



Marian Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

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Marian Earns Esteemed Recognition as Champion of the Community

Marian Medical Center will receive the Champion of the Community Award from California Parks and Recreation Society at the 2010 District 8 Awards & Installation Banquet, Friday, March 26, in Camarillo

SANTA MARIA, CA – (March 25, 2010) The California Parks and Recreation Society has deemed Marian Medical Center the Champion of the Community Award winner for 2010.

The Champion of the Community Award is granted to individuals, agencies, community organizations, foundations, businesses or educational institutions for outstanding public service in the support of “Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs.” Marian was selected based upon the hospital’s significant and continuing efforts to influence and improve the quality community life through parks, recreation and community service.

The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department nominated Marian Medical Center for the 2010 Champion of the Community Award due to Marian’s exceptional dedication to health and wellness programs that serve the Santa Maria Valley. Marian Medical Center remains committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate, affordable health services, serving and advocating for the poor and disenfranchised, and partnering with other local programs to positively impact the community.

“It is an honor for Marian to be receiving the Champion of the Community Award from the California Parks and Recreation Society,” Sandy Underwood, Senior Community Benefit Coordinator, Marian Medical Center, said. “Marian Medical Center is committed to serving the health needs of our community with particular attention to the needs of the economically disadvantaged members of our community. Improving access to healthcare and providing health education and resources are a high priority for Marian Medical Center.”

The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department specifically nominated Marian for the hospital’s increased involvement with numerous community programs and services offered. Below the various Marian community programs and services are listed:

- Increased involvement with the City of Santa Maria's Families for the First Decade Project. Marian worked collaboratively on one of the project's subcommittees to effect positive change within the community.
- Formation of the Healthy for Life Nutrition Workshop Series which was developed by Marian with a mission is to promote healthy nutrition and physical activity. This ongoing four-week lecture series utilizes a vast array of recreation programs, parks and facilities maintained by the Santa Maria City Recreation and Parks Department. The Healthy for Life Nutrition Workshop Series provides nutrition and exercise classes in both English and Spanish free of charge to the public.
- Each year, Catholic Healthcare West (CHW)/Marian Medical Center offers CHW Community Grants to local community organizations that work to improve the quality of life for communities served. In January of 2010, Marian Medical Center named six local nonprofit organizations as the recipients of the 2009 CHW Community Grants awards which totaled more than \$76,000.
- Marian Medical Center's Osteoporosis Center offers an exercise instruction class dedicated to fall prevention, balance training and weight bearing exercises. The free exercise class for senior citizens takes place at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center in Santa Maria. This innovative and informative learning experience promotes strong bone health and has received such successful community participation that it has been moved into a larger classroom to accommodate the growing number of participants.

Marian Medical Center, in addition to the other 2010 Annual Awards California Parks and Recreation Society District 8 recipients, will accept the Champion of the Community Award at an awards dinner on **Friday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley Street, Camarillo.** For more information about Marian's recognition as the 2010 Champion of the Community Award winner, please call Marian Communications at (805) 739-3580.

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About Marian Medical Center

Located in Santa Maria, California, Marian Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital founded by the Sisters of Saint Francis in 1940. Our team of 1,300 employees and more than 260 physicians work daily to extend the mission of providing compassionate, high quality health care services to the Santa Maria Valley and surrounding communities. Marian Medical Center is a member of Catholic Healthcare West, the largest Catholic healthcare system based in the Western United States with 40 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. For more information about Marian Medical Center or Catholic Healthcare West, visit our website at www.marianmedicalcenter.org.