

Caritas

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"Baby Margarita"

Spokane pediatric specialists

HEAL A TINY BROKEN HEART

"Baby Margarita" Hernandez was born in the small agricultural community of La Papalota, El Salvador. Shortly after her birth a local doctor diagnosed her with a congenital heart defect that was beyond his expertise to repair. Her only hope would be the generosity of specialists in a far away country.

Fortunately, Baby Margarita has an aunt, also named Margarita Hernandez, who joined the Sisters of Providence in 2004 and lives in Spokane. Through the sisters and Healing the Children, arrangements were made to bring Baby Margarita to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.

Sister JoAnn Showalter, visiting the Sisters of Providence mission in La Papalota, spent time with the baby's worried parents and offered to escort Baby Margarita on her long journey. Knowing it was their child's only hope, the parents agreed that she must go.

When she arrived in Spokane, Baby Margarita was 22 months old and weighed just 18 pounds. Cardiac problems caused her not only to be small, but to have very little energy. The trip from El Salvador was difficult on her failing heart and lungs. Healing the Children foster parents James and Shirl Lewis described her as "tiny, very shy and extremely wary of anyone who looked like a medical person."

Baby Margarita was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect—a hole between the bottom chambers of her heart—as well as an anomaly of the right coronary artery. Both conditions are serious and life-threatening if not repaired.



"Baby Margarita" Hernandez

"Baby Margarita" and her aunt, Margarita Hernandez, SP

(Typically, a child in the United States would have these congenital heart defects corrected in early infancy.)

The team of physicians who volunteered to provide medical care for Baby Margarita included Dr. Neil Worrall, cardiothoracic surgeon; Drs. Carl and Hrair Garabedian, Northwest Center for Congenital Heart Disease; Dr. Mitch Minana, anesthesiologist; and support staff. All of the professional services, as well as the hospital expenses, were provided free of charge.

Baby Margarita was scheduled for surgery on October 19 and the team successfully repaired the defects in a 5 1/4 hour surgery. After a few days in the pediatric intensive care unit, she was released to her foster family and has flourished in their care. The 2-year-old, who celebrated her second birthday November 13, is gaining weight, has energy to play and has learned to love her caregivers.

When asked why he volunteered to join Baby Margarita's medical team, Dr. Worrall replied: "It is incredibly gratifying to everyone on the team to be able to help a child who would otherwise have no chance. It is important for us to give back to our community and those less fortunate around the world." ●

Editor's note: Special thanks to Danita Petek, Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, for this story.

Jenny Rosales,

“the nurse serving the barrios,” receives 2006 MOTHER JOSEPH AWARD

Jenny Rosales (center) receives the Mother Joseph Award from Charlotte Van Dyke, SP, at Guardian Angel Church where Father Steve Guitron is pastor.

The Mother Joseph Award is named in honor of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the first provincial superior of the Sisters of Providence in the West, and is given to a person who “exemplifies the values and courage of Mother Joseph.” It is presented by the provincial and the Leadership Team on behalf of all the Sisters of Providence in Mother Joseph Province, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana and El Salvador.



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Jenny Rosales is a woman of many names, among them, the nurse serving the barrios, “Mama Rose,” “Tia,” and “Nurse Jenny.” To the residents of the low-income housing project in Pacoima, CA, where she has been a parish and school volunteer for the past five years, this retired registered nurse is the human face of God’s love and compassion for all. Add one more to her list of names: 2006 Mother Joseph Award winner.

On December 1, the Leadership Team presented the award to Jenny at receptions at Guardian Angel Church in Pacoima and at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills. Family and friends turned out to honor a woman who dedicates her life to her community. Jenny also was presented with proclamations from the city and state.

Jenny has been instrumental in linking institutions like UCLA and the Alzheimer’s Association with residents of one of the poorest areas of the San Fernando Valley. Many of them have no health insurance, have limited incomes and speak only Spanish. Through her efforts, they have access to everything from diabetic screening and treatment, glaucoma testing and free mammograms to dementia testing and education and free medical care.

“People in the housing project trust her and know that Jenny will go to bat for them to find a piece of medical equipment, get them linked with a physician, or connect them with a community resource,” says her nominator for the award, Ronald Sorenson, director of community outreach at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank. “People see the love and compassion of Jesus in the face of Jenny Rosales, and because of her dedicated work, there are healing and positive outcomes developing within the underserved community she serves.”

Born and raised in a family with four children in the tiny town of Zapata, Texas, Jenny is from the third generation to call it home. Her father’s arthritis led the family to move to California, and Jenny found herself living a block and a half away from Guardian Angel Church. Jenny fell in love with California. She attended Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys and became an LPN and then an RN while working as a medical assistant for two doctors in Pacoima.

She worked at Pacoima Memorial Hospital from 1974 until it closed in 1984, receiving some operating room training that she would put to use later. She followed that with 18 years working at Olive View Medical Center, in Sylmar, CA, which is associated with UCLA Medical Center. She spent three years teaching and handling medical walk-ins, then another 15 years in the cardiology cath lab.

Jenny retired two years ago at the age of 63, but her career as a volunteer had already begun. She received parish nurse certification from Azusa Pacific University, in Azusa, CA, “where I learned what it’s all about, how to deal with the spiritual body and soul of the patient. I was going to help farm workers in need, but I learned there was more need in the inner city than I could imagine.”

Nursing is not all the mechanical things you do; it is loving the people you serve and the work that you do.” Jenny began her volunteering by helping the school nurse at Guardian Angel. The collaborations began when she saw flyers for a UCLA program seeking Latinos for research on the ethnic group’s high rates of diabetes and heart disease. Her mother and her in-laws were diabetics and she was interested in the link to coronary heart disease.

Jenny went to a meeting to find out more and wound up showing the researchers the way to meet their objectives.

"Give me a site in Pacoima and I will find the people," she told them. "The work began with testing for glucose, cholesterol and complete physicals. Then came exercise classes and eye exams. The first focus was on the elderly, then we added kids and people with vision problems."

Jenny kept asking questions and bringing in patients. "I wanted to know why Latino people were getting Alzheimer's at 35 and at 40," she recalls. A seminar she put together at Guardian Angel, one of many on several health care topics, led to referrals of more than 70 patients for CT scans and MRIs. "That gave the researchers information and gave the patients information to take to their doctors," she explains.

Besides being a trusted individual who connects people to resources, Jenny has instituted classes and planned health fairs and screening events. Identifying diabetes as a health care epidemic and obesity as a major health issue, she began a diabetes class at the church and implemented an exercise class.

Collaborations she has arranged include: UCLA, diabetic screening and treatment; Jules Stein Institute, glaucoma testing; Alzheimer's Association, dementia testing and education; Elizabeth Center, free mammograms for low-income; Project ALTO, diabetes screening and education; and Access to Care Collaborative, free medical care. She also connected residents with the Senior Outreach Program at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, where trained senior volunteers and senior peer counselors deal with depression and provide in-home services.

For five years, this busy volunteer has been teaching people about health care and giving them access to it. Her motivation? "I have always loved to help," Jenny says.

"People see the love and compassion of Jesus in the face of Jenny Rosales, and because of her dedicated work, there are healing and positive outcomes developing within the underserved community she serves."

"I thank God that He has given me the knowledge and the strength to continue working and my desire to help."

Jenny estimates that she puts in 20 to 26 hours a week as a volunteer. "I don't do it alone," she insists, "there are about 20 volunteers who help me." But it is Jenny who got the ball rolling, asking people she sees at the parish church on Sundays to join her.

Jenny is especially loved by the seniors, many of whom have no Social Security and no insurance. She is always on the lookout for canes, walkers and wheelchairs, including one she found for a family that had been pushing a loved one around in a shopping cart. To date, Jenny has come up with 34 walkers, including one she gave to a 96-year-old who took a fall. When the elderly woman mended enough to graduate to a cane, she brought Jenny the walker back so she could pass it on to someone else.

Jenny savors her meetings with the nurses of 24 parishes of various denominations who are part of the

Providence health ministry. "Our demographics are different, but we all have needs that must be met," she says. "When we come together, we are one."

Her fan club includes her husband, Daniel Rosales Sr., a retired construction worker who was born in Burbank and went to schools in Pacoima, and their three sons, Daniel Jr., a real estate broker; Xavier, a supervisor for children's services in Los Angeles County; and Ricardo, a middle school assistant principal. She also has one remaining sibling, an older brother who retired from a career as an Air Force commander after 22 years. Still living in Zapata, "he does what I do but with veterans," Jenny says proudly.

Learning that she was to be a recipient of the Mother Joseph Award was Jenny's first real introduction to the pioneering Sister of Providence, she says. "I thought, 'I don't deserve this; I do it for love,' but my sons said, 'It is beautiful that they are acknowledging you.'" ●

150th Anniversary year comes to a close

In the words of Sister Maryann Benoit, this has been "a jubilating year." For 13 months, celebrations were held throughout Mother Joseph Province to mark

the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Providence in the West. On December 8, 2006, the actual anniversary date, Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates and friends gathered in grateful prayer for the continuation of the ministry that took hold in this region through the labors of Mother Joseph and her four sister companions – Sisters Praxedes of Providence, Mary of the Precious Blood, Vincent de Paul and Blandine of the Holy Angels.

The story of those pioneer sisters is a "springboard to the present and the future," Sister Margaret Botch, provincial/Leadership Team coordinator, said at the closing vesper service in Spokane. "We lived the story." As risk-takers then and now, that story took us to the Philippines 18 years ago and to El Salvador 12 years ago to minister to God's people, she explained.

"The same thing is happening to us today, as we ask, 'How is that story alive in me?'" Sister Margaret continued. "We reach out in *compassion*, *caring* and with *courage*, and see the stories come alive."

There are many more stories that need to be told, she said, as Sisters of Providence continue "to live in the present and into the future the way that we're called."

"All I know about tomorrow is that Providence will rise before the sun," Sister Margaret said. **"Providence will rise in us."** ●

To see a few photos from the 150th anniversary closing events, look on the website at <http://www.sistersofprovidence.net>

HOW DO YOU KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING?

Alaine Qualls retires as provincial secretary after 18 1/2 years with Providence

The lyrics to the popular song, "How Do You Keep the Music Playing?" must have been on the minds of many as Alaine Qualls retired January 12 from her position as provincial secretary. In her 18 1/2 years with Providence, Alaine has gifted us with not just her musical talents at the piano, but also her warm smile and loving heart. So it is with mixed emotions that we bid her farewell but not goodbye.

Leta Alaine Qualls was born at St. Joseph Hospital in Chewelah, and was hired as a receptionist for the Sisters of Providence in the former St. Ignatius Province in 1988. She later became staff secretary for the province and then served as administrative assistant/office manager for Mother Joseph Province before being asked to join the Leadership Team as provincial secretary in January 2005.

"Never in my wildest imagination did I think I would go from receptionist to provincial secretary," Alaine declared as she squeezed in a moment for a brief interview for *Caritas*. "It has been an honor to have been able to serve."

"It was provident that Alaine was here to break new ground as the first provincial secretary who was not a sister," said Margaret Botch, SP, provincial/Leadership Team coordinator. "She truly understands and embraces the mission of the provincial secretary as stated in our General Administration Directory: 'Conscious of the importance of promoting the legacy of the Sisters of Providence, and open to the multicultural and international reality, we are committed to foster communication and unity and record the story of the present for the future.'" Sister Margaret added, "Alaine is forever a part of that story."

What Alaine says she has loved most is the interaction with the Sisters of Providence, the Providence Associates and the staff, "just getting to know the people." She also has enjoyed getting to know the real life of a sister; "how different it is from what people think it was pre-Vatican II. They are everyday people, with everyday hopes, fears, joys and tears."

Alaine has found real joy in doing what she has learned was not just a job but a ministry. "You really take ownership of it and treat others in a way that you know this is not just work. You are part of the sisters' mission."

It is the people that she will miss most, especially being able to do things for the sisters. "Being of service to their needs was the perfect job." She won't miss the paperwork or the computers, and especially not CITRIX, Alaine explains with a peal of laughter.

As Alaine embarks on her retirement years with her husband, James D. "Jim" Qualls, a recently retired letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, she looks forward to spending more time with their two adult children,



Alaine's musical gifts will be missed

Three provincial secretaries: Donna Burkhart, SP, Alaine Qualls and Karen Lauby



Matthew and Arnelle, both of Seattle, her mother, Irene Leliefeld, Spokane, and other relatives. She and Jim planned to travel to Maui and, in a couple of years, on their long-planned dream vacation to Ireland and London.

Rest assured that Alaine has a plan to keep the music playing even as she joins the ranks of the retirees. For years, one of Alaine's loves has been playing the piano for the sisters in Spokane, for birthdays and special events, and her tenure as provincial secretary gave her the opportunity to sing and play for the sisters at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle. Her retirement plans include occasional entertaining for the sisters at Mount St. Joseph and Emilie Court and at nursing homes in Spokane. She also plans to record a CD of favorite songs for her future grandchildren.

Farewell and God bless, friend! ●

Karen Lauby joins Leadership Team as provincial secretary

Karen Lauby, of Spokane, has been named by the Sisters of Providence to join the Leadership Team of Mother Joseph Province as provincial secretary. "In the selection process, we recognized Karen's excellent qualifications for the position of provincial secretary, an understanding and love for our Sisters of Providence mission, and a 'fit' with our present team," said Sister Margaret.

Karen has been employed by Providence Health & Services (formerly Providence Services) since 1997, most recently as conference coordinator. Prior to that, she held several positions as secretary and administrative assistant.

Originally from Lewiston, ID, Karen has been associated with the Sisters of Providence since 1987, working with Good Health Plan of Oregon, St. Peter Hospital in Olympia and Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane. She also has worked with a number of social and medical service agencies.

Karen and her husband, Gary J. Lauby, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, have four adult children: Scott Lauby (wife, Susan), Denver, CO; Kristen Harrington (husband, Kelly, children Samantha and Megan), Beaverton, OR; Maria Palmer (husband, Marcus, son Johnathan), Eagle River, AK; and Dan Lauby, Portland, OR.

Welcome, Karen! ●

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Laurine Campbell

In memory of Ronnie Withey

Lloyd Withey

In memory of Sr. Theodore Teske

Anthony Teske

In memory of Sr. Armella Tessier

Cecilia Kays

In memory of the homeless

Penny Smith

In memory of Marie Torrey

Laurine Campbell

In memory of Ronnie Withey

Lloyd Withey

IN HONOR 2006:

We are grateful for thoughtful donations received through the Development Office in honor of friends or loved ones.

In honor of Sr. Georgette Bayless

Dr. Patrick & Rhonda Nolan

In honor of Sr. Rebecca Berghoff

Rafael Vega

In honor of Betty Chappell

Lloyd Withey

In honor of my children Jimmy, Danny, Andre, Karl & Joanie

Kathleen Kaluza

In honor of Sr. Lucille Dean

Rafael Vega

In honor of Sr. Lillian Deslauriers

Raland & Cindi (PA) John

In honor of Sr. Karin Dufault

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In honor of Sr. Jacqueline Fernandes

Harold & Eleanor Wirum

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Herman & Mary Desautels

In honor of Sr. Wilma Fitzgerald

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James & Alouez Linehan

Hubert & Becky Stein

In honor of Sr. Claire Gagnon

David & Dorothy Bjornson

In honor of Srs. Naomi Hurd & Madeleine Monica Fortier

Marvin & Carol Cecchini

In honor of Sr. Jacqueline & Sisters at St. Joseph Residence

Ray & Dr. Maura Egan

In honor of 2006 Jubilarians

Catherine Mitchell

Irene Gleason

In honor of Jubilarians: Sr. Dorothy Zimny, Sr. Inez Arkell, Sr. Lily May Emert, Sr. Clarella Fink and Sr. Michelle Holland

Mary Ann Martello

In honor of Labor of Love Ministry, St. Dominic Parish, Benicia, CA

Henrietta Manipis, PA

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In honor of Srs. Kitsy Rutan, Dorothy Kimsy & Marguerite O'Connor

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In honor of Sr. JoAnn Showalter

Rita Ross

In honor of Sisters' 150 years in the West

Margaret Haggerty

In honor of Sisters of Providence - 150th Anniversary

Dr. Kennard & Marie Kapstafer

In honor of Sr. Fran Stacey

Diana Wales

In honor of Sisters of St. Joseph Academy

Mary Louise Williams

In honor of Sr. Patricia Vartanian

Sisters of St. Benedict

Carol Rossmann

In honor of Sr. Dorothy Zimny

Hubert & Becky Stein