were treated to displays and explanations of many impressive medical innovations currently under development here in Silicon Valley including flexible laparoscopic instruments, blood clot filters, high-intensity focused ultrasound, and Boston Scientific’s Polarcath peripheral dilation system, among others. Wine from the Fogarty vineyard flowed and delicious hors d’oeuvre were served.

Other speakers that evening included Dr. Dominick Curatola, director of El Camino Hospital’s new Heart and Vascular Institute, Brad Vale, a representative from industry, and Gary Kalbach, founder of Eldorado Ventures and chair of the Fogarty Institute’s board of directors. All paid homage to Dr. Fogarty and the pioneering role he has played as a medical innovator. They also expressed tremendous excitement about the scientific talent the new institute will attract, the enormous potential benefit it holds for El Camino Hospital’s patients, and the extra boost it will provide to the hospital’s already outstanding reputation. They invited the audience to participate in the new venture with their philanthropic support, upon which, they noted, its success will ultimately depend.