Meet the Partners in Care Team

For the past 20 years, Partners has been a significant change agent in the social determinants of health arena. We have been called a “powerful innovator,” a “leader of change” and a “source of charity for those most in need of help.” Our success is due to people who are passionate about making things happen and have the skills to bring ideas to fruition. Each issue we introduce staff and Board members who have helped shape Partners success.

Robert Lundy, Jr.
Founding Partner, Hooper, Lundy & Bookman PC
Partners in Care Foundation Founding Board Member (1984) and Board of Councilors Chair

Mr. Lundy was a founding partner in 1987 of the national health care law firm of Hooper, Lundy & Bookman. As the firm’s Chairman of the Board and former Managing Partner, Mr. Lundy has guided Hooper, Lundy & Bookman to its current position as the largest law firm in the country dedicated solely to the representation of health care providers and suppliers. He represents the health care industry in business transactions, including joint ventures, private placements, structuring of physician organizations, financings, acquisitions, mergers, integrated delivery systems, accountable care organizations and licensing and certification matters. He has overseen many of the major health care transactions in California and other states, including the formation of the largest health care system in the state of Hawaii, the sale of more than twenty acute care hospitals in California, formation of a countywide orthopedic joint venture, establishment of the largest physician practice management organization in California, and the sale of the largest home health agency in the Western United States. In 2010, both Mr. Lundy and his business partner Lloyd Bookman were honored with Partner’s prestigious Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership award.

Jack Schlosser
Founder and Principal, Desert Vista Advisors
Partners in Care Foundation Board Member since 2018, Chair of Board Tribute Dinner Committee and Member of Board Philanthropy Committee

As Founder and Principal of Desert Vista Advisors, Mr. Schlosser provides executive coaching and advisory support to individual leaders, management teams, and organizations. He is an executive and leadership coach certified by the Hudson Institute of Coaching in Santa Barbara. His experience combines his passion for executive coaching and consulting with over three decades as a
Partner with international executive search and leadership consulting firms. Most recently, Mr. Schlosser served as a Consultant at Spencer Stuart where he specialized in CEO, Board, and other senior-level executive management assignments in the healthcare industry. During his tenure, he served as the Healthcare Services Practice Leader and managed the firm’s Los Angeles office. Acknowledged by his Spencer Stuart colleagues for high-quality work on behalf of his clients, Mr. Schlosser received the firm’s prestigious Lou Rieger Quality Award five times. Prior to entering the executive search profession, his career spanned several segments of healthcare, including management positions with HealthWest, an integrated healthcare system, where he held senior roles at the flagship hospital and other entities. His expertise has been featured in articles on career management and corporate governance in leading trade publications such as Trustee, Modern Healthcare and Healthcare Executive. He regularly speaks at industry events and in university settings.

Ester Sefilyan, MSG
Vice President, Network Operations

Ester Sefilyan has been with the agency since 2008. She has a Masters’ in Gerontology from the University of Southern California (USC). In her work with Partners, Ester oversees startup and operations of multiple contracts and programs with hospitals, health plans, and medical providers in providing an array of SDOH services to ensure successful outcomes around readmission reductions and total cost of care. Ester is responsible for business development, implementation, contract management and infrastructure to support the Call Center and Partners’ Partners at Home state-wide Network of agencies providing regional coverage.

She manages over 15 short-term care management/care transitions contracts focused on identifying Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health and putting safeguards in place to close those identified gaps. She has extensive experience with Long Term Services and Supports and is fully knowledgeable of Medicare, Medi-Cal, and commercial lines of business. These service programs have grown significantly during Ester’s tenure. With her experience, she brings innovation, passion, and dedication to the Partners team.
Our Work in the Community
Partners at Home Network

Partners at Home, our statewide network of community-based organizations, stands at the heart of Partners’ current top strategic priorities – to seize the historic opportunity presented by health reform by ensuring that existing and effective community-based resources are employed to support better health and quality of life for adults with chronic conditions and complex needs. This work reduces healthcare costs by minimizing the need for expensive hospital, emergency department, and nursing home care. Partners at Home Network is of crucial strategic importance and fits perfectly with the pioneering leadership of our agency. We are advancing the vision for bold new health partnerships, creating a comprehensive, coordinated, integrated community care system for adults with chronic conditions. At present, there are 16 member agencies delivering short-term in-home services and evidence-based self-management workshops.

Partners at Home Network Members:
California Health Collaborative
Camarillo Health Care District
Dignity Health
Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara
Health Projects Center
Kaweah Delta
Keiro Senior Health Care
LIFE ElderCare
LivHome
Saint Agnes Medical Center
San Diego AIS
SeniorServ
Special Service for Groups (SSG)
The Health Trust
Valley Interfaith Council
Visiting Angels
Partners in the Community
Volunteers Help Us Grow!

On September 23rd, Partners’ Community Wellness Department honored its invaluable volunteers with a volunteer appreciation luncheon, themed Thanks for Helping us Grow. In addition to a sit-down lunch, volunteers were welcomed by Partners’ President and CEO June Simmons and Community Wellness Department Vice President Dianne Davis and were gifted decorative flowerpots with seeds to plant. Volunteer Adrianne Aguirre (pictured here) customizes her flowerpot at the event’s decorating station.

Keeping Caroline Safe and Home

“Caroline” is a 90-year-old woman living alone and coping with the effects of a pelvic fracture, hypertension, and arthritis. Being over 65 and in need of help with ADLs, Caroline is fortunate to have In-Home Supportive Service (IHSS) benefits, which are provided three times a week for three hours each day.

Early this summer, Caroline was admitted to a hospital with sepsis. During discharge, Caroline qualified for Partners’ Community Transition Care program - a 30-day intervention, with one in-home visit and follow up calls as necessary.

The home visit was conducted by Delia Lezama, MSW, one of Partners’ highly skilled Health Coaches. She performed a Needs Assessment, including a medication safety check with an environmental review. This showed Caroline needed more IHSS hours, so Delia helped her to obtain those additional IHSS hours.

Caroline also was hesitant in scheduling a post hospital follow up appointment with her doctor. Using her motivational interviewing skills, Delia inspired Caroline to call her PCP to discuss symptoms she was experiencing and schedule an appointment for that week.
Support Change: Our Work Bridges Gaps

Partners in Care Foundation staff are specialists in the social determinants of health (SDOH). Our work serves as a bridge between medical care and what a person can accomplish in their own home. We manage the gaps in non-medical care that affect a person’s recovery and overall health. These include challenges such as food insecurity, confusion regarding medications, transportation difficulties, and home safety. We do this through a network of community-based organizations, and our own staff, either coordinating or providing evidence-based services. The result is happier, healthier people cared for at lower expense in their homes and communities.

Recent Generous Gifts of Support

$25,000 from Ann Peppers
To provide health management workshops in Pasadena. One-third of Pasadena’s population is 50 or older. This area also has a high age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to hypertension. Partners’ goal supported by this gift is to improve the health, function and quality of life of older adults and to enhance the building of community and thus reduce social isolation for participants.

$10,000 from Episcopal Communities & Services Foundation
To provide safety-net programs serving functionally and cognitively impaired Medi-Cal beneficiaries struggling to maintain a high quality of life in community settings. Partners’ programs maintain people in their homes and also, increasingly, help people trapped in care facilities to return to the community. These programs each receive high ratings from state inspectors and from participants and families for the quality of services and supports provided to these highly vulnerable recipients.

Our Wish List

A small act of generosity can have an enormous impact:

$2,500
Make the holidays brighter by adopting a family of four. Your gift provides new clothes, warm bedding, furniture, cooking utensils, hundreds of dollars in food gift cards & transportation vouchers, among other helpful necessities.

$2,000
Some folks need a hand sorting out personal, financial, medical, or housing challenges. Your gift provides one-on-one help from our Coaches in untangling those webs.

$1,500
There are those who struggle to put food on their table. Your gift relieves some of that burden for 10 families by purchasing Market Gift Cards so they can buy groceries.

$1,000
Some medically complex kids are, unfortunately, homebound. Your gift buys them educational equipment, iPads, or arrangements for a special outing to cheer the day!

$500
When the bills are many, sometimes the simple needs get passed by. Your gift purchases the fresh basic clothing we often take for granted (socks, underwear, warm shirts, etc.)

$250
Clearing a drain, fixing stairs, or patching a leaky roof shouldn’t be a major crisis, but for some, it can be. Your gift enables us to help clients with emergency home repairs.

Special Needs Fund
Your generous gift in any amount will go towards the greatest need. If you can help with these, contact Karen Schneider in our Development Office at 818-837-3775 x 121
Save the Date!
21st Annual Tribute Dinner
Monday, June 8, 2020
Honoring Paul Viviano
President & CEO
of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
The Beverly Hilton Hotel • Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Reception 6:00 to 7:00 PM
Dinner & Program 7:00 to 9:00 PM
For information on registering and sponsorship opportunities visit:
www.picf.org/events/2020-tribute-dinner

Partners wishes to thank the following individuals who are graciously helping to organize this year’s dinner:
2020 Tribute Dinner Co-Chairs

John Baackes  CEO, LA Care
Cástulo de la Rocha  President and CEO, AltaMed
Thomas Priselac  President and CEO, Cedars-Sinai