

# Connections

SPECIAL EDITION SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

In our Winter 2023 Newsletter, I announced that I will be retiring in June of 2023. I am very pleased to announce that the search for the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is complete. By the Bay Health's Board of Directors has announced that **Skelly Wingard, RN, MSN**, has been selected as the next CEO for this great organization. Her appointment is effective June 19, 2023. Skelly's appointment follows an extensive national search and selection process that considered numerous candidates with backgrounds in leadership, management, and healthcare.



Skelly Wingard, RN, MSN

Skelly is a health care leader with a nursing background whose career has spanned a continuum, including leadership roles in both non-profit and for-profit organizations. Skelly's most recent role was Vice President of the Continuum of Care for Kaiser Permanente, Mid-Atlantic States. There, she led strategy and operations for hospital and post-acute operations, emergency care management, health plan utilization management, transportation, regional care management, and outside medical contracting and services. Skelly is from the Bay Area and lives with her family in Petaluma.

With over 10 years of progressive leadership experience in complex healthcare settings, Skelly is well-prepared and equipped to move into this prominent role.

**"We're incredibly excited to have Skelly join us at By the Bay Health,"** said Bob Simon, Chair of the Board of By the Bay Health. **"Her dynamic experience in both patient care and executive leadership is reflective of our historic commitment to continue investing in a model of care that is patient-centered, accessible, and serves those in need of high-quality, compassionate care."**

It has truly been an honor for me over these last nine years to represent and lead an organization that is guided by values and principles that are the essence of By the Bay Health. And, I'm proud to hand over a strong and healthy organization to the next leader. Every day has been a privilege, and I thank all of you for continuing to believe in our mission and the impact of our work in the community. I know you will be extremely pleased with the Boards' selection of our next leader. Skelly Wingard will lead with care and professionalism. I am very happy for her and for the organization.

With gratitude,

*KWhitaker*

**Kitty Whitaker** RN, MS  
Chief Executive Officer

*Robert J. Simon*

**Bob Simon**  
Board Chair



## Welcome Claire Sweet, VOLUNTEER SERVICES MANAGER

When it comes to volunteering, By the Bay Health's newest addition, Claire Sweet, has definitely "walked the walk." Twenty years ago, she served as a hospice volunteer at Heartland Hospice, before becoming their volunteer coordinator. Eventually, she moved to a more administrative role at another hospice, but she sensed that she needed something more.



A friend at By the Bay Health encouraged Claire to apply as Volunteer Services Manager when she saw the vacant position. She says that what drew her to her new role "was partly an opportunity for professional growth, but more a desire to reconnect with volunteers, patients and families." She adds, "Everyone I've met through orientation and at the agency so far has made the transition process really lovely."

As to Claire's vision for the Volunteer Department, she appreciates that her predecessor created a truly robust program prior to the Covid epidemic, which curtailed all patient/volunteer contact. "Now," she says, "I want to focus on building it back up again." Already, there are more than 100 applicants for the next in-person training to be held in Larkspur in June, with another training planned for the fall.

Claire is married and lives in Santa Rosa with her husband, two children, ages 4 and 9, and their two dogs. When asked what she likes to do in her spare time, she laughs, "What spare time? I've got two young kids!"

Please join us in welcoming Claire to our organization.

## Volunteer Celebration 2023

More than 90 staff and volunteers attended our 2023 Volunteer Celebration on April 19 to honor their contributions to By the Bay Health. All categories of volunteers were represented: Patient Care Volunteers, Gift Wrap and Gala Volunteers and Hodgepodge Volunteers. The event at our Larkspur office featured refreshments, addresses from Kitty Whitaker and Claire Sweet, and recognition of volunteer milestone anniversaries.



## BTBH Recruitment Campaign Launches

As you may have read in the news, the current job market is very competitive and especially so in health care, where turnover is typically high. By the Bay Health is stepping up to the plate with a powerful and very visible ad campaign to recruit new clinical talent to care for our patients.

Developed entirely in-house by our By the Bay Health Marketing & Communications department, the campaign reaches out to potential new hires who may be experiencing burn-out in their current jobs or who may want to pursue a new direction for their careers. The goal is to attract candidates who want to return to the ideals that attracted them to the healthcare field in the first place, to supplement our already dedicated staff.

The new ads appear on billboards in San Francisco and Oakland, on bus shelters in San Mateo County, and in light rail stations all along the Peninsula, through June.





# Inspiring Philanthropy: Reta Haynes Gives Back to Inspire Others to Give

By the Bay Health supporter Reta Haynes has a deeply personal connection to our work. We first met Reta in June 2009, when her late husband Harold (Bill) needed hospice care. This was a difficult time for the Haynes family, and they chose By the Bay Health and placed their trust in us to care for



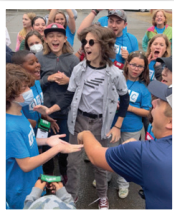
Bill. ***“The compassionate and thoughtful care your team provided Bill and my family meant the world to me,”*** Reta told us. Her first donation to By the Bay Health came in December 2009, and she continues to give to this day.

Reta and Bill’s faith played a significant role in their desire to give back. The wisdom of the often heard, ***“To whom much is given, much will be required,”*** guided them to establish the Harold J. and Reta Haynes Foundation with education and health as their priority giving areas. Now 97 years old, Reta still takes an active role in her philanthropy, and by supporting our work, she also honors her husband’s legacy of improving and advancing community healthcare.

As a member of By the Bay Health’s CEO Leadership Circle, Reta provides significant support for all of our services. This year, in fact, Reta’s matching gift to our Pediatric Care Program inspired additional donations from others, which allowed us to meet the needs of more than 70 children currently in our care. The quality of care we provide to patients and families is what makes By the Bay Health an essential resource for our community and why Reta continues to give year after year. ***“There was great kindness shown to Bill and to my family during a difficult time in our lives. I am fully confident in By the Bay Health’s work, their staff, and the leadership.”***

We are truly grateful for the Haynes family entrusting us with the care of their loved ones and for Reta’s generous support of our mission.

## By the Bay Camp August 4-6, 2023



Children and teens grieve differently than adults. By the Bay Camp, presented in partnership with Comfort Zone Camp, helps young people build trust and eases the isolation that they often feel after a death. This grief support weekend is offered free to campers with the support of generous donations to By the Bay Health.

Held each year at the CYO retreat center in Sonoma, By the Bay Camp features icebreakers, age-based support groups led by trained grief specialists and camp fun such as games, crafts, a ropes course, archery and swimming.



Scan QR code to watch a brief, heartfelt video about camp at [bythebayhealth.org/by-the-bay-camp](https://bythebayhealth.org/by-the-bay-camp)



# Meaningful Volunteer Opportunities

Community volunteers are an essential part of By the Bay Health’s success. Offering your time as a volunteer can enhance our compassionate work with patients and families.

## Patient Care Volunteers

Our trained volunteers visit patients in their homes or in care facilities. Many of our volunteers find their lives enriched not only by the gift of service, but also by connecting with those confronting end-of-life.



We are looking for patient care volunteers to provide **companionship, caregiver support** or **complementary care**. Currently, we are especially in need of Patient Care volunteers in Sonoma and San Francisco counties. We hope you will join us!



Scan the QR code with your phone to apply as a Patient Care Volunteer now!

## Hodgepodge Thrift Store Volunteers — Join a fun team. Make a difference. Learn new skills.



Volunteer in a dynamic and creative retail environment, in Novato or San Rafael, while supporting By the Bay Health’s greater mission. All sale proceeds from our thrift stores go directly to our Community Care Fund to support patients who are most in need.

We are looking for volunteers to be **cashiers, donation processors** and **merchandisers**. Retail experience is helpful but not required. We offer training.



Scan the QR code with your phone to apply as a Retail Volunteer today!

## ANNUAL SERVICE of REMEMBRANCE in Tiburon

You are warmly invited to join us for an interfaith community gathering to grieve our loved ones and honor their memories. We’ll share music, prayers and messages from a variety of spiritual traditions. Please bring photographs of loved ones or objects of remembrance for our Altar of Memories.

### Saturday, September 9, 2023

Doors open at 3:30 p.m.  
Service begins at 4:00 p.m.  
Refreshments to follow.

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

240 Tiburon Blvd, Tiburon, CA



An Affiliate of UCSF Health

17 East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard  
Larkspur, CA 94939

[bythebayhealth.org](https://bythebayhealth.org)

# A gift that gives back — now with higher rates!

You can enhance quality of life for patients with a gift that pays you.

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) provides lifetime income, fixed payments, tax savings — and the satisfaction of sustaining our mission to enhance quality of life for our patients while supporting their families and caregivers.

And, for the first time in years, gift annuity rates are rising!

### Suggested rates for single-life gift annuity (as of January 1, 2023):

Annuitant Age	65	70	75	80	85	90+
Rate	5.4%	5.9%	6.6%	7.6%	8.7%	9.7%

Gift annuities are easy to establish with a minimum gift of \$20,000, and are available to donors 55 and over. Immediate, Deferred, and Flexible payment gift annuities are available to help donors meet their unique needs.

To learn more about how a charitable gift annuity can help you achieve your goals — while supporting compassionate hospice, palliative, pediatric, and home health care for patients and their families — contact Jeff Woods at **(415) 457-7482** or [jwoods@bythebayhealth.org](mailto:jwoods@bythebayhealth.org).

*This information is not intended as financial or legal advice. Please consult with qualified advisors.*