

Pleasanton Program Store Now Open More Days

Happy Summer! We are so excited to announce that our Pleasanton program store is now open an additional day. **Starting July 6, we are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-5pm.** Come on in and see us! We are located in the ValleyCare Health Library at Stanford Health Care ValleyCare Pleasanton.



At this location, we support breast cancer survivors by providing specialty bras and camisoles, prostheses, lymphedema garments, head coverings and much more.

Our certified Breast Care Specialists are on hand to answer questions, help with product selection,

and assist with garment fittings – and they do it all with compassionate, attentive care for each client.

Our staff will help you with insurance claims and other paperwork. We offer financial assistance to those who need it.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

HERS Breast Cancer Foundation at Stanford Health Care-VakleyCare

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[Click here for information about all our Program Stores.](#)

A Big Thank-You to Tri-Valley SOCKs!



It's such an honor for HERS Breast Cancer Foundation to be one of the beneficiaries of Tri-Valley SOCKs' fundraising efforts. This group

has raised more than \$1.6 million to help breast cancer survivors over the last twelve years. Congratulations also to Stanford Health Care ValleyCare, Axis Community Health, and UCSF. The world is a better place thanks to the volunteers and fundraisers at [Tri-Valley SOCKs!](#)

Sponsor Spotlight: John J. Dutra

Mr. Dutra is the CEO of [Dutra Enterprises, Inc.](#) (DEI), a regional real estate and investment company specializing in retail, office, and residential land and property opportunities. Established in 1972, DEI's experience, regional knowledge, and relationships allow it to continue to be highly successful in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, most particularly in the Tri-Cities and Tri-Valley regions and across Alameda, Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties. DEI and the Dutra family are major supporters of HERS, generously donating their time and resources to sponsor the BBQ lunch at our Walk/Run each year. John kindly agreed to take some time to answer a few questions about community building and working with HERS.

How did you start working with HERS?

Well, we first really became aware of HERS when my mother faced breast cancer a number of years ago. The pain, anxiety and struggles we faced together as a family really gave us a new perspective on both the illness and the benefit of HERS. We have a dear friend, someone we've known for over 20 years. Four years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and during her fight, we walked with her at the HERS event. She was always amazing, but even more so as she went through treatment. The best thing, though, was to see her *run* in the event last year. Talk



about a celebration!

You are a generous sponsor of our annual Walk/Run event.

What's your favorite thing about being involved with that event?

My favorite thing is counting the years that have been "cancer free" for my mother since we started working with the event. I believe it's been about 15 years now. I know that there are hundreds of participants that are either counting with me or are remembering others that have been lost to us because of cancer. The awareness, compassion, and outreach that come from this event are tremendous.

What have you learned in your years working with area nonprofits and public agencies?

The heart of the community is its volunteers. They are truly amazing and are the lifeblood of all the important work done locally that is charity or community-based.

What's your favorite thing about community building and working with nonprofits?

Seeing the results of all your efforts. It is so rewarding to see good ideas, hard work, and kindness come to fruition in a point of blessing to others.

What are some of the special financial challenges nonprofits face?

I believe all nonprofits face the same challenge: which portion of each available charitable dollar can they get to support their cause. There are so many worthwhile charities but funds and resources are limited. The current administration isn't making it any easier.

You are a Trustee for the Washington Hospital Foundation. What is the highlight of working with the organization?

I can only tell you that my efforts pale in comparison with the dedication of the Washington Hospital Board, the staff, doctors, and of course the CEO, Nancy Farber. They are truly amazing and give all they can to see the community benefit.

Your family has long been active in the community. What are your philanthropic traditions?

Philanthropy was a required course in our house! To this day, we are always looking at the needs of others and happy to help when we can. My mother founded OneChild – an organization that helps supply brand new clothes and school materials to underprivileged children in the area. My brother Tony took the controls of the charity a couple of years back and to date we have assisted over 6,000 children.

Tell us a little more about yourself.

I love my church – we feel blessed to serve there. My family is so precious to me and anything I can do with them means a lot. I golf when I can. I love all of our Bay Area teams, especially the Warriors and the Giants.

Walk/Run 2017: Discounted Registration ENDS June 30!

HERS Annual Walk/Run will be held September 30, 2017.

From now to June 30, you can register two participants for \$80. Full price adult registration is normally \$50. Bring a friend, sign up early, and save some money!

[Register here.](#)



Photo credit: Ramil Sumalpong, Iconic Lab

Festivities start at 8am on Saturday, September 30 at Quarry Lakes Regional Park in Fremont. 5K Walk, 5K/10K Run. Opening Ceremony, Community Expo, and Lunch. [More information here.](#)

Volunteer Voices: Mary Jane Hassman

Mrs. Hassman volunteers at the Fremont store, supporting staff by taking care of some Accounts Receivable operations, such as posting insurance payments. She graciously agreed to share a little about herself and her work at HERS:



I have been a volunteer at HERS for about eight years. I enjoy the work very much.

I volunteer as a way to support my many friends with breast cancer. I have seen many changes since I started working at HERS, mostly in the way technology shapes

the way we do things. Also, the traffic has become much worse! I schedule my volunteer hours to avoid the terrible commute.

We have grown a great deal in the time I have been at HERS. I truly love my job and the people I work with.

Accounting was my undergraduate major at Humboldt State, so this volunteer job is an especially good fit for my skills and experience. I also have a Master's degree in Education from San Jose State University. I taught Office Education for the Fremont Unified School district for 14 years and Fashion Merchandising for the Fremont-Newark ROP for 15 years.

I have lived in Pleasanton for 27 years. I have seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. I enjoy painting watercolors and making cards. I also volunteer at the Blackhawk Museum and play bridge. I am fond of being out in nature.

April Sommers, Director of First Impressions

This is April's second year at the Fremont store. She holds the official title of receptionist, but the title her coworkers prefer to honor her with is "Director of First Impressions." April is often the first person clients encounter when they visit the store, and her warmth and graciousness put them right at ease. April took some time to talk to us about working at HERS:



I am the first point of contact, and I love the title that Vera and the staff gave me! I strive to welcome each patient into a warm, loving environment where they know they are truly cared about.

I have discovered here at HERS the most precious thing you can do for another person is to take the time to listen sincerely to each individual story. My favorite part of my job is the rewarding feeling when a patient comes back a few months later to say, "Thank you for helping me to believe that I would be beautiful again." This makes me realize I'm in the right place, doing what I was meant to do. The team of women here at HERS are simply amazing, providing compassion and strength every day to women who are fearful about what the future holds for them.



I am so grateful for the opportunity to make a difference every day in someone else's life. Everyone should experience working or volunteering for a non-profit at least once in their career because it teaches you a lot about yourself.

Spreading the good news about HERS is another fun

aspect of my job. I have a great time working the fundraisers and events – I especially love being at the Walk/Run, it is so inspiring to see everyone come together and celebrate.

I have my degree in Fine Arts. For 25 years, I pursued my dream and sang professionally. I loved every moment. I was raised in an NFL family so my love and passion for football began with watching my father do what he loved. I grew up in Pleasanton and loved watching my parents mentoring young adults through sports and other activities. I married Vic, my love of a lifetime, 16 years ago and I have two amazing step-sons and a wonderful daughter-in-law.

We love to spend our time at the beach with our little dog Pepper and watch the sunrise or sunset. Football at our house is so crazy, I can hardly wait for Sundays! My husband and I love to compete by cooking fun recipes. I'm Italian and he is from Louisiana, so you know it is going to be spicy.

Do You Know a Person with Purpose?

If you are a HERS client and would like to share your experience, or any story about how a "person with purpose" helped you in your breast cancer journey, please send it in email to HERS Executive Director, [Vera Packard](#).

We may share these stories on social media or in this newsletter (with your express permission, of course). We'll be collecting them all year long in preparation for PWP 2018. We welcome submissions from anyone in our community who would like to let us know about people with purpose.

Please include your name and indicate if you want to share your story anonymously, using first names only, or with full attribution.



HERS Breast Cancer Foundation

Program Stores:

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Click [**here**](#) to visit our website



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