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In California, CPPS reaches out for community health

SAN BERNARDINO, California— Two new additions to St. Bernardine Medical Center's Mission Services team — Precious Blood Sisters Margo Young and Terry Maher — are poised to make a big difference in the hospital's impact on community health.

Sister Margo Young, a medical doctor who is a native of Modesto, Calif., is the newly appointed Community Outreach MD.

Dr. Young, who spent the last 13 years in Guatemala at a rural clinic, sees her primary responsibility as working with the surrounding community to improve access to care and health education, especially for the hospital's underserved population. She directs patient care to those most in need. Since May she has also been offering her services at the hospital's H Street Clinic, a collaborative effort which serves a broad client base in the city of San Bernardino, especially patients who are poor, elderly and members of minority populations. The clinic not only serves patients directly, but also offers health education. (A future issue of *Sharing & Caring* will profile Sister Margo's work at the H Street Clinic.)

Sister Terry Maher, SBMC's new Spiritual Care Liaison, has a master's degree in theological studies and has spent most of her ministry years working in parishes. In her new ministry at the medical center, she provides spiritual support to patients in the emergency department and neonatal intensive care unit. She also works with area faith communities to serve patients' spiritual needs.

Sister Terry is also working with the medical center's palliative care coordinator to institute the "No One Is Here Alone" program to companion patients who have no family available for support. She said she looks for-



Photo courtesy of St. Bernardine Medical Center

Although it looks like a lovely California vacation spot, the setting where Precious Blood Sisters Margo Young and Terry Maher were photographed is actually a garden on the campus of St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, Calif. Both sisters — Margo as a physician and Terry in spiritual care — are bringing their expertise to support SBMC's efforts to heal body, mind and spirit.

ward also to enhancing programs of spirituality within the hospital, and to working with the staff on spirituality and wellness.

Both positions are new within St. Bernardine Medical Center, and this Precious Blood duo will work closely with Mission Services to define their work and the ways in which they can make a difference in support of the hospital's mission. As women religious, both bring the added asset of helping to ensure St. Bernardine's Catholic legacy in their work.

For both Terry and Margo, it's a learn-as-you-go process, underscored by the goal of fulfilling their Precious Blood mission: to be present in the healing of a fractured world, helping to reconcile or restore at least one piece of that puzzle to wholeness.

Both sisters are part not only of new and innovative ministries at SBMC, but also of a newly expanded CPPS presence in California. Currently eight Precious Blood women — almost double the number a year ago — live and work in "the Golden State."

This story incorporates information from the SBMC newsletter, In Focus. Adapted with permission.