



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Veronica S. Laurel
Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation
210.704.3645 office; 210.722-5325 mobile

FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKERS LUNCHEON HONORED MARGARET AND BILL KLESSE AND FEATURED CHRIS LOWNEY

Proceeds from the Luncheon benefit the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation

SAN ANTONIO – (September 23, 2015) Today, the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation held its Fifth Annual National Speakers Luncheon. The event honored Margaret and Bill Klesse with the Beacon Award for their passionate service to our community and featured Chris Lowney as the keynote speaker. Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit programs supported by the Friends Foundation at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospitals.

The Beacon Award tradition was started in 2011 at the first National Speakers Luncheon and is presented to individuals who actively participate in charitable and civic activities in our community. The Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation carefully chooses the recipient from a select group of candidates based on professional endeavors, civic commitment and community involvement. Past Beacon Award honorees are Charlie Amato, Maj. Gen. Joe Robles, Tom C. Frost, Jr., and Rosemary Kowalski.

This year's Beacon Award celebrated the contributions of Margaret and Bill Klesse. Bill is the former chairman of the board, chief executive officer and president of Valero Energy Corporation. During his tenure at Valero, Bill was the chief proponent of volunteerism and regularly challenged his employees to return the blessings they enjoy by helping those in need. Bill has served as a board member for the San Antonio Food Bank, chairman of the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County,

and chairman of the Las Misiones Campaign. Margaret Klesse has served on various community boards including the Cancer Therapy & Research Center Cabinet, the Library Foundation, the Catholic Community Foundation, and the Ecumenical Council. She has also served as president for the San Antonio Junior Forum and Friends of the Ronald McDonald House. Together, the couple established the Klesse Foundation to give even more back to the community. It has supported many worthy causes such as the Children's Hospital of San Antonio and the city's historic missions, and continues to make a positive impact for charitable, civic and social organizations.

Keynote speaker for this year's event was Chris Lowney, chair of the board for Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the nation's largest health care systems. He is a one-time Jesuit seminarian who later served as managing director for J.P. Morgan & Co. Lowney is a popular keynote speaker who has lectured in more than two dozen countries on leadership, business ethics, decision-making and other topics. He has authored four books, including the best-seller, "Heroic Leadership," which has been translated into eleven languages and was named to the Commandant of the Marine Corps recommended reading list. His latest work, "Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads," has been referred to as "an invaluable gift" and "a book of ages." Lowney also founded Pilgrimage for Our Children's Future, which funds education and health care projects in the developing world.

Proceeds from the National Speakers Luncheon will benefit programs supported by the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation. The Friends Foundation was formed in 1997 to lead fundraising efforts on behalf of the adult health care services at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospitals. Through the efforts of the Friends Foundation, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa has been able to enhance programs, provide new equipment and support outreach efforts that uphold the healing ministry of this Catholic, non-profit, health care organization.

The Fifth Annual National Speakers Luncheon was held at the Whitley Theological Center, 285 Oblate Drive, on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

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About the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation:

The Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation was founded in 1997 to support the adult health and wellness services at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System. Founded in 1869 by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa is a Catholic, faith-based, nonprofit health and wellness ministry dedicated to extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and providing the highest quality medical care and services available. As one of the top health care organizations in South-Central Texas, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa has five hospital campuses, with campuses located in the South Texas Medical Center, in New Braunfels, in Westover Hills, and a short-stay surgical hospital in Alamo Heights. For additional information on the Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation visit www.friendsfoundation.org. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FriendsCSRFoundation and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CSRFoundations.