



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Veronica S. Laurel
Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation
210.704.3645 office; 210.722.5325 mobile

**SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKERS LUNCHEON HONORED
VERÓNICA SALAZAR ESCOBEDO AND RUBEN M. ESCOBEDO AND
FEATURED FRANK KING**

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

Photo caption (from left): Tom C. Frost, Jr., former Beacon Award honoree, Veronica Salazar Escobedo and Ruben M. Escobedo, Beacon Award honorees, and John E. Bel, The Children's Hospital of San Antonio Foundation President

SAN ANTONIO – (September 14, 2016) The Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation (Friends Foundation) held its Sixth Annual National Speakers Luncheon, honored Verónica Salazar Escobedo and Ruben M. Escobedo with the Beacon Award for their passionate service to our community, and featured Frank King as the keynote speaker. Proceeds raised through the luncheon benefit programs supported by the Friends Foundation at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospitals.

The Beacon Award 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 recipients from a select group of candidates based on professional endeavors, civic commitment and community involvement. Past Beacon Award honorees include Charlie Amato, Maj. Gen. Joe Robles, Tom C. Frost, Jr., Rosemary Kowalski, and Margaret and Bill Klesse.

This year's Beacon Award celebrated the contributions of Verónica Salazar Escobedo and Ruben M. Escobedo. Verónica is a dedicated civic leader and community volunteer. She spent 35 years with San Antonio Express-News (SAEN) where she served as vice president of community relations and president of the Express-News Charitable Foundation. Verónica was responsible for the Express News' philanthropic efforts, both monetary and in-kind support. She currently serves as president of the Our Lady of Grace Church Pastoral Council and is president-emerita of the San Antonio-Mexico Friendship Council. Ruben, now retired, has more than 50 years of experience as a certified public accountant (CPA), business executive, and community leader. Ruben currently serves as chair of the Audit Committee on the board of directors for Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. He also serves on the board of directors for CST Brands, Inc. and is a past director of Valero Energy Corporation, a Fortune 500 Company. Ruben is founding chair of the San Antonio-Mexico Foundation for Education and serves on the executive committee of the board of directors for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

The keynote speaker for this year's event was Frank King, certified laugh coach, stress reduction specialist, and professional comedian. He was a quarter-finalist on "Star Search," a popular televised talent competition. He has also appeared on A&E's "An Evening at the Improv," Showtime's "Comedy Club Network," and CNN's "Business Unusual." Throughout his career, Frank has opened up for Jerry Seinfeld, Adam Sandler, Jeff Foxworthy, and Ron White. He's written for Jay Leno, Joan Rivers, and Dennis Miller. He has had two heart valve replacements, a double bypass, and is now dedicated to bringing laughter into situations that may not seem "laughable." Frank uses

humor to turn pain into punchlines, losses into laughs, and messes and stresses into successes.

The Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa 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 Sixth Annual National Speakers Luncheon was held at the Whitley Theological Center, 285 Oblate Drive, on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

###

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.