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## The Patient Assistance Fund - giving patients in need a better chance to heal.



When a young mother was admitted to Arroyo Grande Community Hospital for an illness, it was discovered that she, her husband, their four-year-old child, and their two-week-old baby had been back and forth between staying in a motel and living on the streets. She and her husband had jobs but were unable to work while she was in the hospital and her husband was watching over the children. The mother worried for her nursing baby who was left with only one bottle of formula.

The hospital's staff acted quickly to meet the immediate needs of this patient and her family to ensure that she could focus on healing. The family was transported to join her at the hospital and they were given formula, food, and monetary assistance to get

The family is still housed today, self-sufficient, and both parents are working.

We will now be able to meet the needs of even more patients like this with the community's support of the newly established Patient Assistance Fund. Through the Patient Assistance Fund, the most vulnerable patients are offered a better chance for recovery through assistance with immediate needs like shelter/housing, prescriptions, transportation, clothing, blankets, home equipment, and care coordination services.

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### **The Foundation recently appointed six new board members!**

Say hello to Andrea Chavez, Sandra Dewar, Calvin Harris, Elisa Ruiz, Nancy Rust, and Kevin Wilkinson. We are excited to have their skills and expertise added to our team!

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### **A message from breast cancer survivors and board members Elisa Ruiz and Andrea Chavez:**

Elisa said, "As a lifelong Central Coast resident, I am thrilled to be a part of the Foundation Board. I hope to be a voice for current breast cancer patients and survivors. I am excited for the expanded Coastal Cancer Care Center to open soon. The idea of having one place to have all of my studies done will eliminate the stress of driving to so many different doctors' appointments in the county. Many Central Coast residents will benefit from this state-of-the-art facility. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a reminder to be proactive in your annual mammogram - this small, non-invasive study can save your life."

Andrea added, "My stage 3 breast cancer was found in my baseline mammogram at age 35. The tumor covered half of my breast, but even when we knew it was there, we could not feel it. Have your baseline early. If I had waited until I was 40 or 45, I most likely

would not be here today, 25 years later."

You can help to support local cancer patients with a donation to our Cancer Care Fund.

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**Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation**

345 South Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

[supportagch@dignityhealth.org](mailto:supportagch@dignityhealth.org) | [www.supportarroyogrande.org](http://www.supportarroyogrande.org)

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