

## **Cancer Support Community's Celebration of Hope Garden Party & Awards Dinner a heartfelt success for supportive cancer care**

**Ventura County, CA** – Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara (Cancer Support Community VWSB) held its annual Celebration of Hope Garden Party & Awards Dinner to a sell-out crowd. Presented by AMGEN and supported in part by the Bill & Joanne Miller Charitable Trust, UCLA Health, Cassar Family Foundation and Seagen, festivities took place under the evening stars at Los Robles Greens in Thousand Oaks on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. A full house of 250 friends, colleagues, physicians, loved ones, and supportive community members gathered to connect, share stories and to honor the 2023 Oncology Heroes - Meghan Cleary, RN of Los Robles Regional Medical Center, Heather Kellis-Young, RN of Dignity Health Infusion Centers, Shauna A. Lotz, RN of Radiation Oncology Centers of Ventura County, and Kayo Matsumoto MS, LMFT of Cancer Support Community VWSB.

An evening of celebration became a night of community as each of the Oncology Heroes shared moments from their own experiences and challenges in a live sit-down conversation from the stage led by Cancer Support Community VWSB Board Co-Chair, Deane Wolcott, MD. The conversation served as a reminder of the kindness and resilience required to support cancer patients. Prior to the Garden Party, each honoree was gifted a luxurious "Glam Day" graciously hosted by the beautiful Salon Nuuvo in Calabasas with styling from NIX Collection to pamper the oncology nurses and supportive care professionals with a day of relaxation.

"Tonight was very special for me," commented Mona Hoss, the 2023 Celebration of Hope Event Chair. "As I undergo my own cancer journey, I am thankful for nurses like our honorees. Oncology nurses have helped me through some of my darkest hours and with the support of Cancer Support Community, I see how important being surrounded by community and empowered by knowledge truly is." Mona has been undergoing treatment for Multiple Myeloma since 2020 and understands the importance of the strong support system that Cancer Support Community provides to anyone touched by cancer.

This year's fundraising event featured a successful silent auction, exciting live auction, and the ever-popular wine pull, along with a new "Mystery Boxes" game where guests eagerly attempted to win boxes filled with swag from national brands including Nike and the Los Angeles Rams.

"We were fortunate to have such an amazing show of support with our largest guest attendance ever," said Monica Merryman, Executive Director of Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara. "Events like this remind us that Community is something you do, something to actively participate in, and most importantly something that we can all share and feel, and this is a great community." Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara ensures that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community, offering programs that are always at no cost to participants.

**Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara** – Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara (CSCWSB) is an independently governed and funded non-profit and an affiliate of the Cancer Support Community. CSCWSB serves an average of 2,000 adults and children impacted by cancer each year with programs throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, and West San Fernando Valley. Programs are provided at no cost to participants.

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