

GRATITUDE

ST. ROSE DOMINICAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2019



**Engelstad
Foundation
R.E.D. Rose
Program**

**Helping provide
early identification
and treatment of
breast cancer**



Charles Guida and Kris Engelstad McGarry

ENGELSTAD FOUNDATION R.E.D. ROSE PROGRAM

The Engelstad Foundation recently aligned its history of business success, philanthropic giving and breast cancer by making a \$10 million gift to Dignity Health – St. Rose Dominican Hospital’s R.E.D. (Responsible Early Detection) Rose program. The transformational gift will help financially vulnerable women by ensuring the hospital’s long-term ability to provide them early access to vital breast cancer screenings, diagnostic services, medical care and support programs.

With a history of breast cancer in her family, Kris Engelstad McGarry’s worry might have consumed her as she sat in her oncologist’s office seeking answers. But questions about other women in the waiting room coursed through her mind.

Do they have the medical coverage and personal resources needed to fight breast cancer?

Do they have to miss or quit work during their course of care?

Will their daughters someday face this disease?

There was one thing Kris knew for sure: she had the resources to obtain quality breast cancer care.

A History with St. Rose

When the Engelstad Foundation revisited Kris’s questions, they also reflected on their years of philanthropic partnership (*see sidebar*) with St. Rose and the proven history of R.E.D. Rose. Since its inception in 2002, R.E.D. Rose has provided access to quality breast cancer treatments – screenings, clinical breast exams, mammograms, ultrasounds, surgical consultations, and biopsies – for more than 6,000 clients who lack adequate health care resources or the financial means to obtain them.

After Kris completed breast cancer treatment, she was compelled to give back to those in need. Not long after, St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation’s president, Charlie Guida, announced the \$10 million gift at an event and rededicated the breast cancer program, now named the Engelstad Foundation R.E.D. Rose Program. Charlie and the presidents of St. Rose Dominican hospital’s three acute care campuses then presented Kris with the Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican Humankindness Award.

“Kris’s generosity reflects her love for and commitment to our community – and her empathetic concern for the most

vulnerable among us,” said Charlie. “We are beyond grateful to Kris and the Engelstad Foundation for their humankindness.”

As Kris accepted the award, 10 R.E.D. Rose beneficiaries carrying long-stem red roses encircled the podium. Among them was Yhoanna (YOO-ANNA), a mother who turned to the breast cancer program after feeling pain and a mysterious lump in her breast. Shortly after Yhoanna received care, her daughter experienced similar symptoms. Yhoanna’s daughter – a frightened 15-year-old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer – also received the medical services and support she needed through R.E.D. Rose.

“The fear and worry Yhoanna experienced was overwhelming,” said Holly Lyman, Dignity Health - St. Rose Dominican Director of Community Health. “In the past, too many women like her lacked early access to diagnostic and treatment services even though it’s well known that survival rates for women and men with breast cancer are directly related to how soon treatment is sought.”

As the event closed, Holly thanked the Engelstad Foundation and said: “I know that Sr. Monica Stankus, the beloved founder of R.E.D. Rose, is smiling down on us – on you, the Engelstads – appreciating that the services and support our vulnerable breast cancer patients need will be available far into the future.”



Sr. Katie McGrail, Sr. Phyllis Sikora and Sr. Carol Elya with Kris Engelstad McGarry

“I am a breast cancer survivor myself, so this gift certainly hits home. Wherever we can contribute to southern Nevadans living their healthiest and happiest lives possible, we are ready to help build sustainable and impactful solutions. And, when it comes to breast cancer, early detection efforts and quality treatments are absolutely vital to our neighbors’ ultimately beating the disease.” – Kris Engelstad McGarry

The Engelstad Family Foundation’s gift to R.E.D. Rose is one of several they have made to St. Rose to improve the quality of lives in southern Nevada:

- Helping with the expansion of Health and Wellness programs to our Neighborhood Hospitals
- Purchase of a PET/CT Scan at the Siena Campus

“Today we acknowledge a prayer answered. For 17 years, we’ve struggled to make sure no woman in need is turned away from R.E.D. Rose. While financial help from many organizations and individuals allowed us to achieve that goal, we continued to pray that we’d find a stable funding source to sustain R.E.D. Rose.” – Holly Lyman

Since its inception in 2002, R.E.D. Rose has cared for nearly 6,500 patients, providing:

- 3,640 mammograms
- 2,964 ultrasound examinations
- 684 biopsies
- Assistance for transportation, rent, utilities, and groceries for financially vulnerable clients in treatment or recovery

“Philanthropy at its core, truly represents the most boots-on-the-ground element of what St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation does – securing and coordinating the resources for creating and enhancing programs that improve and save lives.” – Charlie Guida

During the Englestad Foundation R.E.D. Rose program event, Charlie and Holly paid homage to individuals and organizations who have supported the hospital’s breast cancer efforts, including:

- Sister Monica Stankus, OP (deceased), who coordinated the founding of R.E.D. Rose
- Southern Nevada Surgery Specialists’ surgeons – Dr. Gregg Ripplinger, Dr. Lyn Knoblok, Dr. Fikre Mengistu and Dr. Sean Dort – who have provided R.E.D. Rose’s clinical breast exams, biopsies, and surgical consultations, plus more than 50 donated surgeries
- Susan G. Komen Nevada for providing vital funding for more than 15 years
- The more than 1,400 employees and community members who have paddled in St. Rose’s Rose Regatta throughout its 10-year history

Learn how you can support St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation’s efforts to fund quality compassionate care that saves and improves lives. Call 702-616-5750 or visit supportstrose.org.