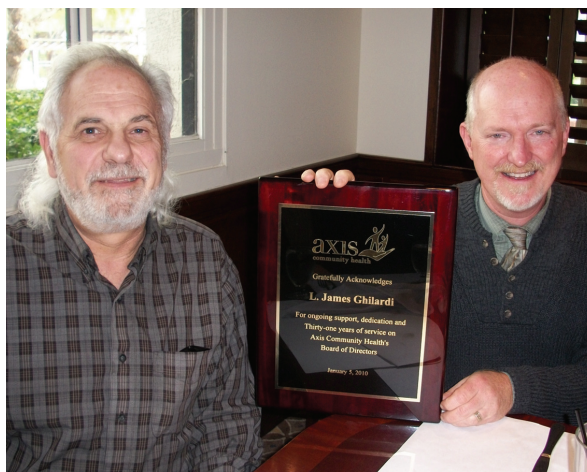


## A Fond Farewell to Jim Ghilardi

The entire Axis community bids a fond farewell to Jim Ghilardi, MFT as he leaves our Board of Directors after an incredible 31 years of dedicated service. During his tenure, he witnessed the organization's tremendous growth and helped guide Axis to its current strength and stability.

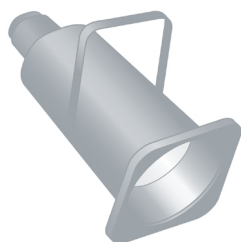
In 1978, Jim joined the staff of The Center, which merged with Axis (then Valley Community Health Center), in 1996. Beginning as a counseling intern, he eventually became the drug and alcohol program director, supervising and training interns for the counseling, education and crisis services agency. After ten years, he opened a private counseling practice in Pleasanton with his wife, Carol, but remained involved with Axis as a Board member.



*Board President James Paxson (right) congratulates Jim Ghilardi for 31 years of dedicated service on the Axis Community Health Board of Directors.*

"The years just flew by and I never thought about how much time was passing," says Jim. "I stayed because I have a real soft spot for this agency as I know how important it is to the community. Axis has always been one of the few agencies in the Tri-Valley to address drug and alcohol problems. There really isn't any other place for the uninsured or underinsured population to go."

*(continued on page 2)*



## Spotlight on Behavioral Health Expansion

Axis Community Health has begun the new decade with continued growth and expansion. In an effort to keep pace with the ever-increasing demand for our services and facilities that are beyond capacity, we will soon open a second behavioral health location at 446 Lindbergh Avenue in Livermore. The relocation of adult behavioral health programs was brought about by the need to further expand the medical clinic at our Railroad Avenue site in Pleasanton, where our behavioral health services have been housed.

The new 4,000-square-foot offices will house all adult drug and alcohol recovery programs, some court-ordered programs and pre-employment and drug and alcohol testing services. In the near future, additional DUI classes will be available there, supplementing those held at our 6666 Owens Drive location in Pleasanton. All teen drug and alcohol recovery programs will remain at the Owens Drive facility.

"We are excited about expanding in Livermore and making our services more accessible to our many clients and patients in that area," says Axis Community Health CEO Sue Compton. The new location is just off I-580 near the Livermore airport. It can be reached easily by Wheels buses and also via the newly-extended North Isabel Avenue from Stanley Boulevard. There, a staff of 10-15 well-qualified behavioral health counselors will provide affordable individual and group substance abuse recovery services for adults. A grand opening of the new facility will be celebrated in the spring and updates will be on the Axis website, [www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org).

## contact us

### Medical Care

Pleasanton & Livermore  
(925) 462-1755

### Mental Health Services

Adults, Children, Families  
(925) 201-6240

### Substance Abuse

Counseling  
(925) 201-6053

### Teen Drug & Alcohol Recovery

(925) 201-6201

### WIC

Women, Infants, Children  
Supplemental Nutrition  
Pleasanton  
(925) 462-2365

### DUI

Court & DMV  
Ordered Classes  
(925) 201-6244

### Community Health Education

(925) 201-6013

### Eligibility & Enrollment

(925) 201-6056

### Administrative Offices

(925) 201-6017

visit us on the web  
[www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org)

## board of directors

Our Board of Directors is consumer driven and representative of the community.

James Paxson, *Chair*

Ted Kaye, Ph.D., *Vice-Chair*

Bert Brook, *Treasurer*

Aida White, *Secretary*

Yolanda Brown

Yolanda De Santillan

Mark Eaton

Thelma Fones

Frank A. Hunter, Ph.D.

Rhenae Keyes

Gladys Montalvo-Campo

Farzi Najeeb

Jeri Steiger

## foundation

The Axis Community Health Foundation works to enhance community support for our services.

Sherry Peterson, *Chair*

B. Penny Woods, *Secretary*

Bert Brook, *Treasurer*

Donna Bratton-Kearns

Bob Brown

Barbara Will

Becky Yeffa

Sue Compton, *CEO*

## A Fond Farewell to Jim Ghilardi (continued from page 1)

During Jim's tenure on the Board of Directors, the agency has grown "from a group of committed and enthusiastic workers who shared a parking lot on Railroad Avenue" to a cohesive, well-trained team of dedicated professionals who now provide services at five Tri-Valley locations.

According to Jim, his job is finished. He continues. "Axis is grown up now and I've never seen it in such good shape as it is today. The administration deserves a lot of credit for that.

"However, in order to continue to serve people in a professional manner, the acquisition of a new facility is essential. The Board is active and engaged and I know it is up to the task of accomplishing that daunting task. I wish everyone well."

Jim Ghilardi is a graduate of Santa Clara University and St. Patrick's Seminary and earned a Master of Science degree from University of San Francisco. A little-known fact about Jim? He is a member of the Sports Car Club of America and has raced for 40 years. Last year, he won his class, competing against young drivers who had not yet been born when he started racing.

## thank you! thank you! thank you!

### Adopt a Bear – Valley Community Bank

Annonymous	\$175	Jon Clark	\$500
Janette Armknecht	\$30	Marilou Emmett	\$20
Lynn Bieber	\$50	Donna Savino	\$20
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Chaney	\$50	Clyde Vaughn	\$10
Greg Clark, Family Living Trust	\$1,000	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wrzesinski	\$25

**Total: \$1880**

### Donations

AT&T United Way	\$217	Louise Johnson	
Perry Acupido	\$50	Dr. & Mrs. Ted Kaye	\$500
Annonymous	\$1,475	David King	\$100
Robert Baltzer	\$100	Hio Leong Lao	\$100
Jareene Barkdoll	\$100	Barbara Lewis	\$100
Stanley Bateman, Jr.	\$100	LLNL Home Campaign	\$920
William Berck		Mr. & Mrs. Jack Maze	\$50
Bert & Dee Brook	\$1,100	Mr. & Mrs. David Montez	\$50
Catholic Community of Pleasanton	\$1,000	Sherry Peterson	\$50
Contreras, Susan	\$500	Ann Rathjen	\$500
First Presbyterian Church		Paul Renard	\$500
Mission Committee, Livermore	\$1,000	Rotary Club of Pleasanton	\$500
Michael Fraser	\$100	David Rounds	\$1,250
Fremont Bank Foundation	\$1,000	Mary Sides	\$100
L. James Ghilardi	\$200	Frank Siegert	
Kevin Gillmore &		& B. Penny Woods	\$100
Marjorie Wong-Gillmore	\$100	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Sitzmann	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Rollin Harding	\$50	Tri-Valley Unity Church	\$312
Harry Todd-Astrov		United Way Bay Area Campaign	\$462
& Lydia Lopez-Astrov	\$450	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wilen	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Harvey	\$490	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Yeffa	\$1,000

**Total: \$14,201**

Visit our website at <http://axishealth.org>

## Young Voices for Recovery Winners

Last fall, teens between the ages of 13 and 19 were invited to enter Axis' Second Annual Young Voices for Recovery Teen Essay Writing Contest. The annual contest is conducted to recognize teens for their achievements in seeking drug and alcohol treatment services and to celebrate their successes. The 2009 contest topic was "What impact has long-term recovery had on your life, either through your own experience or that of a person close to you?"

Winners of Axis' contest received monetary prizes to be used as scholarships to further their education. Sterling Anderson-Crecy, 16, received the first-place prize of \$500. Lisa Shue, 17, received \$150 for placing second, and Alonzo Avanto, 15, received \$50 for his third-place essay.

"Teens sometimes have a difficult time voicing what they want to say and this contest gives them an opportunity to write what is on their minds, without judgment," said Teen Drug & Alcohol Recovery Program Manager Amie Sousa. "Recovery is not something to be ashamed of, but to embrace, which is what the teens are doing by writing and submitting their essays. We congratulate all the participants for their openness and sincerity."

At the Pleasanton Unified School District School Board meeting on January 26, 2010, Jim Ott, president of the school board and a judge in the Teen Voices contest, acknowledged the quality of essays and their value in assisting teens in working through issues related to recovery, whether for themselves or for their family members.

## CEO's Note



*Sue Compton*

As we settle into 2010, expansion is on our mind, as we look at ways to meet the rapidly-growing need for care in the Tri-Valley. We are just five months into our fiscal year, but we are already setting records for the number of medical visits we are providing—our numbers are up 15% over last year this time, and our adult services are leading the way with a 40% increase. Our staff is working as hard as possible to meet this growing need for care, but, as always, our challenge is finding the resources to provide the care and making more clinical space in our already cramped clinics in Pleasanton and Livermore.

We are keeping an eye on Washington, where Congress continues to debate healthcare reform. We are gratified that both the Senate and House versions of healthcare reform look toward community clinics as important partners in the delivery of health care. For many years, community health centers have been quietly serving as the backbone of care across the nation for low income and uninsured Americans. We are a proven product—not only does study after study confirm the quality of services we provide, but our attention to preventive health services and our operational efficiencies make community health centers a huge bang for the buck. A recent study found that every dollar spent at a community health center saves four dollars down the road in overall health care costs. Most importantly, we keep residents of our communities healthy, which is good for everyone.

While we await developments in Washington, we continue to stretch our physical and revenue resources as far as possible at home. We are adding adult clinics and, once the Railroad Avenue medical clinic expansion is completed, we will add same-day clinics. They will use a family practice model where anyone from children to senior citizens will be able to obtain same-day appointments.

In addition, thanks to grants from the Cities of Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, as well as some stimulus funding, we're expanding our medical records department and getting ready to open a second behavioral health site in Livermore. These expansions are good as short-term solutions, but the dramatically-increasing need for care is accelerating conversations about our long-term building plan. Our Board of Directors initially projected the necessity for a new facility at seven to ten years, but now it looks like we need to shorten our timeline to four to seven years.

As always, we sincerely appreciate the continued support of the Tri-Valley's cities, businesses, organizations and individuals, as we strive to meet the rapidly growing demand for affordable healthcare in our community. We couldn't do it without this wonderful support.

Be greener! Sign up to receive Community Capsules electronically at <http://axishealth.org>

## Foundation Grants Help Axis Serve the Community

Axis Community Health gratefully acknowledges several foundations that are helping us meet the growing need for care in our community.

We have received a \$40,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation to cover medical visits that are beyond those compensated by our contract with Alameda County. This grant will allow us to provide an additional 250 medical visits, which is especially important in these difficult times.

The Hacienda Helping Hands Foundation has given us a generous grant in the amount of \$5,000 to cover uncompensated medical visits for children without health insurance. This support will allow us to provide medical care for 32 more children this year.

The Gerbode Foundation awarded Axis a \$5,000 grant to cover outreach activities that target "difficult to reach" residents for the 2010 Census.

Kaiser Diablo Community Benefit is helping us keep our very busy staff in good health through a \$2,000 grant to support our Employee Wellness Campaign, which includes a walking club and healthy activities for our staff. The grant was made in honor of Kaiser Permanente managers Eduardo Reategui, Carol Akiyama and Kathleen Hutchins.

## Thank you, Crosswinds!



*Thirty-one volunteers from Crosswinds Church spent a fall Saturday in Pleasanton giving our Pediatrics clinic a facelift -- washing windows, adding a fresh coat of paint to hallways, waiting room and office, and cleaning up the building's exterior.*



Administrative Offices  
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