

**FRESNO COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
MITIGATION FEE AGENCY
AGENDA**

Date: February 25, 2010

Time: Immediately Following Council of Fresno County
Governments Policy Board Meeting

Place: COG Sequoia Room
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Enclosure</i>	<i>Action*</i>
I.	PRESENTATIONS		
	A. Public Presentations This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. Note: Prior to action by the Board on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.		
II.	Minutes of October 29, 2009	Yes	Approve
III.	Terry House exemption request	Yes	Direction/ Approve

Summary: Community Regional Medical Center is building a 15,874 Short-Term housing project known as Terry's House to provide a place to stay for families who cannot otherwise afford suitable accommodations while their child is in the hospital. The two story home will have 20 family units and a group kitchen. The project is being paid for exclusively with donations by a lead gift from Tom Richards, and including partnerships with Bank of America, Lennar Homes, Kroeker Inc. and Weber BMW.

Terry's House sponsors have requested an exemption from the RTMF fee, however, staff has no basis to grant such a request. The Board may consider individual projects and if they so wish, grant an exception based on the merits and circumstances of each individual project.

Recommendation: Consider a one time exemption for Terry's House based on humanitarian reasons and direct staff accordingly.

- IV. **OTHER BUSINESS**
- A. Items from Staff
 - B. Items from Members

*Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas

**FRESNO COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
MITIGATION FEE AGENCY
EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

Date: October 29, 2009

Time: Immediately Following Council of Fresno County
Governments Policy Board Meeting

Place: COG Sequoia Room
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Present: Mayor Trinidad M. Rodriguez, City of Kerman, Chair
Mayor Dennis Lujan, City of Selma, Vice Chair
Councilmember Nathan Magsig, City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
Councilmember Rico Aguayo, City of Fowler
Mayor Ramon Dominguez, City of Huron
Mayor Bruce Blayney, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
Mayor Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor José R. Villarreal, City of Sanger
Supervisor Susan Anderson, County of Fresno

Janelle Kelley, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director
Les Beshears, Finance Director

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 14 members present representing 46.65% of the population and there was a quorum. (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County)

I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Board on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

There were no Public Presentations.

II. Minutes of September 24, 2009

A motion was made by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) to approve the minutes as written. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. Indemnity Agreement with Fresno County Transportation Authority

Les Beshears (Fresno COG) explained that the RTMF fee will be applied to projects implemented by the Fresno County Transportation Authority in conjunction with Measure "C". An Indemnity Agreement has been worked out with the Fresno County Transportation Authority to transfer liability of administering the program to the Transportation Authority. The document was handed out at the Board Meeting and Janelle Kelley, County Counsel provided a verbal brief on the nature and extent of

indemnity covered by the agreement. The item will go to the Transportation Authority Board for execution at their December 16, 2009 meeting.

A motion was made by Supervisor Anderson (County) and seconded by Mayor Fast (Reedley) to adopt the Indemnification Agreement with Fresno County Transportation Authority. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

IV. Public Hearing - Adopt Resolution 2009-01 to implement the RTMF Fee Schedule

A public hearing adopting the RTFM Fee Schedule is open for written or oral comments. On September 10, 2009 public notices were posted in member agencies public notice foyers and in the Fresno Bee announcing the formation of the JPA and inviting oral or written comments on the nexus study and fee schedule. The public noticing was repeated on October 15, 2009. The fee schedule is scheduled for adoption October 29, 2009. Once the Fee Schedule is adopted there will be a 60-day waiting period before the fee takes effect January 1, 2010.

Mayor Rodriguez (Kerman), Chairman, opened the public hearing.

Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association (BIA) stated that the BIA is in support of the proposed fee schedule.

There being no further comments, Mayor Rodriguez closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mayor Fast (Reedley) and seconded by Supervisor Anderson (County) to approve Resolution 2009-01 implementing the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Schedule.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2010.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from Members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments

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****All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas**

Attachment A
Observers and Non-Members
October 29, 2009

Jeffrey D. Webster, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Don Hubbard, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Lynn Gorman, Fresno County
Mike Harrison, City of Clovis
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Les Beshears, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG



VICKI CROW, C.P.A.
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

COUNTY FACILITIES IMPACT FEE RECEIPT

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 466-066-08
PROJECT ADDRESS: 2730 FRESNO STREET CITY: FRESNO
SITE PLAN APPROVAL DATE: 5/23/08 TRACT MAP NUMBER: _____
DATE SUBDIVISION APPLICATION DEEM COMPLETE BY JURISDICTION: _____
TENTATIVE MAP APPROVAL DATE: _____ FINAL MAP APPROVAL DATE: _____
VESTING MAP: ☐ YES ☐ NO APPLICANT: COMMUNITY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
MAILING ADDRESS: 855 M STREET, SUITE 1110, FRESNO PHONE: (559) 268-6090
93721

<u>PROPOSED PROJECT</u>	<u>SUBJECT TO FEES</u>	<u>FEE AMOUNT</u>
RESIDENTIAL (Number of units)	_____	_____
NONRESIDENTIAL (Bldg. square foot.)		
RETAIL	_____	_____
OFFICE	<u>15,874 sf</u>	<u>EXEMPT</u>
INDUSTRIAL	_____	_____
WAREHOUSE	_____	_____

I (APPLICANT) SCOTT J. ANDERSON hereby certify under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 2/16/10

PRINT NAME (INCLUDE TITLE IF APPLICABLE) PROJECT MANAGER

DATE PD: 2/16/10 AMOUNT PD: 0 RECEIPT NO: N/A COUNTY STAMP HERE: **CASHIER 4**

FEB 16 2010

Notice to permitting jurisdiction:

**FRESNO COUNTY
TREASURER** *[Signature]*

This receipt only represents the applicant's payment of the County fees, based on the project size and classification, stated above. Before issuing a building permit for such project, the permitting jurisdiction needs to determine that the project description in the building permit actually matches the project size and classification, above. If the project description in the building permit would result in a greater amount of County fees than what was paid to the County, the permitting jurisdiction needs to obtain a new County receipt for the appropriate amount of County fees before issuing such building permit. For purposes of accepting this receipt as proof of payment to the County, accept only this original receipt stamped by the County. Do not accept any copies hereof.



Fresno Unified School District

Education Center • 2309 Tulare Street
Fresno, California 93721-2287 • 559/457-3000

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT
4600 North Brawley Avenue • Fresno, CA 93722
559-457-3074 • FAX 559-457-3060

DEVELOPER FEE CERTIFICATION

Jurisdiction: Fresno City, Fresno County, Clovis

Receipt No. _____

Owner/Subdivider Community Regional Medical Phone No. _____
Owner/Subdivider Address 855 N Street Zip 93721
Project Contact Person Scott Anderson Phone No. 268-6090
Project Address 2730 Fresno Street Zip 93721
Tract _____ Lot(s) _____ APN# 446-066-08
Elementary School Attendance Area _____

Type of Development (Number from below): _____

1. Single family New
2. Single family Addition
3. Single family Remodel
4. Multiple family # of units _____
5. Condominium # of units _____
6. PUD # of units _____
7. Mobile home
8. Commercial/Industrial: Specify type _____
9. Other: Specify Short-term housing - CRITICAL CARE FAMILIES

*Terry's House
15,874 sq ft*

Residential Development: X Sq. ft. @ 15,874 per sq. ft. = \$ X
Commercial Development: _____ Sq. ft. @ _____ per sq. ft. = \$ _____

Fresno Unified School District certifies that the above fees have been paid in full.

X Fresno Unified School District certifies that the above project is **EXEMPT** from developer fees.
(See Developer Fee Guidelines for exemptions)

Reason: Terry's House - FAMILY HOUSING FOR CRITICAL CARE PATIENTS
Diana Blank Date 11-16-09
Fresno Unified School District Representative

Cash _____ Check No. _____ Person/Company Issuing Check _____

Notice: Pursuant to Assembly Bill 1081 (CHAP 549, STATS 1996) this will serve to notify you that the 90 days approval period in which you may protest any imposed fees, description of dedications, reservations or other exactions will begin to run from the issuance date as indicated on this Developer Fee Certificate which describes the fees, description of dedications, reservations or other exactions.

Applicant is responsible for taking certification form to permit authority.

7/14/03

Distribution: Original—City of Fresno; White—Applicant; Yellow—Accounting; Pink—Facilities Management & Planning Dept.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



ORIGINAL

**County Facility Impact Fee Information
for Subdivision Maps, Site Plans, or Conditional Use Permits**

(Exemptions may be allowed when constructed prior to 9/20/2013, based on applicable building permit dates, entitlement approvals or application acceptance dates prior to 9/20/2008 - Inquire at County Treasurer's Office, Reference Ordinance # 08-023, Effective: 9/20/2008)

Official Address*: 2730 FRESNO ST

HTE Building Permit #(s) 09-8821

SUBDIVISION/PARCEL MAPS

Tract Map # / Parcel Map # _____

Tentative Map/Tentative Parcel Map Acceptance and Approval Dates _____

Check one: ☐ Vesting Tentative Map
☐ Non-Vesting Tentative Map

Final/Parcel Map Approval and Recording Dates _____

or;

SPECIAL PERMITS

Site Plan Review # _____

Conditional Use Permit# C-08-058

Special Permit Approval Date MAY 23, 2008

Information Provided by:
Signature: _____

Print Name: ED PAZ

COF Title/Phone #: PLANNER / (5M) 621-8277

Distribute & check off: ☐ -Notice & Appeal Period, ☐ - Schedule of Fees

* - Official Address as issued by the City of Fresno

NOTE: The City of Fresno does not accept any liability to any party for providing this information.



TERRY'S HOUSE

Mission Statement

Community Regional Medical Center is embarking on what was once a dream, but is now becoming a reality – to build a home away from home that provides family and loved ones of critically injured or sick patients a safe and secure place to stay while their loved one heals.

Currently, family members must seek accommodations miles from our hospital. Others who cannot afford suitable accommodations sleep in waiting rooms, in their cars, or try their best to find a place in other areas of a busy hospital. They often have no alternative but to leave the hospital and make the long drive home, which is especially challenging when the patients are children.

With a lead gift from Mr. Tom Richards, and partnerships including Bank of America, Lennar Homes, Kroeker Inc. and Weber BMW, Community Regional is embarking to fulfill this dream of building a hospitality house similar to those offered at other prestigious institutions like Stanford, UCLA and Duke Medical Centers. Planners at Community Regional have designed a 17,000 square-foot, two-story house with 20 units to meet the needs of our growing population in Central California. It also will include essential amenities such as a family resource center.

This hotel-like facility - *Terry's House* - is named in honor of Terry Richards who suffered and survived a serious trauma at the tender age of five. Terry's House is located across the street from downtown Community Regional and offers easy parking and access to the hospital.

If you would like to join us in building this haven for families in their time of need, please log on to TerrysHouseFresno.com or call 550-459-2648/1-888-538-8088 to find out how you can be a part of this worthy cause.

TerrysHouseFresno.com



TERRY'S HOUSE

Community Regional Medical Center

Help families stay close in times of need.



TerryHouseFresno.com

559.459.2648

888.538.8088

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY
MEDICAL CENTERS

INFORMATION Sheet **TERRY'S HOUSE**

Background

Community Regional Medical Center is home to the Leon S. Peters Burn Center and Table Mountain Rancheria Trauma Center, the only Level 1 trauma center between Los Angeles and Sacramento. Community Regional is the second busiest birthing center in California and houses the region's only program for high-risk pregnancies and deliveries. Other critical care services include the world's first G4 CyberKnife and a neurosurgery program with leading-edge technology giving doctors increased accuracy in complicated surgical procedures. With 511 licensed beds, Community Regional offers vital medical services that save lives 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Need

Since Community Regional serves a 15,000 square mile service area, patients and their loved ones come from all over. With a road to recovery before them, family and friends play an important role in the patients' healing process. All too often, the distance creates obstacles when traveling. With rising hotel costs and nowhere to stay, patients' support systems are often found in waiting areas, patient rooms or in their vehicles. As Community's volume of patients continues to increase, so does the need for an alternate means of housing accommodation.

The Vision

Physicians, nurses, hospital staff and community members have expressed the desire to have a hospitality house nearby – a home away from home. Terry's House is now becoming that reality. Made possible by Tom Richards, CEO of the Penstar Group, Terry's House was named after his brother Terry Richards, who experienced a serious trauma at age five when he was injured in a car accident. For nearly five months his mother traveled almost 80 miles a day to see her son while he was recovering. Tom Richards' motivation is to alleviate some of the stress that families like his experience in difficult times.

Terry's House will offer convenient and affordable lodging for families while their loved ones receive critical care. It's just another way Community strives for the highest quality continuum of care.

The proposed facility will be a 17,000-square-foot, two-story home within walking distance of the main entrance of Community Regional. Terry's House will feature two stairways and an elevator to accommodate convenience and cater to varying abilities, wide corridors and ample windows to offer an open, comforting and healing environment.

Demolition took place Feb. 21 to remove the former building to make room for Terry's House on the corner of Fresno and R streets. Groundbreaking is expected in fall 2008 and construction of the house is expected to be completed by late summer 2009.

Terry's House will include:

- 20 guest rooms with private baths and in-room refrigerators
- Adjoining guest rooms that can be combined into one larger suite
- Ample activity, lounge and sitting areas for relaxation
- Guest kitchen
- Guest dining area
- Guest laundry facility
- Large gathering area
- Family resource center
- Children's activity room

Estimated Cost/Funding

The construction of Terry's House is entirely dependent upon private gifts and contributions. Through a generous gift from Tom Richards, Bank of America and Lennar Homes this has been made possible. Community Medical Foundation has accepted the challenge to launch a capital campaign to raise \$3 million to fund and equip the home. The goal is to raise additional funds for operations and to provide housing to those in need.

History

Community Medical Centers' rich history spans a century of commitment to the Central Valley and its residents, from its modest beginning in 1897 to its recent completion of an academic regional medical center in downtown Fresno. For more than 100 years, Community has provided health care services to the residents of California's culturally diverse Valley.

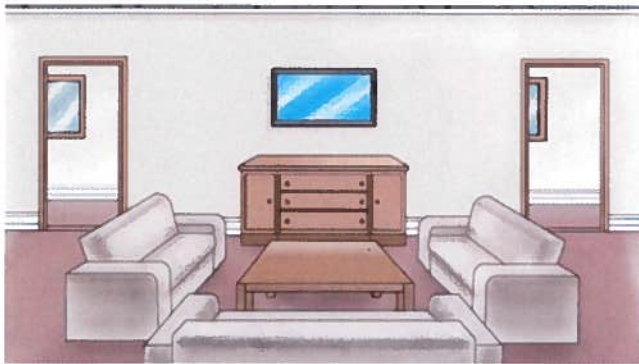
COMMUNITY



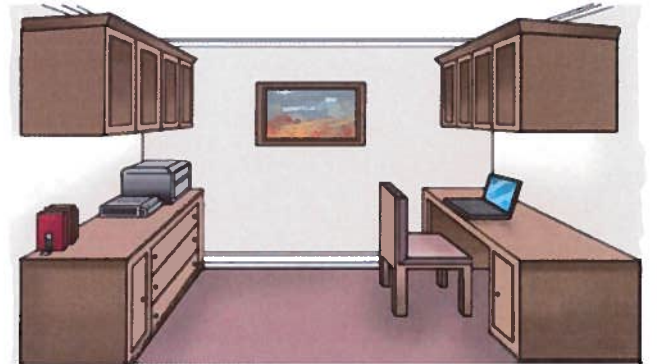
Terry's House



Master Bedroom



Living Area



Family Resource Center

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY
MEDICAL CENTERS

INFORMATION Sheet

COMMUNITY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Background

Community Regional Medical Center began with one woman. In 1897, Celia Burnett was a proprietor of a successful boarding house, at the southeast corner of Fulton and Calaveras streets. Burnett joined forces with Fresno physicians to form a private hospital known as the Burnett Sanitarium. Today, Community Regional is the flagship of Community Medical Centers' three acute-care facilities, with 561 licensed beds and an average of 386 inpatients a day.

Services include a full-service, 56,000-square-foot emergency department, state-of-the-art radiology and cardiology departments, dedicated neuroscience wing, inpatient and outpatient surgery, dialysis, rehabilitation and cancer treatments. Community Regional was the first Valley hospital to offer a revolutionary, minimally invasive heart surgery as well as breakthrough technology in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

In April 2007, University Medical Center's acute-care services – including burn and Level I trauma – relocated to the 58-acre regional medical center campus. This transition began in June 2003. Through the University of California, San Francisco, Fresno Medical Education Program, Community Regional conducts residency and fellowship training in several specialties of medicine.

Community Regional is located at 2823 Fresno St., less than a mile west of Freeway 41 in the heart of downtown Fresno.

Patient services

Medical/surgical
24-hour emergency care
Intensive care
Level I trauma services
Burn center, wound therapy and hyperbaric unit
Cardiovascular care
Neurosciences
Family birthing
Neonatal intensive care
High-risk antepartum care
Cancer care
Rehabilitation
CyberKnife®
Critical care unit
Telemetry/ICU step-down unit
Dialysis
General pediatric unit
UCSF Fresno Medical Education faculty and residency/fellowship programs

Pharmacy
Laboratory
Respiratory
Imaging/radiology
Occupational, physical and speech therapies
Dietary and nutrition
da Vinci® Surgical System

Specialty Centers

Table Mountain Rancheria Trauma Center
Leon S. Peters Burn Center
Charles and Ann Matoian Oncology Unit
Community Family Birth Center
Leon S. Peters Rehabilitation Center
Community Orthopedic Surgery Center
The Heart Institute at Community
Pathological and Clinical Laboratory
Diagnostic X-ray and Nuclear Medicine
Newborn and Prenatal Screening Lab

Accreditation

Every three years, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations inspects participating hospitals to gauge their quality of care. Community Regional received full accreditation in 2005.

Vital numbers

Licensed beds	561
ICU	46
Burn	10
Medical/surgical	397
Rehab	32
Pediatrics	8
Obstetrics	49
Neonatal intensive care	19

Community Regional and former UMC combined figures based on fiscal year 2006-2007

Admissions	32,097
Patients treated in emergency room	92,719
Surgical procedures	29,992
Inpatient	19,012
Outpatient	10,980
Cardiology procedures	58,636
Births	7,330
Meals served	1,491,370
Inpatient	545,807
Outpatient	945,563

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY
MEDICAL CENTERS

INFORMATION Sheet

LEON S. PETERS BURN CENTER and TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER

Background

Community Regional Medical Center is home to central California's only burn and Level I trauma center. The Level I designation is the highest level of distinction for trauma care. No other hospital from Los Angeles to Sacramento can provide this level of care. To achieve Level I status, Community has met strict guidelines concerning patient care and is certified to provide medical care for the most critically injured patients, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Leon S. Peters Burn Center and Table Mountain Rancheria Level I Trauma Center provide acute and intensive care services for adult and pediatric trauma patients, hyperbaric patients, adult and pediatric burn patients, as well as burn wound care for inpatients and outpatients. In addition to treating burn and trauma victims, the two centers are dedicated to educating the public on the importance of injury and burn prevention.

In April 2007, burn and trauma services moved from University Medical Center to the new 340,000-square-foot trauma and critical care building located on the 58-acre Community Regional Medical Center campus in downtown Fresno. The six-story trauma and critical care building features 68 emergency treatment areas, 58 intensive care treatment rooms, 10 intensive care burn treatment rooms and an expanded wound/burn therapy and hyperbaric center in an adjacent outpatient burn clinic.

Trauma and burn units

ICU

Burn unit

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy unit

Med/surg

Transitional care unit

Wound therapy unit

Trauma and burn team

Physicians

Nurses

Respiratory therapists

Physical and occupational therapists

Social workers

Dietitians

Healing arts professionals

Speech therapists

Advanced practice personnel

Pharmacists

Specialized services

24-hour, in-house surgical coverage

Injury prevention education

Acute wound care

Burn survivors counseling

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Neurosurgery

Oral/maxillofacial surgery

Orthopedic

Outreach education programs

Plastic and reconstructive surgery

Rehabilitation

Service area

Community's service area is the largest in California, covering 15,000 square miles – almost as big as Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey combined.

Fresno County

Kern County

Kings County

Madera County

Mariposa County

Merced County

Monterey County

San Luis Obispo County

Tulare County

New vital numbers at Community Regional

Licensed beds

ICU

46

Burn unit

10

University Medical Center vital numbers

(figures from fiscal year 2005-2006)

Burn therapy procedures 9,861

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy procedures 10,144

Inpatient 2,304

Outpatient 7,840

Average yearly trauma statistics 9,136

Inpatient 2,286

Emergency Department visits 6,850



Building Terry's House: Chasing Dreams

The last thing on Summer Bourez's mind when her 7-year-old son was critically injured in a car accident was where she was going to stay while he recovered. Like many others, she never expected her loved one would be involved in a traumatic accident.

"In a matter of seconds your whole world just changes," Bourez said. "I was with my mom when we got a phone call that shattered our lives. My sister was killed in a car accident and Chase was with her."

Last April Chase Bourez was airlifted to Community Health Center-Cedar, formerly known as University Medical Center. He was then transferred to Community Regional Medical Center during the relocation of acute care services from the Cedar campus to the downtown hospital. Chase was in a medically induced coma for more than a week with multiple injuries to his head and jaw.

Housing a trauma center with the largest service area in California often means treating patients that come from afar. Community Regional's Table Mountain Rancheria Trauma Center is the only Level 1 trauma center between Los Angeles and Sacramento. As these unexpected situations arise, some families of patients have had difficulty finding a place to stay to be close to their loved ones in their time of healing.

"We spent the first night on the floor of the hospital with other families. It was very crowded. There's no privacy," Bourez said. "You just want to curl up in a ball and cry, and you can't do that. There's always someone there. There are always people walking in and out."

The Bourez family lived near Lindsay, more than an hour away. With nowhere to stay, they lived in Chase's hospital room by day and in an RV in the parking lot by night.

Community Medical Centers is now embarking on what was once its dream - a home away from home - which is now becoming a reality by providing families of patients who are critically injured or sick a safe and secure place to stay while their loved ones heal. Terry's House will be a 17,000-square-foot, two-story home within walking distance of the main entrance of Community Regional.

The construction of Terry's House has been made possible through generous gifts from Tom Richards, Bank of America and Lennar Homes. Community Medical Foundation is launching a capital campaign to raise \$3 million to fund and equip the home. Its goal is to raise additional funds for operations, and to provide the housing at low or no-cost to families that qualify.

Bourez said Terry's House would have been a blessing for her family and knows first-hand what it will mean for future families.

A year after the accident, Chase is back to being a kid.

"He's back to riding a two-wheeler," Bourez said.

"And he's back to being ornery," said Darian Bourez, Chase's father.

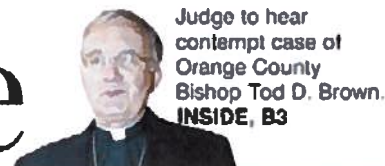
For more information on Terry's House, please visit TerrysHouseFresno.com or call 559.459.2648 or 888.538.8088.



Chase Bourez was in a coma after an auto accident that took the life of his aunt.



In celebration of the Terry's House kick-off, Chase Bourez got to ride in the same helicopter that airlifted him to the hospital the day of his accident.



Judge to hear
contempt case of
Orange County
Bishop Tod D. Brown.
INSIDE, B3

HELPING HEALING FAMILIES

A house across from
Fresno hospital will be
balm for out-of-towners.



Yadira Munoz holds the hand of her son Carlos, 7, who was burned in a house fire in Arvin in Kern County. Hospital stays for burn patients usually are extended. In response to this need, a home is planned for families of burn victims and intensive care unit patients to stay at a low cost across the street from Community Regional Medical Center in Fresno.

By Barbara Anderson
The Fresno Bee

Fresno developer Tom Richards doesn't know Yadira Munoz of Arvin, but he is helping build a home across the street from Community Regional Medical Center for mothers like her.

The home will be a 17,000-square-foot, two-story building with individual rooms for up to 20 families to live for days or months at a time while visiting loved ones in the hospital's intensive care and burn wards.

The regional medical center in downtown Fresno provides the only Level I trauma and burn centers between Los Angeles and

Sacramento for people living in a 15,000-square-mile area.

"It's going to give families a safe harbor" when they are so far from home, Richards said.

Munoz could use such a place.

For the past 2 1/2 months, she has spent every day at the hospital comforting her husband, Victor Medina Sr., and sons Victor Jr., 10, and Carlos Medina, 7, who were burned in a house fire on July 24.

Every night, Munoz, 28, drives about five miles to a Holiday Inn to sleep in a hotel room or a trailer parked in the hotel parking lot. People in Arvin and Bakersfield

raised money, to pay for the hotel room, she said.

She can't cook at the hotel. And often she is too tired to eat out. Instead, she buys ham and bread and makes a sandwich.

Family members bring her daughter, Anabelle Medina, 2, to see her on weekends. Munoz and Anabelle escaped the fire unharmed through a window.

Caring for her family so far from home "is very hard," Munoz said Monday at the burn center, as Carlos pleaded and cried for her to loosen a bandage on his right hand and arm.

Richards understands

Forty-six years ago, his younger brother, Terry Richards, 50, of Fresno, was injured in a car accident near where the family lived in New York. For almost five months, his mother traveled 80 miles a day to be with her son in a Syracuse, N.Y., hospital.

His brother, who today is his best friend, wouldn't be alive except for the care he received from doctors and nurses, Richards said. "These people accomplish miracles every day."

He didn't hesitate to join the building project when Katie Zenovich, senior development executive for the Community Medical Foundation, mentioned several months ago that the foundation hoped to build a home near the downtown medical center for patients' families.

"It struck a tender nerve in our family," Richards said.

Richards, chief executive of The Penstar Group, which has built offices for Community, gave an initial gift of \$500,000 and signed on as the voluntary developer and construction manager.

Zenovich said the foundation plans to raise \$3 million to build and furnish the house for families of the critically ill and injured. Families would be asked to make a nominal donation to stay there, but would not be required to pay. "Ongoing fundraising is going to be critical" to maintain the house, she said.

The house will be built on land owned by Community on the opposite side of Fresno Street from the hospital's main entrance. Communications offices now on the site will move when construction begins.

The foundation will give priority to housing families with relatives in intensive care and the burn center,

but the house also will be open to relatives of patients in the high-risk maternal services, neonatal, heart and neurosurgery areas of the hospital.

In addition to 20 guest rooms with private baths, the house will have a kitchen, dining area, laundry rooms, a place for families to gather and a children's play room.

Zenovich expects the house to remain full once it opens sometime in early 2009.

Families of ill children keep 18 rooms full at The Ronald McDonald House near Children's Hospital Central California in Madera County, said Patty Manfredi, executive director. Plans include increasing that house's size to 44 rooms, she said.

Munoz hopes her family will be home in Arvin long before construction begins on Community's guest house. Oldest son Victor Jr. has been discharged. He returned to school in Arvin on Monday.

Carlos should be transferred to Children's Hospital soon for rehabilitation of the burns on his hands, she said.

But a house within walking distance of the burn center would be a welcome addition, Munoz said. "Everything about it would be nice."

Richards is busy lining up contractors for the job. "This is a labor of love for everyone who gets involved," he said.

It also will be a tribute to his brother. The building across from the regional medical center will be named Terry's House.



Jan Paul of Community Medical Centers and Fresno developer Tom Richards stand on the future site of a home for families of burn victims and intensive-care patients at Community Regional Medical Center.

Every night, Yadira Munoz, 28, drives about five miles to a Holiday Inn to sleep in a hotel room or a trailer parked in the hotel parking lot. She can't cook at the hotel. And often she is too tired to eat out. Instead, she buys ham and bread and makes a sandwich.



TERRY'S HOUSE

COMMUNITY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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