

**Ukiah Valley
Medical Center**

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center Receives \$50,000 Donation

Ukiah Valley Medical Center (UVMC) received a \$50,000 donation towards the hospital's new Outpatient Pavilion from longtime Ukiah resident, Emil Kafrouni. "I felt I had to do something. I have been blessed tremendously, everywhere I go in Ukiah people are nice to me," says Emil Kafrouni, of his donation. The donation was made in the Kafrouni family name.

"When you are working on a project as large as the Outpatient Pavilion, community support is necessary to your work and success. We are so grateful to Emil and his family for the gift; with community members like Emil, who strive to help others achieve their goals, our mission is put into action," says UVMC President/CEO Mark E. LaRose. "In recognition of the Kafrouni family we are naming the Outpatient Pavilion Lobby 'The Kafrouni Family Lobby.'"

The Kafrouni family is originally from Egypt. Ishak (Is-hak) and Victorine Kafrouni sacrificed much to enable their six children to receive higher education and a better life in the U.S. Emil attended Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon, and then moved to the U.S. at the age of 22. He continued his education at Walla Walla College in Walla Walla, Washington, followed by the University of Idaho and University of Oregon, where he received degrees in business and education. Upon graduation Emil took a job teaching at Ukiah High School (UHS). "It was a good place to begin work because it was close enough for continuing education at University of Oregon," says Kafrouni. Kafrouni, now retired, taught business classes at UHS for 27 years, some of which he served as Chair of the Business Department. In 1998, Emil underwent surgery at UVMC for colon cancer. "One of the assisting surgeons was a former student of mine...I feel very comfortable being here in the hospital. What's nice is some of my students work here now, and I see them every time I walk down the hall."

Kafrouni feels that his donation is just one way he could help and give back to the community he lives in and loves. He became aware of the hospital's need for a new MRI. "You think about these things and can't help but feel I could help," says Kafrouni.

Emil donated the funds in his family's name because of the their, "extensive dedication to education and medicine."

Kafrouni's sister, Marie, attended Middle East College and became a teacher. After teaching one year, Marie died from cancer at the age of 22.

Sisters Georgette and Laurice attended Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska and received degrees in Nursing.

Georgette Kafrouni Sequeira returned to Dar El-Salam Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq where she worked for several years as a nurse. In the early 1970s, she and her family returned to the U.S. and she continued working in nursing at Ukiah Valley Medical Center's predecessor, Hillside Hospital. Eventually she worked for the Ukiah Unified School District as a substitute teacher. Georgette is now retired.

Laurice Kafrouni Durrant went to the Karachi Adventist Hospital in Pakistan where she worked for several years as a nurse. Upon her return to the U.S. she received her Ph.D. in nursing education from Stanford University. Laurice served as Chair of the Department of Nursing at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, then as Chair of the Department of Nursing at Union College. Laurice is now retired.

Kafrouni's brother George attended Walla Walla College and continued his studies at Loma Linda University in medicine. George specialized in Thoracic and Cardiovascular surgery. In 1976, George was part of a team of surgeons that performed the first open heart surgeries in Saudi Arabia on 36 patients. Currently, George is the Chair of the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Department at UVMC's sister hospital in Los Angeles, White Memorial Medical Center.

In recognition of Emil Kafrouni's donation the new Outpatient Pavilion Lobby will be named "The Kafrouni Family Lobby."

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center is a member of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health care system affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with headquarters in Roseville, California. Spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, the organization is comprised of 85 distinct business units, including 20 acute care facilities—controlled, managed or leased—with more than 3,100 beds, 17,200 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 18 home health agencies and two retirement centers. For more information, visit www.uvmc.org or www.adventisthealth.org