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San Francisco General Hospital Foundation Announces Heroes & Hearts Award Recipients

Local Heroes Honored at annual Luncheon on the field of AT&T Park

2014 Heroes & Hearts to celebrate the 10th anniversary of "Hearts in San Francisco"

SAN FRANCISCO (January 8, 2014) – **San Francisco General Hospital Foundation** announced today the recipients of the **2014 Heroes & Heart Award** – an award that recognizes those who have demonstrated exceptional service and leadership within their community. The 2014 heroes are volunteer **Joe Drake**, whose work has significantly reduced violence and crime among his peers; owner and operator of Dudley Perkins Company, **Thomas Perkins**, who for 30 years has organized an annual toy run for children at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center; and, **Joan Varney**, retired gardening supervisor at The General who helped to initiate HeartBeets and other programs utilizing produce grown at the hospital. The individuals will be honored at the Foundation's annual **Heroes & Hearts Luncheon on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at AT&T Park**. Tickets for the luncheon are available now online at www.sfghf.net/hh or by calling 415-206-4478.

"Each of the 2014 heroes has found their own, personal way to make a positive change in our community," says **Lisa Hauswirth**, Co-Chair of Heroes and Hearts and Hearts After Dark. "Joe, Thomas and Joan are prime examples of exceptional leaders in San Francisco. They have impacted countless individuals: working with the City's youth to deter them from weapon use and gang affiliation; organizing toy drives for hundreds of pediatric patients and their families; and developing a sustainable garden program, producing food for The General's patients and neighbors."

THE 2014 HEROES – *extended bios below*

After being treated at The General for gunshot and stab wounds, **Joe Drake** turned his life around and now works to inspire positive change in the lives of others. Joe draws from his own experiences to teach his peers about the consequences and potential impact of using weapons.

Thomas Perkins, owner of Dudley Perkins Company – San Francisco's full-service Harley Davidson store – initiated an annual holiday toy run that invites Bay Area motorcycle clubs to give back to countless pediatric patients and their families. The Dudley Perkins Toy Run celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2013, providing gifts for more than 500 children at The General over the holiday season.

When **Joan Varney** first began working at The General in 1982, she took a different approach to helping the many patients she encountered that were infected with AIDS, creating the Comfort Garden and growing vegetables to donate to Project Open Hand. The now-retired gardening supervisor also helped

to initiate HeartBeets and the Garden Giveaway Program, supplying nutritious food for hospital patients and neighbors.

ABOUT HEROES & HEARTS - The Heroes & Hearts Luncheon is an outgrowth of 2004's *Hearts in San Francisco* series – a city-wide art installation and fundraiser project. In addition to celebrating exceptional community heroes at the February 13 luncheon, 27 new heart artworks will be displayed including four “table-top” and 15 mini-mosaic hearts that will be auctioned, with all proceeds benefiting San Francisco General Hospital Foundation and its efforts to support initiatives and programs at The General. *Hearts in San Francisco* artworks, combined with proceeds from Heroes & Hearts and Hearts After Dark (2006 – 2013) have raised nearly \$10 million for SFGHF.

The 2014 **Heroes & Hearts Luncheon** takes place on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at AT&T Park. Tickets for the event range in price from \$300 for single seats to \$5,000 for event sponsorship. Tickets for the luncheon are available now online at www.sfgfhf.net/hh or by calling 415-206-4478.

Event sponsors include Chevron Energy Solutions, Intel Corporation, McKesson Foundation, The Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation, VISA, Webcor Builders, Wells Fargo, Macy's, Jeanne and Sanford Robertson, The Mary Wohlford Foundation, Union Bank, and Walgreens. Media sponsors include JCDecaux, KCBS All News 740 AM and 106.9 FM, NBC Bay Area, *San Francisco Business Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*|SFGate.com, *San Francisco* magazine and *Where* magazine.

2014 Hero Bios

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Joe Drake - In March of 2008, Drake was the victim of multiple gunshot and stab wounds. Immediately after his emergency treatment at The General, a case manager with the San Francisco Wraparound Project connected with him to help Joe overcome his initial desire for revenge and create a sense of unity beyond gang and racial barriers. With the help of Wraparound, Joe transformed his life. Using his

own experience, he now conducts a monthly seminar where he speaks to inspire others to make positive changes in their lives. He also volunteers regularly with Wraparound's Weapons in Minors Possession (W.I.M.P.) program, a collaborative effort of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Probation, and the Juvenile Public Defender's office that allows youth to learn and discuss the consequences and potential impact of weapons.

Joe currently lives at Larkin Youth Shelter in San Francisco, where he is receiving support to eventually get housing. He attends San Francisco City College and is working for the campus recycling center. His discipline, bravery and passion allow him to connect with and inspire many young people while also still changing his own life.



Thomas Perkins - In 1975, Thomas Perkins was taken to The General after he was struck by a driver while on his motorcycle. He underwent intensive overnight operations and spent two weeks at the hospital before transferring to Stanford to finish recuperating. Eight years after the incident, Tom organized the inaugural Dudley Perkins Toy Run, as a way to give thanks to the institution that saved his life and the lives of many other motorcyclists. The annual holiday toy run brings together Bay Area motorcycle clubs in a ride to The General, where each member brings a toy to donate to the pediatric patients whose families otherwise would not be able to afford gifts.

In 2013, Tom and the motorcyclists donated hundreds of gifts, marking the 30th anniversary of the Toy Run, a tradition that has impacted the lives of countless patients and their families each holiday season. Tom is the owner and operator of Dudley Perkins Company, a fourth-generation family-owned full service Harley-Davidson store with locations in South San Francisco and Fisherman's Wharf.



Joan Varney - Joan joined the gardening staff at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center in 1982 and retired in November of 2013. When she first started, the department was extremely low on resources and focused on work that was more janitorial than horticultural. Joan had many encounters with AIDS-infected patients, who grew in numbers with the epidemic's onset at the same time she began work at the hospital, and in 1990 was inspired to create the Comfort Garden. This beautiful natural space provided a place for patients and employees alike to escape from the stresses of work and sickness. It also plays host to small memorial services for people connected to the hospital who have passed away.

Additionally, in 1984, Joan began growing produce on campus at The General for Project Open Hand, providing for the meals delivered to homebound AIDS patients. Joan transformed this effort into the HeartBeets program and through a partnership with the Community Wellness Program, launched the Garden Giveaway Program. Through this program, the fresh produce grown on-site at The General is distributed to the hospital's patients and neighbors that partake in wellness classes. HeartBeets also provides seeds for community members that visit the Wellness Center's bi-annual festivals.

About San Francisco General Hospital Foundation

San Francisco General Hospital Foundation is an independent not-for-profit corporation 501(c)(3) that provides fundraising support to San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (The General). San Francisco General Hospital Foundation is dedicated to promoting excellence in research, education and care for all at The General. The vital funding raised by SFGH Foundation allows The General to continue its long history of providing quality health care to San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area. Some of the programs funded wholly or in part by SFGH Foundation include the Avon Comprehensive Breast Care Center, ACE Unit (Acute Care for Elders), Institute for Global Orthopedics and Traumatology (IGOT), The Children's Fund, Women's Health Initiative, The Center for Vulnerable Populations (CVP), Cancer Awareness Resources Education (C.A.R.E.), Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC), and the Orthopedics Trauma Center of Excellence. For more information, please visit www.sfghf.net.