

## STROKE AWARENESS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FIRST DONATIONS, HEALTH TRUST AFFILIATION

Dando, Toeniskoetter to address South Bay Emergency Directors

SAN JOSE -- The Stroke Awareness Foundation, a San Jose-based public benefit corporation focused on improving community awareness of stroke and associated treatment and health issues, has received \$54,000 in contributions and formed a relationship with The Health Trust, Foundation Chairman Chuck Hoffman announced.

The donations, the first from outside the founding members, were \$22,000 from the Elsie and Josephine Colombo Charitable Trust, a matching grant of \$30,000 from The Health Trust and a separate \$10,000 Health Trust grant, for a total of \$54,000.

Nick, Elsie and Josephine Colombo, a brother and two sisters, lived in San Jose starting in the 1940s, with the last of the three, Josephine, dying three years ago in her 90s.

The Health Trust is a public benefit corporation dedicated to improving health and quality of life for people in Santa Clara County. It focuses on indigent children, frail elderly and vulnerable adults.

Hoffman said the Foundation's goals of certifying Stroke Treatment Centers at hospitals and educating emergency personnel and the public about identifying stroke symptoms coincide with the Health Trust's emphasis on prevention and leveraging of funds. As a result, a special relationship has been formed between the two organizations that includes the Foundation operating out of the Health Trust offices at 2085 Hamilton Ave. in San Jose.

Gary B. Allen, President and CEO of The Health Trust, said the Stroke Awareness Foundation's goal of early access to care also contributed to the affiliation between the two organizations.

"We are very excited about the focus the Stroke Awareness Foundation is taking in post-stroke-prevention activities," Allen said. "Getting local hospitals certified to administer the drug tPA within three hours of a stroke will greatly reduce long-term rehabilitation and increase quality of life in our community. Their second focus is to educate the community regarding tPA and the importance of making timely decisions when a stroke has occurred."

The drug tPA dissolves blood clots in the brain that cause stroke, but it must be administered within three hours of the attack. Earlier this month, Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose became the first hospital in California to have its Stroke Treatment Center certified by the national Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, fulfilling a Foundation goal.

The Stroke Awareness Foundation was established in 2001 and organized by three people who have been successfully treated for stroke. In addition to Mr. Hoffman, a retired San Jose businessman, they are Pat Dando, Vice Mayor of the City of San Jose, and Charles J. Toeniskoetter, a San Jose commercial builder and developer.

All three Foundation officers make public presentations on stroke awareness, and Ms. Dando and Mr. Toeniskoetter are scheduled to speak to the South Bay Emergency Medical Directors Association in Los Gatos on Feb. 10. The important role of emergency personnel in the stroke recovery process was highlighted January 28 when San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales suffered a minor stroke while delivering his annual State of the City address.

One week earlier Dando and Toeniskoetter had told the Downtown San Jose Rotary Club that each of the the 350 people in attendance would know someone who suffers a stroke this year. Little did they realize that a brain attack suffered by a single person would fulfill their prediction.

Strokes result from disruption of blood flow to the brain from clots or bleeding. They are the third leading cause of death and the number one cause of long-term disability in the United States, according to the American Heart Association.

Additional information about the Foundation can be found at [www.strokeinfo.org](http://www.strokeinfo.org). Additional information about The Health Trust can be found at [www.healthtrust.org](http://www.healthtrust.org).

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