A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Twenty-five years ago, a friend of Suzanne DiLena, now 87, referred her to a cardiologist by the name of Dr. Boris Larreta. For more than two decades, she has trusted Dr. Larreta for her heart care.

Suzanne would require heart surgery just a few years after meeting Dr. Larreta. After a disagreement with the surgeon who would perform the surgery, Suzanne sought the advice of others. Conflicted on what to do, she decided to turn to someone she had grown to trust — Dr. Larreta.

Given his history with Suzanne, Dr. Larreta convinced the surgeon to let him personally supervise the procedure, which brought peace of mind to Suzanne. Feeling much better about the situation, Suzanne agreed to let the surgeon perform the operation under Dr. Larreta’s supervision.

“Thank goodness he did. An issue arose during the surgery, and Dr. Larreta was able to give me the freedom of mind to Suzanne,” said Suzanne. “That’s why I treasure Dr. Larreta. I know I would not be here without him.”

During a follow-up visit, Suzanne and Dr. Larreta were discussing new technologies in cardiology, and he mentioned a piece of equipment that would benefit patients at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center. Suzanne offered to purchase the equipment for the hospital and left a gift in her will to Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center so that the hospital could purchase more equipment in the future.

“I’ve been almost 20 years since my surgery and I still call Dr. Larreta whenever I have questions and concerns. He gave me a new lease on a long life that continues on because of the advice he continues to give to me,” said Suzanne. “My gift to Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center will enable physicians to save many more lives, just as Dr. Larreta did mine.”

Bequests, like Suzanne’s, are easy to set up, provide an estate tax benefit, and create a lasting legacy at an institution that has touched the lives of donors and their loved ones.

“We are most grateful for Suzanne’s generous gift, which is a meaningful vote of confidence in the work being done at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center. Bequests, large and small, have a significant impact on our medical center,” said Joe Ward, Executive Director of Planned Giving.

Making a bequest through a will or living trust gives donors the immediate satisfaction of creating a lasting and personal legacy that ensures Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center’s future, and costs nothing now.

Donors can use a wide range of assets to make their gift and create a highly personalized plan. Additionally, bequests can be modified if the donor’s financial situation changes. Here are some options to consider:

- Simply name Providence Saint Joseph as a retirement plan beneficiary
- Choose to give a specific amount or a percentage of your estate in support of Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center
- Name Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center as a retirement plan beneficiary

If you have already included Providence Saint Joseph Foundation in your plans (or intend to do so), please contact Joe Ward, Executive Director of Planned Giving, Providence Foundations, Southern California Region, at (310) 793-8117 or via email at joseph.ward@providence.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Cusumano
Chairman of the Providence Saint Joseph Foundation Board of Governors
Phone number: (818) 847-4673
Email: psjfoundation@providence.org

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Follow us on:
WHAT IS COVID-19?
While COVID-19 is a new disease, it is part of a family of viruses called coronaviruses.
The first identified case of COVID-19 was in China in 2019. This virus has now spread to many countries around the world.

HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?
The most common way this virus spreads is from person to person. This is much like what happens with the flu. When someone with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes, they send out respiratory droplets that have the virus.

Here are examples of how it can spread:
• If you are in close contact (within 6 feet) of this person, you can catch the virus by breathing in their respiratory droplets.
• You can get the virus from shaking hands with someone who has it and then touching your own face, nose or mouth.
• You can also get the virus from drinking from the same cup, or eating from the same plate, as someone who has COVID-19.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?
COVID-19 affects the respiratory system. Symptoms can be mild, like those of the common cold. Or symptoms can be more severe like shortness of breath and other breathing problems. Sometimes people die from COVID-19.

Beyond these symptoms, people with this virus can also have complications. Those can include pneumonia (an infection of the lungs) or too little oxygen getting to the lungs.

Sometimes these symptoms and complications lead to death. That is most likely when people are older or also have other medical problems.

As of now, there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. There is also no cure for it yet. Scientists are working hard on that.

The good news is that there is supportive care — treatments to help control or relieve a person’s symptoms while their immune system works to kill the virus.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO TREAT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND COMPLICATIONS:
If you have mild symptoms (like that of the common cold), it is best to stay home from school, work, and away from others. Keep doing this until you feel better.

If you have more severe symptoms (such as breathing problems), you might need to be in the hospital. Treatments can include oxygen, IV (intravenous) fluids, and special medicines.

If you have very severe symptoms, you may need to be in the hospital’s ICU (intensive care unit). Patients this sick might need to be on a breathing machine (ventilator) that helps them breathe.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS FROM GETTING COVID-19?
There are some common-sense ways you can help protect yourself, your family, and the community from getting COVID-19:
1. Wash your hands
2. Keep your distance
3. Clean items that are used by many people

Visit coronavirus.providence.org/socal-updates for up-to-date information and links on COVID-19.