

# OCTOBER 2021 Hot Topics

## Cancer Support

Patients can find relief from the stressful financial burden of a cancer diagnosis through our assistance with gas and groceries, free screenings, and support groups.

## Meet Kathleen Sullivan, PhD, RN

**Where did you grow up?** Ventura. Seventh generation in Santa Barbara County!

**What is your position at our hospital?** Vice President, Post Acute and Cancer Care

**What do you like most about working for our hospital?** Our history of commitment to building the best to serve our community and the roots of our ministry still alive within us today.

**What is your favorite thing to watch?** British Detective Series (although I have finally learned to like baseball - go Dodgers!)

**What is your favorite patient story?** So many.. but if I have to choose, the patient living at Marian Extended Care who had been unable to see his wife of over 60 years because of COVID restrictions. As the needs of medically fragile older adults are my own passion, watching this every day was heartbreaking for me. Elder from Plant Ops took it upon himself one day get a barrier device built which utilized single use long veterinary sleeves in arm holes that allowed these two to be re-united.

**How has your work changed or been impacted by COVID-19?** There has been heartwarming inspiration from teammates and their stories as well as shared heartbreak. All that affects my work. But it's the daily shifting of priorities as we hustle to understand the most recent guidance, or comply with the most recent mandate which impacts me (and all of us) each and every day. COVID-19 has contributed to perhaps unprecedented staffing challenges and often what feels like crippling issues we keep having to address. Which we always manage to do! But of much greater impact is what I find wrapped around all of this extra work: this pervasive sense of vulnerability and profound sense of gratitude coming from those we serve. This both inspires and sharpens my performance every day. It is a gift to be doing what we do.



## Acute Rehabilitation

The **20-bed** Acute Rehabilitation Center is the only one of its kind within a 100-mile radius.

**Stroke Certified since 2015** Received Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification by the Joint Commission. Offers specialized services for stroke patients.

Opened in **1962** by four pioneering, community-focused physicians with the same spirit that guides the hospital strategy today.

**2019 #'s**  
**2,672** admissions  
**23,573** ER visits  
**602** inpatient surgeries  
**808** outpatient surgeries  
**8,724** CT scans  
**1,576** MRI scans

## Our Hospital

**Mission** Dignity Health and Arroyo Grande Community Hospital are committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus. We dedicate our resources to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services, serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised, and partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life.

**Beds: 67** (39 General Care, 20 Acute Rehabilitation, 8 Intensive Care) **Overview**

**Employees: 387**

**Medical Services Available:** Acute Rehabilitation; Cancer Care; Emergency Services; Surgery; Imaging; Intensive Care; Laboratory Services; Medical/Surgical Inpatient Care; Neurological Care; Orthopedic Services; Physical, Speech and Respiratory Therapy

**Service Area Cities:** Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Nipomo Population: 79,811  
In 2015, the South County service area was declared a

**Medically Underserved Area/Population** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means that residents in the area have a shortage of health services and the area includes large groups of people who face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to health care. This makes AGCH an important resource for our community, and we need to grow to meet the need.

## Last month we learned:

The hospital will introduce new imaging technology in two phases. In phase one, diagnostic imaging/fluoroscopy multipurpose equipment will be added in two rooms. In phase two, a new MRI machine will be added inside the imaging office.

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## AGCH Foundation

began operating in 2006 to support the mission of the hospital.

## Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation

[SupportArroyoGrande.org](http://SupportArroyoGrande.org)



Arroyo Grande  
Community Hospital Foundation.  
A Dignity Health Member

## Upcoming Dates

**Next Board Meeting:** November 4

**Golf n' Grub:** November 12

**Call-a-thon:** November 30

**Comedy Night:** March 12, 2022

BOWS UP FOR  
HOPE

The Bows Up for Hope Campaign has already raised over \$21,000 for the Cancer Care Fund!

# Employee Giving Campaign October & November 2021

The annual Employee Giving Campaign will be held throughout October and November. Arroyo Grande Community Hospital employees have given over \$800,000 since the employee giving program started in 2007!

Join us at our Employee Giving Campaign events to help serve and thank our employees!



Tuesday, October 5  
**Ice Cream Party**

12:00pm & 7:30pm  
in the Courtyard

Wednesday, October 27  
**Employee Celebration  
Meal from**

**Gina's Italian Cuisine**  
12noon & 7:45pm  
in the Annex

Wednesday, November 3  
**Treat Cart**

Coming to you!  
**Plant Ivy Food Truck**  
11:30am-1pm & 7-8:30pm  
in the Courtyard

Wednesday, November 17

**Old West Cinnamon Rolls**  
6:45 - 8:15am  
in the Annex

Contact Les at (805) 994-5419 or [Les.Lungren@DignityHealth.org](mailto:Les.Lungren@DignityHealth.org) to schedule a time to attend. Please note that each event will be held to serve both day and night shift employees.