Helping Hands, Healing Hearts Virtual Gala 2021
From Our Homes to Yours Live on May 13, 2021
#CurryGala2021
Score! Curry Senior Center is 49 years old!

That’s 49 years of dedicated service to the elderly of San Francisco. 49 years of community outreach with a culture of respect, fairness, generosity, and integrity. That’s Curry Senior Center.

That’s very San Francisco.

It’s treatment based on symptoms, not income.

Proud to partner with Curry Senior Center.

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Thank you for attending Curry Senior Center’s 2021 Gala. We hope you will enjoy the show! We hope it will be both our best and our last virtual anniversary celebration.

We are celebrating 49 years of service enabling older adults to remain independent in their home. And we are recognizing supporters whose leadership and commitment helps us make a difference every day of the year.

Curry Senior Center’s locations on Turk Street are a must for in-person visits for older adults with urgent health, financial, or nutritional needs. Creating both a welcoming and safe environment — on the sidewalk and inside the centers — are Saint Anthony’s Client Safety Services staff. The Saint Anthony’s team will be receiving the Vera Haile Dalenberg Award, for their hospitality every day of the year.

Curry’s unique one-stop-shop — integrating health and supportive services in one location — would not be possible without donations from the private sector. Private donations help fill in funding gaps and help with new initiatives. This year’s Joseph Mignola, Jr. Award will be presented to Compass Realty, who have provided significant financial donations for over twenty years.

Six years ago Curry Senior Center received funding for a pilot program to see whether peer-based social support would have an effect on reducing isolation, and improving health among elderly people who live alone. Evaluating the impact of such an intervention involves diligence and painstaking research. The Dr. Francis J. Curry Award will be presented to Dr. Carla Perissinotto, Associate Chief for Geriatrics Clinical Programs at UCSF, for her work on assessing Curry’s efforts on the effects of loneliness and isolation.

We hope you enjoy the show! And thank you for your support!

Jonrie Dávila, President
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As of May 8, 2021

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TONIGHT’S EMCEE AND AUCTION HOST
Diane Dwyer

Diane is a proud board member at Curry Senior Center and has emceed this fundraiser for 10 years. Diane’s mother-in-law, Katie Sharp, was a nurse at Curry for years: the love for Curry runs in the family!

Diane’s also a two-time Emmy award winning journalist and has worked in television journalism in the SF Bay Area for 25 years. She grew up with six brothers and sisters and credits the Irish gift of story-telling with her success in journalism, teaching, and — now — real estate. She wears many hats and loves all of them!

- Faculty member at the Haas School of Business, University of California (her alma mater)
- Media/PR consultant and trainer for Chief-level executives
- Realtor with her sister, Patty, at Alain Pinel Realtors/COMPASS in Burlingame

Diane also serves as emcee, auctioneer and advisor for more than two-dozen other non-profits including De Marillac Academy in SF’s Tenderloin, Asian American Donor Program in Oakland, CORA in San Mateo, German Shepherd Rescue and the California Alumni Association.

Promoting Wellness, Dignity & Independence for Seniors
THANK YOU TO OUR LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION DONORS
As of May 8, 2021

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PAST HONOREES

THE VERA HAILE DALENBERG AWARD
Marie Jobling — 2015
Supervisor Jane Kim — 2016
Betty Traynor — 2017
Tom Nolan — 2018
Jim Illig — 2019

THE JOSEPH MIGNOLA, JR. AWARD
Salesforce Foundation — 2014
Aisha Ahmad — 2015
Mikkel Svane (Zendesk) — 2016
Shirley Quitugua — 2017
Dolby — 2018
Tenderloin Community Benefit District — 2019

THE FRANCIS J. CURRY AWARD
Josh Bamberger M.D., Pat Dennehy, Ana Valdes M.D. — 2014
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Foundation
(Tenderloin HIP) — 2015
Richard Zercher, M.D. — 2016
Twitter — 2017
California Pacific Medical Center — 2018
Metta Fund — 2019
In 1993, Pacific Union real estate agents in San Francisco created the Community Fund. After COMPASS bought Pacific Union in 2018, it continued raising money for non-profits under the Compass Community Fund. This fund distributes grants to local non-profits serving San Francisco’s neediest neighbors. The Community Fund has been a dedicated partner in supporting Curry Senior Center for over 20 years.

The Joseph Mignola, Jr. Award is given annually by Curry Senior Center to honor an individual or group who devote their energy, intelligence and heart to helping individuals in our community as Mr. Mignola did throughout his lifetime.

Joseph Mignola, Jr., a 3rd generation San Franciscan whose parents survived the earthquake of 1906, grew up in the Sunset District.

During WWII, Joe served as an Army Lieutenant in Intelligence stationed at Radio Tokyo after the Treaty was signed.

For 41 years, he served the city and county of San Francisco. Beyond Joe’s employment within city government, he also served as a board member for many organizations including San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind, the Italian Welfare Agency (of which he was Secretary), the San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Senior Resources Board, the Episcopal Sanctuary, the Coalition on Homelessness and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

For one year Joe operated as the Director of Laguna Honda Hospital, an appointment that ultimately helped him gain the position of Deputy Director of Public Health for Hospital Services. He held this title for 21 years, retiring in 1985.

It was in retirement that Joe became Board President of the North of Market Senior Services and North and South of Market Adult Day Health alongside Dr. Francis J. Curry.

His wife, Rae Mignola, who shares Joe’s dedication for civic participation, continues to be active in the San Francisco community and has this to say of him: “Joe was very much involved in his work, and had tremendous respect for those great people he worked with. The list is very long.”

Saint Anthony’s Client Safety Services (CSS) monitors the safety of Saint Anthony’s programs and outside organizations by providing on the ground response to increase safety in the Tenderloin and similar communities. By using a trauma-informed perspective, CSS staff have successfully built relationships with the communities it serves. The team de-escalates behaviors and risks with compassion and care. The CSS team is visibly present on many blocks in the Civic Center 7 days per week, most prominently in front of both Saint Anthony’s and Curry Senior Center.

The Vera Haile Dalenberg Award is in its sixth year at Curry and was founded in memory of Vera Haile — a San Francisco icon of determined advocacy for the underprivileged and Curry Executive Director from 1983–1996, who was responsible for the dramatic growth in Curry’s comprehensive programming and partnerships during her term.

This award will be presented annually at Helping Hands, Healing Hearts to someone in our community who fights for what makes our city famous for benevolence and goodwill towards those who need a supportive hand.
The Dr. Francis J. Curry Award 2021 Honoree

Dr. Carla Perissinotto

Dr. Carla Perissinotto is Associate Chief for Geriatrics Clinical Programs at UCSF, where she oversees and develops all inpatient and outpatient Geriatrics clinical programs, including Care at Home. Dr. Perissinotto’s research focuses on the health effects of loneliness, and she is interested in programs that address loneliness and isolation. She has been a critical advisor for Curry’s 5-year pilot program “Addressing the Needs of Isolated Older Adults” and helped in the continuation of the program.

The Dr. Francis J. Curry Award was established in 1993 to honor the former Director of the Department of Public Health. Dr. Curry participated in the founding of Curry Senior Center, arranged for the City of San Francisco to purchase the 333 Turk Street building, and served with distinction on the Board of Directors upon his retirement.

The Curry Award is given:

• In recognition of leadership and service to the community in the field of health and social care, particularly of senior residents.

• In recognition of expertise and foresight in supporting public and private policy to enhance and protect the physical and mental health of the community at large.

• In recognition of setting an example by following the model of Francis J. Curry in flexibility to change, tact and skill in human and humane relationships, inventiveness and ingenuity in marshaling resources and persistence in pursuing goals.

SPECIAL GUEST

Bubba Paris

William H. Paris Jr. — better known as “Bubba” Paris — hails from Louisville, Kentucky, where he played football for DeSales High School and was team captain and MVP. He attended the University of Michigan where he played for Coach Bo Schembechler. While playing for Michigan, the team won two Big Ten Conference titles, a Rose Bowl and Bluebonnet Bowl. He was a four-year letterman and named first team All-American, All-Big Ten, second team Academic All-American, Academic All-Big Ten, and Academic All-District.

He was selected by the San Francisco 49ers as their first pick of the 1982 NFL draft. From 1982-1990, he was a member of 49ers teams that won three Super Bowl Championships, three NFC Championships, and seven NFC West Division titles.

Bubba was elected to DeSales High School’s Hall of Honor, the Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Catholic Sports Hall of Fame.

He currently works as a motivational speaker and serves as Executive Director of Tracy Community Connections, a non-profit organization focused on addressing the needs of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.
VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Please tip your hat to presenting sponsors, California Pacific Medical Center and Bank of Guam, each of whom is hosting senior service participants from Curry Senior Center.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

200–300 Turk Street Safety Group                  Saint Francis Living Room
Central City Older Adults                          Saint Francis Memorial Hospital
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Community Health Center                            San Francisco Community Clinic
Community Living Campaign                          Consortium
Community Technology Network                       Self-Help for the Elderly
Dignity Fund Coalition                             Shanti Project
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Foodrunners                                       Saint Anthony’s
Golden Gate For Seniors                            Stepping Stone Adult Day Health
La Raza Central Legal                              Tenderloin Community Benefit District
Openhouse                                          Tenderloin Neighborhood Development
Project Open Hand                                  Corporation
Reality House West, Cadillac Hotel                 Tenderloin Health Improvement Project
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ADDITIONAL THANKS

Curry Senior Center Legacy Circle
Rick Crane
Sally Hatchett
Gay and Harvey Kaplan
Helen B. Ripple
Katherine and Robert Sharp
Christopher E. Sickels
Mary L. Slusher
Virginia Van Patten
Linda C. Winn

The Curry Senior Center Legacy Circle honors those donors who have included Curry in their estate planning. For more than 49 years, located in the heart of the City, Curry Senior Center has helped meet seniors’ essential needs for health care, meals, housing, and social connections, right in their own neighborhood — and it will continue to do so thanks to donors who make lifetime gifts or include Curry in their estate plans.

For more information, please contact Curry Director of Development, Arlo Bushnell or Curry Board President and Senior Associate Director of Planned Giving at Stanford University, Jonrie Dávila.

Arlo Bushnell
Direct: 415-572-7093
Email: abushnell@curryseniormcenter.org

Jonrie Dávila
Phone: 650-823-3280
Email: jonried@yahoo.com

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CURRY PROFESSIONALS, ADVOCATES AND LEADERSHIP SOCIETY (PALS)

Mission: Foster a community of young professionals through service, networking, philanthropy and fellowship, while expanding awareness of the 15,000 underserved and homeless seniors in the heart of San Francisco.

The Curry PALS are a group of like-minded individuals who help plan Curry Senior Center events, hold fundraisers, rally teams of volunteers and supporters, and engage with the San Francisco Bay Area community. Our goal is to elevate the quality of life for low-income and homeless seniors in the Tenderloin as well as SF as a whole.

Email: pals@curryseniorcenter.org  facebook.com/currypals

Sasha Selvam, PALS President, Colin Reinhart, Alycia Norton and others at Curry’s Donor and Volunteer Appreciation event in 2018.

Promoting Wellness, Dignity & Independence for Seniors

Dolby proudly supports
Curry Senior Center

Thank you for all you do to improve the quality of life for seniors in our community.
Zendesk supports our neighbors at Curry Senior Center

We celebrate Curry Senior Center’s remarkable work improving the lives of seniors each and every day.

Thank you for lifting up our hearts and spirits across the neighborhood.
Congratulations to Staff and Volunteers at Curry Senior Center.

I would like to thank the following people who attended the past celebrations with me:

Feroza and Yezdi Unvala, Elizabeth Shields, Peggy O'Dowd, Carlton White, Marilyn Leoncavello, Greg Chin, Glenn Kramer, Chase Kauf, and Lyla Unvala.

Helen B. Ripple
Thank you Curry Senior Center. Congratulations award winners!

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“We are grateful to Curry Senior Center for the opportunity to support its exceptional endeavors”

KATIE and BOB SHARP

We are honored to have a part in supporting Dr. Curry’s vision of health, dignity, and longevity for Seniors living in the Tenderloin.

Diane Sklar and Wayne Gilbert and family thank Curry Senior Center for 49 years of service to seniors and helping them age with health, hope and dignity.

Promoting Wellness, Dignity & Independence for Seniors
Thank You to 49 Square Catering for Providing Tonight’s Home-Delivered Meal
The Curry Senior Center staff thanks the donors, volunteers and community partners that help make our work possible in promoting wellness, dignity and independence for seniors in San Francisco.
Located in the heart of the City, Curry Senior Center helps meet seniors’ essential needs for health care, meals, housing, and social connection — right in their own neighborhood.

Through its collaborative partnerships and integrated delivery of services, Curry cares for one of the most diverse, vulnerable — and invisible — populations in the City. Many are homeless or isolated with few financial or family resources to buffer the challenges of aging.

Curry responds to each individual as a whole person with unique needs. Whether it’s counseling, dental care, or in-home support — or simply a place to belong — Curry helps each senior find a way to stay healthier and live with dignity while growing older.

_Promoting Wellness, Dignity & Independence for Seniors_

333 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

_Website:_ curryseniorcenter.org
_Email:_ info@curryseniorcenter.org
_Phone:_ 415-292-1064

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