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Verdugo Hills Hospital Volunteer Gives Back to Her Community

(GLENDALE, CA – August 25, 2009) – A Verdugo Hills Hospital volunteer since 2004, Carol Lewis spends her time lending a hand in her community and around the world.

At the hospital, she is a member of the Volunteer Messenger Pool where she works in escort and hospitality on Thursday afternoons. Her main duties include offering information and assistance to patients and visitors, fulfilling errand requests for various departments within the hospital and transporting patients, as needed.

“I have found her to be extremely efficient, but more importantly, a caring and compassionate individual, eager to help in anyway she can,” said Director of Volunteer Services Judy Hurst.

Lewis, who moved with her husband from Connecticut to California five years ago, spent her career as a cardio-pulmonary therapist at a small community hospital back East. After the move, she retired and began to put all of her energy into various charitable organizations.

As a member of Holy Redeemer Church in Montrose, she became aware of their ongoing missions around the world and wanted to get involved.

“I think a reason I have always occupied my time with charity work is because my faith teaches service to others,” she said.

Her husband is a member of Rotary International and during a trip to India for National Immunization Day, he met the founder of a group called Promise of Assurance to Children Everywhere (PACE). He introduced his wife to the non-profit corporation that aims to educate girls and women in impoverished countries around the world and since then, Lewis has been involved.

Lewis, who strongly believes in the phrase, “educate a girl, elevate a nation,” has travelled to Calcutta, India twice to visit the school for girls founded by PACE. The school is open to girls who come from families that make less than \$1 a day and has

recently opened a nursery along with kindergarten classes. The school, which opened five years ago with 12 students, now has 128 girls enrolled. Lewis has a tentative trip planned for 2010 where she hopes to visit the school for the third time.

“Besides a personal feeling of worth, it brings me a lot of joy to see the changes that can come when you bring even the smallest gift to other people,” said Lewis. “I am living a full, happy life. I feel useful.”

In her free time, Lewis writes poetry and is in the process of writing a young adult book about the plight of women around the world. She also paints tote bags and makes cards as a way to raise money for various global causes. When she isn't out saving the world, she enjoys spending time with her four children and babysitting her two grandchildren.

“Carol brings her positive energy to all that she does and we are fortunate to have her as one of our faithful volunteers,” said Margaret Kean, VHH Foundation President.

For more information about joining Carol as a volunteer, please contact Hurst at 818-952-2207.

About the Hospital:

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. The Hospital also offers surgical services, including bariatric and orthopedic surgeries. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothills’ Best Hospital” by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for five consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org. For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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