

Direct mail letter written by Gail Terry Grimes for Mills-Peninsula Hospitals in northern San Mateo County, California. A holiday greeting card accompanied the letter. Donors wrote personal notes on the card and sent it back, with their gift, for distribution to patients hospitalized at the holidays.

(Mills Peninsula Hospital Foundation Letterhead)

Dear Neighbor,

Even in this age of "high-tech" medicine, something as basic as human kindness still has the greatest power to heal.

It is in this spirit that the nurses and others on the staff of Mills-Peninsula Hospitals come together every year to sing holiday carols for their patients. Last December...

A young woman paralyzed from an accident stirred in her bed for the first time when the carolers gathered around her. Months later, fully recovered, she recalled that their singing had touched her deeply.

In the Oncology Unit, an elderly man lay dying of cancer. Everyone knew that this would be his last holiday season. As the carolers began to sing "Joy to the World," the old man closed his eyes and smiled.

At the family birth center, the carolers were asked to wait at the nursery window. Soon a proud father brought his just-born son to the glass for a chorus of "Silent Night," a request from the grandparents, who tearfully joined in.

These are true stories! I think they say something about Mills-Peninsula Hospitals. That extra measure of care is what you expect from your community hospital. That's why I am writing you today ... **to ask your help in keeping that "extra something" at Mills-Peninsula.**

Advanced technology, modern facilities and innovative procedures are vitally important; but someone who is sick also

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needs personal attention from people who really care. They certainly get it at Mills-Peninsula.

Sometimes it means nurses volunteering to come in on their own time to sing carols. Sometimes it means hospice care or a visit from the chaplain or help from a social worker. Or just a kind word, a freshly fluffed pillow, a smile.

In these challenging times, it is comforting to know that Mills-Peninsula is financially strong. At the same time, it is important to remember that patient fees alone do not cover the cost of addressing all the needs of the people we serve here in San Mateo County.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a holiday greeting card – your card to our patients. When you send your special holiday gift check to the Foundation, please mail the greeting card back with it. Add your own personal message, if you like. We will deliver your card to our patients as a reminder to them that their friends and neighbors are thinking of them.

Please accept my warmest wishes to you and yours this holiday season. And, thank you for your continuing support of your community hospitals. Your gift helps keep that "extra something" at Mills-Peninsula.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Name of Board Chair)

(Title of Board Chair)

P.S. Please join us for our annual tree lighting at the Mills campus on December 13 at 5 p.m. (Hundreds of people from the community will be there.) But first, mail your contribution today. Think of it as a gift to yourself and your community.

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Greeting card included with year-end direct mail letter.
(Actual card approximately 4 inches by 6 inches when closed.)

