Art enthusiasts, business leaders and friends of Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCSD) gathered at the Guslampo's 5 Street Fine Art Gallery at the Omni Hotel on March 9 for the Hearts for Healing art auction, an annual event benefiting FHCSD and the Hearts for Healing Foundation that was promoted in collaboration with the Downtown San Diego Partnership. During this evening event, attendees sampled hors d’oeuvres, sipped wine and bid on one-of-a-kind works of art created by some of San Diego’s youngest artists.

This year’s theme was “Children Helping Children,” with the artwork of renowned artist Gerrit Greve, his teaching assistants and local middle school students auctioned off to raise funds for FHCSD, which uses the proceeds to help fund pediatric and prenatal services. FHCSD’s Baby Boutique program, please visit www.fhcsd.org/baby-boutique. The Baby Boutique helps expecting mothers to follow through with important wellness appointments in exchange for items such as baby clothes, diapers and car seats, is another program that received support from the proceeds of this event.

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In preparation for the auction, Mr. Greve and his teaching assistants taught art workshops for middle school students in North County schools and community centers participating in the Hearts for Healing program. The artists produced more than 200 pieces for the auction.

Additionally, “A Day with the Artist,” which includes a gourmet lunch for two prepared by Mr. Greve at his Cardiff-by-the-Sea home, was auctioned off to the highest bidder.

“‘The benefits of this event are threefold,’” said Fran Butler-Cohen, FHCSD CEO. “First, money raised from the silent auction directly benefits FHCSD clinics. Next, creating the art helps inspire students and fill their free time. Lastly, displaying artwork in our clinics has created a stress-relieving, healing atmosphere for patients. We are grateful for the collaboration of Mr. Greve and the Downtown San Diego Partnership on this event.”

A special thank you to Downtown San Diego Partnership, and their CEO Kris Mitchell, for their dedication to and support for this event. Their unwavering commitment and collaboration made a big impact in bringing this annual event to life. Overall, it was a successful night that was enjoyed by everyone who attended!

To learn more about the Hearts for Healing program, please contact Caroline Harrington, Development and Special Events Manager, at carolineh@fhcsd.org. If you are interested in contributing to FHCSD’s Baby Boutique program, please visit www.fhcsd.org/baby-boutique.
Did You Schedule That Tune-Up?

Because 60% of our population has not had any screening for colorectal cancer and the screening statistics for Hispanics are even worse. More than 145,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year and about 50,000 die from it annually. Once cancer spreads outside the colon, the results can be devastating and plans to spend the latter years traveling, pursuing hobbies or having fun with the grandkids is irretrievably lost.

At FHCSD we are driving hard to make sure our patients who need colon cancer screening actually receive this important test. Since our initiative began we have improved screening rates in our clinics by over 10%.

What are the arguments for not maintaining your body as well as your car?

• Many people think they’re at no risk for colon cancer. Of course, you’re at risk! One in 18 people will get colon cancer in their lives.
• People think they don’t have any symptoms and don’t need to be screened. Of course you don’t! That’s why colon cancer is called the Silent Killer.
• People think colonoscopies are too painful. No, they’re not! Twilight sleep ensures you do not remember the procedure and there is no pain.
• Amazingly, the number one stated reason for not having a colon cancer screening is fear. I contend the fear of colon cancer should be far worse. You take good care of that car. Now go schedule your own tune-up. Pick up the phone and make the appointment for that colonoscopy – and keep it. We care, and we want to keep you around for many years to come.

Health’s philanthropic impact on FHCSD is as varied as it is generous and long-lasting. But our relationship goes even further. Since the mid-1980s, FHCSD physicians have been credentialed at Scripps Mercy Hospital and are part of the medical staff there. In fact, 60% of annual deliveries at Scripps Mercy San Diego are performed by FHCSD physicians. Additionally, FHCSD plays an active role in the Scripps Health Graduate Medical Education Program. North Park Family Health Center’s pediatric clinic serves as the outpatient rotation site for Scripps Mercy Hospital’s pediatric residency program. Also, FHCSD’s Family Medicine Residency Training Program residents receive additional training at Scripps Mercy Hospital, which serves as an inpatient/specialty rotation site.

Scripps Health strives to provide services in a caring environment while delivering the highest quality health care available – principles our organization shares. We are honored to collaborate with partners such as Scripps Health to improve the wellbeing of our community every day.